

THE USE OF PHRASEMES/IDIOMES IN BOSNIAN AND HERZEGOVINIAN MEDIA LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

The paper is about the analysis of the use of idioms in Bosnian and Herzegovinian media language where their origin, characteristics and their meaning are being researched. The frequency of the idioms in media language is defined. The idioms are given phraseological/idiomatic meaning and some new idioms, which are still not found nor written, are being indentified.

Key words: *idioms, synonyms, phraseological/idiomatic meaning, media language.*

INTRODUCTION

The term of synonymy in Crystal's Encyclopedic Dictionary of Modern Linguistics (1999) is defined as a relation between words – lexical items or units, with closely related meanings. They can often be used in both meanings so that the meaning of the sentence remains the same. Crystal (n.d., p. 333) also mentions that linguistic researches of synonyms showed the importance of the meaning of the text when determining if some lexical unit has two completely the same meanings". According to lexemes, the minimal unit of language, we do not find expressiveness or emotional context in comparison to phrasemes where their color and emotions are very important.

The relation between synonymy of lexemes/phrasemes is only realized if the two mentioned units are close/or the same with one meaning of the lexeme given/components which are consisted of phraseme. This is the way in which the definition of phraseme synonym is found in Tanovic's book *Bosnian Language Phraseology* (2000, p. 43): Phraseological units are close or almost the same according to their meaning but they can also differ according to their meaning and stylistic color and in some examples with both elements-the meaning and the stylistic color- they represent phraseme synonyms. Phrasemes – synonyms are different in several segments of global semantic structure and their expressiveness.

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With all the Tanović's definitions which are very clear, it was not very easy to identify all the given phrasemes – synonyms in our corpus²². There are numbers of unclear phraseological units which have to be identified as phraseme synonyms or as some other type of phrasemes. Such examples are:

1. udarati se u prsa - "...što više i bezočnije krađu i pljačkaju materijalne i finansijske resurse sopstvenog naroda, više se udaraju u "patriotska prsa", i obrnuto. "

(O, 21.305/40);

busati se u prsa - "Treće, kako to da Hadžipašić, Branković, Dragan Vrankić, Bajramović i Kovačević, busajući se u prsa interesima BiH, nisu zainteresirani da pod istim uslovima pripremljenim za "Potezu" partnerstvo ponude bh. privrednicima zainteresiranim za dokapitalizaciju banke?" (D, 462/19);

2. mrkva i štap - "...u Dejtonu i sada nam se opet po principu mrkve i štapa nude izmjene Ustava..." (DA, 3796/2);

štap i šargarepa - "A kombinacija štapa i šargarepe, koju EU trenutno primjenjuje kada je riječ o Srbiji upadljivo nalikuje strategiji koja je primjenjivana spram Zagreba u posljednjoj godini uoči Gotovininog hapšenja..." (DA, 3793/15);

3. pod vedrim nebom - "Knjižara pod vedrim nebom" (DA, 3838/28);

pod otvorenim nebom "Prijeđor bi uskoro, u dvorištu Muzeja Kozare mogao dobiti muzej pod otvorenim nebom." (DA, 3799/13);

4. mrdnuti prstom - "...a niko nije ni prstom mrdnuo." (DA, 3797/7);

²² The corpus of the research is taken from sports magazine *Sport*, daily and weekly newspapers (*Dnevni avaz* (DA) and *Oslobođenje* (O) from Sarajevo, magazine *Dani* (D), *Nezavisne nedjeljne novine* (NN) from Banja Luka and *Dnevni list* (DL) from Mostar).

maknuti prstom "I silna upozorenja kako ne može ovako dalje, kako se moramo boriti protiv kriminala, ništa ne vrijede kada naši političari nemaju želju maknuti prstom." "

(DL, 1666/2);

5. potpaljivati vatru - "Ti izabranici veoma rijetko osuđuju varvarsko ponašanje prema onim drugim, jer su svjesni da moraju neprestano potpaljivati vatru, može ugasnuti naš nacionalni ponos." (NN, 2786/7); potpirivati vatru - "Talibani, svjesni nezadovoljstva Vladom i netrpeljivosti prema strancima, potpiruju vatru pokušavajući da privuku što veći broj pristalica, posebno među siromašnom omladinom u ruralnim dijelovima zemlje." (NN, 2806/19);

6. čvrsta šaka - "Dovoljno je samo obazreti se na činjenicu koliko tu vjerski obred sahranjivanja predstavlja čvrstu šaku i posve samorazumljiv akt nacionalne identifikacije..." (NN, 2798/7); čvrsta ruka - "Izgledi da dr Nermina Kapetanović postane prva dama na čelu "zaštitnog znaka" Zeničana ipak nisu veliki, s obzirom na dubiozu i neophodnu "čvrstu ruku" koja će "pomesti" one koji godinama kočje napredak Čelika." (NN, 2803/55);

7. oprati ljagu - "Uvidjela je da potpis kupcima ovih fabrika baš i ne znači mnogo, kao što im ne znače pozivi da Agenciji dokažu da su ulagali i tako operu ljagu sa svog imena." (NN, 2795/7); skinuti ljagu - "Skidanje ljage s djeda Draže" (DL, 1661/23);

8. pasti na um - "...ili da svako radi šta mu na um padne, ..." (DA, 3832/3); pasti na pamet - "Sutra nekome naprimjer može pasti na pamet..." (DA, 3833/7);

9. prljavo rublje - "O ovim stvarima niko ne želi da govori imenom i prezimenom, jer se to tretira kao "trač koji bi im se mogao razbiti o

- glavu”, ali bez daljeg ima i onih koji se plaše da i njihovo “prljavo rublje” izađe na vidjelo.” (NN, 2806/14);
 prljavi veš - “Izvještaj koncipiran da se ne vidi “prljavi veš”.” (O, 21.320/4);
10. slobodne ruke - “Imate slobodne ruke na svim područjima.” (O, 21.327/60);
 odriješene ruke - “...cilj bi bio naplata duga u čemu rukovodstvo banke onda ima odriješene ruke da se pogađa, dogovara, prodaje dužnika, dug od dva miliona daje za jedan...” (D, 466/9);
11. karta u rukavu - “...navodeći da je njima podizanje nacionalnih tenzija u predizbornom razdoblju “karta u rukavu” za osvajanje vlasti.” (DL, 1720/5); joker iz rukava - “Lokvenc Brucknerov joker iz rukava.” (DL, 1720/49);
12. lomiti koplja - “U pregovorima (...) su bila dva najjača pitanja na kojima su se najviše lomila koplja.” (O, 21.281/4);
 kršiti koplja “...pa će se oko toga, ne treba ni dvojiti, kršiti koplja.” (O, 21.324/9);

Phrasemes/idioms in the examples 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 11 have the same lexical composition, the same stylistic color as well as completely the same phraseological/idiomatic meaning. The only difference is in a verb form *udarati se*, tj. *busati se* (pr. br. 1.), *mrđnuti*, tj. *maknuti* (pr. br. 4.), *oprati*, tj. *skinuti* (pr. br. 7.), noun form *mrkva*, tj. *šargarepa* (pr. br. 2.), *um*, tj. *pamet* (pr. br. 8.) and adjective form *vedrim*, tj. *otvorenim* (pr. br. 3.), *slobodne*, tj. *odriješene* (pr. br. 10.).

All the given forms/components are interchangeable and in the given context they have the same meaning. In the Croatian or Serbian Idioms Dictionary by Matešić (1982), these phrasemes/idioms are given as a possibility form or a possible way of translation:

“biti se ipf. (busati se ipf. , lupati se ipf. , udarati se ipf. i sl.) u prsa razmetati se, hvalisati se čim, biti naprasit.” (p. 532.)

“pod otvorenim nebom v. pod vedrim nebom pod vedrim (otvorenim) nebom vani, napolju, izvan kuće, bez krova nad glavom.” (p. 373.)

“ne (htjeti) maknuti pf. (mrđnuti pf. i sl.) ni (malim) prstom ništa ne učiniti za što, ne naprezati se ni najmanje.” (p. 535.) (negacijski oblik frazema)
 “oprati pf. (spirati ipf. sprati pf.) ljagu skinuti / skidati sramotu.” (p. 323.)

“pasti pf. komu na pamet v. PAMET (...)

“pasti pf. komu komu na um v. UM” (p. 456.)

“pustiti pf. komu slobodne (odriješene) ruke v. davati komu slobodne ruke.” (p. 590.)

The phraseologic/idiomatic expressions such as *mrkva* and *štap* are not found in the dictionary. The given examples from Matešić's Dictionary actually show that phrasemes/synonyms can be replaced with its phraseological possibility of a translation and therefore they can be treated as complete synonyms. It is also very important to mention that the context has a great influence on the translation. This means that there are no such phraseme synonyms that can in each and every context have the same meaning. For the rest of the examples, number 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15 we cannot say that they are equivalents, although they have the same phraseological/idiomatic meaning and relatively same stylistic color, but there is a tiny difference when it comes to the semantics.

Let's look now at the examples of phrasemes - synonyms *prljavo rublje* – *prljavi veš*:

prljavo rublje “O ovim stvarima niko ne želi da govori imenom i prezimenom, jer se to tretira kao “trač koji bi im se mogao razbiti o glavu”, ali bez daljeg ima i onih koji se plaše da i njihovo “prljavo rublje” izađe na vidjelo.” (NN, 2806/14).

prljavi veš “Izvještaj koncipiran da se ne vidi “prljavi veš”.” (O, 21.320/4).

Phrasemes/idioms prljavo rublje and prljavi veš in the above mentioned contexts have the same phraseological meaning. Concerning the lexical compositions, the differences are in the components when it comes to the word rublje, i.e., veš which have the same meaning. But, when talking about semantics, according to our research, phraseme/idiom prljavi veš has stronger stylistic color and expressiveness.

The lexeme veš in the idiomatic expression prljavi veš has a meaning as something hidden, something you cannot see, while the lexeme rublje represents somebody's clothing, underwear.

Because of the differences between the phrasemes/idioms when it comes to the meaning, stylistic color, it is hard to speak about complete synonymy.

The same phraseological meaning with almost the same or similar stylistic color are phrasemes/idioms with a main word obraz: spasiti obraz (NN, 2778/53), čuvati obraz (DA, 1068/15), sačuvati obraz (S, 1070/12), čist obraz (O, 21.320/4), svijetla obraza (NN, 2769/2).

Among the phrasemes in our corpus, we have identified the phrasemes – synonyms with completely different lexical composition but with common phraseological meaning.

That is exactly the phraseme/idiom zasukati rukave in the text “Zato, zasučite rukave i vjerujte u vlastite snage.” (DA, 3815/85), which is in a relation to synonymy with the phraseme/idiom dići stražnjicu in the text “Treba dići stražnjicu i napraviti nešto u životu” (DA, 3806/36). Both of the above mentioned synonyms have the same meaning: to start doing something.

Phrasemes – synonyms are also next expressions:
- deveta rupa na svirali (O, 21.299/26) – zadnja

rupa na svirali (O, 21.302/16), - posljednja rupa na svirali (DA, 3815/5);

- održati lekciju (DA, 3794/12) – dati lekciju (DA, 3878/16) – podijeliti lekcije (O, 21299/27);

- bacati maglu (DL, 1664/5) – bacati prašinu (DL, 1665/4);

- otić u vjetar (O, 21.313/27) – otić u dim (O, 21.279/53);

- izgubiti tlo pod nogama (NN, 2803/39) – izbaci koga iz sedla (S, 1073/21);

- velika riba (O, 21.318/25) – krupna riba (NN, 2804/7);

- ne drži vodu (O, 21.328/9) – ne pije vode (O, 21.328/9);

- ići u glavu (O, 21.335/34) – doći u glavu (NN, 2767/7);

- iznijeti živu glavu (NN, 2795/7) – izvući živu glavu (DL, 1718/5) – sačuvati svoju glavu (NN, 2793/7);

- razbiti o glavu (DL, 1689/32) – obiti o glavu (D, 462/61);

- raditi glavom (DA, 3820/31) – lupati glavu (NN, 2804/7) – razbijati glavu (DA, 3821/63);

- rame uz rame (NN, 2761/12) – ruku pod ruku (NN, 2762/38);

- zapušiti usta (DL, 1698/2) – zatvoriti usta (D, 463/29);

- šuplja priča (DA, 3807/46) – prazna priča (NN, 2765/35);

- skresati u brk (O, 21.324/7) – skresati u lice (DA, 3798/7);

- čuvati šta kao svoje oči (O, 21.336/34) – čuvati šta kao zjenicu oka svog (O, 21.283/6).

As we can see in the paper, a great number of phrasemes – synonyms showed up in a shape of a

word³³. Only two examples of the phrasemes – synonyms in a phonetical shape⁴⁴, are identified (the phraseme/idiom *pri ruci* in the text “Bila mi je pri ruci...” (DA, 3790/35) is in a relation to synonymy with a phraseme/idiom *nadohvat ruke* in the text “...i tako izgubiti ono što vam je nadohvat ruke.” (DA, 3788/70), and the phraseme/idiom *do grla* in the text “Ne mogu kupiti stan, u kreditima su do grla...” (O, 21.286/26) which is in a relation to synonymy with a phraseme/idiom *na vrh glave* in the text “Stvarno su mi se te ceremonije popele na vrh glave.” (NN, 2800/24), while some other phrasemes/idioms formed as a sentence are present even more: *ruže cvjetaju* (DL, 1689/2) - *ljubičice cvjetaju* (NN, 2763/7), *ne cvjetaju ruže* (DA, 3798/26) - *ne cvjetaju ljubičice* (NN, 2763/9), *kap prelila čašu* (DA, 3802/14) - *događaji prelili čašu* (NN, 2793/6) and the phraseme/idiom *svirala došla po svoje* (O, 21.999/26), which a synonym to the phraseme/idiom *vrag došao po svoje*, but is not identified in our corpus.

CONCLUSION

In Bosnian and Herzegovinian media language, there is a great number of phrasemes which are hard to understand or to classify into the correct group. Those are often the phraseme expressions with the same lexical composition and of the same or very close stylistic color. In the corpus, we identified even some phrasemes- synonyms with totally different lexical composition but the same phraseological/idiomatic meaning.

In this paper only two examples of the phrasemes – synonyms are identified in a shape of a phonetic word while the other phrasemes-synonyms are in a shape of a word.

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3 In this paper, an idiom formed with two or more words represents a phraseme/idiom with two lexemes or more.

4 A phraseme/idiom in a shape of a phonetic word, represents a phraseme with one or two lexemes.