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Reproducibility in Phraseology and Ornithonym Components

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Abstract

In any language, Phraseological units are characterized as stable reproducible units. Reproducibility is the ability to be a permanent, fixed linguistic unit that can be retrieved from the language fund as an item ready to use. Reproducibility is closely related to the stable cognitive image of fixed linguistic units. This feature of phraseological and paremiological units (P&PUs) makes them precedential texts and thus well-known for all language speakers. Considering the role of these linguistic units in mastering a foreign language, in our classes of English as a second language (ESL) we expose our students not only to P&PUs, but also to the most common models of their occasional or contextual use. In the present paper, we dealt with English P&PUs with ornithonym component. Applying Ngram model and its possibilities, we sought to detect variants of models of contextual use of analyzed P&PUs and possibilities of Ngram for a researcher.

Keywords: Reproducibility; Stability; Ornithonym; key component; Ngram; Contextual use.

1. Introduction

Stability and reproducibility– two basic characteristics of PUs– are very closely related to each other (Shanskii, 1996), and give birth to the idea of their interdependence, which is clearly expressed by A.V. Kunin in his definition of the phraseological stability: "It's a set of invariantness, typical of different aspects of PUs enabling their reproducibility in the ready-made form". Reproducibility is the ability to be a permanent, fixed linguistic unit, "to be retrieved from the language arsenal as a-ready-to-use item" (Kunin, 1996).

Alongside with the linguistic basis, reproducibility is conditioned cognitively because "there are always some common and obligatory visions for all speakers of the same national cultural mentality, or an invariant of its perception" (Brilyova *et al.*, 2004). The conclusion, drawn by D.N. Davletbaeva, A.M. Ivanova and Yu.A. Kozlova as the result of studying psycholinguistic criteria for understanding PUs, confirm the same idea about native speakers of different languages following: "different cultural guideline in describing the meaning of imaginative base of phraseological units in occasional use" (Davletbaeva *et al.*, 2015).

The aforementioned two properties of PUs provide possibilities of their various contextual uses which can be also called the "instantial use", "phraseological transform", "phraseological transformation", etc. As E.F. Arsenteva and Y.S. Arsentyeva devoted to study of the extended metaphor as a type of contextual use of PUs, as skills of language speakers "to build a subimage of a PU on the basis of the direct meanings of its components parts enabling speakers to perform these transformations with PUs" (Arsenteva and Arsentyeva, 2017).

There are some PUs in any language. The stable cognitive image of which is based on some special component parts such as ornithonym, coloronym, zoonym. It is widely acclaimed that the phraseological meaning is not deducible from meanings of component parts, but it has peculiar bonds with their meanings. The research on the PUs with colorative components witnesses about the meaning of such units is very often motivated by colorative components (Arsenteva *et al.*, 2017). If PU component parts can have 4 various statuses: a) real words (components in their direct meaning); b) former words – components partially abstracted from their semantic and grammatical meanings; c) potential words– components fully abstracted from their semantic meaning; d) ghost words– components not existing in the language as independent words- according to the results of previous stages of our research, ornithonyms are former words (63,3%) and potential words (36,7%) as components of idiophraseomatisms – polysemantic PUs. One of the meanings of which is non-transferred, the others are transferred – and real words (100%) as components of phraseomatisms – PUs with non-transferred meaning. Therefore, ornithonym components play crucial roles in the reproducibility of P&PU (Antúnez, 2016).

The appropriate use of P&PUs by a non-native speaker is an evidence of rather a high level of mastering the language. In our classes of ESL, we thus exposed our students not only to P&PU, but also to the most common models of their occasional or contextual use, and thus making their knowledge of the language more flexible. (Kozhabergenova *et al.*, 2018).

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2. Methods

At the initial stage of research, it was necessary to select the empirical material – P&PUs with ornithonym component – from various phraseological dictionaries. The next stage was to study and analyze theoretical materials about phraseological meanings and relations of component parts with it. In this process, we had to apply methods of semantic analysis and componential analysis. Methods of computer linguistics were used to unfold possibilities under which NGram Viewers can provide in the process of searching for contextual variants of P&PUs. The statistical analysis and observation method was the inherent part of processing research results, making conclusions and describing the experiment in scientific papers.

3. Results and Discussion

Hypothesis: By underpinning the viewpoint expressed by colleagues that reproducibility is closely related to the stable cognitive image fixed linguistic units and taking into account the abovementioned role of ornithonym components in the reproducibility of PUs, we can presuppose that contextual variants of P&PUs are built on the image based on this component.

Many researchers worked on various fields of contemporary Linguistics and focused at applying computer technologies for identifying multi word expressions and translating them from one language into another (Colson, 2017). Most scholars (Sadriev and Andrianova, 2017), admitted the Language modeling (LM) "factorizing the probability of a string of words" as an essential step in achieving this goal. M. Popel, D. Marecek "present two alternative approaches: post-ngram LMs (which use following words as context) and dependency LMs (which exploit dependency structure of a sentence and can use e.g. the governing word as context)" (Popel and Marecek, 2010).

Attempts have been made to apply Google Ngram Viewer to study contextual variants of PUs. The research was conducted by Saliyeva R.N., Guriyanov I.O., Tulusina Y.A. underscoring the main problem in this process of inability of program to "distinguish literal meaning from figurative one" (Saliyeva *et al.*), hence, it can be recommended for studying only some types of contextual use of PUs as the insertion, ellipsis and component substitution.

Applying Google Ngram Viewer and its possibilities, we sought to detect variants of models for the contextual use of analyzing P&PUs for further use in our ESL classes. We suggested possible structural models of transformation of P&PUs to the system which manifested various types of their transformation available in Google Books. For instance, by looking for the structural models of the PU "the cock of the walk", we suggested its following models for the system: "the cock of the + x" and "x + of the walk", presupposing to find some samples of contextual use of this PU. Examples of the system approved that the applied method does not differentiate between contextual variants of the PU and free word combinations with coinciding structural model of "the cock of the + x", the number of which is much bigger among samples in the system than ones using contextual variant of the above mentioned PU. Some proving examples are as follows:

"Transactions of the Society Instituted at London for the ...

At night, when the men leave work, the cock of the safety-pipe is opened, the valve of the cistern is let down, and the cock K is closed. In the morning the thermometer is generally found to indicate a heat of about 200°, the water at the farther ..."

The cock of the migrative species Montagu thinks never quits the place he first resorts to, but attracts the females by hie song ; and hence, he conceives, it is probable that such females as have not at first paired, or lost their mates by accident, ..." .

Therefore, identifying contextual variants of the analyzing PU requires the manual work – reading and choosing them from among all examples. The structural model of "the cock of the + x" helped us to retrieve a number of contextual variants of the PU under analysis: "the cock of the club", "the cock of the school", "the cock of the village", "the cock of the company", etc., while the structural model "x + of the walk", which implies the substitution of the ornithonym component, did not find any matches. An example of searching among published books in 1833-1841 to demonstrate that the work of the system is reliable and enough to prove is present as follows for dealing with a contextual variant of the above mentioned PU:

"Life of Robert Burns ... Fourth edition. [With a portrait.]

Accustomed to be, among his favourite associates, what is vulgarly, but expressively, called the cock of the company, he could scarcely refrain from indulging in similar freedom and dictatorial decision of talk, even in the presence of persons ...".

Finding the given extract not sufficient to qualify the word combination given in bold types, as a contextual variant of a PU; one can open the extended sample, which in this case exposes the book itself to the reader's attention. Within the book "the cock of the company" highlighted with yellow can be found at the Page 143, where readers can get acquainted with as broad a context as they wish.

The experiment with one more example of a PU with ornithonym component "one swallow does not make a summer" also confirms the idea of the phraseological image on the basis of the ornithonym component. As possible structural models "one swallow + x", "x + make a summer", "x + swallow make + x". NGram Viewer showed variants of the contextual use of the PU as shown in table 1.

Table-1. Variants of Contextual use of PU

#	Context	Source	Type of Contextual Use
1	*Nor does one swallow make a summer (Modern Legends-Page 329), he said contemptuously. "One swallow! Let me tell you this: One swallow does not make a Summer! One swallow! Bah! " Then all his sallow-faced companions echoed his words in curiously unmusical voices: "One swallow does not ...*	*Modern Legends - Page 329*	Phraseological saturation of the text
2	*One Swallow may not make a summer, but it sometimes improves one's chances of seeing several more.*	*Empire Survey Review - Volume 5 - Page 408*	Substitution of a component
3	*No one man can run our government business; no one fox farmer can get a good market; no one swallow can make a summer or a nest — and most certainly not if the swallow flew. The average fox farmer, whether he likes it or not will be ...*	American Fur Breeder - Volume 13 - Page 20	Reiteration of one of the components
4	*Yes, yes, I have heard that one swallow doesn't make a Summer; neither does one swallow make a drunk. And I'm not giving this experiment as the last word in the treatment for mildew. This is simply a "preliminary report" on a couple of ...*	*Delphinium, the Book of the American Delphinium Society - Page 56*	Pun (play on words)
5	*Lord Dunedin: Then you do say that one swallow makes a summer? (Laughter.) Mr. Lewis: I do. (Laughter.) Where the swallow is, the summer is also. (Laughter.) Lord Macmillan: If is a harbinger, according to the poet*	Feed & Farm Supplies - Volume 17 - Page 134	phraseological saturation of the text
6	*... and besides this in a perfect life. For as neither one swallow, nor one day makes spring, so neither does one day, nor a short time, make a man blessed and happy." * The Epicureans employ this argument to demonstrate that pleasure 133*	The Dissertations of Maximus Tyrius - Volume 2 - Page 133	Insertion + component substitution (negation is substituted)

4. Summary

If among contextual variants of the PU, "the cock of the walk" retrieved from the system, only component substitution is observed, abd 5 types of contextual variants of "one swallow does not make a summer" are revealed among samples. They are phraseological saturation of text, component substitution, reiteration of a component, pun (play on words), insertion+ component substitution. In our opinion, the number of components of the second PU largely allows more modifications.

Overwhelming majority of examples of contextual variants, which are retrieved from the system, do not include the omission or substitution of ornithonym components, that bolster the suggested hypothesis at the beginning of our research about the cognitive image of P&PUs with ornithonym component on this component.

5. Conclusion

Different types of contextual variants of P&PUs with ornithonym component revealed that the application of Google Ngram Viewer does not include the omission or substitution of this component, thereby proving that the stability and reproducibility of such P&PUs depends on ornithonym component that makes up a basis for their cognitive image.

It can be also concluded that Google Ngram Viewer as an indispensable large basis for research in the field of linguistics leaving for a human mind differentiates between PUs and homonymous free word combinations. Moreover, searching for contextual variants of P&PUs can apply not only a post-Ngram approach, but also pre-Ngram and pre and post-Ngram as well.

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