



PROBLEMS DEFINING PROVERBS

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ABSTRACT

As we know proverbs and sayings provide an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with the life and culture of the people for whom the given language is the native one and convince us that different peoples may have the same views and moral values. The article is about studying proverbs and sayings which helps us understand the mentality and national character of the native speakers of the language. Proverbs and sayings, as a whole, cover most of the human experience.

Key words: Proverbs and sayings, phraseology, neologisms, winged expressions, structure, value system, problems and experiences.

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs and sayings provide an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with the life and culture of the people for whom the given language is the native one and convince us that different peoples may have the same views and moral values. Studying proverbs and sayings helps us understand the mentality and national character of the native speakers of the language. Proverbs and sayings, as a whole, cover most of the human experience.

A language is a world with its own structure, value system, problems and experiences. Proverbs and sayings, phraseology, neologisms, winged expressions and other means make speech more vivid, imaginative, rich and thus stimulate communicative, cognitive and aesthetic motivation to master the language. Proverbs and sayings are an element of folk art that allows expressing folk wisdom in a concise and figurative way, reflecting the history and worldview of the people, their customs, traditions, morals and values. They contain common sense and humour, emotional expressiveness and ability to express feelings and moods, national originality and depth of culture of the people who are native speakers of this language.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

There are hundreds of proverbs and sayings in English. They have been created by many generations and developed and improved over the centuries. Russian and English linguists were also engaged in questions of proverbs and sayings origin. The greatest contribution to the study of the theory of origin and classification of proverbs and sayings was made by V.P. Zhukov, A.V. Kunin, Yu. M. Sokolov, L. F. Sviridov, M. A. Ribnikov. Problems of studying English proverbs are discussed by English and American linguists, among them are Raidout R., Whitting K. Meader W., Taylor A. and others.

MAIN PART

Proverbs and sayings are a widespread genre of oral folk art. It is not known when proverbs and sayings appeared, but one thing is undeniable: both proverbs and sayings originated in ancient times, since then they have accompanied the people throughout their history. Noteworthy are the expressive means by which proverbs and sayings are durable or memorable. One of these means is an exact or assonant rhyme:

Little strokes fell great oaks «от малых ударов валятся большие дубы»

A simple balanced form of proverbs and sayings is the most frequently used technique, for example:

More haste, less speed «тише едешь – дальше будешь»

Easy come, easy go «пришло махом – ушло прахом»

Like father, like son «каков отец, таков и сын»

Briefness is an essential aspect of memorable statements. Very few proverbs and sayings are verbose, most of them contain no more than five words.

Better late than never «лучше поздно, чем никогда»

No pains, no gains «без труда не вытащишь и рыбку из пруда»

Language science has not yet developed a common view of proverbs and sayings. Proverbs and sayings were most often understood as "an accurate figurative proverb (usually of a nominal character), typifying a variety of life phenomena and taking the form of a finished sentence. 2 The proverb expresses a complete judgment. A proverb is a short figurative saying that differs from the proverb in its incompleteness.

A similar definition can be found in all explanatory dictionaries as well as in many special articles and studies. Proverbs are usually understood as "short sayings on different sides of life that have entered into conversation".

A proverb is always a sentence. It has a didactic purpose (to teach, to warn, etc.).

Proverbs are often complex sentences. In the context of a proverb, it acts as an independent sentence or as part of a complex sentence.

In the context, proverbs are implemented semantically by joining variable sentences. Proverbs are often implemented in a super phrase context.

The concept of proverb in modern folklore is vague, including different structural-semantic types of stable figurative combinations of words. In essence, the only thing that unites these different word combinations is that they are not proverbs, although the closeness of both can not be denied in some cases.

Nor does the English and American linguistic literature make a clear distinction between proverb and proverb. This explains why English dictionaries of proverbs also include proverbs of a clearly unspoken nature.

It should be noted that we do not attribute a proverb to FE with the literal meaning of all the components: "*all is well that ends well*"; "*appearance is deceptive*"; "*better late than never*", etc., and so on. These proverbs refer to stable formations of NE phraseological character.

In some works on phraseology, the main difference between a proverb and a proverb is that the proverb expresses a general judgment, while the proverb expresses a partial judgment. In the opinion of these linguists, not only proverbs but also proverbs may take the form of a complete sentence.

A proverb is a stable sentence with the same structure as a proverb but without didactic content.

Usually expressions such as these are used as proverbs:

When pigs can fly.

The Dutch have taken Holland!

When two Sundays come together.

When hell freezes over.

Proverbs and sayings should be considered those statements that enjoy public popularity. It follows from this that usually they are ancient statements, because in a short period of time they could not become part of the public consciousness. Of course, there are exceptions, and some proverbs and sayings break into the public consciousness with extraordinary speed, but it is necessary to exclude such one-day phrases as "*I couldn't care less*" or "*What's the odds?*"

Sometimes it is very difficult to distinguish a proverb from a saying or to draw a clear line between these genres. A proverb borders on a proverb, and if one word joins it, or the order of words changes, the proverb becomes a proverb. In oral speech, proverbs often become proverbs and proverbs become proverbs. In terms of content, English proverbs are very diverse and cover all aspects of English life.

Proverbs teach saving: a penny saved is a penny gained; take care of the pence, and the pounds will take care of themselves.

It is said that there is no fruit without difficulty: he who will eat the kernel must crack the nut (or he who would eat the nut must first crack the shell); he who would eat the fruit must climb the tree; he who would catch fish must not mind getting wet; he who would search for pearls must dive below, and so on.

Among the English proverbs there are conservative in content and sometimes anti-people. An example of a conservative proverb is the biblical proverb *"you will regret the rod and spoil the child"* «*пожалеешь розгу, испортишь ребенка*». Bourgeois morality is reflected in the proverb that will *steal an egg can steal an ox* «*кто украл яйцо, может украсть и вола*».

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