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THE ANALYSIS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS REPRESENTING THE ETHICAL CONCEPT OF “FIDELITY” IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract: In this article it is given the analysis of phraseological units representing the ethical concept of “fidelity” in English language. Phraseological units representing the ethical concept of “fidelity” objectify conceptual signs of fidelity, its relationship with other phenomena of the moral and sensory sphere.

Key words: *phraseological units, linguacultural, phraseologism, faithfulness, culture, mentality, national identity*

The phraseological fund of the language is figuratively compared with a mirror in which “the linguocultural community identifies its national identity” (Telia 1996: 9, 83), it is a valuable source of information about the culture and mentality of the people (Maslova 2004: 43). The phraseological units, the figuratively motivated base of which is correlated in one way or another with the subject area of culture, contain semiotically different natural language components, the semantic content of which is “scooped out of the conceptual sphere of culture” (Telia 2004: 675).

Phraseological units representing the ethical concept of “fidelity” objectify conceptual signs of fidelity, its relationship with other phenomena of the moral and sensory sphere. The analyzed empirical material seems to be expedient to distribute into the following groups.

1. Phraseological units with the meaning of “persistence in beliefs, views”:

- *hold to* - to remain fixed to a belief, or in adherence to a principle, etc.

(TBEI 1961: 106);

- *dyed in the wool* - unchanging in a particular belief (with allusion to the fact that yarn was dyed when raw, producing a more even and permanent color) (COED 2002: 446); thoroughly committed; inveterate; unchanging: He is a dyed-in-the-wool Conservative Republican (SAI 1997: 104);

- *stick at* - to be persistent in an activity (TBEI 1961: 171);

- *stick to* - to be persistent in continuing an activity; to remain fixed in an argument or to principle, opinion, etc. (TBEI 1961: 172);

- *keep faith with* - to continue to support or believe in a person, organization, or idea (LDCE 2001: 494);

- *carry a / the torch* - 1) to show great and unchanging loyalty to a cause or a person: Although the others gave up fighting for their rights, John continued to carry the torch; 2) to be in love, usually without success or return: He is carrying a torch for Anna, even though she is in love with someone else (SAI 1997: 57). The second interpretation of this phraseological unit implies the relationship between loyalty and love.

2. Phraseological unit with the meaning “deep interest”:

- *put one’s heart into* - to put one’s zealous interest into, to devote oneself keenly to (work, a hobby, etc.) (TBEI 1961: 101).

3. Phraseologism, actualizing the manifestation of a sense of patriotism in relation to their country. Excessive, extreme displays of patriotism are usually assessed negatively:

- *wrap oneself in the flag* - (chiefly N. Amer.) To make an excessive show of one’s patriotism (COED 2002: 537).

4. Phraseologisms with the meaning “reliability”:

- *tried and tested (or true)* - having proved effective or reliable before (COED 2002: 1541);

- *girl Friday* - a very dependable and helpful female office worker; especially a secretary: Miss Johnson is the manager’s girl Friday (SAI 1997: 146).

5. Phraseological units with the meaning “readiness to intercede for someone, help someone, defend something”:

- *take up the cudgels for* - to defend vigorously a person’s character, conduct, etc. The word “cudgel”, which is now obsolete except in this idiom, was the name of a short thick stick used as a weapon (TBEI 1961: 58); to come to the defense of; to support or fight for: He was the first to take up the cudgels for his friend (SAI 1997: 405);

- *at one’s beck and call / at the beck and call of*- ready and willing to do whatever someone asks; ready to serve at a moment’s notice (SAI 1997: 17);

- *stand by* - to serve as a support and help (TBEI 1961: 167); to be loyal to; support; help: When three big boys attacked Bill, Ed stood by him (SAI 1997;381)

- *stand (or stick) up for* - to give one’s support, help, influence, to a person, party, cause, principle, etc. The allusion is to planting one’s feet firmly beside or in front of a person or thing where he or it can be defended from attack (TBEI 1961: 169);
- *stick by one* - to support; remain loyal to: All of Peter’s friends stuck by him faithfully, in spite of what has been said about him in the press (SAI 1997: 385);

- *at someone’s back* - in pursuit or support of someone (COED 2002: 96);

- *take sides* - to support one person or cause against another or others (COED 2002: 1332);

- *back up* - to help or be ready to help; stay behind to help; agree with or speak in support of: Jim has joined the Boy Scouts and his father is backing him up. The principal backs up the faculty (CAM 1997: 22);

- *back of / in back of* - in support or encouragement of helping: Jones will be elected because many powerful men are back of him. Get in back of your team by cheering them at the game (SAI 1997: 21);

- *bear up* - to hold up; carry; support; encourage: He was borne up by love of country (SAI 1997: 26).

5. Phraseologisms with the meaning “to appreciate someone, something”:

- *make much of* - to attach much value or importance to; to treat (a person) with affectionate or respectful attention (TBEI 1961: 126);

- *apple of one's eyes* - something or someone that is adored; a cherished person or object: Charles is the apple of his mother's eye. John's first car was the apple of his eye. He was always polishing it (SAI 1997: 11).

7. Phraseological units that objectify the conjugation of fidelity with other phenomena that represent undoubted human values: - fidelity with truthfulness, sincerity

- *as good as one's word (or good as one's word / promise)* - trustworthy; sure to keep your promise: The coach said he would give the players a day off if they won, and he was as good as his word. We knew she was always good as her word, so we trusted her (SAI 1997: 13-14);

- *on the up and up* - honest; trustworthy; sincere: We felt that he was honest and could be trusted. This information is on the up and up (SAI 1997: 293);

- *make good* - to do what one promised to do; make something come true: Mr. Smith borrowed some money. He promised to pay it back on payday. He made good his promise (CAM 1997: 257);

- *man of his word* - a man who keeps his promises and does the things he agrees to do; a man who can be trusted: My uncle is a man of his word (CAM 1997: 262)

- *open and aboveboard* - honest: Jacob felt that the firm was doing business that wasn't entirely open and aboveboard (CAM 1997: 294);

- *good faith* - honest and sincere intentions: He proposed a second meeting as a sign of his good faith (LDCE 2001: 494);

- *fair and square* - open, honest: without cheating; honestly: He won the game fair and square (SAI 1997: 113);

- *play fair* - to do what is right to others; act in a fair and truthful way: Mary would not date any other boys while Jim, her favorite boyfriend, was away; she said that would not be playing fair (CAM 1997: 315). - fidelity with friendship:

- *a bosom friend* - a close friend with whom there is mutual intimacy about in innermost thoughts and feelings (TBEI 1961: 33); a close buddy with whom one has a confidential relationship: Sue and Jane have been bosom friends since their college days (CAM 1997: 40); fidelity with love:

- *all in all* - the person or thing that you love most: She was all in all to him. Music was his all in all. (CAM 1997: 6); - fidelity with trust:

- *eat out of one's hand* - to trust someone fully; believe or obey without question: The governor has the reporters eating out of his hand. Helen is so pretty and popular that all the boys eat out of her hand (CAM 1997: 107);

- *in someone's confidence* - in a position of trust with someone (COED 2002: 299);

- *swear by* - to have complete confidence in; be sure of; trust completely: We can be sure that Fred will come on time, since his friend Tom swears by him (CAM 1997: 393).

The analyzed idiomatic expressions indicate, on the whole, a positive assessment of fidelity, which is reflected in the emotional attitude towards behavior of this kind - towards its approval. However, the excessive manifestation of loyalty to one's country, is evaluated negatively and causes an emotive-evaluative reaction of condemnation.

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