

1. *Archaeology of the Phrase*, monograph, 257 pages. Sofia: Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" Publishing House, 2022

In Bulgarian science, *the Archaeology of the Phrase* is the first comprehensive study aimed at the origin of phrasemes and their usage. The book focuses on lexicalized expressions, successively examining their etymology and offering an analysis of their stylistic functions in both literary and non-literary contexts. The monograph consists of an introduction, four chapters, and a conclusion. At the end, an alphabetical index of the discussed phrasemes is provided.

In the first, theoretical chapter of the monograph, the main concept of the phraseme is defined as an irregular and restrictive unit. The second chapter reviews the approaches used so far in studying the etymology of lexicalized expression. Attention is paid to phrasemes that have penetrated Bulgarian under the influence of ancient tradition and biblical text. Last but not least, the ways in which international phraseology becomes established in Bulgarian are examined.

The third chapter describes the influences of neighboring Balkan (mainly Turkish) and other European languages on Bulgarian phraseology. A contribution to this part is the comparison of original and translated versions of texts popular during the Renaissance in terms of the expressions they contain. The last chapter of the book, Genre Map of the Phrase, analyzes the stylistic aspects of phraseology.

Based on corpus material and personal records, the role of phrasemes in phatic dialogue and narrative is studied in detail. Although many scholars have noted that conversational speech is a natural environment for the use of phrasemes, this part of the book for the first time draws conclusions based on real language situations. The specific data suggest that in casual conversation, phrasemes are found in individual lines, combined with other means to enhance expressiveness. They are also often used in the second line by speakers to exaggerate understanding, i.e., as one of the typical manifestations of politeness.

In dialogue, speakers who do not have enough authority in the group to impose a certain position use reproducible phrases. All data confirm the understanding that lexicalized expressions are used in informal communication to facilitate encoding and decoding of the message. The function of phrasemes in individual narratives as a manipulative tool for directing the interlocutor, who must share the speaker's position and a certain perspective on the story, is analyzed.

Studies on the function of phrasemes in journalistic texts show that in soft news, they are included in materials whose content can only be described as gossip. In the modern media context, such publications prove to be particularly valuable for publishers, as they guarantee materials with exceptionally low cost.

In hard news, the use of phrasemes solidifies the populist politician who, through their scandalous behavior, creates news and attracts media coverage. Their vocabulary and behavior are motivated by a supportive communication strategy. Through it, they create an image of themselves as a person of the people ("one of us") and impose the idea that contemporary problems have simple solutions based on traditional experience.

In the feuilleton, the used phrasemes (as well as all other primary genres) are playfully transposed, according to the rhetoric of the genre. A special place in this part of the monograph is occupied by the study of weather forecasts as a formulaic genre (ensuring ease of perception of specific data) and the unsuccessful attempt at its transformation.

At the end of the chapter, the functions of phrasemes in novels and lyrics are analyzed. The possibilities of lexicalized expressions for creating individual authorial metaphors that are easily recognized and perceived by the audience are demonstrated. Their inclusion in the lyrical narrative as (extremely purified) images of change is emphasized, as well as their function in balancing pathos by creating an ironic distance.

The last part of the monograph focuses on the specific function of phrasemes in the novel when constructing a **skaz** (as stylization of oral narrative). It is known that the use of multiple primary genres, which are included in the overall text, creates the diversity in the novel and imposeS the idea of the incompleteness of the world.

The analysis of the narrative in "Chamkoriya" allows for the identification of some functions of phrasemes in this regard. In M. Ruskov's text, expressions are used as markers of the main character's idiolect. Combining them with other means offers the opportunity to outline the diverse motivations that dictate certain political and human positions both in the 1920s and today. The combination of phrasemes belonging to different planes of experience directs the formation of certain (current) thought patterns.

The clash of diverse clichés provides a parodic view of values - a central aspect of the novel's world. The exposition would be incomplete if we did not mention the presence of specific authorial sentences (intellectually limited and enclosed in the sensory) in the text, marked by the attempt to formulate the bright (hedonistic) side of existence. Unlike the novels analyzed by Bakhtin, M. Ruskov's narrative exposition (involving elements based on different social languages) is imposed as a rejection of ideology. Any possibility of rationalizing and arranging the world from an intellectual, emotional, or transcendental perspective is obstructed.

In the conclusion of the monograph, the main findings of the study are formulated.

The *Archaeology of the Phrase* is intended not only for linguists but also for students and non-specialists. The author hopes that the book will spark interest in phraseology as one of the linguistic levels, subject to exceptionally rapid changes in the modern context. According to her, the

transformations are due to the disintegration of the traditional family structure and its replacement with new virtual communities with their own, different, highly expressive, but rapidly changing language.

2. **The Rhetorical Proof** – the article examines (studies) a film speech, which is a combination of actually pronounced (published) statements by Queen Elizabeth I of England. The role of argumentation through example (i.e., the persuasive likeness) is demonstrated, as well as the functions of enthymeme as a rhetorical syllogism. The importance of rhetorical arguments based not on facts, but on culturally rooted metaphors from which they derive persuasiveness, is emphasized. However, the manipulative nature of this kind of proof is recognized and so it leads listeners to search for hidden motives.
3. The article **Semantic and Stylistic Aspects of Proper Names in Proverbs** discusses the associations generated by specific elements in short works of folklore, focusing on an unusual technique – the use of personal names in a genre where the individual, by definition, has no place. The semantization (attribution of meaning) of a proper name - using phonetic transcription, as well as its rationalization taking into account the semantics of the producing base is consistently examined.
4. **Irony as an Echo** – the article explores the possibilities of D. Sperber and D. Wilson's theory, which defines irony as a specific repetition (and distortion) of someone else's statement. The transformations at all linguistic levels when distorting the original text are examined. The author puts an accent on the role of phonetic repetitions, lexical elements, and syntax. The main focus is on rejecting the position of the opponent through a rhetorical technique – *reductio ad absurdum*.
5. The article **What Language Do Aliens Speak?** presents the stylistic possibilities of playing with prefixes. The mistakes made by aliens when learning human language become an occasion for analyzing our own unrecognized/unacknowledged nature and hidden motivations in our behavior.
6. The article **Once Again on Eros, Thanatos, and Agape** examines narrative techniques in stories told from the 1 person's singular perspective. Created within the framework of magical realism, V. Georgiev's story "Death is Debauchery" develops a Sofia plot in a specific narrative type, formed in a foreign cultural tradition, and thus introduces it to Bulgarian readers. Although produced within postmodernism, the story turns out to be traditional in its basic concept as a celebration of love that should bestow salvation and conquer death.
7. **The Symbol of Water in M. Penkov's story "East of the West"** –The article proceeds from J. Lotman's concept of the symbol as a folded text that transforms narratives significant for a particular culture. It explores the unfolding of the symbolic meanings of earth and water by drawing on traditional notions, excerpts from folk songs, biblical narratives, and memorials. The blending of multiple significant cultural texts serves as a basis for presenting Bulgaria's

traumatic recent history and making sense of it as a narrative of coming of age and achieving individual maturity.

8. **The Proverb between Memory and Interpretation.** The paper examines the possibilities of proverbs as a cognitive tool. It is shown that they are a pathway to the formation of abstract thinking, which, however, is not fully traveled. The proverb fulfils this function by comparing a current event with a familiar one from the past or with a popular folklore story. Since proverbs usually contain an image or an auditory figure, the associations they evoke change over time and give rise to a host of folk etymologies motivating their form.
9. **The Words of the Other in Ironic Speaking.** The text explores irony in radio and television broadcasts with a relatively wide response among the Bulgarian public. In the paper, the author dwells on the techniques for forming a second plan in ironic speaking, through rhyming, translation into a foreign language, repeated reproduction of the same line and creation of collages of quotes. Emphasis is placed on repetition as ways of underestimating the original statement and the reasons for forming a negative attitude.
10. **The Role of the Phrasemes in Narrating the World.** The text focuses on the role of phrasemes in contemporary Bulgarian feuilleton. Their function as an expressive characteristic tool is outlined as well as their role in setting of human behavior in a familiar frame. In combination with parody and rhyme, they create a comic effect that reduces the social tension caused by violation of norms.
11. **Is it cold up there? On the Role of Formulas in the Language of Media.** The text examines a formulaic media genre - the weather forecast. The author dwells on the playful distortions in the very popular comic messages of the meteorologist Emil Cholakov. She analyzes the stylistic devices used by him, the dramatization of the exposition, the use of stylistic figures, the inclusion of conversational elements, the many puns, to show his attempts to transform the formula, which impose new trends in presenting the weather forecast in our country.

Articles on the origin of phrasemes:

12. **Geographical map of the phrase. Part 1.** В статье рассматриваются фраземы, заимствованные в болгарском языке из соседних и несоседних языков. Автор останавливается на истории возникновения отдельных устойчивых выражений и предлагает комментарий ведущих языковых влияний на болгарский язык в течение разных периодов его развития. Предпринята попытка проследить калькирование во фразеологии путем сопоставления оригинальных текстов русских и западноевропейских авторов и их переводов эпохи Возрождения.
13. **Geographical map of the phrase. Part 2.** Статья рассматривает влияние немецкого и английского языков на болгарскую фразеологию. Автор обращает внимание периодам

особенно интенсивного языкового контакта и делает обзор публикаций на болгарском (реже чужим) в эту область. Для протрудирования путей заимствований и периодов, в течении которых утверждаются определенные фразы, объектами исследования являются два перевода эпохи болгарского Возрождения в сопоставлении с оригинальными текстами. Особое внимание обращено современным фразем – неологизмам, вторгающихся с английского.

14. **The Great Code - Biblicisms in Bulgarian and Turkish** (co-authored with Zhanna Zhelyazkova). An attempt is made to identify the specifics of the phrases that owe their popularity in our country to the biblical text by comparing them with their analogues in Turkish. Four groups of lexicalized phrases are examined. The greatest overlap is noted between phrases that are direct quotations and quasi-quotations from the Bible and in so-called genetic biblicisms. The least overlap is found in paraphrases based on more voluminous narratives in the holy book. Possible reasons for these discrepancies are commented.
15. **A Fable and a Proverb. The Influence of Aesop's Fables in the Formation of Phraseological Expressions** (co-authored with Zhana Zhelyazkova). The text discusses expressions that are believed to have their origins in fables. Special attention is paid to the genre of fable, which in antiquity possessed characteristics that do not overlap with its modern features. The parallels of Bulgarian phrases still in use today, which originated in narratives known in the East, are highlighted. These analogies are used as a basis for the hypothesis concerning their extremely ancient origin. Moreover, Aesop's ethnicity, as a Greek slave, is a subject of speculation.
16. The article **Magic of the East or Borrowing of some Lexicalized Expressions from Turkish** (co-authored with Zhana Zhelyazkova) investigates the influence of the Turkish language on Bulgarian phraseology. The origins of several Turkish phrasemes that are used in Bulgarian but are also widespread in Slavic, European, and other Turkic languages are examined. The authors outline the connections of these units to folk narratives.
17. The article **Amusing Phraseology** (co-authored with Zhana Zhelyazkova) focuses on popular Bulgarian expressions such as *sweep under the carpet*, *throw words to the wind*, *A man under the slipper* and proverbs: *The mountain strained and gave birth to a mouse*, *If the mountain does not go to Mohammed, Mohammed goes to the mountain*, *A bowed head is not cut by a sharp sword*. and their equivalents in other European and Eastern languages. Different versions of the etymology of the phrasemes are discussed; special emphasis is put on their connection to anecdotes, ancient and old literature.
18. The article **Contradictory Interpretations in Traditional Culture. A hypothesis about the initial semantics of a phraseology** proposes a hypothesis about the original meaning of the

expression "when the willow tree bears pears". The author traces the spread of the phraseological unit in several European and non-European languages, systematizes its meanings, and analyzes the appearance of the motif "fruit of an other tree" in various folklore genres. The connection of the phrase with a ritual practice realized during a folklore wedding is discussed, based on which its initial semantics is interpreted.

19. "Chasing Michael" beyond the Ethnical, Etymological, and Phraseological Boundaries.

The text is an attempt for a semantic reconstruction of the Bulgarian idiom "chasing Michael". The phraseological unit is analyzed as a contamination between the biblical "chasing the wind" and the Greek *Χρωστάει το Μιχάλη 'I owe to Michael.'* The initial meaning of the phrase is sought in comparison with other expressions with the same semantics widespread in European languages. The hypothesis for its etymology connects it to the cult of Archangel Michael and the older notions on which it is superimposed in popular culture.

20. So, does the Sieve Hold Water? In the article, an attempt is made to establish the initial semantics of the expression *carrying water in a sieve*. The author investigates the data about the distribution of this motif in ancient tradition and compares it with Bulgarian and Slavic folklore material. An emphasis is put on the perception of the sieve as a symbol of the earth and the feminine principle, determining its place in the wedding ceremony.

21. The Phraseological Unit as a Stereotype (Notes on the ethnolinguistic approach of Jerzy Bartminski)

The article presents the key principles of the Polish Ethnolinguistic School. The author outlines the main achievements of the scientific approach used by J. Bartminski and his followers. Special attention is devoted to the development of the term *stereotype* and its application in the description and reconstruction of folk tradition. The advantages of examining the phraseological unit as a stereotypical combination of words in the contemporary language are also discussed.

Articles in the field of folklore:

22. Magic versus Rational Reasoning in Anecdotal Tale. The article analyzes an international plot, known in various regional variants. The author focuses on the story of the foolish woman who, after a series of absurd actions, gains wealth by finding a pot of gold. Individual episodes of the narrative, compared to field recordings, become the basis for determining their original meaning as traditional magical practices. Special attention is paid to the breaking of ceramic vessels and the symbolic value of this ritual. In conclusion, a definition of the anecdote as a folklore genre is proposed.

23. Do not Leave the Door (The image of the foolish woman in the anecdotal tale). The text analyzes an international plot (1009 according to Arne-Thompson's catalog), which is widespread not only in Europe but also in Asia. The purpose of the exposition is to show that

interpretation of the final episode as a play on words reveals only one aspect of its meaning. The plot is compared to some ritual practices. An attempt is made to analyze its' initial semantics, as well as its subsequent transformation and the reasons for its interpretation as intellectual insufficiency.

Articles in the field of onomastics:

24. **Ethnonyms and Exonyms** (in co-authorship with Vladimir Penchev). The article explores the approaches to naming and self-naming of some ethnic communities in the Balkans. Emphasis is also placed on the lexicalization of the second figurative meaning of many widely used ethnic and group names, comparing the dictionary meanings of words in individual Balkan languages. Wherever sufficient data is lacking, authors draw on idioms, proverbs, and jokes. Based on the analysis of linguistic data, the main models for creating autonyms and exonyms are outlined, some parallels in the construction of family names are indicated, and the possibility of transition between the two categories is discussed.
25. **On the Naming and Self-naming of Ethnic Communities in the Balkans.** The article reviews how individual ethnic groups on the Balkan Peninsula name themselves and their close neighbors. Several mechanisms for choosing a name and the specific connotations that accompany it are outlined. Individual community names are analyzed with regard to the stereotypes embedded in them. Attention is paid to the constant updating of ethnonyms because of changes in the political and ideological context.