

**Phraseology** is an extremely complex phenomenon, the study of which requires a research method.

**The problem** of studying phraseology in English is very interesting and useful because the world of modern English vocabulary is large and diverse, and every aspect of its research is certainly worth of attention.

# Phraseological units can be divided into three groups:

**1. Phraseological fusion**

**2. Phraseological unit**

**3. Phraseological combination**

# Phraseological Units

- are word-groups that cannot be made in the process of speech, they exist in the language as ready-made units (*idioms*).
- they are compiled in special dictionaries.

**Little Jonny** (crying): *Mummy, mummy, my auntie Jane is dead!*

**Mother:** *Nonsense, child!*

**Jonny:** *But I heard Mrs. Brown said that her neighbours cut her dead*



- **TO CUT SOMEBODY DEAD-**

“to rudely ignore somebody, pretend not to know or recognize”

# Approaches to the Study of Phraseological Units

- semantic
- functional
- contextual

# Semantic Approach

- phraseological units are non-motivated (*idiomaticity*)
- phraseological units are opposed to free-word combinations which are completely motivated

# Functional Approach

- phraseological units are specific word-groups functioning like word-equivalents
- like words they possess structural and semantic inseparability



# Contextual Approach

- phraseological units are used in specific contexts – *non-variable*, or “*fixed*”
- *non-variability* is a stability of the lexical components within the semantic structure

## 3 types of lexical combinability of words:

### 1). **Free combination**

Grammatical properties of words are the main factor of their combinability.

Ex.: I'm talking to you. You are writing.

Free combinations permit substitution of any of its elements without semantic change of the other element.

## 2). Collocations.

Ex.: to commit a murder

Bread & butter

Dark night

Blue sky

Bright day

They are the habitual associations of a word in a language with other particular words. Speakers become accustomed to such collocations. Very often they are related to the referential & situational meaning of words.

Sometimes there are collocations, which are removed from the reference to extra-linguistic reality.

(collocations involving, colour words)

Ex.: to be green with jealousy

Red revolution

### 3). **Idioms**

Idioms are also collocations, because they consist of several words that tend to be used together, but the difference – we can't guess the meaning of the whole idiom from the meanings of its parts.

This criterion is called the degree of semantic isolation.

In different types of idioms – it is different.

**Ex.:** to cry a blue murder = to complain loudly

The object of the research was the phraseology and idiomatic units in English. The greatest interest was in "biblical", "shakespeareisms", "conscious" idioms.



## ► Sources of idioms:

### ► 1. from our everyday life

- Ex.: to be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth
- to sail under false colour (прятать истинное лицо)
- to loose track of smb (потерять кого-либо из виду, давно не видеть)
- a leopard can('t) change its spots

### ► 2. from the Bible

- Ex.: black sheep, lost sheep (заблудшая овца)
- To cast pearls before swine (метать бисер перед свиньями)

### ► 3. World literature

- Ex.: to fight against Windmills
- an ugly duckling (Danish) – гадкий утенок

### ► 4. different languages

- Ex.: to lose face (Chinese)
- "The course of true love has never run smooth" Shakespeare "The 12th night"
- "The course of true reforms has never run smooth in Russia" – "the Times"

### ► 5. from history

- Ex.: to cross the Rubicon
- Labours of Hercules
- To bell the cat

# Biblic al



**whatever a man sows, that shall he reap -**

You reap what you sow, rejected an archaic form of the verb to sow ( whatever a man soweth, that shall he reap)

**To worship the golden calf - above all appreciate the wealth, money.**

**To bear one's cross - to carry the cross**



“Shakespeare  
myself”

***The better part of valour is discretion*** - one of the ornaments of bravery - modesty exists in modern English with a modified word order: discretion is the better part of valour

**Buy golden opinions** - deserve a favorable opinion of yourself,  
wow buy instead of verbs in modern language used verb win.



# "Delicious idioms."

## Fruit

***As easy as apple pie*** - very easy. The test that I wrote yesterday was as easy as apple pie.

## Vegetables

***Hot potato*** - a question or argument that is controversial and difficult to settle. The issue of building the nuclear power plant is a hot potato for the town council.

## Cooking

***Too many cooks (spoil the broth)*** - something that you say which means that if too many people try to work on the same piece of work, they will spoil it. There were so many people working on the same project, no one knew what anyone else was doing. I think it was a case of too many cooks.

