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Animalistic cultural code actualization in Russian and English phraseology

Abstract

This article presents the analysis of the actualization of animalistic code in Russian and English idioms. Idioms provide extremely interesting and diverse material for research in such fields as ethnolinguistics, contrastive phraseology, cultural linguistics, intercultural communication. Zoomorphic or animalistic cultural code is the complex of notions of the animal world, nominathemes of animals and other living creatures, representing them as a whole or as their parts, and the specific characteristics which complement their natural features by functionally significant cultural meanings. The article proposes a method of linguoculturological analysis of phraseological units containing animalisms. This method was used to examine idioms with 2 zoonym components 1) *bull* and 2) *duck* selected from dictionaries, internet resources and corpora. Three idioms including each component were found in 450 contexts. The analysis of idioms including first component showed a complete match of meaning and partial match of form for the first idiom, a complete match of both meaning and form for the second idiom and a complete match of meaning and a total mismatch of form for the third idiom. 2 out of 3 idioms with the second component demonstrated a complete match of meaning and form, while one of them was characterized by only partial match of meaning and a total mismatch of form.

Keywords: animalistic code, cultural linguistics, the English language, the Russian language, paremy, idiom, zoonym.

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