

## PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH THE ORNITHONYM COMPONENT: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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### Summary

The research paper is devoted to the study and comparative analysis of the English and Ukrainian phraseological units with the ornithonym component, revealing their linguistic, cultural and pragmatic peculiarities. The empiric material of the research includes English and Ukrainian phraseological units selected by continuous sampling from phraseological, explanatory, and bilingual dictionaries. The sample size is 601 phraseological units. Analyzing Ukrainian and English phraseological units with an ornithonym component, it can be seen that the names of birds are more often used to denote positive concepts. In both linguistic cultures, the imagery of the stork, chicken, and cock components completely coincide. Most phraseological units were formed on the basis of objective observations of domestic and wild birds. However, extralinguistic factors such as fairy tales, holidays, geography, and gastronomic traditions were singled out. The research material can be used in further research on comparative, contrastive phraseology of English, Ukrainian and other languages.

**Keywords:** phraseology, idiom, zoonym component, birds, linguistic and cultural peculiarities.

DOI <https://doi.org/10.23856/5318>

### 1. Introduction

English has accumulated lots of bright expressions throughout its history, its phraseology is its treasury. Phraseological units reflect the history and culture of a nation representing a significant, widely used layer of vocabulary. Phraseological units with the names of animals are of particular interest. They are widely used as a characteristic of man and possess high connotative potential. Phraseological units with a zoomorphic component constitute a significant part of the dictionary stock of absolutely any language (*Varlamova, Rakhimova & Shingareva, 2017*). Therefore, the significant role of animals is expressed in a language and a culture.

Phraseology has repeatedly become the research object. Ye.K. Butochkina and Ya.V. Hryhoshkina have researched English and Ukrainian zoomorphic phraseological units (*Butochkina & Hryhoshkina, 2017*). Dubravka analyzed zoonyms as separate lexical units and as components of fixed expressions in the English language considering their semantics, functions and translation into Ukrainian (*Dubravka, 2018*). Salata I.A. have researched peculiarities of the semantic and pragmatic aspects of zoomorphic phraseology in English and Ukrainian (*Salata, 2010*). We have analyzed semantics and structure of phraseological units with an ornithonym component in the lexical system of the English language (*Tymoshchuk, 2019*). According to Dubravka, zoonyms are characterized by a high degree of prevalence and are actively used in various languages to strengthen the figurative characteristics of a person, a situation, quite fully and conceptually present various spheres of the material and spiritual life

of the people. They represent a personal life experience, his /her behavior, his /her inherent qualities creating a general image, they indicate such character traits as courage, diligence, strength, weakness, and hypocrisy (*Dubravka, 2018: 51*).

The research focuses on determining the role of phraseological units with the ornithonym component, their linguistic cultural and stylistic features, comparative analysis of Ukrainian and English phraseological units with the ornithonym component. The studies of phraseological units can contribute to a higher level of cross-cultural awareness.

## 2. Definitions and Characteristic of Phraseological Units

Today, linguists use a variety of terms to denote the concept of phraseology, such as phraseological unit, phraseologism, idiomatic phrase, multi-word expression (in computational linguistics), or idiom. As a rule, the concepts of “phraseological unit” and “phraseologism” are identical. Smirnitkiy separates phraseological units as stylistically neutral phrases that do not have metaphoricity and idioms that are based on metaphoricity (*Smirnitkiy, 1956*).

Amosova distinguishes phrasemes and idioms. In her opinion, idioms are characterized by a holistic meaning, while phrasemes are units of a constant context (*Amosova, 1963*). Vinogradov claims that a phraseological unit is a combination of words which are semantically integral in the sense that the meaning of the whole is not deducible from the meanings of the constituent elements. (*Vinogradov, 1977*). According to Kunin, phraseological units are “stable combinations of words with complicated semantics that are not formed according to structural-semantic models of variable word combinations” (*Kunin, 1966*).

The terms idiom and phraseological unit are widely used in English and American linguistics. According to Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English, idiom is a group of words whose meaning is different from the meanings of the individual words. Webster defines idiom as an expression in the usage of a language that is peculiar to itself either in having a meaning that cannot be derived from the conjoined meanings of its elements or in its grammatically atypical use of words.

Taking into account the works of outstanding linguists, we can conclude that phraseological units are stable combinations of words characterized by imagery, metaphoricity, and lexical-grammatical inseparability. They include idioms, proverbs, sayings, aphorisms, catchphrases, and permanent expressions of a terminological nature.

## 3. Phraseological Units with the Zoonym Component

Our ancestors lived in complete harmony with the outside world and considered themselves an inseparable part of nature. They chose animals, making them symbols of clans and tribes, i.e., totems. The animal became sacred, and it could not be killed or eaten. Totemism was widespread among all peoples, and its remnants have been preserved in religion (*Sakaeva, 2008*). Over the years, different peoples and cultures have formed their own stereotypes and ideas about representatives of the fauna. Table 1 contains some zonyms and certain associations with human character traits that are traditionally attached to them.

The names of domestic and wild animals and birds are used in English and Ukrainian phraseological units, i.e., cat, calf, cow, dog, donkey, fox, goat, hare, horse, lamb, leopard, lion, monkey, mule, ox, pig, swine, rat, sheep, squirrel, tiger, wolf and birds: chicken, cock, coot,

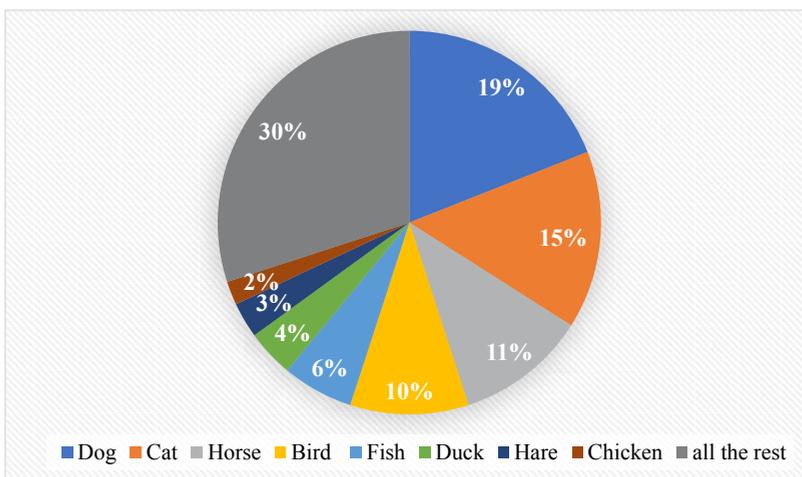
Table 1

**Zoonyms and human characteristics relation**

Zoonym	Human characteristics	Phraseological unit
bee	hardworking, thoroughness	as busy as a bee
pig	the manner of eating greedily, sloppiness, laziness, bad taste, clumsiness	to wrestle with a pig
monkey	noisy, making faces, teasing, excessive curiosity, talkativeness	monkey see – monkey do
lion	pride, leadership	lion share, to fight like a lion
fox	cunning, flattery	sly as a fox
fish	silence, inertness	a cold fish
dog	rudeness, anger, obedience, loyalty	to lead a dog's life

crow, dotterel, dove, duck, eagle, goose, hawk, hen, lark, magpie, nightingale, parrot, peacock, pigeon, swan, and vulture.

Scholars have analyzed frequency of zoonym components use (*Belova, Arkhipova, Gavrikova, Mineeva, Nikolskaya, & Zhernovaya, 2021*). The results of their study are presented in Figure 1.



**Figure 1. Frequency of Zoonym Components Use**

**4. Phraseological Units with the Ornithonym Component**

Phraseological units containing ornithonym component represent a rather large lexical group. The empiric material of the research includes English and Ukrainian phraseological units selected by continuous sampling from phraseological, explanatory and bilingual dictionaries. The sample size is 601 phraseological units. Table 2 contains quantitative analysis of the phraseological units with the ornithonym component.

Phraseological units with an ornithonym and zoonym component contribute to the expression of feelings, reactions, and emotional life forming and marking a valuable picture of the world and evaluating objects from the ethical and aesthetic norms of this language group. The language registers and establishes the qualities as inherent in the denotation, which allows

Table 2

### Phraseological Units with the Ornithonym Component

Component	Number of English phraseological units	Number of Ukrainian phraseological units	Total
Goose; гуска	77	44	121
Hen; курка	49	36	85
Cock; півень	42	28	70
Crow; ворона, гава	34	26	60
Chicken; курча	30	24	54
Duck; качка	23	18	41
Pigeon; голуб	19	18	37
Hawk; яструб, сокіл	15	12	27
Owl; сова	15	10	25
Lark; жайворонок	14	12	26
Turkey; індик	12	3	15
Sparrow; горобець	12	8	20
Stork; лелека	6	5	11
Swan; лебідь	5	4	9
Total	353	248	601

you to regularly use the name of the object as a standard of certain qualities. For example, the English phraseological units “*a crow is never the whiter for washing*”, “*a crow is never the whiter for washing herself often*”, “*a crow went on a trip abroad and returned only as black*” objectify the conceptual sign “*the crow is black*”. The connotative meaning of the given phraseological units has a negative character, and the conceptual feature is considered as an unchanging and constantly powerful object (Тymoshchuk, 2019).

It is well known that the mind appears as an image of respect or contempt. The negative evaluation of the subject or object is conveyed by such phraseological units as “*a bird-brain*”, “*the brain of a pigeon*”, “*курячі мізки*”, “*курячий розум*”, they make fun of human intellectual abilities. Below we demonstrate examples of the use of some phraseological units with ornithonyms in sentences.

*На грудях вишиванка, а в голові – курячий розум (Yakovyshyn).*

*На п'ятому році війни можна було додуматися своїми курячими мізками до того, що представник країни на "Євробаченні" не може їздити з концертами в Росію, мати відносини з країною-окупантом (Mozghova).*

*You're such a bird-brain. I can't believe you got stranded on the highway because you didn't put enough gas in your car! (Farlex Dictionary of Idioms, 2015)*

Idioms are used to express condemnation and disapproval of actions in the given examples of Ukrainian and English sentences.

Lots of phraseological units with ornithonyms characterize unsuccessful and poorly performed work or action, i.e., “*to count one's chicken before they are hatched*” – “*курчат по осені рахують*”; “*the chicken come home to roost*” – “*нашим салом по нашій шкурі*”; “*як курка лапою*” – “*is like chicken scratch*”.

The turkey usually symbolizes pride and arrogance, which is seen in both languages. For example, “*to strut like a turkey cock*”; “*as proud as a turkey-cock*”, “*puffed up as a turkey-cock*”, “*to swell like a turkey cock*” – “*надутий як індик*”; “*as red as a turkey-cock*”.

Analyzing anthropocentric phraseological units with ornithonyms duck and goose, we found a large number of phraseological units in the English language, on the other hand, their number is much smaller in the Ukrainian language. English phraseological unit “*to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs*” and Ukrainian one “*рубати / різати курку, що несе золоті яйця*” meaning to get rid of something that is profitable to you can be attributed to phraseological units referring to fairy-tale plots. Phraseological units “*ugly duckling*” – “*зидке / бридке каченя*” also refer to fairy-tale plots, they can characterize someone or something that is ugly and not successful when young or new but will later become beautiful or successful.

Ornithonyms stork and swan stand out for their positive images in the anthropocentric phraseology. A positive vision of the bird is characteristic of English and Ukrainian phraseology, where the ornithonym verbalizes the concepts of birth: “*to keep the stork flying*”, “*to keep the stork busy*”, “*a visit from the stork*”, “*журавлика вловити*”, “*піймати / примітити лелеку*”.

## 5. Conclusions

Different terms are used to denote the concept of phraseological unit in British, American and Ukrainian linguistics. Their interpretations are not always identical, but its features are common in both languages, namely unity of meaning, component relations and grammatical organization. Analyzing phraseological units with an ornithonym component, it can be seen that the names of birds are more often used to denote positive concepts. In both linguistic cultures, the imagery of the stork, chicken, and cock components completely coincide. Most phraseological units were formed on the basis of objective observations of domestic and wild birds. However, extralinguistic factors such as fairy tales, holidays, geography, and gastronomic traditions were singled out.

This material can be used in further research on comparative, contrastive phraseology of English, Ukrainian and other languages.

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