

CONTEXTUAL MODIFICATION OF PHRASEOLOGICAL EXPRESSIONS IN LITERARY DISCOURSE

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Abstract. This article discusses the contextual modification of phraseological expressions in literary discourse. It examines how writers transform familiar idioms and fixed expressions to create new meanings and stylistic effects. Contextual modification makes literary language more expressive, vivid, emotional, and creative. Attention is given to such transformations as lexical substitution, addition, reduction, literal interpretation, and semantic reinterpretation. The study shows that modified phraseological expressions can increase the expressiveness of a literary text, create humor and irony, strengthen imagery, and reveal the personality and emotions of characters. Contextual modification also demonstrates the interaction between linguistic stability and creative language use. The analysis confirms that the recognition of the original phraseological expression is important for understanding the new meaning created by the author.

Keywords: phraseological expressions; contextual modification; literary discourse; idioms; stylistic device.

Introduction. Phraseological expressions are an important part of every language. They are stable combinations of words that usually have a figurative or specialized meaning. Expressions such as *break the ice*, *a piece of cake*, and *spill the beans* are familiar examples of English phraseology. Because these expressions are frequently used and easily recognized, they can be effectively employed by writers to create different stylistic effects. In literary discourse, phraseological expressions are not always used in their usual form. Authors often modify them

according to the situation, characters, or general meaning of the text. Such changes are called contextual or occasional modifications. They allow writers to combine a familiar expression with an unexpected element and therefore create a new interpretation. The purpose of this article is to describe the main features of contextual modification and to show its importance in literary discourse.

Contextual modification of phraseological expressions occurs when a conventional phraseological unit is deliberately changed in a particular context. The basic structure or meaning of the original expression can usually still be recognized, but the modification gives it an additional or different meaning. This technique is widely used in literary works because it helps authors avoid monotonous language and make their texts more expressive. One common type of modification is the replacement of one component of an idiom. A writer can substitute a familiar word with another word that is more appropriate to the situation. As a result, the reader recognizes the original expression but also notices the unexpected change. This creates a connection between the conventional meaning and the new contextual meaning. Writers can also add words to a phraseological expression or remove some of its elements. Such changes can emphasize a particular idea or make the expression more closely connected with the surrounding context. Another important technique is the literal interpretation of a normally figurative expression. In this case, an idiom can simultaneously have its conventional figurative meaning and a literal meaning suggested by the situation. This often creates humor, irony, or an additional image. For example, if an expression connected with *breaking the ice* appears in a scene involving real ice, the author can use both meanings at the same time. The reader understands the familiar idiom while also connecting it with the physical situation described in the text.

Phraseological modification can also be used to express irony. A writer may intentionally change a well-known expression so that its meaning contradicts the expectations of the reader. This contrast can communicate an author's attitude

indirectly. Instead of directly explaining a character's behavior or a particular situation, the writer allows the modified phraseological expression to create the necessary implication. Humor is another important function of contextual modification. Unexpected changes in familiar idioms can produce a comic effect because readers normally expect the conventional form. When this expectation is deliberately broken, the unusual expression attracts attention. Such modifications are particularly useful in dialogue and can help reveal a character's personality, intelligence, emotional state, or individual manner of speaking.

Context is essential for understanding modified phraseological expressions. A phraseological unit cannot always be interpreted correctly by looking only at its individual words. The surrounding sentences, the situation, the speaker, and the general theme of the literary work all influence its meaning. Therefore, the same phraseological expression may have different interpretations in different contexts. Contextual modification also demonstrates the relationship between linguistic stability and creativity. Phraseological expressions are relatively fixed, but their stability does not mean that they cannot be changed. On the contrary, their familiar structure provides writers with an opportunity to create new expressions. The reader's knowledge of the original phrase is necessary for understanding the modification. The literary effect is created through the contrast between what the reader expects and what the author actually presents.

Modified phraseological expressions are also important for characterization. Authors may give particular characters their own ways of using idioms and fixed expressions. A character who frequently changes familiar expressions may appear creative, humorous, emotional, or unconventional. In this way, phraseological modification becomes not only a stylistic device but also a method of presenting character and personality. In addition, phraseological modification can contribute to the overall imagery of a literary work. A modified idiom may be connected with important themes, symbols, or recurring images in the text. Consequently, a simple phraseological expression can acquire a deeper meaning when it is repeated or

transformed in different parts of a literary work.

Contextual modification of phraseological expressions is an important feature of literary discourse. Writers modify familiar expressions by changing, expanding, reducing, or reinterpreting their components. These transformations help create expressive, humorous, ironic, and emotionally meaningful effects. They can also contribute to characterization and imagery. The main importance of contextual modification lies in the interaction between conventional and contextual meaning. The reader recognizes the original phraseological expression but also interprets its new meaning according to the literary context. Therefore, phraseological modification demonstrates the creative possibilities of language and plays an important role in making literary discourse vivid, expressive, and individual.

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