

## Structural-grammatical peculiarities of phraseological units characterizing disease – health in the English, German and Russian languages

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**Abstract.** The article is devoted to the analysis of substantive, comparative and not comparative verbal phraseological units characterizing disease – health in the English, German and Russian languages. Substantive phraseological units of the models “N+Prep+N”, “Adj+N” are typical of three languages. The most numerous group is “Adj+N”. The following subgroups of the model “Adj+N” are represented in three languages: “an abstract noun+a qualitative adjective”; “a concrete noun+a qualitative adjective”; “an abstract noun+a relative adjective”; “a concrete noun+a relative adjective”. Verbal phraseological units are divided into nominative and nominative-communicative, comparative and not comparative units. The most common types among the comparative verbal phraseological units are “V+like+N”, “V+like+Adj+N”. The article explores such models of not comparative verbal phraseological units with subordination expressing objective and objective–adverbial relations as “V+N”, “V+Prep+N”, “V+N+Prep+N”, “V+Adj”.

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### Introduction

Comparative study of languages aimed at finding similarities and differences is a topical problem of modern linguistics. Studies in phraseology are of particular interest in this regard as it clearly reflects peculiarities of people’s lives, their culture and traditions [1]. Therefore, knowledge of phraseology becomes an integral part of learning languages [2]. Analysis of phraseological units in structural-grammatical aspect is aimed at revealing characteristics, similarities and differences of grammatical structure of phraseological units [3] characterizing disease – health in the English, German and Russian languages.

The main methods are the method of complete selection of the material and the comparative-typological method.

Meaning of phraseological units is subsumed under lexical-grammatical meaning inherent to parts of speech [4]. Belonging to a part of speech is fixed by a syntactic function this unit is used in. Substantive phraseological units denoting an object or a substantivized action are functionally correlated with nouns [5]. Components of substantive phraseological units of the English, German and Russian languages can be joined with subordination and coordination [6]. Prepositions express the relations between words in a sentence [7]. Prepositions are indispensable elements of phraseological units with subordination [5]. The model “N+Prep+N” is typical of three languages. In

this subclass the combination of a noun with a noun is fulfilled by prepositional subordination [2]. Substantive phraseological units with subordinate connection of components contain the preposition “in” in the English language; “mit”, “in” – in the German language; “во”, “в” – in the Russian language: *cold in the head; a frog in the throat; Blut mit Milch; ein Gesunder Geist in einem gesunden Körper; rumyanets vo vsyu shcheku; krov' s molokom*. In English phraseological units of attributive-prepositional type with postposition and contiguity syntactic relation existing between components has no morphological expression and is fulfilled by a fixed word order. In German and Russian syntactic relations of a main component with a dependent one is expressed by double ways – a case with a preposition. Prepositional extension by a pronoun and an adjective forms the following structures in the English, German and Russian languages: “Adj+N+Prep+Adj+N”: *a sound mind in a sound body/healthy mind in a healthy body – ein Gesunder Geist in einem gesunden Körper – v zdorovom tele zdorovyy dukh*; “N+prep+Pron+N” in the English and Russian languages: *a prisoner to one's chair; a prisoner to one's room; rumyanets vo vsyu shcheku*.

In substantive phraseological units a common structural type is a combination of an adjective and a noun “Adj+N” [8]. Two categories of adjectives can be used here: qualitative and relative, in Russian – also possessive adjectives. Possessive

adjectives are derived from names of animals (*sobach'ya starost'*; *zdorov'e korov'e*), proper names (*angliyskaya bolezni'*; *frantsuzskaya bolezni'*). The model "Adj+N" includes both abstract and concrete nouns [1]. L.R. Sakaeva identifies the following subgroups of the model "Adj+N" [1]: "An abstract noun+a qualitative adjective": *high colour*; *brown plague* – *korichnevaya chuma*; *the white scourge*; *the Black Death*; *der schwarze Tod*; *chernaya nemoch'*; *zheltaya likhoradka*; *chernaya smert'*; *blednaya nemoch'*; *svezhiy vid*. "A concrete noun+a qualitative adjective" in the English and Russian languages: *weak eyes*; *strong head*; *temnaya voda*; *ostryy glaz*; *zheltaya voda*. "An abstract noun+a relative adjective": *nervous prostration*; *das letzte Stündlein*; *paduchaya bolezni'*; *gipertonicheskaya bolezni'*; *zheleznoe zdorov'e*; *morskaya bolezni'*; *yazvennaya bolezni'*; *gorlovaya chakhotka*. "A concrete noun+a relative adjective": *last leg*; *offener Bruch*; *glukhaya teterya*; *zheleznyy zheludok*. Specific forms of implementation of this model are different in comparable languages. In English there is no concord of an adjective with a noun. Unlike English, in German and Russian there is concord in number, case and gender. This model has an attributive-prepositive type with concord with an adjectival-nominal group in the German and Russian languages, the English language is characterized by adjectival-nominal attributive-prepositive type of connection with contiguity.

Nouns can have the singular and the plural forms. The main component can be represented by: 1) a noun in the singular: *a creeping paralysis*; *a shooting pain*; *offener Bruch*; *frantsuzskaya bolezni'*; *detskaya bolezni'*; *gipertonicheskaya bolezni'*; *apopleksicheskiy udar*; *zheleznyy zheludok*; 2) a noun in the plural in the English and Russian languages: *lantern jaws*; *piggy eyes*; *growing pains*; *vnutrennie bolezni*; *zhenskie bolezni*; *psikhicheskie bolezni*; 3) an uncountable noun: *common cold*; *nervous prostration*; *galoppierende Schwindsucht*; *sobach'ya starost'*.

In English and German phraseological units a noun has a grammatical escort – an article. Unlike English, in German articles are declined and indicate a gender, a number and a case of a noun. The definite article in English – *the*; in German: for masculine – *der*; neuter – *das*; feminine – *die*; plural – *die*: *the English disease*; *the white scourge*; *the Black Death*; *das böse Weh und Wesen*; the indefinite article in English – *a/an*, in German: *ein* – for male and neuter, *eine* – for feminine: *a shooting pain*; *a sound mind in a sound body* – *ein gesunder Geist in einem gesunden Körper*, and a zero article: *high colour*; *common cold*; *milk and roses*; *brown plague*; *dog's*

*disease*; *Blut mit Milch*. In the Russian language there isn't a category of an article [5].

Verbal phraseological units are functionally correlated with a verb [9]. Verbal phraseological units both in number and semantic versatility prevail over substantive phraseological units.

After R.R. Zakirov verbal phraseological units are divided into nominative and nominative-communicative units [5]. Nominative units are widespread in the languages: *be off one's oats*; *schlecht beieinander sein*; *auf dem letzten Gras gehen*; *idti/poyti na popravku*; *lezhnem lezhat'*. Nominative-communicative units have the structure of a sentence with a subject and a predicate: *the flesh is weak*; *one's feet are killing one* [10]; *es geht/dringt einem durch Mark und Bein*; *j-m liegt das Wetter in den Gliedern*; *nogi ne derzhat*; *golova treshchit*.

Verbal phraseological units with subordination are divided into comparative and not comparative [5]. Comparative verbal phraseological units are stable combinations of words correlated with a verb and based on comparison. The most common types among the comparative verbal phraseological units of the English language are: "V+like+N": *lie like a log*; "V+like+Adj+N": *feel like a new man/woman*. In German the conjunction "wie" serves as the comparing element and there are following models: "V+wie+N": *brüllen wie ein Stier*; *aussehen wie eine Landpomeranze*; *aussehen wie eine Pfingstrose*; "V+wie+Adj+N": *aussehen wie das leibhaftige Elend*. In Russian comparative verbal phraseological units contain the conjunction «как»: "V+Adj+как+N": *byt' zdorovym kak byk*; "V+как+N": *tayat'/rastayat' kak svecha/svechka*; *videt' kak sova*; "V+как+Adj+N": *styagivat'/szhimat', kak <zheleznyy> obruchem*.

Not comparative verbal phraseological units are phrases with subordination. Verbal phraseological units with subordination can express objective or objective- adverbial relations. Verbal phraseological units expressing objective relations may have different structures. The simplest structure is the combination of a verb and a noun "V+N". Owing to the fact that in German and Russian the main method of expressing objective connection is government, in English – contiguity, the objective-postpositive type with government in Russian corresponds to the objective-postpositive type with contiguity in English, the objective-prepositive type with government – in German: *give a cough*; *gain colour*; *das Zimmer hüten*; *die Zähne zusammenbeißen*; *eine Bärennatur haben*; *nabirat' silu/sily*; *nabirat'sya sil*. There are verbal phraseological units mostly with prepositions expressing objective-adverbial relations in the English, German and Russian languages [11]: *bring back the roses to her cheeks*; *j-d hat es an der*

*Lunge/im Hals; den Kopf unter dem Arm tragen; Raufbau an seiner Gesundheit treiben; podkatit' glaza pod lob.*

Depending on the type of government in Russian there are the following subgroups of verbal phraseological units with the structure "V+N": 1. The subgroup with direct objective government, which has an object in the accusative case, is the most common: *nadryvat' sily; poteryat' razum/rassudok; teryat'/poteryat' rassudok*. 2. The subgroup with indirect objective government, with an object in the instrumental case: *pomutit'sya umom; vetrom shataet*. 3. The subgroup with genitive government: *reshit'sya rassudka; lishat'sya razuma*. 4. The subgroup with dative government: *podvergnut'sya operatsii*.

Phraseological units with the structure "V+Prep+N" in the English and Russian languages, "Prep+N+V" in the German language are one of the most numerous groups. The main component is a verb, the dependent is a noun: *be on/upon the mend; be off colour* [12]; *auf der Nase liegen; auf dem Strumpf sein; auf dem Zeuge/beim Zeug sein; auf den Damm sein; auf der Höhe sein; von Eisen sein; prikovat' k posteli; stanovit'sya/vstavat'/podnimat'sya na nogi; slech' v postel'*. The choice of a preposition and a case of a noun is determined by the government of a verb in German. A characteristic feature of this model is a prepositional objective type with government in German and Russian and contiguity – in English [1].

There are the following subgroups among Russian phraseological units depending on a case of a noun: a) the subgroup with genitive government: *opravit'sya ot bolezni; vzvyt' ot boli; podnimat'sya/podnyat'sya s posteli*; b) the subgroup with dative government: *vernut'sya k zhizni; vozvratit'/vernut' k zhizni*; c) the subgroup with accusative government: *stanovit'sya/vstavat' na nogi; stavit'/postavit'/podnimat' na nogi*; d) the subgroup with instrumental government: *sobirat'sya s silami*; e) the subgroup with prepositional government: *zavisnut' na kreste*.

As in the Russian language in German nouns are put in certain grammatical cases when used with verbs that is nouns are governed by verbs: most often it is possible to use the accusative case – in this case the verb is transitive [3]: *j-d hat <s> einen Knacks weg; gute/feine/scharfe/leise Ohren haben; das Zimmer hüten; eine Bärennatur haben; Farbe bekommen*. Intransitive verbs use only the other cases with prepositions.

In German, as in other synthetic languages, the case is determined by endings and prepositions. Prepositions governing the accusative case are: *bis, durch, entlang, für, gegen, ohne, um, wieder: um den Verstand bringen*. Prepositions governing the dative

case: *aus, außer, bei, entgegen, gegenüber, mit, nach, seit, von, zu: mit der Gesundheit wüsten; von Gesundheit strotzen; zu Bett liegen*. Prepositions governing the accusative and dative cases: *an, auf, hinter, in, neben, über, unter, vor, zwischen: j-d hat es in den Beinen; j-d ist über den/dem Berg; auf der Plauze liegen; auf der Streu liegen; auf den Ohren sitzen; an seiner Gesundheit treiben; in Ordnung sein*. Prepositions governing the genitive case: *außerhalb, innerhalb/binnen, oberhalb, unterhalb, diesseits, während, statt/anstatt, wegen, trotz, infolge, unweit, kraft, laut*.

There are two cases in English: the common case and the possessive case. Relationship of nouns to other words in a sentence that is expressed by case endings in Russian, namely relationship of the genitive, dative and instrumental cases is expressed by a noun in the common case in combination with prepositions in English: *be of sound mind; be on one's back; be in <good> health; be in good looks; be in poor health/be out of health; be on one's feet again*.

The model "V+N+Prep+N" can be found in the English, German and Russian languages. The first dependent component is a direct object, the second – indirect: *get a chill on the liver*; in German and Russian a verb is put at the end of the structure: "N+Prep+N+V": *keinen Mumm in den Knochen haben; den Kopf unter dem Arm tragen; Mumm/Schneid/Schwung in den Knochen haben; небо с овчинку/в овчинку кажется/показалось*. Both dependent components of this model can have prepositive attributes expressed by pronouns in English and German: *have roses in one's cheeks; catch one's death of cold; Raufbau mit seinen Kräften/an seiner Gesundheit treiben*. This model is characterized by a complex objective-postpositive type with government and double valency in Russian that corresponds to a complex objective-postpositive type with contiguity and double valency in English and an objective-prepositive type with government and double valency in German.

Function of an adjective as a predicative is realized in a structure typical of English and German phraseological units: "V+Adj" in English and "Adj+V" in German: *feel fine; feel stiff; get sore; look seedy; schachmatt sein; todkrank sein; krank sein*.

Analysis of structural-grammatical features of phraseological units characterizing disease – health in the English, German and Russian languages allowed to find out common features present in the three languages and the specific features distinguishing them from each other. Substantive phraseological units of the models "N+Prep+N", "Adj+N" are typical of three languages. The most

numerous group is “Adj+N”. A distinctive feature of the German and Russian languages is concord of an adjective with a noun in number, case and gender. In English and German phraseological units a noun has a grammatical escort – an article. In the Russian language there isn’t a category of an article. In German and Russian phraseological units of the model “N+Prep+N” syntactic relations of a main component with a dependent one is expressed by double ways – a case with a preposition. In English phraseological units syntactic relation existing between components has no morphological expression and is fulfilled by a fixed word order. Among the similarities of verbal phraseological units characterizing disease – health, in English, German and Russian it’s necessary to note: the presence of nominative and nominative-communicative units; division of verbal phraseological units with subordination into comparative and not comparative units. There are the following models of not comparative verbal phraseological units with subordination: “V+N”; “V+Prep+N”; “V+N+Prep+N”; “V+Adj”. The most numerous group is “V+Prep+N” in English and Russian, “Prep+N+V” – in German. The productive construction is “V+N». Unique models are combinations of a verb and a noun in various case forms. The specific feature of the English and German languages is the presence of verbal phraseological units of the model “V+ Adj” in English and “Adj+V” in German.

Thus, the analysis of phraseological units characterizing disease-health in English, German and Russian in structural-grammatical aspect shows significant similarity of structural-grammatical organization of English, German and Russian phraseological units. Common features are caused by universal laws of thought, physiological and psychological qualities of a person. The structural differences of phraseological units are explained by specific grammatical forms of each language and peculiarities of their functioning. The main difference between the phraseological units characterizing disease – health in the English, German and Russian languages is a way of expressing syntactic relations that is caused by the different structure of these languages.

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