

affecting the reader and artistic coloring of all the images embedded in the novel depend on the correctness and accuracy of rendering metaphors.

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THE ZOONYMIC COMPONENT “CAT” IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN PHRASEOLOGY

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The article studies the national specificity of phraseological units with zoonymic component “cat” in the English and Russian languages. The topicality of the research is determined by the fact that phraseology includes historical and cultural heritage, and idioms containing animals are the ones of the oldest.

The aim of the work is to analyze specific features of the zoonym “cat” that are revealed when they are used by native speakers and compare the national and cultural peculiarities in the usage of this zoonym in English and Russian.

Material and methods. The material for the research is phraseological units containing the zoonymic component found in idiom dictionaries in the English and Russian languages. Methods used in the article are the method of phraseological identification and the analysis of phraseological units by semantic features.

Findings and their discussion. In English there has been identified more than seventy phraseological units containing cats, while there are about forty in Russian. The majority of idioms have their origin in ancient times when these animals adapted to living alongside humans, so people could observe their natural behaviour in different situations. These distinctive features later were reflected in the language, in its set expressions.

As people firstly regarded domesticated animals from the practical point of view, in English there is a lot of phraseological units where cats are firstly associated with their practical skill which is the most important for people – mouse hunting. For example, *while the cats away the mice will play; to keep no more cats than will catch mice; to be busier than a one-eyed cat watching two mouse holes; a cat in gloves catches no mice; a shy cat makes a proud mouse* as well as in Russian: *кошки грызутся – мышам приволье; на мышку и кошка зверь.*

In the idioms where cats and mice are opposed a cat is represented not just as an animal hunting others but as a cruel predator which prefers to torture its victims before killing: *to play cat and mouse* (*играть в кошки-мышки* in Russian).

The image of cat as a hunter is reflected in all idioms where any other animal is mentioned: *to look like the cat that swallowed the canary*; *to live a cat-and-dog life*; *to put a cat among the pigeons*. This is relevant for both studied languages: in Russian they say *жить как кошка с собакой*; *рано птичка запела, как бы кошка не съела*.

The inner content of phraseological units with zoonymic component reflects the diverse aspects of animal nature compared with human relationships, experience and feelings. Thus, in idioms there are observed such characteristics of cats as: arrogance (a “fat cat” is used to denote a rich, wealthy and powerful person, curiosity (*curiosity killed the cat* (Russian equivalent – *любопытство убило кошку*), finesse (*to walk like a cat on eggs* – to act with great care; an expression “*cat burglar*” is used to name thieves who get inside a house climbing up the walls), laziness (*a cat nap* refers to the cats’ ability to doze off the whole day), pretending (*cats hide their claws*; *кошка спит, а мышей видум*), cats’ unpredictable nature (English “*to see which way the cat jumps*” means to wait and delay decision-making; Russian idiom *кот в мешке* means something unknown and unexpected).

There’s also a number of set expressions which point out cats’ overeating and willingness to steal any possible food: in English it’s shown in such idioms as *to send not a cat for lard*; *to be honest as a cat when the meat's out of reach*; *to look like the cat that got the cream*; in Russian – *знает кошка, чьё мясо съела*; *не все коту масленица*; *кошка мышей ловить не устанет, а воровать не перестанет*; *полно кошке таскать из чашки*.

It should be mentioned that the number of idioms where cats are used with negative connotation is significant, for example, an unpleasant grumpy woman is called “wild cat” or “old cat”. In Russian the number of such idioms is actually predominant: *кошки скребут*, *кот наплакал*, *коту под хвост*, *между ними кошка пробежала*.

Meanwhile, in the English language the concept of cat is more often used with a positive meaning, it denotes something pleasant: “cat’s meow” means something that is first-rate; a stylish person is called “a cool cat”, “cat’s whiskers” or “cat’s pajamas” names something extra class or someone self-important.

While there are some phraseology units which are fully equivalent in the English and Russian languages we should note phraseological units that are closely connected with national specificity. “A cat may look at a king” is one of such idioms. In this expression a cat stands for any Englishman and means that even someone of low status has rights, which refers to the English historical tradition and social system. Also there can be mentioned such idioms as “to grin like a Cheshire cat” that is known due to Lewis Carroll’s character and “fight

like Kilkenny cats” that originates from an old story about two Irish cities in the 17th century. That’s one of the ways national specificities are shown in phraseology.

Conclusion. The result of the study shows that the majority of phraseological units with the zoonymic component “cat” are widely used in common speech and have a lot of meanings. As these animals have lived near humans for centuries and people could make a comparison looking at their habits and behaviour, the image of a cat has become a core component of different phraseological units. In Russian phraseology idioms with the component “cat” are not numerous and obtain mostly negative connotations. Whereas in English there’s a larger number of phraseological units containing cats, and the image is rather ambiguous as it describes different characteristics, positive as well as neutral and negative. Also in English there is a tendency to praise cats’ dominance and independence, while in the Russian language cats are seen as practically useful but inferior animals, and that fact actually meets historical context and reflects the differences in the perception of the image of cats in British and Russian cultures.

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THE INTERTEXTUALITY OF THE POETRY OF MAXIM BOGDANOVICH

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A distinctive feature of the language of Belarusian fiction is the use of intertextual relations as a manifestation of appeal to the values of world culture and literature. Intertextuality is most often interpreted as a connection between two texts belonging to different authors and is temporarily defined as earlier and later. The intertextual connections of works of art are often reflected in various reminiscences, allusions, quotes, which are quoted or remain implicit.

The purpose of the article is to identify textual and artistic reminiscences, their origin and functions in the poetry of Maxim Bogdanovich. The relevance of the topic is associated with the importance of revealing the origins and distinctive characteristics of the work of an outstanding master of the word.