



PHRASEOLOGICAL CALQUING AS THE MOST PRODUCTIVE METHOD OF FORMING INTERLINGUAL PHRASEOLOGICAL CORRESPONDENCES

Mavlonova Nargiza Alisherovna
Acting Associate Professor (PhD)
Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages
e-mail: mavlonovanargiza@mail.ru

Abstract

This article examines phraseological calquing as the most productive mechanism for the formation of interlingual phraseological correspondences, with particular reference to English, Russian, and Uzbek. Drawing on the theoretical approaches of scientists the study defines phraseological calques as phraseological units formed through exact or approximate reproduction of the lexico-grammatical structure and semantic scope of foreign phraseological expressions. The analysis demonstrates that phraseological calquing plays a dominant role in the development of socio-political and terminological phraseology, where interlingual equivalence is especially high. Special attention is paid to the role of Russian as an intermediary language in the transmission of English phraseological calques into Uzbek.

Keywords: Phraseological calquing; interlingual phraseological correspondence; phraseological borrowing; contrastive phraseology; socio-political phraseology; English–Russian–Uzbek linguistic interaction; intermediary language; phraseological equivalence; lexical-semantic adaptation

Introduction

N. M. Shansky proposes the following definition of a phraseological calque: “a phraseological unit that appeared in the Russian language as a result of a literal, i.e. word-for-word, translation of a foreign expression” [1]. The same idea is expressed by U. Weinreich, L. A. Bulakhovsky, and A. A. Reformatsky, who define phraseological calquing as a literal translation of expressions by their constituent parts [2].

In particular, M. M. Kopylenko understands phraseological calquing as “the borrowing of combinability (coincidence of lexical combinability and violation of sememic combinability), as a result of which a lexico-semantic unit of foreign origin arises. The foreign element in the case of a phraseological calque is a particular sememe that is actualized in a given combination by the lexemes of the donor





language and is in fact absent from the system of the recipient language. ... Such combinations appear in the Uzbek language as a result of the assimilation of new realities and the borrowing of the combinability of Russian lexemes that name them” [3].

In the present study, we understand phraseological calques in a broad sense and define them as phraseological units that arise as a result of exact or approximate reproduction of the lexico-grammatical structures and semantic volumes of originally foreign phraseological units by means of the borrowing language.

Possibly due to the frequency of use, familiarity, loss of foreignness of expressions, and in some cases the absence of etymological data concerning these linguistic units, many phraseological units were calqued into Uzbek as “originally Russian.” For example: *toshbaqa qadam* — “черепаший шаг” (turtle step), *ko‘z bo‘yamoq* — “втирать очки” (to pull the wool over someone’s eyes), *Hechdan ko‘ra kech bo‘lsa ham yaxshi* — “Better late than never,” *Haqiqat yaxshi, ammo baxt undan-da yaxshi* — “Truth is good, but happiness is better,” *Sariq chaqasi yo‘q edi, mana tillo ham bo‘ldi* — “He had not a penny, and suddenly he has gold,” *Er yigit elingni bil, oxirgi qo‘nar yeringni bil* — “Every cricket should know its own hearth,” and many others.

The method of etymologization is the principal one in determining borrowed phraseological units. As an example, the following may be cited: English *honeymoon* — Russian *медовый месяц* — Uzbek *asal oyi*. In this case, the Russian phraseological unit *медовый месяц* penetrated into the Uzbek language as a result of phraseological calquing; however, as N. M. Shansky notes, this phraseological unit itself is a calque from French. It should be emphasized that the formation of many phraseological correspondences in the Uzbek language contributed to its integration into the world cultural heritage.

As N. M. Shansky rightly observes, “phraseological calquing in a number of cases leads to the emergence of such Russian word combinations in which syntactic relations and semantic connections between words do not correspond to the rules and laws existing in the Russian language. This circumstance may later affect the development of new figurative meanings and new models of word combinability” [4]. An example is the formation of the phraseological calque *борьба за существование* (“struggle for existence”) from the English *struggle for life*.

Among all other types of phraseological borrowings, calques constitute the largest proportion in the compared languages. In recent years, the formation of phraseological calques has been most productive in the socio-political sphere of language. In this regard, A. D. Reichstein comes to the following conclusion: “The



highest degree of equivalence is characteristic of phraseological units typical of public communication styles – journalistic, scientific-technical, and official-business – and the lowest of those whose use is limited to colloquial speech and especially vernacular; in journalism, the proportion of phraseological units possessing structural-semantic equivalents in the compared languages reaches 40–45% (cf. the average indicator for German and Russian phraseology as a whole, about 27%)” [5].

He further writes: “In the modern period, the international character of political, economic, and scientific-technical development is directly reflected in the language of science and journalism, that is, in scientific-technical and journalistic styles of speech. It is precisely here that new information of international significance is most actively transmitted across national borders and receives similar linguistic expression in many languages. Moreover, interlingual contacts are not only realized most intensively and оперативно through journalism, but it is precisely in this sphere that they simultaneously generate a need for expressive and evaluative means of nomination of new objective phenomena, including through phraseological units. ... Finally, from journalism, phraseological units gradually penetrate into fiction and everyday speech, increasing the degree of their interlingual phraseological equivalence” [6].

As noted by N. M. Shansky and F. P. Filin, in the process of international linguistic interaction, the main source of phraseological calques is the English language and its American variant [7].

Numerous phraseological calques present in the Uzbek language were borrowed not directly from English but through Russian as an intermediary language.

A contrastive study of Russian–Uzbek phraseological parallels with English phraseological units indicates that the analysis involves phraseological units of languages that are typologically unrelated.

Phraseological calques that are very similar in structural and semantic terms to English phraseological units occur relatively rarely, for example: English *White House* – Russian *Белый дом* – Uzbek *Oq uy*; Russian phraseological calque *синие воротнички* – Uzbek phraseological calque *ko'k yoqalar*, from the English phraseological unit *blue-collar worker, blue-collar*; Russian phraseological calque *новый курс* – Uzbek phraseological calque *yangi odimlar*, whose source is the English phraseological unit *New Deal*.

In calquing or partial calquing, both the figurative meaning and the component structure of the phraseological unit may be preserved, for example: English *the ship of the desert* – Russian *корабль пустыни* (camel) – Uzbek *sahro kemasi, tuya*;



English *fire water* (American colloquial) — “огненная вода,” alcoholic beverages — Uzbek *ichni yondiruvchi ichimlik, spirtli ichimlik*.

There are also identical traditions in the use of phraseological units with an adjectival component invariant: English *the Third World* — Russian *третий мир*; Uzbek phraseological calque *uchinchi dunyo tamlakat* — Russian calqued formation *третьи страны*; English *Star Wars programme* — Russian *программа “звёздных войн”* — Uzbek “*yulduzli urush*” *dasturi*.

Variants as well as synonymy in the field of phraseology were established as interlingual phraseological correspondences for specific linguistic units: English *round table conference* — Russian *встреча / беседа за “круглым столом”, “круглый стол”* — Uzbek *davra suhbat, hangoma, dumaloq stol*; English *the Cold War* — Russian *холодная война* — Uzbek *sovuq urush*.

The formation of phraseological units with the component *cold, холодный, sovuq*, which demonstrate different degrees of productivity, is one of the many reasons for the impossibility of one-word transmission of calqued words in Uzbek phraseological units and lexico-semantic correspondences in Russian.

The terminological phraseological unit *sovuq qurol* (“cold weapon”) was formed in the Uzbek language relatively recently. Incidentally, it should be noted that even in such closely related languages as Uzbek and Kyrgyz, significant discrepancies are observed both in component composition and in historical origin. For example, the Kyrgyz phraseological unit *kansyz sogush* (literally “bloodless war”) corresponds to the Uzbek phraseological unit *sovuq urush* (“cold war”). It should also be noted that extralinguistic factors played a decisive role in the formation of the Uzbek phraseological equivalent *sovuq urush*.

Based on the study of phraseological correspondences in English, Russian, and Uzbek, we have arrived at the following conclusions:

In recent times, calquing from English as a source language has become the most intensive process and method of forming phraseological correspondences in Russian and Uzbek, particularly within socio-political vocabulary and phraseology.

The tendency to form phraseological calques according to foreign models is connected both with the general process of integration of language communities and with linguistic factors. It should be noted that certain changes in the component structure of phraseological units are conditioned by both linguistic and extralinguistic factors. This can be explained by the existence of linguistic units characterized by unequal phrase-forming productivity, as well as by differences in the semantic scope of words, among other factors.



As research materials show, in some cases phraseological calquing produces specific results that can be explained by differences in grammatical structures and word combinability of components within the structure of phraseological units.

The presence of variants of phraseological units in a particular socio-political context is explained by the ongoing process of formation of Uzbek terminological phraseological units whose components belong to socio-political vocabulary.

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