SEMANTIC GROUPS OF IDIOMATIC PHRASES EXPRESSING THE CONCEPT “TIME” IN THE ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract

The article studies semantic groups of idiomatic phrases expressing the concept “time” in the English and Uzbek languages and brings examples of translating such word combinations from English into Uzbek.

Keywords: idiomatic expressions, concept “time”, semantic groups, adverbial of time, prepositional expressions.

Language is the mirror of the culture. It reflects not only the world surrounding the man, but also the social self-consciousness of the nation, mentality, national character, traditions, and values of certain peoples. Idiomatic word combinations are the means that reflect all that in language.

A.V. Kunin thinks that phraseological units are set word combinations with a full or partial shift of meaning [Kunin, 160]. The most general characteristics of set expressions are: “componential invariability, semantic wholeness, and split form” [Arnold, 160]. The most influential factor that leads to turning a phrase into set expression is its expressiveness [Shemelyov, 293].

Idiomatic phrases have always been in the centre of the interest for many linguists. It is impossible to cover the whole system of idiomatic word combinations in one research. Therefore, in this article, we decided to study only phrases that express the concept “time” in the Uzbek and English languages.

In the Uzbek language phraseological expressions forming concept “time” are the following set expressions containing words kun, ertalab, tong, kecha: kun bo’yi – all day long, kundan kunga – day by day, butun kun – the whole day, ertalabdan kechgacha – from morning till night, tong-azondan, kallayi saharlab – at an unearthly hour, tunu-kun – day and night, kuppa-kunduz kuni – in broad daylight.

Most of set expressions reflecting the concept time are in their syntactic properties idiomatic units with qualitative-adverbial characteristics as they tell the time when the action is performed. Such set phrases play an important role in the formation of understanding the spatial-temporal organization of reality and uncover the ideas about the category of time in linguistic cognition of language bearers.

This refers to such phraseological units in the English as: the golden age, the clock round, all day long, only a short while ago, day-to-day, day and night, in any moment, from dawn to dusk, and etc.

As we see, these expressions contain such nouns in their structure as morning, day, night, dawn, dusk, and prepositions from, till, in, and etc.

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Of course the above mentioned expressions make up only a small part of all set expressions expressing time. Phraseological units forming this concept can be divided into the following semantic groups:

1. The first group includes qualitative-adverbial idioms expressing the time of the day when the action happens. These phraseological units tell that the action happens in the morning, afternoon, or evening. The components of such idiomatic phrases are closely connected with their semantics. They are usually formed with such nouns as evening, day, morning, dawn. Uzbek phraseological units of this semantic group include phrases and word combinations containing the following nouns: kun, ertalab, tong, kecha: kun bo’yi – all day long, kundan kunga – day by day, butun kun – the whole day, ertalabdan kechgacha – from morning till evening, tong-azonidan, kalpaiy sa’arlab – at an unearthly hour, tumu-kun – day and night, kupp-a-kunduz kunu – in broad daylight.

2. The second group of set expressions is formed with idioms expressing a very short period of time – blink, instant, moment, second, minute, flash: for instant, for a second, in a twinkling of an eye, on the stroke, on the dot, in a minute, half a moment, in a flash. The semantics of a word in these expressions changes into a general meaning expressing a very short period of time. There are similar set expressions in Uzbek that also express short moment: bir lahzada, bir pasda, dam o’tmay, bir onda – on the stroke, in a minute, bir zumda, “hash-pash” deguncha, “ha-hu” deguncha – in a flash, ko’z ochib yumguncha – in a twinkling of an eye.

3. The third group of set expressions unite the units expressing indefinitely long period of time. Structurally, they can be grouped into the following classes: “noun + noun with preposition” based on repetition: day by day (kundan-kunga), from day to day, day and night (tunu-kun); set expressions formed of “pronoun + noun” – all the day, all the time (har on) “adjective+noun” yil bo’yi, yil o’n ikki oy, and etc.

4. The fourth group of idioms include set expressions characterizing the starting point of the action: since the beginning of time (qadimdan, azaldan, ko’pdan beri, ro’si azal), thenadays (o’sha paytda, o’sha daurda, o’sha zamonda, o’sha kezda), for the time being (vaqtï-soati kelguncha). Their structure contain such noun components that name indefinite periods of time – «time», «days».

Usually idioms expressing the beginning period of the action are used after a certain flow of events that bring about the beginning of a new period of life.

5. The fifth semantic group includes set expressions denoting the beginning and end of human life: on the go, (kun (f)bitdi, kun(f) tugadi), in the vale of years, in the afternoon of life (qariganda, qarigan chog’da).

There are also idioms expressing indefinite time close in the meaning to never, when two Sundays come in one week, in a pigs eye, when cows come home. Uzbek language is also rich in such idioms that express the notion of never. For example: hapshanba kuni, tuyaning dumi yerga tekkanda, hukkiz tuqqanda, and etc.

Knowing the above mentioned semantic groups is very helpful in translating fiction from English into Uzbek and vice versa. Below we shall give some examples of translating phraseological units from English into
Uzbek on the example of the translation made by Muhabbat Ismailova of the book by Jane Austin “Pride and Prejudice”.

- **in a moment**
  “A lady’s imagination is very rapid; it jumps from admiration to love, from love to matrimony, in a moment.”
  “Ayollarning tasavvurini qanchalik tez-a!”

**In a moment** they were all out of the chaise, rejoicing at the sight of each other. Mrs. Collins welcomed her friend with the liveliest pleasure, and Elizabeth was more and more satisfied with coming when she found herself so affectionately received.

Kelganlar o'sha zahoti karetadan tushib uy egalari bilan ko’rishadi.

- **one day**
  After a few minutes’ reflection, however, she continued, "I do remember his boasting one day, at Netherfield, of the implacability of his resentments, of his having an unforgiving temper.”
  Bir oz jimlikdan so‘ng, Elizabet gapida davom etdi: “Hozir bir kuni Nezerfildda u o‘zing haddan tashqari ginachi ekanligini aytgani esimga tushdi. Qanday murakka tabiatli kishil!

Mr. Bennet treated the matter differently. "So, Lizzy," said he one day, "your sister is crossed in love, I find. I congratulate her.”

Mister Bennetning fikri esa bu borada butunlay boshqa edi: “Shunday qilib, Lizzi, anlashimchasi, opangning yuragi bir oz yaralandi, – dedi u bir kuni.- Uni meni nomimdan tabriklab qo’y.”

- **from this day**
  "An unhappy alternative is before you, Elizabeth. From this day you must be a stranger to one of your parents. Your mother will never see you again if you do not marry Mr. Collins, and I will never see you again if you do.”
  “Demak, qizim, sening sharoiting hozir juda og‘ir. Shu daqiqadan boshlab sen yoki mendan, yoki onangdan ayirlasans. Agar sen Kollinzga turmushga chiqmaydigan bo‘lsang, onang sendan kechadi, agar unga turmushga chiqadigan bo‘lsang, men seni ko’rishni istamayman.”

- **the other day**
  "As I did the other day," said Elizabeth with a conscious smile: "very true, it will be wise in me to refrain from that. But do not imagine that he is always here so often. It is on your account that he has been so frequently invited this week.

- **all day long**
  "Oh! yes—the handsomest young lady that ever was seen; and so accomplished!—She plays and sings all day long. In the next room is a new instrument just come down for her — a present from my master; she comes here to-morrow with him.”

85
As we see from the above brought examples, idiomatic expressions expressing the concept “time” in the English are translated into Uzbek either with their equivalent set expressions in the target language, or sometimes by free word combinations.

References: