

## **The National and Cultural Component of the French Emotive Phraseological Units Denoting Negative Emotions**

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**Abstract:** The aim of the study is the analysis of the idioethnic peculiarities of the French emotive phraseological units that denote such basic negative emotions as: anger, sorrow, anxiety and shame. The analysis of the inner form of the phraseological units under study is also offered. The result of this study is the classification of phraseological components, bearing national and cultural information. To identify the national and cultural elements of emotive phraseological units in the French language, the researchers use the following research methods: phraseological component analysis, processing lexicographic sources, analysis of the dictionary definitions of the emotional states. The national and cultural component is mostly expressed by a noun or an adjective. According to the researchers, the units' parts containing national and cultural component can be represented by biblicisms, artifacts, colorific terms, zoonyms and fauna names. Emotive phraseological units with components zoonyms or faunonimom are relatively few, they are represented mainly by predicative expressions and have a high emotional and axiological potential due to the underlying imagery. In the French emotive, phraseology the following colorific terms are used as symbols of various negative emotional states: black, gray, green, yellow and red.

**Key words:** Phraseological unit, emotive state, emotion, idioethnic, French language

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The expression of emotive states is due to the national character that manifests on the extralinguistic level as well as directly on the linguistic level. Emotions are one of the reality reflection forms. They are expressed by linguistic means only being reflected by the consciousness. The study of emotions in linguistics has been conducted for a long time. Emotions are one of the most difficult objects for understanding and conceptualization in language. Emotional states are analyzed in the studies of the famous scientists, psychologists and linguists (Arnold, 1960; Izard, 2000; Oatley, 2004; Pavlenko, 2005; Wierzbicka, 1999).

The national identity of the language is reflected in the phraseology. It is discovered while studying all its aspects. In general, the national character is appropriate to all phraseological units. It includes idioethnic features of the phraseological units due to the typical features of the language and the consciousness of its speakers; the phraseological meaning also reflects national and cultural peculiarities. It shows the need of an ethnic group that is "the objective need, reflected in his mind" (Rubinshteyn, 1989). This need is searching for a form for its manifestation and finds, it in a particular image which existed at the unconscious level of mental activity of the people (Kirillova, 2003).

Nationally marked phraseological expressions serve to reflect different sides of human life, among them various feelings and emotions associated with the definite ethnic group and its reality representation.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Emotions have some specific features for each nation. The cultural peculiarities of expressing emotions also manifest themselves in the fact that even universal emotions, explicable in different cultures are evaluated and understood by their representatives in a different manner. Thus in order to identify the national and cultural elements of emotive phraseological units in the French language, we used the following research methods: phraseo-logical component analysis, processing lexicographic sources, analysis of the dictionary definitions of the emotional states.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The majority of the anthropocentric emotive phraseological units of the French language have in their inner form national and cultural images. They can be identified within the cultural codes such as:

- Anthropomorphic, representing a human being and parts of his body
- Biomorphic, representing the phenomena of flora and fauna
- Objectal which represents images of household goods
- Animic, representing the phenomena of nature
- Mythological which objectifies religious images, fairytale characters
- Colorific which contains images associated with the symbolism of color

It is well known that emotions are divided into two main groups: positive and negative, depending on person's subjective evaluation. A famous emotiologist V.I. Shakhovsky notes that the representatives of different cultures "experience universal emotions: anger, joy, fear, happiness, sorrow, hatred etc." (Shakhovsky, 1987). Taking into account the large amount of emotions and their shades observed in the research works of different scientists and also because of the limited volume of this research, we will refer only to the fundamental emotions that denote negative ones.

Shumeiko (2011) defines 17 dominants of the semantic field "negative emotions" in American English, explores their content and shows dialectical relation between emotions and feelings. The semantic field "negative emotions" is subdivided into microfields "Depression" (which is based on emotive states ennui and boredom), "Despair" (deep sadness or despair is expressed by lexical units of emotive states sorrow, grief, loneliness and sadness), "Embarrassment" (the feeling of being demeaned is expressed by emotive states of shame and humiliation), "Fear" (which includes doubt and terror as feelings of fear) and "Anxiety" (which is represented by emotions of anguish and suspicion). Each of them is characterized by semantic correlations of its elements. The dialectical relation between emotions and feelings consists in their synonymous usage when the definition of the emotion is presented by means of construction "a feeling of something".

The analysis shows that the basic negative emotions are: anger, sorrow, anxiety and shame. They are the emotional states which occur in humans during distress. They represent the totality of uncomfortable and painful human conditions such as: non-pleasure, frustration, irritation, exhausting soul anxiety, grief, rage, sadness. Psychologists refer these states to frustral emotions (from lat. 'frustratio' bad luck, deception). These emotions appear in unmet needs, in connection with the collapse of hopes and insurmountable obstacles to achieving highly significant goals (Shakurov, 2002).

In this study, idiomatic units are considered as expressions including a national and cultural semantic component. For example, the expression of the emotional state 'irritation' by the phraseological unit "be like a horsehair" 'to be irritable to be forever out of sorts'. Information about the national and cultural component is in the internal form of the idiom. The component 'lily' represents here the center of the inner form which includes a national component, an image-bearing component of the unit.

Phraseological meaning of the idioethnic unit expressing negative emotional state is associated with the meaning of the unit's part containing national and cultural component. The very same part can be represented by:

Biblicisms: "make eyes basilica" 'to look angry with angry eyes' "crying like a Madeleine" 'to cry to shed tears in three streams. The meaning of the phraseological unit "crying like a Madeleine" which expresses the emotional state 'sorrow' has the explanation associated with religion when the repentant sinner Magdalene used her bitter tears to wash Christ's feet. It is noteworthy that the biblical proper name 'Madeleine' being a comparative lexical item of the above named idiomatic comparison is used in its structure with the indefinite article: 'une Madeleine'. Consequently, it assumes a formal sign of a common noun filled with a new, enlarged and general sense.

The semantic part of emotive phraseological units can be represented by artifacts: "not to be taken lightly" 'somebody in a bad mood and you can not talk to him'. The national and cultural component of this expression is enclosed within the meaning of the lexical unit 'des pincettes', 'pair of pincers'.

In the phraseological expression "be sad like a nightcap" 'to be very sad' cultural identity lies in the words 'bonnet de nuit' 'bed cap'. In this case, we have an elliptic form of the expression "sad as a night cap without cap". Men wore for the night a nightcap 'nightcap', women wore a bonnet 'a cap'. Therefore, the expression "a night cap without cap" has a metaphorical meaning 'to be alone, to be sad'.

The national and cultural component of idiomatic phraseological units can be represented by colorific terms. The linguist Mullagayanova (2013) distinguishes five main colors in the English language which are used as symbols of emotions of anger: red, black, blue, purple and white. Sorrow and melancholy are the emotions with semantic similarity (black, blue, brown and gray), fear is expressed by means of white and yellow shame and jealousy have unambiguous color designations: red and green.

The French phraseology has its own system of colorific symbols. The analysis of the French phraseological locutions having a color-component shows that in French the following colorific terms are used as symbols of various negative emotional states: 'noir' 'black' (a symbol of bad mood), 'gris' 'gray' (a symbol of sorrow), 'vert' 'green' (a symbol of fear), 'jaune' 'yellow' and 'rouge' 'red' (symbols of anger). For example: "getting dark thoughts" 'to be in a gloomy mood'; "have gray" 'sad, homesick'; "being green with fear", 'to be green with fear'; "yellow angry" 'furious anger, intense irritation', "red up in his, face", 'a full-blooded face of anger'.

In the French emotive phraseological fund the national and cultural component of its units can be represented by wildlife terms (zoonyms and fauna names). Analysis of the actual data shows that for the French linguistic consciousness in expressing of negative emotional states most typical images of animals are such as 'hibou' 'owl', 'mouton' 'sheep', 'boef' 'bull', 'chevre' 'goat', 'rat' 'rat': "sad as an owl" 'very sad'; "rabid sheep" 'very furious; furious lamb' (about raging meek person); "have (swallow) his ox (the goat)" 'to bristle, come into a rage'; "swallowing a rat (eat rat)" 'to have a dissatisfied view'; "become goat" 'to become impatient, to rave'.

The emotional state 'anger' is also expressed by the phraseological unit "get the needle" 'to become suddenly angry'. The component 'mouche' 'fly' is a national one because the image-bearing base of this expression is associated with the rural life in France. Animals bitten by insects such as gadflies, victimizing mostly horses and cattle, cause sudden jerky movements of these animals. The phraseological component under study is formed by analogy with the behavior of animals in such situations.

**Summary:** To summarise, the national identity of the French negative emotive phraseological units is manifested by various national and cultural components enclosed in their inner form. At the heart of the inner form is the idioethnic image reflected by the French linguistic consciousness and entrenched in a fixed expression. The analysis of the emotive phraseological units which transfer the basic negative emotions (anger, sorrow, anxiety and shame) demonstrates that the national and cultural component is mostly expressed by a noun or an adjective.

## CONCLUSION

Thus, the analysis of the idioethnic peculiarities of the French emotive phraseological units denoting

negative emotions allows to conclude that the units' parts containing national and cultural component can be represented by biblicisms, artifacts, colorific terms, zoonyms and fauna names. The study found that despite the abundance of images of wildlife in the phraseology of the French language, emotive phraseological units with components zoonyms or faunonyms are relatively few, only about 30 out of a total body of analyzed units. They are represented mainly by predicative expressions and have a high emotional and axiological potential due to the underlying imagery. In the French emotive phraseology, the following colorific terms are used as symbols of various negative emotional states: black, gray, green, yellow and red.

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