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# The phraseological field "Women's Intellect" in the Russian and English Languages

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#### **Abstract**

The real research is devoted to the complex analysis of the set expressions with the meaning of mental abilities of the woman in two languages. The lexico-semantic microsystems and their ingredients are exposed to the detailed research. The work is done on the example of phraseological units, paremias (proverbs and sayings) and aphorisms of two structurally-different languages. The scope of the study is on a joint of the major disciplines of modern linguistic science which include ethnolinguistics, cognitive linguistics, lingvoculturology, and considers the verbalized ideas of the intellectual level of female persons in set expressions in the Russian and English linguistic picture of the world. The study opens new data which can be useful both at an explanation of language identities, and at the solution of some difficulties of the translation. The scientific novelty of the research is caused by the complex system analysis to which these expressions are exposed for the first time. It is necessary to discuss the questions connected with the verbalization of the concepts showing female intelligence, fresh interest of various branches of sciences both in the identity of the person in general and to such a narrow direction as the female intelligence exactly, changing of the woman's role in the modern society. The scope of the analysis is the lexico-semantic originality of the set expressions designating the female intelligence in the compared languages.

Keywords: phraseology; intelligence; stable expressions; lexico-semantic groups; linguistics

## 1. Introduction

The hypothesis of this research states that it is possible to call the phraseological field "female intellect" a complex cultural and linguistic formation which include the basic lexico-semantic groups of the intellectual area of an inner world of the woman. This very lexical field possesses certain specific signs which partially coincide in the Russian and English language cultures. The real study sets as the objective the comparative studying of the lexico-semantic features of the set expressions designating female intelligence in the Russian and English languages. The objective causes the solution of the following tasks:

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- 1. To frame the theoretical and methodological base of the research on the basis of the analysis of the existing approaches to the studying of the expressions considered;
- 2. To reveal the group of the analyzed expressions in the Russian and English languages and the criterion of its allocation;
- 3. To define the structure of the phraseological field "female intellect" in the compared languages.

The relevance of the research is confirmed firstly by the classification of the set expressions mentioned in the cultural linguistic plan where in a figurative basis the relation to the world of the Russian and English language societies is imprinted. Secondly, for the general theory of linguistics the consideration of the paremiological, phraseological and aphoristic units from the point of view of their cultural linguistic features is very significant. Thirdly, the studying of the set expressions in the lexicosemantic plan possesses the considerable theoretical importance as the detection of the compliances and distinctions in the set expressions of two structurally-different languages. The set expressions in general widely show the cogitative activity of the separately taken linguistic and cultural education that represents the considerable material for the comparative research as through the comparison it is possible to comprehend an interior world of the people and societies in details.

#### 1.1. Literature Review

At the present moment the significant number of the researches which are based on the material of various sources is devoted to the studying of the proverbs and phraseological fund. This fund is the subject of studying of several scientific directions: phraseology (Alefirenko & Semisenko, 2009; Arsenteva, 2014; Cowie, 1998; Gries, 2008; Mieder, 2004; Wilde, 2014; Portnova, 2019a), folklore studies (Anikin, 2004; Buslayev, 2014; Halliday, 2013; Atabekova, 2020), paremiological studies (Permyakov, 1988; Tarlanov, 1999; Cram, 2015; Mieder, 2015), and also the researches of the linguistic and area plan (Vereshchagin & Kostomarov, 2012). The anthropocentric orientation of the linguistic science at the present stage is rather actual. It causes fresh attention of a wide range of the researchers to the units reflecting the human factor in language. The person becomes the center of the scientific knowledge, draws the attention of all humanities, including linguistics. The researches in the sphere of the linguistic and area studies (Vorobyov, 2008; Maslova, 2004; Thalia, 1996; Atabekova & Gorbatenko, 2017) and cognitive linguistics (Kubryakova et al., 1996; Popova & Sternin, 2007; Portnova, 2019b) testify to it. Their most significant part is devoted to the research of the lexical and phraseological language cases (Vilms, 1997; Kashtanova, 1997; Kovshova, 2017; Abitova et al., 2020; Ufimtseva, 1968; Shvedova, 2007; Prystai, 2020). Nevertheless, such aspects as the semantics of paremias, phraseological units and aphorisms, their cultural and national determinacy are covered insufficiently at the present moment.

The image of the woman causes the great interest among the scholars. So, the phraseological units with the female semantics and the concept "woman" are deeply investigated (Efremov, 2010; Lapshina & Koroleva, 2015; Datskovsky et al., 2018; Zyubina et al., 2020; Shishigina, 2003; Artemova, 2000; Kirilina, 1999; Leontieva & Martynyuk, 1989). The intellectual sphere of a person is also subjected to the wide analysis. (Volobueva, 2011; Trovati, 2007; Prokopovych & Kyrylo, 2018; Samedov, 2006; Salah, 2003; Leontieva, 2003). In general, mind, abilities are those internal qualities on which the person is estimated (Weekes, 2007; Issakova et al., 2021; Loland, 2008; Talbot, 2010; Ilyin, 2016; Tarasova & Kormiltseva, 2016; Roof, 2016; Bocheliuk et al., 2020; Kushnir, 2020). Nevertheless, each of the researches of this area considers only the general aspects of the problem (the intellectual sphere of a person or the concept "woman").

#### 2. Materials and Methods

The research found the theoretical and methodological basis in the works of the Russian and foreign scientists in various branches. First of all, it is the works in the sphere of the linguistic culture, the cognitive linguistics, and the study of proverbs, the phraseology and semantics, the gender studies. The units characterizing "ability of the person to think" belong to the group characterizing mental abilities of the person in general. There the units designating female intelligence were selected. The selection criterion was the lexic-component structure of the specified set expressions:

- 1. The units containing the Russian names of the female persons such as "женщина", "жена", "баба" and with the English components "woman", "wife". Subsequently the expressions with the components "курица", "дура", "кума", etc. also were added to them as we faced a wide range of the metaphorical and other names of the female persons in the Russian folklore. We also used the expressions containing the female proper names;
- 2. The units as a part of which there is a component characterizing the appearance of the woman (a hair, curls, a dress, etc.), and also the metaphorical transfer connected with the female kinds of activity (a distaff, a spindle, etc.);
- 3. The units corresponding to the female persons owing to the use of the corresponding terminations of a feminine gender in Russian (глупа, умна, etc.)

So, the card file from 600 Russian-speaking and 500 English-speaking examples served as the material of the real study. The technique of research represents the integrated use of several methods. First of all, it is a hypothetical-deductive method, which provides a clear sequence of analysis: collection of actual (speech) material; creation of a hypothesis; check of its validity. The following is an inductive method, a description method, a comparative method, a quantitative method. The descriptive method, which is also reflected in the study, helps to classify and introduce the material. The classification method was used to derive the structure of the phraseological field "women's intellect". The elements of the etymological analysis are also applied. The use of the method which was put forward once by Sh. Balli – an identification method that means the search of the identifying word expressing the idea or the concept of an abstract, neutral form is also important.

## 3. Results and Discussion

Further we carried out the analysis of set expressions of the chosen field from the point of view of a lexical component. Here layer of set expressions of the Russian and English languages united according to a verbal component in the phraseological field "female intellect" is considered. As a part of this phraseological field lexico-semantic groups (further LSG) are allocated: "Woman", "Proper names", "Metaphorical names of female persons". In turn LSG "Woman" is subdivided into lexicosemantic subgroups (further LSS): "Female attributes", "Female characteristics" and "Terms of relationship".

LSG "Woman". 993 units in total, among them 509 Russian and 467 English set expressions. The main word of this LSG is the word женщина / woman, female: окончательное решение женщины редко бывает последним (Solovieva, 2014); a wise woman is one who has a great deal to say and remains silent (Kerschen 1998). A view lexeme in a given LSG can be considered a lexeme «жена / wife»: с умной женой и спор – впрок (Solovieva, 2014); the cunning wife makes her husband her apron (Solovieva 2014). The analysis also identified a specified lexeme «баба»: бабе хоть кол на голове теши (Dahl et al., 2007); за бабой почитай последнее слово (Dahl et al., 2007). Besides the specified lexemes, we faced a sufficient variety of specific terms, that allowed to isolate the following LSS as a part of this LSG:

- 1. Female attributes. Lexemes act as attributes of female persons: «коса», «кудри», «платье», «красота» etc.: красивые глаза, да пустая голова (Dal, 2002); волос долог, а язык длинней (у бабы) (Dahl et al., 2007); beauty and folly are old companions (Dale, 2007); long of hair and short of brains (Kerschen, 1998). Also there is a comparison of female mind with the attributes of female work: знай, баба, гребень, да кривое веретено (Dahl et al., 2007); woman at her housework: that's what women are for (Kerschen 1998). The quantity of set expressions of this subgroup presents 27 units in Russian and 8 in English.
- 2. Female characteristics. The main semas of this LSP are «глупая, дура / stupid, fool», «умная / wise», «изменчивая / changeable» etc.: дурочка с переулочка «глупая женщина» (Solovieva, 2014); глупа как гусыня (Kweselevich, 2000); chuckle chick (Solovieva, 2014); а wise woman is twice a fool (Kerschen, 1998). The total score of the units of this LSP is 61: 37 Russian and 24 English set expressions.
- 3. Terms of relationship. The following lexemes are allocated in this subgroup: «кума», «теща», «свекровь», «дочь», and «невестка». These lexems are found only in Russian-language material: крепилась кума, лишилась ума (Mokienko et al., 2010); у тещи семь пятниц на неделе (Dahl et al., 2007); пусть бы невестка и дура, только бы огонь пораньше дула (Solovieva, 2014). The quantity of the presented set expressions in Russian is 41 units, in English they are absent.

LSG "Proper name". In this LSG any female proper name can act as a main lexeme: *Иван был в орде, а Марья вести сказывает* (Nadel-Khervinskaya, 2011). Phraseological units of this group mean not one specific woman, but all female persons, because they can be used concerning any woman without changes in the use of the name: *у Пелагеи* – *бабьи затеи* (Nadel-Khervinskaya, 2011); *как умная Маша* (Birih et al., 2005); *Пусти Дуньку в Европу!* (Nadel-Khervinskaya, 2011); *Dumb Dora* (Shitova, 2013); *Alice in Wonderland* (Shitova, 2013); *Barbie Doll* (Shitova, 2013). The number of the expressions of this LSG in Russian is 23, in English – 10 units.

LSG "Metaphorical names of female persons". It is rather difficult to reveal the main lexeme in this LSG as for the various images of metaphorical transfer which were classified in the following groups:

- 1. Pets (sometimes they replace a lexeme "woman", and sometimes form figurative comparison: курица гогочет, а петух молчит (Dahl et al., 2007); глупая как валаамова ослица (Birih et al., 2005); глупа как гусыня (Kweselevich, 2000); it's a sad house where the hen crows louder than the cock (Apperson, 2005);
- 2. Some natural phenomena (кругла лицом как глупая луна (Birih et al., 2005); a woman's mind is like the wind in a winter's night (Varano, 2004);
- 3. Bible or mythological images. They're presented by such components, as «Валаамова ослица» (глупая как Валаамова ослица (Birih et al., 2005), or even proper names (Адам Еву послушал, да яблоко скушал (Nadel-Khervinskaya, 2011); Adam's rib (Shitova, 2013); Arthur couldn't tame woman's tongue (Kerschen, 1998);
- 4. Inanimate images (перекати-поле бабий ум (Dahl et al. 2007); женские умы что татарские сумы (Dahl et al., 2007); blue stocking (Shitova, 2013); feather doll (Solovieva, 2014).

The quantity of units of this LSG is 68 units in Russian and 23 units in English. We allocated the lexemes which are often used for designation of the woman in the expressions standing for female intelligence. In Russian the greatest number is made by lexemes: «женщина (женский)» – 197 (32.8 %), «баба (бабий)» – 176 (29.4 %). Average rate lexemes "жена" – 56 (9.4%), and the lexemes designating other family relations («кума», «теща», «свекровь» etc.) – 41 (6.9 %), also the lexemes using animal terms («курица»; «ослица»; «гусыня»; «овца» etc.) – 38 (6.3 %). The seldom used lexemes are «дама (дамский)» – 1 (0.1%), and «она (ee)» – 2 (0.3 %). It is remarkable that for the

English set expressions such a variety of lexemes isn't peculiar. It is possible to call "woman (woman's)" as a common lexeme here or "female" - 425 (85.1%). All other lexemes are presented quite poorly. The phraseological field "female intellect" appears as the difficult structure including the basic LSG and semantic ratios which are the cornerstone of an internal form of expressions (Table 1):

Table 1. The phraseological field "female intellect" as the difficult structure including the basic LSG and semantic ratios

No.	Expression "female intellect"	Features	Russian phraseological units	English phraseological units
1.	woman 's intelligence	her beauty	красота и глупость часто бывают купно (Mokienko et al., 2010);	the beauty of the man is in his intelligence and the intelligence of the woman is in her beauty (Dale 2007);
2.	woman 's intelligence	her volatility, variability	женские думы переменчивы (Dahl et al., 2007);	a woman will refuse and then accept (Kerschen, 1998); ladies have leave to change their mind (Solovieva, 2014);
3.	woman 's intelligence	her illogicality, inadequate behavior	рассердилась баба на мужика, и все горшки побила (Solovieva, 2014);	saying "no" a woman shakes her head lengthwise (Kerschen 1998); tell a woman she is fair, and she will soon turn a fool (Kerschen, 1998);
4.	woman 's intelligence	her emotional state	женский обычай — слезами беде помогать (Dahl et al., $2007$ );	women laugh when they can and weep when they will (Dale, 2007);
5.	woman 's intelligence	her infantilism	женский ум – ум инфантильный (Dahl et al., 2007);	woman's mind is the infantile mind (Kerschen, 1998);
6.	woman 's intelligence	her chatter	женщина без разговора – что двор без забора (Solovieva, 2014);	a prating female will have the last word (Apperson, 2005);
7.	woman 's intelligence	her education	умная беседа дороже обеда (Mokienko et al. 2010);	a morning sun, and a wine- bred child, and a Latin-bred woman, seldom end well (Apperson, 2005);
8.	woman 's intelligence	her falseness	и дура-жена мужу правды не скажет (Mokienko et al., 2010);	women are deceptive (Kerschen, 1998); a woman's heart and her tongue are not relatives (Dent, 1984);
9.	woman 's intelligence	her stubbornness	с бабой не сговоришь (Dahl et al., 2007);	forbid a thing and that woman will do (Dent, 1984);
10.	woman 's intelligence	her work	знай, баба, гребень, да кривое веретено (Mokienko et al., 2010);	woman at her housework: that's what women are for (Kerschen, 1998);
11.	woman 's intelligence	her stupidity	бабий ум — бабье коромысло: и криво, и зарубисто, и на оба конца (Dahl et al., 2007);	stupidity in a woman is unfeminine (Kerschen, 1998);
12.	woman 's intelligence	her intuition	иной раз глупое слово женщины стоит мудрой проповеди имама (Dahl et	a woman's guess is much more accurate than a man's

			al., 2007);	certainty (Solovieva, 2014);
13.	woman 's intelligence	her wisdom	мужскому уму до женской мудрости не дотянуться: она всеохватна (Dahl et al., 2007);	outsmarts her husband

The most numerous groups are formed by the set expressions relating to the type "intelligence of the woman – her stupidity" that makes 178 units (29.7%) in Russian and 98 units (19.6%) in English; and also, the type "intelligence of the woman – her chatter" that makes 67 units (11.2%) in Russian and 107 (21.4%) in English.

The following provisions are submitted for the discussion:

- 1. The set expressions of the Russian and English languages designating female intelligence are characterized by the considerable similarity which is shown in the identical vision of the analyzed reality phenomena, the similarity of the value and the generalizing judgment gives the chance to determine the uniform consistent patterns of phraseological conceptualization of the world. The figurativeness of thinking of the representatives of the compared languages possesses a certain universality.
- 2. The language asymmetry is shown in the component stuff of the set expressions analyzed. The figurativeness inherent in the structurally-different languages is unique and it reflects the specific national view. The phraseological images used in the Russian and English languages for the characteristic of the intellectual states of the woman have both international, and ethnocultural character.
- 3. The set expressions designating female intelligence in the compared languages find similarity at the level of semantics and on the basis of it can be united in several lexico-semantic groups.
- 4. The national painted components and realities which can be found at the level of their internal form are characteristics of the Russian set expressions. In the English set expressions the generalized characteristic prevails.

The researchers of the linguistic and cultural direction consider that the perception of the world carriers of the various languages refracts a mirror of the native language. The language is considered as the culture component passing from generation to generation, the culture is perceived by the individual by means of language. For this reason, the language is capable to reflect the cultural-national originality of its carriers. The linguists note that in this aspect it is possible to study the history and culture of the people from the linguistic and cultural side of the national folklore as the phraseological units, proverbs, sayings and the character of their components are of great interest. It gains the special importance because the aphoristic, phraseological and paremiological case represents the specific part of a language picture of the world.

#### 4. Conclusions

In this study we consider the phraseological units, paremias (proverbs and sayings) and also aphorisms of not folklore origin which we unite in one group for the analysis – set expressions. The set expressions are understood as any steady and reproduced in language and the speech in finished form of a combination of words, having a form of the offer or phrase. Here we rely on opinion of N.N. Semenenko from which follows that phraseological units, paremias and aphorisms are kinds of set expressions, each of which is characterized by the set of structural, semantic and functional features. The analysis showed that:

- Both the compared languages show women's inability to think rationally, the existence of "female mind" is considered to be atypical;
- The expressions of both languages designating the existence of female mind not always bear in themselves a positive assessment of this phenomenon (blue stocking), and also reflect mainly negative lines of female mind and those intellectual qualities which traditionally are considered typically female (inadequate behavior, infantilism, impulsiveness).

Such concepts as "mind", "stupidity", etc. get general value and cause fixed interest in the linguistic plan (George, 2019; Hellinger & Motschenbacher, 2004; Motschenbacher, 2010; Langacker, 2000). And the question of an anthropological orientation of set expressions in language remains actual. On the basis of the analysis of the set expressions designating female intelligence in the Russian and English languages it is possible to conclude that in a gender picture of the world of both languages the image of the woman is formed due to such concepts, as "silly", "infantile", "inadequate", "cunning", "superficial"; rarer "wise", "ingenious", "reasonable". Negative qualities are more ordered to a female intellectual image.

Carriers of a certain mentality (in this case Russians and British) connect intellectual characteristics of female persons with other various qualities inherent in the person. For example, "the beautiful woman - the silly woman", "the silly woman - the changeable woman", "the silly woman - the emotional woman", "the silly woman - the cunning woman", "the clever woman - the reasonable woman", "the clever woman – the wise woman", etc.

The phraseological images used in the Russian and English languages for the characteristic of woman's intellectual state have both international, and ethnocultural character. We revealed a wide choice of lexemes at the name of the woman in Russian, and quite narrow circle of lexemes in English. The existence of the phraseological field where the set expressions designating female intelligence can be allocated in a separate class of units of the Russian and English languages thanks to existence in them of the system signs and communications defined for this class is proved. The phraseological field "female intellect" is systemically organized, its structure is similar in the Russian and English culture that is explained by anthropocentrism of semantics, a universal view of world around and the person, a community of mythological ideas and international sources of loan.

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