

## **STRUCTURAL AND SEMANTIC PECULIARITIES OF PRAGMATIC IDIOMS IN ENGLISH**

The verbal behavior of people has a repeated character which can be reflected in the existence of standardized expressions and formulas of certain types. Among the lexical units of idiomatic character scholars distinguish the separate group entitled pragmatic idioms. These lexical units can be referred as specific set expressions implemented in the utterances of various communicative meanings which express different speaker's implications (gratitude, agreement, apology, greetings, requests, farewell, wish, recommendations, etc) or the assessment of communicative situation [3, с. 4]. Since in the process of pragmatic idioms examination there is a great number of controversial issues, they can be researched from different points of view and classified according to certain criteria.

Considering the structure of pragmatic idioms we can identify:

- One-word idioms which consist of only one word (e.g. Morning!; Welcome!; Pardon!; Congratulations!);
- Two-words expressions which include two words in their structure (e.g. You know!; Be careful!; Get lost!; God save!)
- Multiword idioms which are made up of more than two words (e.g. How wrong you are!; You never know!; Over my dead body!) [4, с. 134].

Multiword pragmatic idioms create the most numerous group. That is why, it is possible to distinguish among them some semantic subclasses: surprise (Heaven and Earth!; It takes the cake!; Bless my life!), certainty (By bread and salt!; Beyond the shadow of doubt!; By all odds!), disagreement (How wrong you are!; Not for the world!), warning (Mind your eye!; Hold your horses!), doubt (By the feel of it!; You never know!) and others.

I. Arnold classifies the pragmatic idioms taking into consideration the parts of speech. As a result, we can single out nominative (That's the spirit!; What a life!; Surprise!), verbal (Stay back!; Off we go!; Mind my words!), adjectival (Dead sure!; As sure as a gun) and adverbial (Exactly!; Honestly; Indeed) pragmatic idioms [2, с. 203].

In addition to this, it can be definitely noticed that some pragmatic idioms are applied in order to give the positive characteristics of people and situations (Well done!; Attaboy!; That's great!; That's the talk!; Good old John / Karen etc!). The others are used for the purpose of describing negative features of certain people or phenomena (Aren't you smart/quick!; Don't come the innocent/victim with me!; Nonsense!; The same old game!; Look who's talking!; Look what you've done!; ). Anyway, the most of them

express the person's emotions, feelings, attitude to the interlocutor or situation, evaluation and so on [1].

Some set expressions have the similar structure which can be helpful in identifying their semantics. For instance, the idioms with the construction *as...as* are used for comparison (as sure as a gun; as funny as a crutch; as sure as little apples); phrases with the preposition *by* usually show the way or manner of actions (by definition; by no means; by your favour/leave); idioms with preposition *for* can have the semantics of purpose or destination ("for the eyes of the President"; for the record; for your consideration); expressions with the preposition *from* can indicate the source of message (from all accounts; from all appearances; from this point of view; greetings from...; love from...).

To sum up, from the structural and semantic points of view pragmatic idioms can be divided into various types. They are applied in various spheres of human life on the base of different communicative situations. In spite of the fact that pragmatic idioms are regarded as the frequent phenomenon in English, their peculiarities are poorly researched. So, this subject does not lose its relevance and requires the further investigation.

#### **Література**

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