

## Phraseological Units with Proper Nouns in the English Language: Etymological Review

**Galimullina Luiza Talgatovna**  
Teacher of Fergana State University, Uzbekistan  
[l.t.galimullina@pf.fdu.uz](mailto:l.t.galimullina@pf.fdu.uz)

### Article Information

**Received:** March 11, 2023

**Accepted:** April 12, 2023

**Published:** May 16, 2023

**Keywords:** Etymology, deterministic phraseological units, indeterministic phraseological units, toponym.

### ABSTRACT

*The article provides an analysis of the etymology of phraseological units with proper nouns in the English language. A proper noun as a component of a phraseological unit is one of the representatives of culture and performs the function of storing and transmitting traditions, history, and culture of people, that is why it is a special linguistic sign. From the perspective of the nature of their genesis, the phraseological units in this article are classified into deterministic and indeterministic phraseological units. Etymological and semantic analyses conducted in this article indicate that proper names in phraseological units have historical, literary, and cultural associations.*

### Introduction

The study of idioms possesses numerous implications for literature, history, and customs. This feature of phraseology is noticeable, particularly in phraseological units including proper nouns. It is essential to comprehend the etymology of proper names in phraseological units since it is closely related to the semantics of these phraseological units. T.V. Likhovidova notes that "there is no doubt that from a diachronic perspective, all phraseological units with a proper name are etymologically motivated, since at the time of their origination, language users were aware of the connection between a proper name and the meaning of a phraseological unit. However, from a synchronic perspective, most of them lost their motivation [Likhovidova, 1971].

New phraseological units constantly emerge in languages. Simultaneously, new names constantly emerge in the life of society and hence new associations that give life to new phraseological units emerge.

The origin of phraseological units has been attracting researchers' attention for a long time. S.I. Abakumov, for example, identifies two groups of sources of origin of phraseological units: native and foreign. The native sources are titles or images of literary works, speech used by people of various professions, folk art, biblical myths, historical facts and legends, and scientific terminology; the foreign sources are translated expressions and expressions used without translation [Abakumov, 1936].

L.A. Bulakhovsky distinguishes the following sources of phraseological units:

- 1) proverbs and sayings;
- 2) professionalism;
- 3) expressions from jokes;
- 4) quotes and images of a biblical nature;
- 5) reminiscences of antiquity;
- 6) translations of foreign expressions;
- 7) popular expressions created by writers;
- 8) striking phrases of prominent people [Bulakhovsky, 1952].

V.N. Telia identifies eight sources of phraseological units:

- 1) ritual forms of folk culture;
- 2) paremiological fund; proverbs are a powerful source of cultural interpretation as the paremiological fund has been formed for centuries;
- 3) a system of images - standards imprinted in set comparisons;
- 4) word-symbols or phrases that have a symbolic meaning;
- 5) religion with its theosophy, moral principles, and rituals. Phraseological Units formed from this source can represent different types of citations: direct quotation (for example, the weaker vessel, the salt of the earth);
- 6) the intellectual property of the nation as a whole and individuals: philosophy, history, literature, etc.;
- 7) realities, explicitly expressed in words - components of phraseological units. This group includes the majority of phraseological units with proper names;
- 8) figurative content of phraseological units. This source includes intralinguistic sources of national-cultural interpretation. [Telia, 1996].

### **Materials and Methods**

English phraseological units with a proper name served as material for the study in this research article and the following methods were applied:

- semantic analysis of language material;
- etymological analysis of the studied phraseological units with a proper name;
- elements of quantitative calculation;
- descriptive method (when interpreting and classifying).

### **Discussion and Results**

The phraseological units in this article are divided into two classes according to their nature of genesis:

- 1) deterministic phraseological units (phraseological units, which include proper names that genetically go back to a certain denotation);
- 2) indeterministic (phraseological units, that do not possess primary denotation).

We shall look at the origin of phraseological units of both these classes.

In the English language, proper name is a common component among the indeterministic class of phraseological units.

For example, the name Jack, which appears in more than 40 phraseological units, is most often associated with a cheerful guy, agile and cunning, sometimes roguish. Also, this name is used instead of the word "man". [Zagirova, 2003].

Phraseological units with the name Jack have been included in this article. Here are some examples: climb like a Steeple Jack; Jack in the low cellar - an unborn child, a child in the womb; Jack Drum - crowded party [this. because sounds like a drum beat in recruiting time; Jack Adams - a fool, Jack of both sides - one who tries to be neutral; before you can (could) say Jack Robinson - (colloquial) immediately, instantly; right away, immediately; Jack among the maids - ladies' man, gentleman.

Etymologically, the name Jack has the same roots as the name John. The name John is used in numerous phraseological units. The analysis of such phraseological units revealed that most phraseological units with the proper name John are of American origin. Here are some examples: big John (military slang) - recruit; dear John letter - note or letter from a woman with a message about a breakup [came into use during World War II]; John Barleycorn - John Barleycorn [personification of beer and other malt drinks; John (Jack) Blunt – a rude person; John Citizen - an ordinary citizen, an average person; John (Tom) Collins - a drink made from soda water with gin, sugar, lemon juice, and ice.

The name Tom derived from Thomas is also often used in phraseological units: aunt Tom (colloquial) - a businesswoman who made a professional or business career; blind Tom - the name of the game "blind man's buff"; Tom Long – very tall and thin, lanky man, resp; Tomfool - fool, jester, Tom and Jerry - strong punch; Tom and Jerry shop – cheap, low-quality inn.

The names Peter and Betty have been also widely used in English phraseological units. Here are some examples: black Betty (slang) - a beer mug; kiss Black Betty (slang) - to drink; brown Betty (colloquial) - apple pie, cousin Betty - weak-minded, fool; for Pete's sake - for God's sake! sure Pete (slang) - definitely; to pass (to go) through St. Peter's needle - to be punished; receive a punishment, a good scolding; long Eliza - a tall Chinese porcelain vase; aunt Emma - a sluggish, lack of initiative croquet player; little Mary (colloquial, joking) - stomach; old Nick (or Harry) - (colloquial) - a person who always causes troubles, problems; naughty; bad; tin Lizzie – cheap automobile.

Further, we shall look at the sources of deterministic phraseological units, which represent a large group in the English language. In this article, we will mainly consider phraseological units with geographical names. Geographical names are part of the history and culture of the people because they represent realities that reflect national country features.

Considering the phraseological units collected in this article, we propose to classify the phraseological units into the following groups:

- 1) phraseological units with a toponym component, which are based on historical events associated with a given geographic location;
- 2) phraseological units with a toponym component, which are based on features of economic development.

First, we shall consider phraseological units that are related to the first group: phraseological units with a toponym component, which are based on historical events associated with a given geographic location.

Go to Canossa – an act of penance or submission. To "go to Canossa" is an expression that describes doing penance, often with the connotation that it is unwilling or coerced. Canossa is a castle in northern Italy, famous for the history of the struggle between secular authorities and Pontifical theocracy. In this castle the German emperor Henry IV begged forgiveness from Pope Gregory VII in 1077, with whom he had previously conducted political war; the Delphic oracle - a person who expresses himself incomprehensibly; someone stating his position but unable or unwilling to explain his point of view. Delphi – a city in ancient Greece, the religious center of the ancient Greeks, famous for the sanctuary of Apollo – the oracle, whose sayings were proclaimed by the priests. The

sayings of the oracle were always intricate, ornate, and allegorical so that everyone could interpret them in their way. [Korzyukova, 2003]; to cross (pass) the (one's) Rubicon - take the final irreversible step that may have irreversible consequences; cross some important milestone. In 49 B.C. despite the prohibition of the Roman Senate, Julius Caesar with his legions crossed the Rubicon - the river that served as the border between Umbria and Cisalpine Gaul. This was the beginning of the war between Julius Caesar and the Senate, as a result of which Caesar took possession of Rome and became the dictator; Spartan life - a life full of difficulties and hardships. When in IX-VIII centuries BC. Lycurgus came to power in the Greek city of Sparta, he introduced new wise and firm laws. Lycurgus believed that disorder occurs because of inequality, wealth and poverty, pride, and envy. Therefore, he ordered that all the lands and income from these lands be allocated to each Spartan equally. The Spartans were to eat the same food together with other people [Korzyukova, 2003].

The second group comprises phraseological units with a toponym component, which are based on features of economic development.

In the following phraseological units, the toponym is formed based on the name of a product: Arkansas (California) toothpick (slang) - a long hunting knife; Bombay duck- "Bombay duck" [curry made from a bun mallow fish that dwells in the Indian Ocean. Its taste is similar to duck, and this dish was often sold in India during the British Empire, therefore, was called by the British "Bombay duck". Carry (bring) coals to 'Newcastle – to supply something to a place or person that already has a lot of that particular thing, not for all the tea in China (colloquial) - Not at any price, never, to go for a Burton (colloquial) - 1) die; 2) disappear; 3) go bankrupt.: Burton: -the town in the county of Staffordshire, famous for its production of beer. British pilots first used this expression during World War II remembering their fallen comrades in the army.

Analysis of English phraseological units showed that a component of some phraseological units is a street name: all Lombard Street to a China orange – to be convinced. This refers to the financial position of the business district in London, including Lombard Street, where the banks are located; Coronation Street – a street inhabited by workers; Lombard Street - a money market, and finance center. Lombard Street in the city of London has a row of largest banks; Fleet Street - English press. The editorial offices of the largest newspapers are located in Fleet Street in London; Throgmorton Street- London Stock Exchange. The stock exchange is located on Throgmorton Street; Wall Street – an American financial oligarchy. The largest banks are located on Wall Street in New York; Harley Street- doctors, London medical world. Offices of many famous doctors are located on Harley Street in New York; an old lady in (or of) Threadneedle Street - The English Bank.

## **Conclusion**

From the foregoing, it may be deduced that toponyms possess multiple distinctions (historical, cultural, and literary) that are recognizable to any native speaker but are incomprehensible to language learners. Without the cultural element of a toponym's meaning being schematized within a phraseological unit, the toponym's cultural value will be restricted to providing information relating to a specific geographical feature, while a significant amount of historical, cultural, and socioeconomic associations will go unnoticed. Our etymological review of phraseological units that include a proper noun allowed us to differentiate the material into deterministic and indeterministic phraseological units based on how they originated. The names Jack and John have the highest degree of phraseologisation in indeterministic phraseological units. While, indeterministic phraseological units are mostly connected with life, folklore, history, and the literature of the nation.

## **References**

1. Абакумов СИ. Устойчивые сочетания слов // Русский язык в школе, 1936, № 1. - С . 58-69.
2. Булаховский Л.А. Курс русского литературного языка: В 2-х омах. Т. 1.в преподавании русского языка как иностранного. 4-е изд., перераб. и доп.

3. Галимуллина Л. Некоторые особенности в переводе фразеологических единиц с английского языка на узбекский язык //Общество и инновации. – 2021. – Т. 2. – №. 8/S. – С. 205-213.
4. Galimullina L. Exploring the Multi-Level Nature of Phraseological Units With Onyms in English and Russian: a Cognitive Linguistics Perspective //JOURNAL OF EDUCATION, ETHICS AND VALUE. – 2023. – Т. 2. – №. 4. – С. 10-12.
5. Загирова З.Р. Лексико-семантические и функциональные параметры антропонима в составе фразеологических единиц в английском языке. Автореф дисс. ... канд. филол. наук. Уфа, 2003.-21с.
6. Корзюкова З.П основные аспекты функционирования Ф.Е. с именем собственным в англ. яз.: национально-культурная специфика. Дис. ... канд. филол. наук. М., 2003.-249с.
7. Лиховидова Т.В. Фразеологические единицы с именем собственным в современном английском языке //ИЯШ, №6, 1971. — С. 41- 42.
8. Телия В.Н. Русская фразеология. Семантический, прагматический и лингвокультурологический аспекты. М.: Школа «Языки русской культуры», 1996.- 288с.