Paroemiographic interpretation of proverbs and sayings corpus on the material of different structural languages

Within the current linguistics paradigm there is a high interest in studying proverbial collections of different ethnic groups. Paroemiographic collections serve as an informative resource for linguistic studies. Along with this, it is necessary to pay attention to the issues of paroemiography. The theoretical bases of this area of lexicography have already found practice in compiling various types of proverbial dictionaries. The article presents an overview of some dictionaries of Russian and English proverbs and sayings. The authors considered the lexicographic principles used in the compilation of the studied sources of proverbs and sayings. The article provides a comparative analysis of the representation and description of proverbs and sayings in such collections. In addition to distinctive features, the obtained results revealed a general trend in the arrangement and description approaches of paroemias in the considered dictionaries. Studying the concepts applied in the presentation, comparison, meaning interpretations, illustrative examples of usage and origin of the proverbial units in lexicographic practice determine the outlooks in the compilation of new dictionary publications and further cross-cultural linguistic research in contemporary paroemiography.

Keywords: paroemiography, dictionaries of proverbs and sayings, lexicographic analysis, manner of arrangement, lexicographic interpretation

Introduction

In the current linguistic science, the object of the study is quite frequently various kinds of language units expropriated from lexicographical collected books. The material recorded in dictionaries is a huge informative source for the communication of surrounding language reality.

It should be noted that within the anthropocentric paradigm, there is a growing interest in the inquiry about the linguistic worldview. Such resources for these studies, undoubtedly, are collected books of paroemias which are considered part of the cultural heritage. Proverbs and sayings, contained in them, illustrate the traditional virtues and worldview of each ethnos.

Dictionaries of paroemias take a special place in lexicography, that makes it possible to spin off them into a certain category. They represent the fastidious work result of several scientist generations, who by bits collected proverbs and sayings. Collected books of this type have their own specifics in the presentation of such expressions, which is formed under influencing the main directions of the general theory of lexicography.

Paroemiography is a new branch of lexicographical practice that engages in the development of proverb and sayings dictionaries. The scientific and methodological activity of paroemiography includes the collection, systematization, and fixation of proverbs and sayings, taking into account a certain principle of describing them in collected books [1: 316-317]. The works of scientists G.L. Permyakov, V.P. Zhukov, A. Taylor, W. Mieder are devoted to the classification issues, typology and presentation of paroemiological units in lexicographic collections [2-5]. Paroemiography also involves the investigation of the origin, history, and cultural significance of proverbs and sayings. It offers valuable insights into the working of human communication and thought. The researches study linguistic and cultural aspects of this expression. They use a variety of methods to study proverbs, including comparative analysis, linguistic analysis, historical research, and ethnographic studies.

The present discussion point in paroemiography in recent decades has been the use of a linguistic approach to lexicographic parameters in the modeling of proverbs and sayings dictionaries [6-8]. The systematization of proverbial units in collected books is of utmost importance, but the interpretation of using them in oral and written speech is equally important. Using the accumulated experience makes it possible to consist-
ently implement the principles of lexicographic parameterization of the language units. The lexicographical analysis allows us “to consider different approaches to the problems in a certain time length” [9; 35].

Working with dictionaries of paroemias includes not merely acquaintance with an extensive text corpus of proverbs and sayings but also the following aspects such as analysis of reference list contained in lexicographic publications, study of composition issues, choice of a manner for arranging entries, and ways of explaining them.

Materials and Research methods

This paper presents a review of paroemiological dictionary publications. The study materials are collected books of proverbs and sayings, the resources of which serve for many linguistic studies. The purpose of the article is to study the special characteristic of this material presentation in Russian and English paroemigraphy. Presenting proverbs and sayings in dictionaries needs careful consideration of methods to ensure accuracy and comprehensiveness. The procedure of comparative lexicographical analysis of presentation includes studying arrangement manners, and ways of description of proverbs and sayings in dictionary publications. The arrangement and description of proverbs and sayings are important for improving access and understanding of them.

The present article aims at studying lexicographic approaches that are used to order a list of expressions in reviewed dictionaries of proverbs and sayings.

Another important aspect of presenting paroemias in dictionaries is their description. In the dictionaries, proverbs and saying can be described in a number of ways. It includes the following:

- the definition of the expressions that clarifies its meaning and interpretation to give a reader a deeper understanding of their significance;
- example sentences are provided to show how the expression is used in context;
- information about the etymology of the expression.

The comparative study of lexicographic approaches in the organization and description of proverbs and sayings makes it possible to identify the tendency, specific approaches, and characteristic features of their presentation in given dictionaries.

Results and Discussion

The collection of Russian proverbs and sayings in dictionaries has been recorded for several centuries. As is commonly known, the dictionaries compilation of this type was mainly done by folklorists and ethnographers. The Russian lexicographical tradition has considerable experience in the dictionary presentation of proverbs and sayings. The systematization of proverbs in collections began at the end of the 17th beginning of the 18th centuries. [1; 318]. There is a review of some editions of proverbs and sayings dictionaries.

One of the most widely known sources of the paroemias for linguistic studies is the collected book of V.I. Dal Пословицы русского народа (1862) (Proverbs of the Russian People), which includes not only proverbs and sayings, but also rapid speeches, witticisms, superstitions, etc. In this paper, one of its later editions is considered [10]. The main approach to presenting proverbs in the collected book is their arrangement according to the general subject matter. V.M. Mokienko has noted that such an approach in systematizing the material of V.I. Dal contributed to the further using the thematic manner of arrangement in the compilation of many collections of Russian proverbs and sayings [11; 6]. The presentation by listing proverbs by thematic sections is main in the collected books of authors M.A. Rybnikova, V.P. Anikin, V.D. Sysoev [12-14].

In the dictionary Русские пословицы и поговорки (Russian proverbs and sayings), paroemias are grouped according to the manner of thematic similarity, for example: “труд” (labour) section includes the following subsections “работа” (work), “благосостояние” (prosperity), “изобретательность” (ingenuity), “мастерство” (handcraft), “труды труда” (tools), “хозяйственность” (housekeeping), “осмотрительность” (prudence), “безответственность” (bad housekeeping), “плохая, бесполезная работа” (bad and useless work), “лень” (laziness), “безделье” (idleness), “болтливость” (idle talk) etc. [12]

In the collection Старинные русские пословицы и поговорки (Old Russian Proverbs and Sayings), paroemias are ordered by thematic sections, the name titles of which are proverbial expressions: “жизнь прожить — не поле перейти” (life is not a bed of roses), “хлеб — всему голова” (bread is the staff of life), “ученье — свет, а неученье — тьма” (learning is the eye of the mind) etc. In the author’s opinion that such manner of arrangement more accurately conveys the meaning of proverbs and sayings [13; 3].

The basic manner of systematizing proverbs and sayings in dictionaries is alphabetical which involves the arrangement of proverbs according to their first word. This approach to the material organization can be
found in the well-known collected books of V.P. Zhukov, V.P. Anikin [3], [15]. It should be noted that in the dictionary of V.P. Zhukov, the proverbs and sayings are followed by their interpretation; for example: “утро идеется” (an hour in the morning is worth two in the evening) — говорится тогда, когда откладывают решение, исполнение чего-л. до утра в надежде, что утром на свежую голову все будет иначе, иное (refers to when a decision is delayed till the morning in the hope that in the morning with a fresh mind everything will be clearer). Then illustrative quotations from literary works with using paroemia are given: “Полно грустить заранее, хозяин, утро идеется, авось, все пройдет ладно”. N. Некрасов and N. Станикий. “Гри страны света…” [3; 338].

In Russian lexicographic practice, proverbs and sayings can be also arranged according to the thematic-alphabetical manner. For example, in the dictionary Народная мудрость в пословицах и поговорках (Folk wisdom in proverbs and sayings) its thematic sections and the proverbs and sayings listed in them are ordered alphabetically. For example, “бедность и богатство” section — “день я виновата, что рубаха дырявата?” “беден, как церковная мышь”, “в семи дворах один топор”, “ведь вода была, там и будет; куда денька пошла, там и скопится” etc. [16; 3-6].

In the learner’s dictionary Русские пословицы и поговорки (Russian proverbs and sayings) of the authors-compilers V.I. Zimin, S.D. Ashurova, V.N. Shanskii, Z.I. Shatalova, the proverbs and sayings are presented both thematic and alphabetical manners [17]. In the first part of the dictionary paroemias are grouped by thematical sections and in the second part they are arranged by their first word according to the alphabetical order. In the main body of this dictionary, some proverbs are supplied with short explanations that provide a better understanding proverbs and sayings, for example: “один за всех, и все за одного” (one for all, all for one) — говорится в взаимной поддержке, взаимопомощи, взаимовыручке (said about mutual supportiveness and mutual help) [17; 15]. Some words of proverbs can be provided with etymological and linguistic notes. For example, the proverb “из золотни, да дорога” (a little body often harbours a great soul), the comments are given to the word золотник — самая малая русская мера веса, равная 4,266 грамма, употребляется в основном при взвешивании золота и серебра; небольшой по величине, но ценной по качествам (zolotnik — the smallest Russian measure of weight, equivalent to 4, 266 gr., mainly used while weighing gold and silver; small in size but valuable in quality) [17; 15-16].

The lexicographical work Большой словарь русских пословиц (The Great Dictionary of Russian proverbs), edited by V.M. Mokienko, was firstly compiled according to the European model [11; 7]. This method implies the material presentation by the significant word of proverbs in alphabetical order. The arrangement according to this manner contributes to the quick search for the needed proverbial expression. Another feature of this dictionary is the information of proverb fixation in lexicographic sources indicating the publication data which are presented according to the chronological order of the record: “азбука — к мудрости ступенька” — Сн. (Снегирев) 1848, 2; Раз. (Разумов) 1957, 41; Рыбн. (Рыбинкова) 1961, 134; Тан. (Танчук) 1986, 15; Ан. (Анкин) 1988, 14 [11; 16]. Some of the proverbial units can be provided with geographic marks, a comprehensive list of which is presented at the beginning of the dictionary, for example, “апельсино водою славен” Кубан. (Кубанская область) [11; 20]. Some proverbs are followed by etymological notes: “атама белью наведет — букхар бель наведет” (atava beliu navedet — bukhmar bet navedet), where атава (atava) — один из видов чайки (gull species); бель (bel) — воление на море при сильном ветре; белье гребни (rough sea with a strong wind; white combs); букхар (bukhmar) — пасмурная погода (cloudy weather); бель (bet) — бура на море (storm on the sea) [11; 23].

In Russian paroemiography, great attention is paid to compiling bilingual dictionaries of proverb and sayings. They include paroemias of the Russian language and their equivalents in another language or their translation equivalents that convey the meaning of these statements. Particularly, the dictionary of Yu.V. Bodrova collected more than a thousand Russian proverbs and sayings with their English equivalents, which are provided with a literal translation. Thus, the proverb “апетит приходит во время еды” is followed by English version “appetite comes with eating” that is translated into Russian “апетит приходит вместе с едой” [18; 4]. The proverbs in collected books of this type is arranged by the first word according to the alphabetical system of the first language (L1): “бабушка надоец сказала — we shall see what we shall see.”; “беда не приходит одна — misfortunes never come singly.” [18; 5].

In some bilingual dictionaries, proverbs and sayings are also provided with illustrative data. For example, dictionary entry of The Russian-English Dictionary of Proverbs and Sayings has the following structure: a heading unit (proverb/saying), interpretation (in case of the absence of English equivalent), the suitable English variants of the Russian proverbs/sayings, a description of their meanings (if it is necessary), and quotations from literary sources illustrating the use of proverbs. For example, the proverb “саме познане в
An apple a day keeps the doctor away. 

The gallant foreigner, who could not tell them how he sympathized with them, but whose actions spoke louder than words (F. McCullagh, With the Cossacks, 1906). 

A man of words and not of deeds. 

Is like a garden full of weeds (James Howell, English Proverbs, 1659) [21; 14].
The major feature of *The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs*, edited by J. Speake, is fixation of proverb’s occurrence in literary sources listed in chronological order — at starting the earliest known example is given: “a bad excuse is better than none” 1551 T. WILSON Rule S6 of Reason Better a bade excuse, then none at all. 1579 S. GOSSON Scholl of Abuse 24 A bad excuse is better, they say, then none at all. 1821 W. WIRT Letter 29 Aug. in J.P. Kennedy Memoirs (1849) II. vii. The old fellow’s look had a glimpse of passing cunning as much as to say, “A bad excuse is better than none.” 1981 P. VAN GREENWAY “Cassandra” Bill xii. What excuse is better than none? [22; 33].

The thematic approach to the systematization of proverbs and sayings is used in the following English collections “The Penguin Dictionary of Proverbs” and “Little Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs” [23-24]. It should be noted that Little Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs includes proverbs and sayings of different peoples which are presented in English. Each thematic section begins with its brief explanation. For example, the section ACHIEVEMENT is highlighted with the following explanation — “Effort and aspiration are both needed for achievement, but even if the goal is reached the outcome may not be satisfactory, since “While the grass grows, the steed starves””. The proverbs are generally provided with information about the meaning and date of their first mention (mostly English proverb: in a calm sea every man is a pilot — apparent achievement may not have been tested by circumstances; English proverb, recorded from the early 19th century [24; 35].

In this dictionary there are also Russian proverbs, for example: the wolves are well fed and the sheep are safe has the following explanation — when a predator’s immediate needs have been satisfied, there is temporary safety for the prey; Russian proverb [24; 103].

Thus, according to the method of the material systematization in the presented Russian and English dictionaries of proverbs and sayings, the following principles can be distinguished — alphabetical and thematic. In paroemiological collections, there is a tendency to arrange in alphabetical order by keyword. Important is the additional information in the dictionaries, which informs about the chronology of paroemias. Such certification of each proverb is useful information for users, since it allows to establish the initial lexicographic chronological fixation of proverbial English expressions and sayings. In some dictionaries, you can get acquainted with the earliest examples of proverbs, which makes it possible to see the historical changes that have occurred in the process of its functioning. It should be noted that when describing proverbs and sayings, some dictionaries offer various comments that complement, explain, and clarify their meanings.

**Conclusions**

The analysis of individual mono- and bilingual dictionaries of proverbs and sayings shows that they are mainly used typical principles in the systematization of paroemias. First of all, such approaches are aimed at arranging proverbial units either by thematic sections or by their keywords in alphabetical order.

In the lexicographical description of Russian and English proverbs and sayings, the attention of the compilers is mainly focused on communicating their semantic charge. Extracts from literary sources with using proverbs and sayings, contained in the dictionaries, serve as illustrative usage examples. Additionally, in some dictionaries of the Russian language proverbs and sayings can be supplied with linguo- and ethnocultural explanations.

The information indicating the time and place of proverbs and sayings fixation in the considered dictionaries serves as additional systematizing and reference material. Such data are presented in many English paroemiological collections.

Thus, the review results of Russian and English dictionaries of proverbs and sayings reveal that along with the characteristic features there are also common approaches in the lexicographical processing of paroemias. The paroemiographic publications demonstrate the current practices in lexicographizing proverbs and sayings. The arrangement of paroemias in current lexicographic collections is aimed at a findable the needed unit, and the describing ways of paroemias contribute to the study, understanding of the meaning and their usage in a particular real-life situation. This is especially important when choosing variants of a proverbial saying in another language. Extra information, provided in the dictionary entry, allows obtaining historical data on paroemias, lexicographical material is a resource for further language studies of linguistic and paroemiological worldviews.

As a conclusion, it is necessary to point out that presenting proverbs and sayings in dictionaries requires a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach that combines traditional lexicographical methods with modern methods. This includes careful identification and compilation of proverbial expressions, linguistic analysis, accurate definition, etymology and history, and cultural significance. Using these research methods
can provide a comprehensive and accurate representation of the richness and diversity of proverbs and sayings that are an important part of cultural heritage. The bilingual dictionaries of proverbs and sayings are also an important resource in cultural linguistic studies. The presentation of proverbs and sayings in bilingual dictionaries is a main aspect of language studying and cross-cultural communication. By providing accurate translations, explanations, and cultural context, they promote to deepen understanding of the meaning and use of proverbs and sayings in different languages and cultures.

References


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Макал-мәтелдер корпусы құрылымының әртүрлі ғылымдар материадары негізінде паремиографиялық интерпретациясы

Қазірғі таңда лингвистикалық парадигма әскімда әртүрлі ғылымдар мен макал-мәтелдер корпусын зерттеу үшін қызықұшылық бар. Паремиографиялық жинақтар өсі берілген лингвистикалық зерттеулер үшін қызмет етеді. Осы орайда паремиографиялық озіне қа- тысты масселерге тісті қоңір болуы қажет болып табылады. Лексикографиялық бұл салалының теориялық негіздері бойынша әртүрлі макал-мәтелдер сөздіктерін құрауды қолданыс тапты. Макалада
Паремиографическая интерпретация корпуса пословиц и поговорок на материале разноструктурных языков

В рамках современной лингвистической парадигмы наблюдается большой интерес к исследованиям пословиц и поговорок разных народов. Информационным потенциалом для данных лингвистических языков служат паремиографические сборники. Вместе с тем необходимо уделять должное внимание и вопросам самой паремиографии. Теоретические основы данного направления лексикографии уже нашли применение в составлении различных словарей паремий. В настоящей статье представлен обзор отдельных словарных изданий на материале сборников пословиц и поговорок русского и английского языков. Авторами рассмотрены лексикографические принципы, применяемые в составлении исследуемых источников паремий. Проведен сравнительный анализ репрезентаций и описания пословиц и поговорок в подобного рода сборниках. Полученные результаты показывают, что наряду с характерными особенностями, выявлены общая направленность в подходах к словарной систематизации и описанию паремий в рассматриваемых изданиях. Изучение применяемых концепций в представлении, сравнении, интерпретации значений, иллюстрации примеров употребления и происхождения единиц пословиц и поговорочных фонда разных народов в лексикографической практике обусловливают дальнейшие перспективы для разработки и составления новых словарных изданий, в том числе кросс-культурных лингвистических исследований в современной паремиографии.

Ключевые слова: паремиография, пословиц, поговорка, лексикографический анализ, принцип систематизации, словарное описание.

References


