

Thus, it is highly important that programs in the discipline "Foreign (English) language" provide for both the selection and study of the idiomatic material in the part where the study of lexical minima is prescribed.

1. Carver, D. J. 'Idioms' and the Teaching of an Active Vocabulary / D. J. Carver // ELT Journal. – 1971. – № 1. – P. 47–54.
2. Matycina, M. S. English idioms and collocations: manual / M. S. Matycina, T. Y. Tormyshova. – Lipetsk : Lipetsk State Technological University, 2018. – P. 57.
3. Yukhnel, N. V. English language: textbook for 7th grade students of general secondary education institutions with Russian as the language of / N. V. Yukhnel, E. G. Naumova. – Minsk : High school, 2016. – 240 p.

## ETYMOLOGICAL AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF IDIOMS IN ENGLISH

**Tatyana Kruchenkova<sup>1</sup>, Olga Agafonova<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>VSAVM, Vitebsk, Belarus

<sup>2</sup>VSU named after P.M. Masherov, Vitebsk, Belarus

**Keywords:** idiom, etymology, history of origin, background, English.

English is an international language and it is difficult to name the area of activity where it would not be used. When reading texts in English, students encounter expressions whose meaning is difficult to understand, although the translation of individual words is known. Such expressions are called idioms.

The purpose of the research is to study English idioms, the peculiarities of their appearance, history of occurrence, according to which students would be able to understand idiomatic expressions only from the context and freely use them in oral practice.

**Material and methods.** The research material was idiomatic dictionaries, reference literature. The following methods were used: methods of classification and analysis, comparative, descriptive.

**Findings and their discussion.** An idiom (from the Greek *idios* – "own", "proper") is a linguistic term denoting an expression used as a whole unit that is not subject to further decomposition and usually does not allow change of its parts within itself [1]. The meaning of an idiomatic phrase is not translated literally, it is need to refer to its figurative meaning.

Many idioms are associated with animals. The translation of these expressions into Russian can confuse students, so it is advisable to memorize whole expressions. For example, the phrase "it's raining cats and dogs" appeared in the 16th century, when the roofs of houses were lined with straw, which attracted cats and dogs that slipped and fell down during heavy rains, and the British began to associate heavy rain with falling dogs and cats. In England they say: "The weather is terrible! It's raining cats and dogs". "A bull in a china shop" appeared in the 17th century on markets in London. The bull happened to be in a porce-

lain shop and ruined everything. It is found in use: "She's like a bull in china shop! Don't let her water the plant, she will definitely break the flower pot". The idiom "a guinea pig" appeared in the Middle Ages, when these rodents were used in medicine, for chemical experiments, in religious rituals. The example: "No, I don't want to taste it first! I am not your guinea pig". "Horses for courses" (to each his own) was invented at the races. Different horses were designed for different competitions. For example: "She is good at managing people, but she can't sell goods, horses for courses". "Let the cat out of the bag" means to reveal the truth. The idiomatic expression appeared in 1530 and is connected with unfair merchants who deceived their customers.

Flowers and plants are often found in English idioms. "To be as fresh as a daisy" The idiom appeared thanks to a daisy, as it blooms only in sunny weather. The example of usage: "I will be as fresh as a daisy only after a cup of coffee". The expression "an old chestnut" is associated with the old English play "The Broken Sword". One person was telling everyone an interesting story and at the beginning he kept mentioning a chestnut. It is used in the following meaning: "I'm sorry, but I can't laugh at this old chestnut".

The appearance of idioms can be considered in different historical periods and events. The dictionaries contain more than 15,000 idioms. Synonyms are phraseological units or set-expressions. It is not possible to determine the general patterns of the formation of idioms. Each phrase has its own history and origin. Some idioms were introduced into speech by writers, others appeared thanks to the Bible and borrowed from Latin and French. The most common classification of English idioms can be considered a topical classification.

**Conclusion.** The article provides examples of idioms and the history of their origin, traces the connection with culture, everyday life, traditions. Idioms are similar to proverbs, but unlike them, they are not complete sentences. However, the use of idioms makes it difficult for students to understand and translate them from the foreign language. In most cases, idioms consist of more than one word. The meaning of idioms does not arise from the meaning of the individual words that make it up. Idiomatic expressions have linguistic affiliation and national-cultural characteristics. It should be noted that students do not often use idioms in oral practice due to difficulty in understanding the meaning of set-expressions without referring to the history of their occurrence. However, studying idioms gives the opportunity to learn how to use these expressions in speech and enrich the knowledge of English.

1. Kunin, A.V. English-Russian Phraseological Dictionary – 3rd ed., stereotype – M. : Russian language, 2001.
2. Kunin, A.V. Phraseology of modern English. – M. : International Relations, 1996.
3. Dubrovin, M.I. Russian and English idioms. – Moscow: ILBI, 2001.
4. Internet resource: – <http://audiorazgovornik.ru/uroki-anglijskogo-yazyka/anglijskie-idiomy> – Access date: 06.11.2021.