




PHRASEOLOGY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

- The main features of phraseological units (PU)
- Principles of classification of PU
- Proverbs



PHRASEOLOGICAL UNIT – is
a word-combination in which the
semantic unity prevails over
structural separability

The criteria of segmentability of a word:

- grammatical wholeformedness
- globality of lexical meaning
- existence in the language as a ready-made unit

- **to take care**
(Inf.) (Nom., singular)
takes care
is taking care
took care
- **to take the chair** open the meeting (I)
ВЗЯТЬ СТУЛ (II)
- **to fall in love**
to fall down her sincere love
to fall from the table to be in love

PU and words

criteria	words	PU
grammatical wholeformedness	+	-
globality of lexical meaning	+	+
existence in the language as a ready-made unit	+	+

PU and free word-combinations

criteria	free word groups	PU
existence in the language as a ready-made unit	—	+
idiomaticity	—	+
structural invariability	—	+

Structural invariability is expressed in the following restrictions:

- Restriction in substitution
Ex: to carry coals to Manchester
- Restriction in introducing additional component
*Ex: the **big** white elephant*
- Grammatical invariability
Ex: from head to foot (not feet)

V.V.Vinogradov's classification of PU

- phraseological combinations
Ex: to make up one's mind
- phraseological unities
Ex: to catch at a straw
- phraseological fusions
Ex: to kiss the hare's foot

Structural classifications of PU

- Verbal – *Ex: to lose one's head to smb*
- Substantive – *Ex: cat-and-dog life*
- Adjectival – *Ex: high and mighty*
- Adverbial – *Ex: by hook or by crook*
- Interjectional – *Ex: my God!*

PU and proverbs

	PU	Proverbs
structure	a word-combinati	a sentence
syntactic function	syntactic function typical of words	—
function in speech	nominative	communicative