

and articles on the Internet is in English i.e. there are 745 972 articles in Chinese in Wikipedia, 1 081 051 articles in Russian and 4 426 408 articles in English and their amount increases daily [1].

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TO THE QUESTION OF THE DEFINITION OF THE PROVERB

SVETLANA ZYL, HELEN GLAZKO
Polotsk State University, Belarus

The article deals with the problem of the definition of the term “proverb” both within one language and interlinguistically. This is explained by the fact that in the English and the Russian traditions proverbs are viewed differently. So in the article an attempt is made to analyse the various approaches to this phenomenon of the language and find out the common and the specific in the English and the Russian linguistics concerning this term.

Everyone doing research into proverbs should understand clearly what exactly a proverb is. Any further conclusions can be made only taking into consideration all the characteristics of this linguistic phenomenon. The major authorities on this topic, both here and abroad, give us a lot of definitions that have something in common, but which at same time supplement each other. One of the most famous sources in modern linguistics, the Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language edited by D. Crystal gives a number of synonyms to the term “proverb”: adages, dictums, maxims, mottoes, precepts, saws, truisms. They all express the idea of a piece of traditional wisdom, handed down by previous generations. D. Crystal groups all of them as one of the types of lexical phrase. There are four main types of lexical phrase:

Polywords – short phrases which function very much like individual lexemes. They cannot be varied, and their parts cannot be separated (*In a nutshell, by the way, so to speak, so far so good, once and for all*).

Phrasal constraints. These are phrases which allow some degree of variation: they are usually quite short (*As I was – (saying, mentioning), good – (morning, night), a – ago (day, long time), as for as I – (can see, know)*).

Sentence builders – phrases which provide the framework for whole sentences; they allow considerable variation (*Not only... but also...; my point is that...; I'm a great believer in...; that reminds me of...; let me begin by...*).

And finally institutionalized lexical phrase – units of sentence length, functioning as separate utterances. Like polywords, they are invariable, and their parts cannot be separated. This group, according to the Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English language contains proverbs, aphorisms, and other quotable utterances [1, p. 163].

Defining a proverb is a difficult task. Proverb scholars often quote Archer Taylor's classic “The definition of a proverb is too difficult to repay the undertaking... An incommunicable quality tells us this sentence is proverbial and that one is not. Hence no definition will enable us to identify positively a sentence as proverbial” [2]. Another common definition is from Lord John Russell (p. 1850) “A proverb is the wit of one, and the wisdom of many” [3].

D. Crystal writes that the effectiveness of a proverb lies largely in its brevity and directness. The syntax is simple, the images vivid, and the allusions domestic, and thus easy to understand. Memorability is aided through the use of alliteration, rhythm, and rhyme [1, p. 184].

Rosalind Fergusson and Jonathan Law, the editors of the Dictionary of Proverbs define the term as a succinct and memorable statement that contains advice (*Look before you leap; Ask no questions, hear no lies.*), a

warning or prediction (*Let sleeping dogs lie; As you make your bed, so you must lie on it*), or an analytical observation (*Still water run deep; A friend in need a friend indeed*).

Some proverbs are simple folk sayings, with only a literal meaning, while some are metaphorical, aspiring to deal with the philosophy of life. *There is more than one way to skin a cat* has no more to do with cats than *Don't count your chickens before they are hatched* has to do with chickens. [4; 1]

A leading Russian linguist, a well-known expert in phraseology A.V. Kunin wrote that proverbs are characterized by the stability of their lexeme composition and their unchangeable word order which is explained syntactically, and also by the wide usage of various expressive means [5, p. 341].

And Z.A. Kharitonchik thinks of proverbs as reproducibility and emphasizes that proverbs give the language a kind of a national character, and their usage in speech shows a high degree of language proficiency [6, p. 229].

Another definition is given in Oxford Advanced Learner's Encyclopedic Dictionary:

Proverb – n. short well-known saying that states a general truth, or gives advice, eg. *'It takes two to make a quarrel'* or *'Don't put all your eggs in one basket'*. This term also gave rise to the adjective **proverbial** – adj. 1) of, like or expressed in a proverb: ~ sayings, wisdom (*He is the ~ square peg in a round hole.*); 2) widely known and talked about: *His stupidity is ~. I decided not to ask her for a loan in view of her ~ meanness* [7, p. 178].

R.K. Barnhart, an American lexicographer and editor of various specialized dictionaries, states that a **proverb** is a short wise saying used for a long time by many people. Figuratively it can mean "a well-known case": *He is a proverb for carelessness. This house... will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people (I Kings 9:7)*. In the form of the verb it is used in the meaning "to say in the form of a proverb; speak of proverbially". Figuratively it is "to make a byword of": *Am I not sung and proverbied for a fool in every street? (Milton)* [8, p. 1675].

R.K. Barnhart notes that proverbs are the often-quoted, concrete expressions of popular wisdom, and they are likely to make observations on character or conduct. He also remarks that proverbs are often characterized as having a figurative meaning, which makes speech and writing more forceful, colourful or beautiful.

W. Mieder, most well known as a scholar of paremiology, professor at the University of Vermont, USA, defines the term **proverb** as follows:

A **proverb** is a short, generally known sentence of the folk which contains wisdom, truth, morals, and traditional views in a metaphorical, fixed and memorable form and which is handed down from generation to generation [10].

Yet another category of proverb is the anti-proverb, also called Perverb. In such cases, people twist familiar proverbs to change the meaning. Sometimes the effect is merely humorous, but the most spectacular examples result in the opposite meaning of the standard proverb. They include, "Nerds of a feather flock together", "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and likely to talk about it," and "Absence makes the heart grow wander". Anti-proverbs are common on T-shirts, such as "If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you" [9]. Even classic Latin proverbs can be remolded as anti-proverbs, such as "Carpe noctem" and "Carpe per diem". Mieder has concluded that cultures that treat the Bible as their "major spiritual book contain between three hundred and five hundred proverbs that stem from the Bible" [10]. However, almost every culture has examples of its own unique proverbs.

Though the origin of a proverb is in most cases unknown, proverbs have existed in the English language on all stages of its development. The term itself first appeared in the Middle English period, where it was taken from Old French, a learned borrowing from Latin *prōverbium* < *prō*-forth + *verbium* word, (originally) a speaking, speech. Already in the 14th century it meant a short pithy saying embodying a general truth [8, p. 1675].

The World Book Encyclopedia defines the proverb as a brief saying that presents a truth or some bit of useful information. It is usually based on common sense or practical experience [11].

The purpose of proverbs is to express and convey the traditional ideas of a nation, its concepts and knowledge of things in their everyday life. It sometimes happens that one and the same idea can be encountered in the form of a proverb in several languages, and because proverbs are passed down from generation to generation in the oral form it is possible to consider them as the real examples of people's wisdom. In many languages there exist collections of proverbs such as the Book of Proverbs in the Hebrew Bible, a book of the Old Testament made up of sayings of the wise men of Israel, including Solomon. Many sayings were added by famous writers, politicians, and philosophers.

Proverbs are used by speakers for a variety of purposes. Sometimes they are used as a way of saying something gently, in a veiled way. Other times, they are used to carry more weight in a discussion, a weak

person is able to enlist the tradition of the ancestors to support his position, or even to argue a legal case [12]. Proverbs can also be used to simply make a conversation or discussion more lively. In many parts of the world, the use of proverbs is a mark of being a good orator.

Thus today proverbs are viewed by many as a stock of instructions to determine a person's behaviour in various situations: in family life, in society, in business and so on. Proverbs are to be found in all spheres of human existence in different forms, so much so that there is even a Dictionary of Proverbs in American Country Music Hits. The importance of such a collection is explained by W. Mieder:

<<...vocalized music in particular attempts to communicate certain basic human experiences and emotions, and we know only too well that the strength of proverbs lies exactly in being able to generalize universal rites of passage into a generally accepted statement. No matter what problem might be touched upon in a song – be it a broken heart, a declaration of love, an explanation of a feeling, the expression of a wish, or whatever – a proverb will often come to mind as already made cliché which can summarize the complex nature of our thoughts and feeling>> [1, p. 338].

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VIOLENCE IN A FAMILY

SVETLANA ZYL, HELEN GLAZKO
Polotsk State University, Belarus

The article is dedicated to the very important problem of violence in the family, its roots, reasons and cultural peculiarities. The social phenomenon of violence in general and family violence in particular requires special attention in today's world, so naturally to know how to deal with the problem it is vital to know everything about it. The information presented in the article can lead to further research in the field.

Violent actions of family members against each other have existed in all societies and at all times, but not always they were regarded as a social problem. Loss of former social guidelines and conflict of values, uncertainty of the future, instability of the social-economic situation, the decline in the standard of living, as well as the need to make unconventional decisions have always promoted increase and a more intense manifestation of aggressiveness and cruelty in general and in family life in particular.

Abuse – 1) application by a particular social group of various forms of power against other groups with the purpose to acquire or keep up the economic and political supremacy, or to gain certain privileges. In the law it is physical (bodily injuries, beatings) or mental (threat of) impact of one person on another [1, p. 864].