

**A. Mihnovets**

*Research supervisor: L.S. Zubritskaya,*

*Senior Lecturer,*

*Baranovich State University*

*Language tutor: L.S. Zubritskaya*

## **FUNCTIONAL STYLISTIC FEATURES OF COMPARATIVE IDIOMS IN ENGLISH**

The specific character of idioms is characterized due to their stylistic features. Stylistic effect in them is created through the specific properties of expressiveness, imagery, emotion. These properties of phraseological units depend on the components of their elements and from the relations in which they are. Phraseological units inherent rhythmic properties, alliteration, rhyme; they are often used comparisons, repetitions, synonyms, antonyms [1, c.161].

Consider some stylistic functions of comparative phraseological units.

The rhythm of phraseological units is based primary on two-part construction of equal-length elements, often synonymous or antonymous: *now or never, day in and day out*, etc.

Antonymous pairs create contrast or opposition images and concepts *ups and downs, back and forth*, etc.

Alliteration, repeat the same or homogeneous sounds, gives a special sound expression of phraseological units, and contributes to their rhythmicity: *pack and peel, black and blue, this and that*, etc.

Rhythm and alliteration can be combined with shaped comparisons. Variant rhythmical constructions of this type are such that the second significant element longer than the first: *as flat as a pancake, as light as a butterfly, as cold as a cucumber*, but also in the following phraseological units rhythm is saved: *as cold as any stone, as helpless as a baby, as easy as ABC*. This is the so-called comparative or adjective phraseological units [1, p. 162].

Comparative phraseological units have in their part the comparing component *as*. It says that the use of adjective phraseological units helps to compare the properties of one subject or phenomena with another on the bases of similarities of their characteristics [2, p. 30].

Very often comparative phraseological units are used for characteristics of personages that allows to imagine better the inner word of actors, their external characteristics, their emotional state. Depending on this, phraseological units can be divided into three groups:

1. Idioms, which describe the appearance of human, his physical properties:

*“He was as strong as an ox and if it had ever come to a scrap, knives or no knives, he’d have been a match for half a dozen of them together”* (W.S.Maugham “The Razor’s Edge”).

Idiom *as strong as an ox* allows at the same time to present and physical force of a hero, and his body type. Comparing the hero with the bull, we present a stocky tall man having uncommon force.

2. Phraseological units that reveal the character of actors, their personal qualities:

*“Let’s get to this damned shelter. I’m scared stiff.” “I don’t believe a word of it. You’re as brave as a lion”* (W. S. Maugham “The Hour before the Down”).

In the sentence the hero is compared with a lion, we present a man who is very strong and bold.

3. Idioms, which allows to present that emotional state in which the hero dwells:

*“There ain’t much fear of my getting up, doc,” answered the captain. “I feel as weak as a cat”* (W. S. Maugham “Honolulu”).

Idiom *as weak as a cat* the most accurate transmits those emotions that overcome the hero, shows his feeling of freedom, gives more emotional the coloration of the situation.

Thus, the comparison of the images enclosed in phraseological units with stylistic context, the establishment of their connotative values allows to open the

context and the most completely determine the emotional state of actors, their external and internal characteristics.

### **References**

1. Арнольд И. В. Стилистика современного английского языка / И. В. Арнольд. – Л., 1973. – 304 с.
2. Арсеньва Е. Ф. Сопоставительный анализ фразеологических единиц / Е.Ф.Арсеньева. – Казань, 1989. – 126 с.