

Article

Somatic Phraseological Units in Phraseology

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Abstract: The article delves into the prevalence of somatic phraseological units across languages, the role of conceptual metaphorization in their semantic non-compositionality, and the impact of linguistic relativity and cultural variation on the specific body part references and associated figurative meanings. Furthermore, included are the consequences of this research for language learning and natural language processing, as well as the psycholinguistic processing of somatic expressions as comprehensive, lexicalized entities.

Keywords: Phraseology, Stable Multiword Sentences, Somatic Expressions, Metaphorization, Non-compositionality, Conceptual Metaphor, Holistic Processing.

1. Introduction

Phraseology, or the study of stable multiword expressions, is a key area of linguistic research. This field includes idioms and collocations that reference body parts, known as somatic expressions, such as “lend a helping hand” or “keep an eye on.” [14] These expressions are prevalent across languages and cultures, providing insights into the relationship between language and embodied cognition. Statistical analyses suggest that 20% of idioms and fixed expressions contain bodily references, highlighting the role of embodied experience in conceptual understanding [1].

2. Materials and Methods

This review synthesizes research from linguistics and cognitive science, focusing on somatic phraseological units. Key studies include the conceptual metaphor theory by Lakoff and Johnson, cross-cultural analyses by Kövecses, and research on embodied cognition by Gibbs [2]. Lakoff and Johnson’s important work on conceptual metaphor theory posits that somatisms are grounded in the metaphorical mapping of bodily experiences onto abstract concepts. The prevalence of somatisms reflects the embodied nature of human cognition, where the physical sensations and interactions with the body shape our understanding of the world. [13] Additionally, the work of Uzbek linguists, such as U.M. Rashidova and M.I. Gadoeva, is examined to explore semantic-pragmatic features in Uzbek and English. To illustrate example [3]

3. Results

Research shows that somatic expressions facilitate the mapping of complex ideas onto tangible domains through conceptual methodization [4]. These expressions are often

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processed as unitary, lexicalized wholes rather than being constructed word-by-word. Gibbs' studies demonstrate that understanding idioms involves activating embodied simulations in the brain. Cross-cultural variations in somatisms reflect different cultural conceptualizations and values [5].

4. Discussion

The findings emphasize the embodied nature of human cognition, where physical interactions shape our understanding of abstract concepts [6]. Cross-cultural differences in somatic expressions reveal the influence of cultural experiences on language. Uzbek researchers highlight the semantic-pragmatic aspects of somatisms, demonstrating their significance in language and culture. For give example, Uzbek linguists conducted significant studies of the principles of the formation of phraseological units in the language. Such scholars as Y.D.Polivanov, Sh. Rakhmatullaev, B.Yo'ldoshev, Abdug'afur Mamatov, A.Isayev, A.Rafiyev, Q.Hakimov, explored the various features of phraseological units. Furthermore, Raymond Gibbs' research demonstrates that the interpretation of idiomatic expressions, including somatisms, is facilitated by the activation of embodied simulations in the brain [7].

The activation of sensorimotor representations associated with the body parts referenced in somatisms aids in the holistic, non-compositional understanding of these fixed expressions. [15].

Uzbek researcher U.M. Rashidova in her dissertation "Semantic and pragmatic analysis of somatic phraseological units of the uzbek language(on example of phraseological units with components *ko'z,(eye) qo'l(hand) and yurak(heart)*" determined the nature and content of somatic phrases with the components of *ko'z,(eye) qo'l (hand) and yurak (heart)*" on material of the Uzbek language [8]. M. I. Gadoeva in her dissertation for a Doctor of Science "Semantic-pragmatic study of somatizms in the English and Uzbek languages (on the examples of small genres of folklore) *conducted a linguistic analysis and scientifically justified* the study of semantic-pragmatic features of somatisms in English and Uzbek by identifying them on the example of small genres of folklore as proverbs, riddles, blessings, curses, their place in language and speech, linguistic, national-cultural, gender, denotative-connotative, diachronic-synchronous, stylistic-functional, cognitive and conceptual interpretation [9].

5. Conclusion

The interdisciplinary study of somatic phraseological units offers valuable insights into the embodied foundations of language and thought. Understanding these expressions enhances comprehension of human cognition and cultural diversity, underscoring the link between language and embodied experiences [10]. The study of somatic phraseological units, with its interdisciplinary integration of cognitive linguistics, psycholinguistics, and language pedagogy, offers a rich and insightful perspective on the embodied foundations of human language and thought [11]. As we continue to deepen our understanding of the cognitive and cultural nuances of these embodied expressions, we gain valuable insights into the very essence of what it means to be human - a being inextricably linked to the physical, sensorial, and experiential dimensions of our existence [12].

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