




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)
<i>takes</i>	<i>care</i>
<i>is taking</i>	<i>care</i>
<i>took</i>	<i>care</i>

- **to take the chair** open the meeting (I)
 ВЗЯТЬ СТУЛ (II)

- **to fall in love**
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>to fall down</i> | <i>her sincere love</i> |
| <i>to fall from the table</i> | <i>to be in love</i> |

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