



# PHRASEOLOGY

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# 1. PHRASEOLOGY AND PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

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*Phraseology* is a branch of linguistics which studies different types of set expressions, which like words name various objects and phenomena.

They exist in the language as ready-made units.



*A Phraseological unit (PU)* can be defined as a non-motivated word-group that cannot be freely made up in speech, but is reproduced as a ready-made unit.

It is a group of words whose meaning cannot be deduced by examining the meaning of the constituent lexemes.

The essential features of PU are:

- 1) lack of motivation;
- 2) stability of the lexical components.


## 2. CLASSIFICATIONS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

### □ 3.1. SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS (V.V. Vinogradov)

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is based on the motivation of the unit

1. ***Phraseological fusions*** are units whose meaning cannot be deduced from the meanings of their component parts. The meaning of PFs is unmotivated at the present stage of language development, e.g.  
*red tape* (бюрократизм, волокита),  
*a mare's nest* (иллюзия, нечто несуществующее),  
*My aunt!* (вот те на!, вот так штука!, ну и ну!).  
The meaning of the components is completely absorbed by the meaning of the whole;




2. *Phrasological unities* are expressions the meaning of which can be deduced from the meanings of their components; the meaning of the whole is based on the transferred meanings of the components, e.g.

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*to show one's teeth* (to be unfriendly),

*to stand to one's guns* (to refuse to change one's opinion), etc.

They are motivated expressions.

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3. ***Phraseological collocations*** are not only motivated but contain one component used in its direct meaning, while the other is used metaphorically, e.g. *to meet requirements, to attain success*.
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- In this group of PUs some substitutions are possible which do not destroy the meaning of the metaphoric element, e.g. *to meet the needs, to meet the demand, to meet the necessity; to have success, to lose success*.
  - These substitutions are not synonymical and the meaning of the whole changes, while the meaning of the verb *meet* and the noun *success* are kept intact.

### 3. SEMANTIC STRUCTURE OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

The semantic structure of PUs is formed by semantic ultimate constituents called macrocomponents of meaning:

1. ***Denotational (descriptive) macrocomponent*** contains the information about the objective **reality**, it is the procedure connected with categorization, i.e. the classification of phenomena of the reality, based on the typical idea about what is denoted by a PU.

2. **Evaluation macrocomponent** contains the information about the value of what is denoted by a PU.

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The rational evaluation may be:

1. **positive**, e.g. *a home from home* – ‘a place or situation where one feels completely happy and at ease’;
2. **negative**, e.g. *the lion’s den* – ‘a place of great danger’;
3. **neutral**, e.g., *in the flesh* – ‘in bodily form’.





4. **Emotive macrocomponent** is the contents of subjective modality expressing

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feeling-relation to what is denoted by a PU within the range of approval/disapproval, e.g.

*a leading light in something* – ‘a person who is important in a particular group’ (approval),

*to lead a cat and dog life* – ‘used to describe a husband and wife who quarrel furiously with each other most of the time’ (disapproval).



5. **Stylistic macrocomponent** points to the communicative register in which a PU is used and to the social-role relationships between the participants of communication:

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1. **formal**, e.g. *sick at heart* – ‘very sad’;
2. **informal**, e.g. *be sick to death* – ‘to be angry and bored because something unpleasant has been happening for too long’;
3. **neutral**, e.g. *pass by on the other side* – ‘to ignore a person who needs help’.

6. **Grammatical macrocomponent** contains the

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information about all possible morphological and syntactic changes of a PU, e.g. *to be in deep water = to be in deep waters;*

- *to take away smb's breath = to take smb's breath away;*
- *Achilles's heel = the heel of Achilles.*



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  

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ATTENTION