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Cognitive and Pragmatic Features of English Paired Phrases in Use by the Kyrgyz-Speaking Audience

Meerim Taalaibek-Kyzy
Osh State University

Malika Abdikarimova
Osh State University

Orozbubu Mirzakmatova
Osh State University

Maksat Kasymalieva
Osh State University

Zhyldyz Burkanova
Osh State University

Abstract: The article touches upon the issue of significance and difficulties in using English paired phrases by Kyrgyz-speaking audience. There were involved the cognitive and pragmatic peculiarities of paired phrases and their functional aspect can bring the necessity for learning them thoroughly. The relevance of the paper is that the English language has so many categories of phraseological units where paired words carry a great deal of functions and pragmatic features, which in its turn can cause some difficulties in English learning process. Therefore, the main aim of the article is to investigate cognitive and functional features of English paired words and identify their pragmatic role in the speech by Kyrgyz-speaking learners. Those phrases need to be studied separately by considering their structural and cognitive properties as possessing idiomaticity and non-idiomaticity. There were defined and analyzed the classification of paired phrases and their roles in different pragmatic usage. For attaining the aim of the research our task was to conduct method of university student survey to find out the frequency of using English paired phrases and to reveal possible misunderstandings they face. As a result of the paper we have discussed and maintained the solutions of those issues.

Key words: Paired phrases, Pragmatics, Idiomaticity, Function, Survey

Introduction

Education is a priority for all national economies. Nowadays, rapid changes are happening in every field. areas of our lives. In today's globalizing world, it is important to develop language skills and use them at skill level necessary (Revak & Csiszarik-Kocsir, 2023). In the age we live in, learning at least one language other than your mother tongue is of great importance. Since English is generally used as a common language internationally, the second language choice of the majority of people is English. There is a surprising variety of funny expressions in the English language. Most of them are known to native speakers, but they do not appear often in textbooks. In this paper we will focus on funny pairs of words in English. They are called paired phrases that are formed by reduplication, in English it means to double or repeat. Paired phrases are considered two-component formations, the components of which, in most cases, express grammatically equal, semantically and syntactically correlated

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concepts. Paired phrases are usually connected through coordinating conjunctions. The concept of pairing reflects the ability of the human mind to unite, compare, and contrast thoughts about objects, phenomena, and events of the objective world in the process of its perception and cognition.

The basic properties for distinguishing different types of paired phrases are the followings:

a) phraseological property – that is related to the structural characteristics of a phrase and including such features as super-verbalism and stability (reproducibility in the form of ready-made language units that are not created again each time);

b) idiomaticity – a semantic feature associated with the presence of a figurative meaning in at least one of the components of the phrase.

Considering the above-mentioned two main criteria, there are distinguished two classes of paired phrases:

- 1) phraseological non-idiomatic paired phrases;
- 2) phraseological idiomatic paired phrases.

Phrases belonging to the first class are characterized by:

- a combination of lexical units based on their commonality;
- stability of use;
- lack of idiomaticity.

e.g. *peace and quiet*

Paired phrases belonging to the second class are characterized by super-verbalism, reproducibility as a rule, in the same composition, and the obligatory presence of idiomaticity. The second class is heterogeneous, it includes the following subclasses:

- idioms themselves – semantically integral units of indirect nomination (e.g. *odds and ends, town and gown*)
- stable phrases with one component having a figurative meaning (e.g. *heart of gold, bitter sweet*)
- pseudo-phraseological paired phrases, which are formed with conjunction and include two components, which, however, are not equal (e.g. *here and there, salt and pepper, black and white*)

Methods

For gaining assurance in investigation there were used qualitative and quantitative data collecting methods. In its turn it gives the benefits before holding survey and gave us the right direction of research discussions and drawing results and conclusions. As qualitative and quantitative data shows us various lexical and grammatical types of phraseological paired phrases included in a sentence/utterance expand and generalize their semantic potential, expressing emotional and evaluative meanings, as well as meanings of intensity, categoricity, repetition, and some others. Coordinating paired phrases function quite widely in modern English, and play an important role in the formation of grammatical, semantic and pragmatic aspects of both individual sentences/utterances and discourse as a whole. Paired phrases can function in different speech acts as independent units and express different pragmatic meanings – praise, regret, surprise, fear, etc.

*Everything, as you expected, comes out **hunky-dory**.* – The speaker in the utterance tries to praise and encourage the situation with the help of the paired phrase “*hunky-dory*”, which means amazing, remarkable, marvelous.

*Well, there is a **teeny-weeny** problem.* – The pragmatic feature of this utterance is showing that the problem is not so significant and easy to solve without bothering and worrying.

Functioning in dialogical discourse as independent speech acts, phraseological paired phrases convey a wide range of pragmatic meanings: advice, order, indignation, admiration, warning, assurance in sincerity, etc.

*They think I'm an old **fuddy-duddy** because I don't approve of tattoos.* – The paired phrase “*fuddy-duddy*” helps the speaker express his indignation in a situation.

*You're being a **silly-billy**, now stop it.* – This utterance expresses someone's advice or warning in a different types of situation, and paired phrase “*silly-billy*” means foolish man.

Olga Verkhovtsova states that people use paired words, because, they provide linguistic richness, aid communication, and allow for creative expression. They have become an integral part of language and contribute

to its effectiveness, aesthetics. They add color and depth to the language, making it more expressive and nuanced.

Findings

Student Survey

For identifying the difficulties in learning target language we have surveyed university students. There participated 44 students from the American Studies and Translation Department of the Faculty of World Languages and Cultures of Osh State University. With the help of survey we had opportunity to reveal some aspects of understanding our students' abilities and lack of confidence in separate fields in EFL. In this paper there is an attempt to help Kyrgyz learners to make them more engaged in learning idiomatic expressions which help them in cross-cultural communication, where our students in their further life can deal with conversations with native English speakers from all over the world without obstacles, and we set the task for ourselves to find all the drawbacks in their lexical ability and solve the issue accordingly. Our research results are going to carry benefits for the next generation's English teachers and interpreters preparation in our university and in its turn it will have development contribution for communication through the cultures and breaks down walls between different nations relationships beginning from brotherhood to business or political negotiations. For this purpose, there were set the following ordinary question types as shown below with the result indicators.

2. What is the level of your knowledge of phraseological units as idioms, paired words, proverbs, etc.?

44 ответа

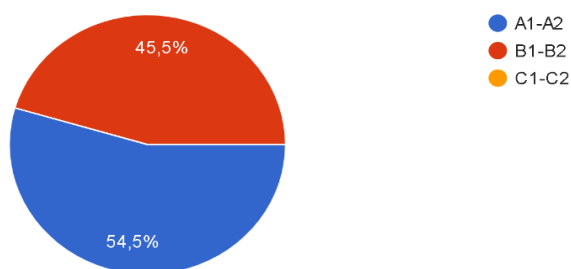


Figure 1. Level of phraseological units

Here students were concentrated on their true level orientation. As shown in Figure 1 our students consider their lexical knowledge of English is 45,5% B1-B2, 54,5% A1-A2.

3. Could you find the meaning of the following paired phrase "itsy-bitsy"?

44 ответа

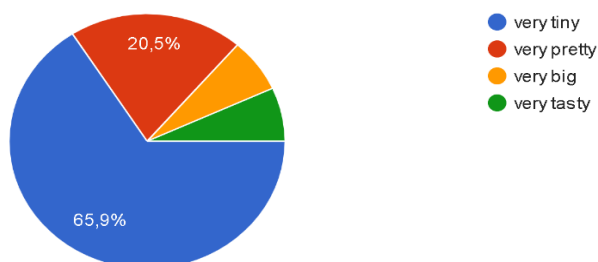


Figure 2. Finding the meaning of the paired phrase

The question about paired phrase was requested for identifying the meaning. The meaning of the paired phrase "itsy-bitsy" is very tiny. In pragmatic use it carries the function of surprise or admiration. For instance, one can admire someone's cute baby and say "She has these *itsy-bitsy* little hands and feet!"

From the results we see in the Figure 2, that 65,9% have answered right as 20,% guessed the meaning "very pretty".

4. Which of the following paired phrases have you ever used in your English speaking?

44 ответа

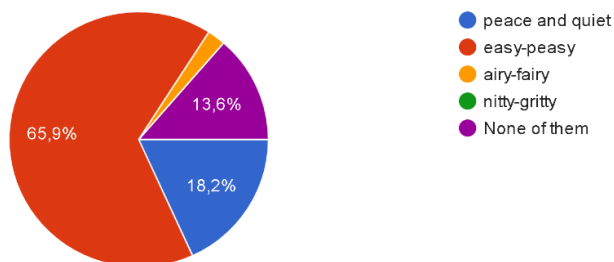


Figure 3. Paired phrases used

The Figure 3 shows the indicators for production of students' knowledge on phraseological units, and in this case the 65,9% have been using the paired phrase "easy-peasy", 18,2% - "peace and quiet", 13,6% - have never used any of them.

Discussion and Conclusion

We have drawn attention to each student's answer and in the result, it is obvious that there should be created a new method or new application for enhancing the students' lexical abilities, in this case we had focused on one of the types of phraseological units, paired phrases with idiomaticity and non-idiomaticity. For preparation specialists in language sciences we consider that there is the necessity of finding out ways and methods which will be helpful in this purpose. Trying to make our research issue possible to solve we have the hypothesis of Corpus Linguistics which deals with this kind of difficulties not only for the students, but also for language teaching professors. And for the next paper investigation we have a tentative guideline which will be devoted to the implementation into Corpus Linguistics theory and ways of its applying in language learning.

In live communication, paired phrases can act as independent units or be part of a statement. In the first case, they act as certain illocutionary speech acts: directives (advice, order), expressive means that convey various psychological states of the speaker: surprise, admiration, warning, indignation, assurance of sincerity, etc. In addition, they often act as means metacommunications, i.e. to establish, complete verbal interaction, summarize what was said, etc.

In the case when paired phrases are part of a statement, they are a means of expressing the emotive meaning of the statement, emotional assessment, the degree of its intensity, as well as the categorical nature of the action. The analysis carried out allows us to assert that paired phrases are an interesting, unique and original linguistic means that has unique characteristics and performs diverse functions that give speech natural liveliness and imagery.

Scientific Ethics Declaration

The authors declare that the scientific ethical and legal responsibility of this article published in EPESS journal belongs to the authors.

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Author Information

Meerim Taalaibek Kyzy

Osh State University

Osh, Kyrgyzstan

Contact e-mail: meerimtaalajbekovna216@gmail.com

Malika Abdikarimova

Osh State University

Osh, Kyrgyzstan

Orozbubu Mirzakmatova

Osh State University

Osh, Kyrgyzstan

Maksat Kasymalieva

Osh State University

Osh, Kyrgyzstan

Zhyldyz Burkanova

Osh State University

Osh, Kyrgyzstan

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