

## Macrostructural parameters of unilingual Russian phraseological dictionaries

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**Abstract.** The paper analyzes macrostructural parameters of unilingual Russian phraseological dictionaries beginning from the very first ones to the latest diachronically. The focus of the research is the process of selecting phraseological units, methods of their arranging in the dictionary, alphabetical and other indexes use, target user etc., and changes these parameters of dictionaries undergo. The above mentioned characteristics of dictionaries are considered to be part of their metalanguage.

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### Introduction

Contemporary phraseography pays equally serious attention to studying macro- and microstructural parameters of dictionaries. Nevertheless there are no unique requirements elaborated any parameters of phraseological dictionaries are to meet.

We are convinced that further development of any branch of knowledge should be based on thorough analysis of its existing experience, so that to leave out all the unsuccessful, and retain and enhance all the valuable. The necessity of this kind of research is also closely connected with the ever developing (changing) nature of phraseological units (PUs) that is underscored by many scholars. "The detailed analysis of phraseological variety, research of the stylistic use of phraseological units show the dynamic character of phraseology" [1: 58]. Present paper is a part of research into macro- microstructural parameters, i.e. research into metalanguage, of most of existing unilingual phraseological dictionaries of three languages: English, Russian and Tatar. The research consists of three levels: 1) studying macrostructural parameters; 2) analyzing structure of dictionary entries; 3) studying each element of an entry.

Here we give account of the research concerning macrostructural parameters of unilingual phraseological dictionaries of the Russian language. Theoretical problems of phraseography especially those concerning macrostructural parameters are discussed in the works of such scholars as A. Bushuy [2], A. Baranov, D. Dobrovolskii [3], A. Cowie [4] and many others.

### Materials and methods

Material of the research represented in this paper consists of nearly 20 unilingual Russian phraseological dictionaries included into the list of references.

Analysis of the dictionaries aiming at detection of phraseography development naturally requires diachronic approach. Parametric method is applied to designate macrostructural and microstructural parameters of phraseological dictionaries and give thorough analysis of each macrostructural parameter of the selected dictionaries, the data about which is recorded by means of descriptive method.

### Main part

Metalanguage is defined by Yu. Karaulov as a set of elementary meanings enough and sufficient to explain full lexical meaning of a head-word [5: 64]. This definition given within the framework of general lexicography can definitely be used in its special branch – phraseography, but bearing in mind the specificity of the latter. "Revealing phraseological meaning which is much more complex than a word meaning is an even better solution" [6: 66].

According to A. Darbinyan [7], metalanguage in its broad meaning denotes all the dictionary except lemmata. More than that, the research into macro- and microstructural parameters of phraseological dictionaries evidences that the properties of macrostructural parameters should also be considered as part of dictionary metalanguage. On the macrostructural level we deal with the following parameters of dictionaries: the number and character of PUs selected, the way of arranging them, alphabetical and other indexes, system of cross-references, the category of target users. Enhancing the macrostructural parameters of phraseological dictionaries contributes into the process of their metalanguage development, which ultimately should be the main goal of phraseography.

Russian phraseography is traced back to the 70<sup>th</sup> of the XX century, it was only then that the first dictionaries with the whole lemmata represented

solely by phraseological units appeared. Before it any information about phraseological units (PU) could be found in “The Dictionary of the Contemporary Russian Literary language” [8].

One should also mention here two-volume work by M. Mikhelson “Russain Thought and Speech: Experience in Russian Phraseology” published in the 80<sup>th</sup> of the XIX century, though it is not a phraseological dictionary as it is. As the term *phraseology* is explained by the author of this work as a set of ways and methods designating the style of this or that writer's language [9: V]. The material of it consists of Russian and foreign catch phrases, phraseological and paremiological units, quotes and separate words.

Usually “The Phraseological Dictionary of the Russian Language” edited by A. Molotkov and published in 1967 is called one of first phraseological dictionaries. It includes 4000 entries in which the meanings of 13000 units are explained. PUs are arranged in alphabetical order of each component, so the same PU can be found in a number of places. The layout of phraseological meaning can be found according to structural organization of the unit [10]. This dictionary is targeted at students and professors of linguistic Universities, writers and other users. It is not provided with any alphabetical index.

“The Dictionary of Phraseological Units and other Stable Expressions of the Russian Language Spoken in Siberia” [11] compiled by N. Bukhareva and A. Fyodorov in 1972 includes nearly 4000 set expressions from 100 sources in the form of dialectal speech and printed texts. The dictionary is targeted at philologists, ethnographers, historians, writers and teachers. PUs are arranged in alphabetical order of the first component, no matter whether it is notional word or not. The dictionary is not provided with an alphabetical index.

“The Phraseological Dictionary of the Russian Language Spoken in Siberia” [12] edited by S. Fyodorov was published in 1983. 7000 PUs used in Siberian dialects of the Russian language are included into this dictionary. No alphabetical index can be found in the dictionary.

“The Phraseological Dictionary of the Russian Literary Language of the End of the XVIII – XX Centuries” [13] was published under the editorship of A. Fyodorov. Since this 2 volume dictionary was compiled on the basis of the one published under the editorship of Molotkov, 12000 PUs included are arranged according to the same principles as in the latter. However trying to reduce the volume of the dictionary, the compilers represent each PU only once where it is laid out.

Most of head-phrases have never been represented in any other dictionaries before or their description in previous dictionaries was not full enough. Proverbs, sayings or terminological expressions are not included. The dictionary is not provided with any alphabetical index either. It was republished several times.

The dictionary “Phraseological Units in the Russian Speech” [14] compiled by A.Melerovich and V.Mokienko was first published in 1997 then republished in 2001. 1 000 PUs included in the dictionary make up the kernel of the Russian phraseology, in accord to Vinogradov classification all these expressions can be referred to the group of phraseological fusions – PUs with totally transferred meaning. They are represented in 6000 different modifications.

In the introduction to the dictionary the compilers write about the necessity of systematizing the most typical modifications of PUs utilized in different texts, which can lead to detecting specificities of their functioning and tendencies of their historic development. It is the first lexicographic experience of describing various modifications of PUs and proverbs observed in dynamics of speech. The dictionary is targeted at philologists, journalists, writers and interpreters. Head phrases are arranged in the alphabetical order of the mainly substantive component, which in most PUs is the kernel component and the center of the phraseological image. First the basic form of the PU is given and laid out with the help of all elements of entry. Then the most typical forms of its transformation are represented.

The dictionary “Russian Phraseology” [15] by R.Yarantsev published in 1997 represents 1500 PUs with their descriptions. Head phrases are arranged in several chapters, such as “Emotions and feelings”, “Traits of human character”, “Characteristics of phenomena and situations”. Each chapter is subdivided into different thematic groups, e.g.: the first chapter consists of 29 thematic groups; the second one – of 36; the third one – of 127. There may be from one till ten PUs in each group. PUs the meanings of which can be related to different thematic groups are included in each of them. There are cross-references between different locations of the same PU. The alphabetical index provided shows the number of the chapter and group the PU is included. This work is targeted at wide variety of users.

“The Dictionary of Russian Phraseology. Historical Etymological Handbook” [16] by A. Birikh, V. Mokienko, L. Stepanova (1999 г.) includes more than 2000 Russian idiomatic expressions, among which are catch phrases, paremiological units, set expressions of terminological character. The authors

qualify their work as a combination of bibliographic index and dictionary, which is rather popular in European and American, but lacking in Russian phraseography. Wide variety of the historical etymological material utilized by the compilers reflect the process of development of historical etymological methodology of phraseological interpretation observed in Russian phraseography. The lemmata are arranged in the alphabetical order of the kernel component. Target users are students of linguistic universities, teachers, journalists, writers and interpreters. The dictionary is provided with an alphabetical index.

“The Dictionary of Russian Proverbs and Sayings” [17] compiled by V. Zhukov and published in 2003 encompasses 1 200 proverbs and sayings which are in the most active use not only in oral speech, but also in written literary sources. The lemmata also include units describing exact social historical situation. The material is arranged in the alphabetical order of the first component (if it is not optional or variable).

“The Dictionary of Phraseological Homonyms of the Contemporary Russian Language” [18] was compiled by T. Varlakova, T. Krivosheeva and S. Laukhina and published in 2003. It includes 623 phraseological homonyms arranged in the alphabetical order of the first component. Homonyms are marked with figures indicating the number of homonyms in the row. The dictionary is supplied with alphabetical index.

Ideographic dictionary compiled by M. Alexeenko, T. Belousova, O. Litvinnikova “A Human Being in the Russian Dialectal Phraseology” [19] was published in 2004. The dictionary including 1700 phraseological units extracted from different phraseological dictionaries and the ones collected during dialectological expeditions is targeted at teachers and students of Linguistic Universities. PUs are represented in 13 thematic groups related to a human being: a person’s activity and his state; emotional assessment, relationship between people, etc. These phraseological units make up the kernel of the lemmata, the periphery consisting of expressions characterizing a person according to the place he lives in, nationality, ethnics and religious belief. The thematic groups are arranged in the dictionary according to their productivity.

“The Phraseological Dictionary of the Contemporary Russian Literary Language” [20] compiled (2004 г.) by A. Tikhonov, A. Korolkova, A. Lomov, adherents of broad meaning of the term phraseological unit, therefore it includes more than 35000 idiomatic expressions (all types of set expressions also compound nominations of terminological character and different stable

constructions with the components written together or apart). The head-phrases can be found in the alphabetical order of each component, which is placed before the head-phrase. However they are laid out after the semantically principal component. The dictionary is not provided with an alphabetical index. Target users are philologists, writers, journalists, etc.

“The Dictionary-Thesaurus of Contemporary Russian Idioms” [21] by A. Baranov, D. Dobrovolskiĭ, L. Kiseleva, A. Kozerenko (2007) includes 8000 contemporary Russian idioms. It is the largest phraseographic source comprising also jargons and obscene expressions. The material is arranged in thematic groups.

The dictionary consists of 4 parts: a list of semantic categories all Russian PUs are divided into (Synopsis); general lemmata; the dictionary (thesaurus) itself; 2 indexes – the first one showing the place of an idiom according to any of its component parts, the second one giving the number of the necessary semantic category. Dictionary-Thesaurus is targeted at specialists in the field of the Russian language and those who are interested in it.

“The Dictionary of Phraseological Antonyms of the Russian Language” [22] compiled by E. Mardieva in 2007 is targeted at teachers and students of philological faculties. It represents more than 600 phraseological units, which are given in antonymic rows after the semantic dominant. The alphabetical index given in the dictionary makes the process of finding the necessary PU much easier.

“The Phraseological Dictionary: Cultural-Cognitive Space of Russian Idiomaticity” [23] by N. Alefirenko and L. Zolotykh was published in 2008. It includes approximately 500 culturally determined PUs, to which the authors of the dictionary refer the following groups: PUs reflecting some elements of antique culture; PUs related to some cultural or historic fact from the life of Russian people; PUs including a culturally determined lexeme as their component parts; PUs coming into existence as a result of phraseologization of word combinations used in some literary work; PUs originating from the Bible. The material is arranged in the alphabetical order of the first component. There are two indexes provided in the dictionary: the alphabetical one and the one according to concepts the PUs verbalize.

“The Dictionary-Thesaurus of Proverbs, Sayings and Catch Phrases” [24] by V. Zimin (2008) comprises more than 22000 popular proverbs, sayings, aphorisms, idioms and set-expressions of the Russian language. They are arranged in 47 thematic groups-chapters, which in their turn are divided into several parts, e.g.: the chapter “A man” is divided into the parts “A man's drawbacks”, “How people are

different”, “A man between other people”, “It's not easy to remain good when surrounded by bad people”, etc. Lemma presentation here is different from that in any other dictionaries. Head phrases are given in short stories saturated with proverbs and sayings participating in revealing the topic. The definitions are very brief, but historical commentaries and etymological references are added to most of them. The alphabetical index the dictionary is provided with makes the process of its use much more effective.

The compilers of “The Contemporary Phraseological Dictionary of the Russian Language” [25] A. Zhukov and M. Zhukova represent more than 1600 the most popular PUs used in texts of mass media and literature in it. The material is arranged in alphabetical order of the first component even if it is a grammatical word or an optional component. The PUs with two or more structural variants are represented in all their structural forms. The system of cross reference utilized in the dictionary makes it user friendly. The alphabetical index also includes all the possible variants and forms of each head phrase.

“The New Phraseological Dictionary of the Russian Language” [26] by A Kurilova was published in 2009. It includes more than 8000 popular PUs of the Russian language, among which one can find proverbs and sayings, clichés, stable comparisons, compound terms with transferred meaning, catch-phrases, etc. The material is arranged in the alphabetical order of the first noun component. In case of its lacking – in order of the first adjective component, if neither of the above mentioned components are present, a PU can be found in the alphabetical order of the first verb component. If there is no noun, adjective or verb used as a component part of a head-phrase, it can be found in the alphabetical order of the first adverb component.

Idioms with the common kernel lexical component are represented within the same group after the corresponding morphological form of the kernel component. This dictionary targeted at linguists, teachers and students is not provided with any indexes.

“The Dictionary of Phraseological Synonyms of the Russian Language” [27] compiled by A. Birikh, M. Mokienko, L. Stepanova was published in 2009. It comprises more than 8000 Russian PUs united in 950 synonymic rows by the lexical dominant (the main lexical component). Within the same synonymic row there are different subgroups which are different from each other by shades of their meaning. So definitions are given for the whole row and for each subgroup in the row. The dictionary is intended for students of linguistic faculties, journalists, writers and all those

who are interested in the Russian language. It has an alphabetical index of the main component.

“The Large Phraseological Dictionary of the Russian Language. Meaning, Usage, Cultural comments” [28] was compiled by D. Gudkov, I. Zykova, I. Zakharenko, S. Kabanova, V. Krasnykh and M. Kovshova and first published in 2006 under the editorship of V. Telia and republished in 2010. 1500 idiomatic expressions of contemporary Russian are represented in the dictionary. The material consists of mainly culturally determined PUs arranged in the alphabetical order of each component part even alternative and optional ones. Informational units of the entries provide rich information not only in each aspect of PU meaning, but also about its etymology. Alphabetical index given in the dictionary makes it even more user friendly.

### Conclusion

Having analyzed 20 unilingual Russian phraseological dictionaries we conclude that their macrostructural parameters have been in permanent development. In each dictionary one can observe some improvement of this or that parameter if compared with the previous dictionaries.

On the stage of selecting the material one can emphasize either increase of the number of PUs presented in each following dictionary; or special attention to some group of phraseologisms. So during the last decade there appeared dictionaries the compilers of which select only culturally determined PUs, paremiological units PUs used only in texts of mass media, occasional modifications of PUs, etc.

On the stage of arranging the material one can notice the increase of the number of ideographic dictionaries or the ones, where the material is arranged in thematic groups. Alphabetical order of arranging the material remains the main one. The reason for it may be “the conceptual arrangement being more demanding on the part of the compilers and they may also run the risk of the erroneous categorization” [29: 322]. Alphabetical arrangement shows the preference of the kernel or main component order. Elaboration of the principles of main component designating is also in process – compilers of each dictionary try to enhance them. Arranging head phrases in different paradigmatic (antonymic, synonymic, homonymic) groups has also become generally acclaimed method.

Since providing dictionaries with different indexes makes them more user friendly, modern phraseography tends to make them regular feature of itself.

Currently, further development and enhancement of macrostructural parameters of dictionaries are facilitated by National corpus of any language. “Users can search this database for the

phenomena they are interested in” [30: 186], which is valuable for accumulating phraseological material in the process of compilation of dictionary of some specific forms or groups of PUs like structural or semantic modifications. Some proposals of computational linguistics concerning “the classification of idioms or collocations” and “identifying idiomatic expressions in texts” [31: 1040] are sure to result in some changes in macrostructural parameters of idiom dictionaries.

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