

CLASSIFICATION OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS OF THE KOREAN LANGUAGE BY SYNTACTIC STRUCTURE

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Abstract

It is well known that phraseological units are one of the most complex and multifaceted categories of linguistics, which, in turn, is characterized by stability, semantic integrity and the impossibility of arbitrary replacement of components. In this context, it is important to emphasize that the study of the syntactic structure of phraseological units allows not only to identify their formal-grammatical organization, but also, which is important, to determine the features of the semantic connection between the constituent elements.

Keywords: Phraseological units, semantics, linguistics, phraseology, comparison, analysis, juxtaposition, comparative linguistics.

Introduction

Everyone knows that phraseological units are one of the most complex and multifaceted categories of linguistics, which, in turn, is characterized by stability, semantic integrity and the impossibility of arbitrary replacement of components. In this context, it is important to emphasize that the study of the syntactic structure of phraseological units allows not only to identify their formal grammatical organization, but also, which is important, to determine the features of the semantic connection between the constituent elements. Consequently, the classification of phraseological units according to their syntactic structure is essential for their systematization and, thus, contributes to a deeper understanding of their functioning in the Korean language.

In this regard, it is important to consider the main approaches to the classification of phraseological units by syntactic structure, formed in Korean linguistics. The issue of classification of phraseological units by syntactic structure has been the subject of scientific discussion for a long time. In Korean linguistics, several types of phraseological units are distinguished depending on their syntactic organization.¹ and Kim Hansema², idioms in the Korean language are divided into the following main categories:

1. Verbal phraseological units (용언형 관용구) include a verb component and denote an action or state. These constructions are the most common in the Korean language and often reflect a specific behavior or emotional state. Examples:

¹ Пак Се Ён. Korean language idiom judgment. – Сеул: Korean Language Society, 2010.

² Kim Han-sem. A Study on Metaphors and Metaphors of Korean Language Idioms. – Seoul: Korean Cultural History, 2005.

"눈을 감다" (lit. "close your eyes") — to ignore something³.

"귀를 기울이다" (lit. "tilt the ear") — to listen attentively⁴.

"손을 놓다" (lit. "to lower your hands") — to stop any action⁵.

2. Noun phraseological units (체언형 관용구) consist of a noun and convey a stable meaning associated with an object or an abstract concept.⁶

"바늘방석" (lit. "needle pillow") is an uncomfortable or awkward position.

"말장난" (lit. "word play") is a verbal trick or demagoguery.

3. Adjective phraseological units (형용사형 관용구) contain an adjective and describe a state or quality. These idioms characterize personality traits, emotional or physical states.⁷

"속이 좁다" (lit. "narrow soul") — to be petty.

"마음이 넓다" (lit. "broad heart") — to be generous.

4. Mixed phraseological units (복합형 관용구) include elements of different parts of speech and form complex syntactic constructions. They are characterized by greater flexibility and can express both concrete actions and abstract concepts. Examples⁸:

"하늘이 무너지다" (lit. "the sky has collapsed") — to experience great grief.

"바람을 피우다" (lit. "let the wind out") — to cheat in a relationship.

The analysis of existing approaches to the classification of phraseological units according to their syntactic structure creates the basis for a more in-depth study of their internal organization. In this context, it is necessary to consider the structural features of Korean phraseological units, which are characterized by a number of specific features that distinguish them from other types of fixed expressions:

1. Verbal center.

In most Korean idioms, there is a verbal component, which performs the function of a semantic core⁹. For example, in the expression "눈을 붙이다" (lit. "glue eyes") — "to fall asleep", it is the verb "붙이다" that defines the action. Other examples:

"입을 맞추다" (lit. "to touch lips") — to come to an agreement.

"귀를 솔깃하다" (lit. "to warm up the ear") — to be interested.

³ Пак Се Ён. Korean language idiom judgment. – Сөул: Korean Language Society, 2010. – С. 92–93.

⁴ Пак Се Ён. Korean language idiom judgment. – Сөул: Korean Language Society, 2010. – С. 92–93.

⁵ Kim Han-sem. A Study on Metaphors and Metaphors in Korean Language Idioms. – Seoul: Korean Cultural History, 2005. – С. 132.

⁶ Koh Junok. 조선 속담 연구 (A Study of Korean Proverbs and Sayings) – Seoul: 동아출판사, 1990. – pp. 88–90.

⁷ Moon Keum-hyun. An Analysis of the Comprehension of Korean Idioms. – Seoul: Taehaksa, 1999. – С. 105–107.

⁸ Lee Dong-seok. – Seoul: Korean Cultural History, 2003. – С. 194–196.

⁹ Shim L.V., Lvova I.S., Shim Yu.E. Structural and semantic features of proverbs in Korean and Russian languages. Moscow, Oriental Literature Publ., 2008. – P. 145–152.

"화를 내다" (lit. "to release anger") — to get angry.

2. Use of case particles

Particles in the Korean language play an important role in the formation of idioms¹⁰. For example, in the construction "손에 땀을 쥐다" (lit. "to hold a sweat in your hands" — to experience a strong tension) the case particle "에" connects the components and gives the expression a fixed structure. Additional examples:

"마음에 들다" (lit. "to enter the heart") — to be liked.

"눈에 띄다" (lit. "to catch the eye") — to be noticeable.

"손에 잡히다" (lit. "to be caught by the hand") — to be understandable, clear. For example, in the construction "손에 땀을 쥐다" (lit. "to hold a sweat in your hands" — to experience a strong tension) the case particle "에" connects the components and gives the expression a fixed structure.

3. Agglutinative nature

Korean idioms often show variability due to the use of affixes and particles¹¹. For example, "귀에 못이 박히다" (lit. "to drive a nail into the ear") — to hear the same thing repeatedly.

Examples that demonstrate agglutinativity:

"손을 쓰다" (lit. "to use hands") — to take action.

"입을 다물다" (lit. "to close the mouth") — to be silent, to keep a secret.

"눈물을 삼키다" (lit. "swallow tears") – to restrain emotions.

4. Component immutability

Despite the morphological flexibility of the Korean language, phraseological units demonstrate a rigid fixation of form¹². For example, in the expression "가슴이 아프다" (lit. "my heart hurts" – to experience emotional pain) it is impossible to replace the main component without losing the meaning. Additional examples:

"손이크다" (lit. "big hands") — to be generous.

"코가 높다" (lit. "high nose") — to be arrogant.

"발이 넓다" (lit. "wide legs") — to have many connections, to be sociable.

¹⁰ Zhetpisova S. N. Structural and Semantic Features of Korean Language Phraseological Units: Author's Diss. Ph.D. in Philosophy. – Almaty: Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, 2019. – 27 p.

¹¹ Baenkhanova I. F. Types of Somatic Phraseological Units in the Korean Language by the Meaning of Expression // International Scientific Journal "Actual Research". – 2022. – No 3 (103). – P. 78–83.

¹² Shim L.V., Lvova I.S., Shim Yu.E. Structural and semantic features of paremia in Korean and Russian languages. Moscow, Oriental Literature Publ., 2008. – P. 145-152.

5. Morphological economy and minimalism

In Korean phraseological units, there is a tendency to reduce formal elements¹³, for example, to omit case endings. For example, in the construction "남의 꽃은 붉은 법" (lit. "Other people's flowers are always beautiful") the ending of the copula "-이다" is missing, which corresponds to the characteristic conciseness of Korean idioms.

6. The presence of hieroglyphic elements.

Many idioms in Korean contain elements of Chinese origin (한자어), which gives them a cultural and historical depth¹⁴. For example, "비행기를 태우다" (lit. "to put on a plane") — to flatter. In this idiom, the hieroglyphic element is contained in the word "비행기 (飛行機)":

飛 (비) - "to fly".

行 (행) - "to go, to move".

機 (기) - "mechanism, machine".

Other examples of hieroglyphic idioms:

"일석이조(一石二鳥)" (lit. "One stone - two birds") - kill two birds with one stone.

"사면초가(四面楚歌)" (lit. "Chu's song sounds from all sides") — to be in a hopeless situation.

"동문서답(東問西答)" (lit. "To ask in the East is to answer in the West") — to give an answer that is not to the point.

Thus, the classification of phraseological units according to their syntactic structure allows for a deeper and more systematic analysis of their grammatical structure. In the Korean language, as it has been shown, phraseological units are divided into **verbal, nominal, adjective and mixed** groups, each of which is characterized by certain structural features. At the same time, case indicators play an important role, ensuring their syntactic coherence.

It should be noted that the study of the syntactic structure of phraseological units not only contributes to their classification, but also allows for a more detailed consideration of their semantic features and functional use in the language. Thus, the analysis of the structural characteristics of phraseological units is an important basis for further study of their role in the Korean language system and the identification of their national and cultural specifics.

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¹³ Kang Nam-joon. Analysis of Morphological Features of Korean Phraseological Units // Seoul University Bulletin. – 2021. – Vol. 25, No 4. – P. 64–72.

¹⁴ Lee Jin-hee. Cultural Specificity of Hieroglyphic Elements in Korean Phraseological Units // Bulletin of the Russian University of Peoples' Friendship. Series: Theory of Language. Semiotics. Semantics. – 2020. – T. 11, No 2. – P. 112–118.

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