

Artículo de investigación

Functions of numbers in Korean phraseological units

Funciones de números en unidades fraseológicas coreanas

Funções de números em unidades fraseológicas coreanas

Recibido: 20 de abril de 2018. Aceptado: 10 de mayo de 2018

Escrito por:

Julia Ju. Valieva
Alfiya R. AlikberovaKazan Federal University, Institute of International Relations, History and Oriental Studies
e-mail: info@ores.su**Abstract**

Fixed phrases of Korean like idioms of other languages have their own, national, peculiarities. Components of these phraseological units can be characterized as units that have structural and semantic features together with their own unique particularities. It is only well too known that phraseological units particularly but not exceptionally proverbs and sayings are characterised to have multiple meaning. It is commonly supposed that phraseological units with numeral components to be the particular interest in linguistics. The aim of this paper is to analyse the function of such numeral components as '열' (ten), '하나' (one) и '셋' (three) in Korean proverbs that are related to the theme of thievery and thieving. In this article under consideration there were chosen phraseological units related to theme of thievery and thieving. In order to select phraseological units that were used in this paper for illustrative purposes the continuous sampling method was used. In order to make research the method of content analysis was used when there had been made classification of fixed phrases according to the semantics of used numeral. When writing this article, a comparative-contrastive analysis was also applied. We also used the methods of semantic and component analysis to reveal elementary senses in semantics of linguistic units and to compare the meanings of the lexical units of the source and the target. As a result of made analysis we came to the conclusion that there were marked out such semantics of numeral components as quantity, correlation, frequency, space. What is more, analysed numeral components played as well as the role of intensifier of the conveyed meaning.

Keywords: linguistics, Korean language, proverbs, numeral components

Resumen

Las frases fijas de coreano como expresiones idiomáticas de otros idiomas tienen sus propias peculiaridades nacionales. Los componentes de estas unidades fraseológicas se pueden caracterizar como unidades que tienen características estructurales y semánticas junto con sus propias particularidades únicas. Es bien sabido que las unidades fraseológicas particularmente, pero no excepcionalmente, proverbios y dichos se caracterizan por tener múltiples significados. Comúnmente se supone que las unidades fraseológicas con componentes numéricos tienen un interés particular en la lingüística. El objetivo de este trabajo es analizar la función de tales componentes numerales como '열' (diez), '하나' (uno) y '셋' (tres) en proverbios coreanos que están relacionados con el tema del robo y el ladrón. En este artículo en consideración, se seleccionaron unidades de fraseología relacionadas con el tema del robo y el ladrón. Con el fin de seleccionar las unidades de fraseología que se utilizaron en este documento con fines ilustrativos, se utilizó el método de muestreo continuo. Para realizar la investigación, se utilizó el método de análisis de contenido cuando se hizo la clasificación de frases fijas de acuerdo con la semántica del número utilizado. Al escribir este artículo, también se aplicó un análisis comparativo-contrastivo. También usamos los métodos de análisis semántico y de componentes para revelar los sentidos elementales en la semántica de las unidades lingüísticas y para comparar los significados de las unidades léxicas de la fuente y el objetivo. Como resultado del análisis realizado, llegamos a la conclusión de que había una semántica marcada de componentes numerales como cantidad, correlación, frecuencia, espacio. Además, se analizaron los componentes numéricos

analizados y el papel de intensificador del significado transmitido.

Palabras clave: lingüística, idioma coreano, proverbios, componentes numéricos

Resumo

Frases fixas do coreano como expressões idiomáticas de outras línguas têm suas peculiaridades nacionais. Os componentes dessas unidades fraseológicas podem ser caracterizados como unidades que possuem características estruturais e semânticas, juntamente com suas próprias particularidades. É bem conhecido que as unidades fraseológicas, particularmente, mas não excepcionalmente, provérbios e ditos são caracterizadas por terem múltiplos significados. É comumente assumido que unidades fraseológicas com componentes numéricos têm um interesse particular em lingüística. O objetivo deste artigo é analisar a função de componentes numéricos como '열' (dez), '하나' (um) e '셋' (três) em provérbios coreanos relacionados ao tema de roubo e furto. Neste artigo em consideração, foram selecionadas unidades de redação relacionadas ao tema de roubo e ladrão. Para selecionar as unidades de fraseologia usadas neste documento para fins ilustrativos, utilizou-se o método de amostragem contínua. Para realizar a investigação, utilizou-se o método de análise de conteúdo, quando a classificação das frases fixas foi feita de acordo com a semântica do número utilizado. Ao escrever este artigo, uma análise comparativa-contrastiva também foi aplicada. Também utilizamos os métodos da análise semântica e de componentes para revelar os sentidos elementares na semântica das unidades linguísticas e comparar os significados das unidades lexicais da fonte e do objetivo. Como resultado da análise realizada, chegamos à conclusão de que havia uma semântica marcada de componentes numéricos, como quantidade, correlação, frequência, espaço. Além disso, analisou-se os componentes numéricos analisados e o papel do intensificador do significado transmitido.

Palavras-chave: lingüística, língua coreana, provérbios, componentes numéricos.

Introduction

Korean language like the other languages of the world has phrasicon. It is only well too known that phraseological units particularly but not exceptionally proverbs and sayings are characterised to have multiple meaning. In accordance with situation and context the one and the same fixed phrase can be used in different meanings. It is commonly supposed that phraseological units with numeral components to be the particular interest in linguistics. Cognitive scientists (Y. Huang, et al, 2013; Chzhon Doyon (Chzhon) Sung, M. Avdeev. 2011) and some scholars such as like L. Horn (L. Horn, 1989), G. Gadzar (R. Stalnaker. 1980) and S. Levinson (S. Levinson, 1983; S. Levinson, 2000) take up the position that the numbers show not only the exact quantity, but they (numbers) are used in more wider meaning.

The problem of semantic classification of phraseological phrases with numeral component was researched in such works of J. Valieva as 'Semantics of numeral thousand in proverbs of Tatar language' (J. Valieva, 2017), 'Phraseological units of Tatar language with numeral component

'one' belonging to the semantic group 'Character Features' (Yu. Valiyeva, 2017), 'Phraseological units of Tatar language with numeral component 'one' belonging to the semantic group 'Greediness' (Yu. Valiyeva, 2017) and 'Semantics of numeral two in proverbs of Tatar language' (Yu. Valiyeva, 2016).

In this paper we are going to analyse the function of such numeral components as '열' (ten), '하나' (one) и '셋' (three) in Korean proverbs that are related to the theme of thievery and thieving.

Methods

This article is written based on such printed publications as Lim Su 한민족의 금언 (*in English* The golden words of Korean folk) and 우리 말 속담 큰사전 (*in English* Big Korean Dictionary of proverbs). At the level of printed source besides, there were used such Korean electronic resources as www.sjhik.com; www.zcar.pe.kr; web.sungshin.ac.kr; www.gdks.org; tip.daum.net; www.memrise.com.

In this article under consideration there were chosen phraseological units related to theme of thievery and thieving. In order to select

phraseological units that were used in this paper for illustrative purposes the continuous sampling method was used.

The method of content analysis was used when there had been made classification of fixed phrases according to the semantics of used numeral. When writing this article, a comparative-contrastive analysis of the translations of the Korean proverbial sayings with their translations into the Russian language was also applied. We also used the methods of semantic and component analysis to reveal elementary senses in semantics of linguistic units and to compare the meanings of the lexical units of the source and the target.

Results

As a result of made analyses we found out that numeral components of provided as examples Korean phraseological units above all things show the meaning of quantity. Also, there was Korean saying where analysed numeral component showed time correlation. For instance, correlation of the fault 'quantity' of the thief to the fault of robbed person. In some given examples instead of cardinal numbers there were used ordinal ones. It is north worthy that ordinal numeral components played the same role as the cardinal ones. Not so many but among provided examples there were also Korean phraseological phrases where the numeral component shows the meaning of frequency. As a vivid example of such case there can be named the numeral component '세 (번)'. Still further some of the numeral components like '혼자' for example, played two functions: the first one is this component shows the quantity, and the second one is that this word together with the other words plays the role of intensifier. Using of intensifier words and grammatical constructions such as '도', '혼자' and -여야 하다, -여 떡다; -어라 shows the fact of persuading us in doing or not doing certain action. And the last, there were also used words and particles that have negative connotation such as '죄' and '못'. The usage of the words, particles and grammatical constructions with negative connotation in phraseological phrases shows us the negative attitude of the speaker to the certain action or circumstances and it servers to underline once more again the impossibility of implementation or getting the targeted.

Discussion

As previously noted the aim of this paper is to bring to light what the functions play numeral components in preserving the meaning of the phraseological units. There were selected Korean proverbs and sayings with numeral components of '열' (ten), '하나' (one) and '셋' (three). Let's carry over consideration chosen phraseological phrases and analysed the functions of numeral components.

도둑은 죄가 하나요 잃은 놈은 죄가 열이다

This example was taken from the Lim Su's book Golden words of Korean folk and there were given such translation into Russian «У вора одна вина, а у пострадавшего – десять». If we translated this fixed phrase into English it will be sounds like 'The thief has (one) fault but suffered person has ten (faults)'. This Korean proverb is used to the people who were robbed. As stated in this fixed phrase the thief who robbed is guilty but much more guilt has the person who was robbed. As he/she did not take measures on time. For instance, did not look the door. Besides in the book of Lim Su there are such versions of this proverb as 1) '도둑은 한 죄이고 도둑 맞은 사람은 열 죄이다' and 2) '도둑놈보다 잃은 놈의 죄가 더 크다'. The first phraseological unit was translated into Russian as «У вора одно преступление, а у того, кого обокрали – десять (in English The thief has (one) fault but suffered person has ten (faults)), and the second one has translation «По сравнению с вором, тот, кого обокрали, виноват больше» (in English In comparing with the thief the person who was robbed is more guilty). Using in this proverbs numeral components are showing the quantity and at the same time correlation. In our case correlation of the fault 'quantity' of the thief to the fault of robbed person. The word '죄' that is used in all our examples can be translated into English as (범죄) crime, offense, (formal) misdeed, criminal act; (중범죄) felony; (경범죄) misdemeanour; (종교·윤리적인) sin; (윤리적인) (formal) vice. As we can see from the translation this word has negative meaning. The usage of the word with negative connotation in phraseological phrases shows us the negative attitude of the speaker not only to the people who is a thief but also to the ones who complains in being robbed.

도둑질을 앓겠다고 세 번 손가락을 꿩는다

The provided example can be translated into English as 'In order not to rob three times cuts off the fingers'. The meaning of this saying is it is rather hard to make one lose a liking for bad custom and habit. The numeral '세 (번)' as above mentioned examples used in the meaning quantity also the usage of this numeral shows us the meaning of frequency.

도둑질도 혼자 해야 한다

The following Korean fixed phrase can be translated into Russian as «И воровать надо одному». English translation of this proverb is 'Purloin alone'. In our given example the phrase '도둑질도 혼자 해' (*in English* Stealing must be done by alone) is figurative expression. The meaning of this expression is when you want to gain a success it is better to work alone. If the work is done by several people it is easy to make mistake or it is hard to keep this work under wraps. Above mentioned saying has the following version '도둑질도 혼자 해 먹어라'. The translation of this phrase the same as the translation of the analysed one put in other words (Stealing must be done by alone). These Korean phraseological phrases under consideration have one and the same numeral component '혼자' (one; alone; single). The word '혼자' is equal in meaning to the numeral '하나' (one), the word '혼자' which is used in our fixed phrases shows the quantity. More than that the usage of the component '혼자' in given proverbs plays two functions: the first one is this component shows the quantity, and the second one is that this word together with the other words plays the role of intensifier. Using of intensifier words and grammatical constructions such as '도' (also; too), '혼자' (by oneself; one) and -여야 하다 (해야 한다; is used to show the necessity to do the certain action), -여 먹다(해 먹어라; is show the completely done action or finished action); -어라 (먹어라; one of the marks of showing the imperative mood in Korean language) shows the fact of persuading us that it is better work alone.

서투른 도적이 첫 날 밤에 들킨다

Provided example can be translated into Russian as «Неумелый вор попадает в первую же ночь» (*in English* Unskilful thief is caught at the very first night if his/her crime). This Korean proverb has the same meaning as such Russian proverbs as «Поспешишь, людей насмешишь»

(*in English* Hasty climbers have sudden falls or The more haste, worse speed) and «Семь раз отмерь, один раз отрежь» (*in English* Draw not your bow till your arrow is fixed or Score twice before you cut once). All these proverbs have one and the same meaning that is to be very careful when you do work, not to haste and accurately consider all details of the work. In contrast to other analysed Korean phraseological units in this one there is used not cardinal numeral component but the ordinal '첫' (the first). This component is used in its first meaning and shows the successions of nights.

지키는 놈이 열이 흠지는 놈 하나 못 당한다

The given Korean fixed phrase can be translated into Russian as «Десяти сторожам не устеречь одного вора» (*in English* Ten watchmen cannot guard one thief). Additionally in Korean language there are such versions of these proverbs as 1) «지키는 놈 열이 도둑놈 하나를 못 당한다» and 2) «지키는 열 사람이 도둑 하나를 못 지킨다». These provided versions can also be translated into English as 'Ten watchmen cannot guard one thief'. The meaning of these Korean phraseological units is that it is impossible to stop the crime and keep the order. There are no laws and punishments that can be able to stop the crime and keep the order. In all before mentioned three Korean proverbs there are such numeral components as '열' (ten) and '하나' (one). In these provided examples the numeral '열' (ten) and '하나' (one) are used in their first meaning and show the quantity. More importantly in giving as examples phraseological phrases the numeral components are opposed as bigger to the smaller. Putting in other words despite the fact that there are many people who want to keep order to decrease the crime it is impossible to gain this aim just because there are still some quantity of people who are not agree with the majority. By no means is unimportant role there playing the particle '못' (cannot). This grammatical particle has the negative connotation. The usage of such particle in phraseological phrases underlines once more again the impossibility of implementation and getting the targeted.

Summary

From there, as a result of made analysis there were marked out such semantics of numeral components of Korean fixed phrases as quantity, correlation, frequency, space. More to the point

analysed numeral components played as well as the role of intensifier of the conveyed meaning.

Conclusions

Coming to conclusion, in this research paper for illustration purposes there were chosen Korean phraseological units with such numeral components as «열» (ten), «하나» (one) и «셋» (three). In order to narrow a research we selected Korean proverbs belonging to the theme of thievery and thieving. In consequence of made analyses we can draw an inference that most of used in proverbs numeral components have such meanings as quantity. One a separate note these numeral components played as well as the role of intensifier of the conveyed meaning. In some provided examples instead of numeral «하나» (one), where this numeral were used in the meaning of quantity, were used such words as «혼자» (one; itself; self; self-independent) and ordinal numeral «첫» (the first). Additionally in order to show the meaning of unfavorability and impossibility of certain action in some analysed Korean proverbs there were used such grammatical constructions as – 여야 하다, – 여 먹다, –어라 together with intensifying particle «도» (and; as well as; and also) and negative particle «못» (cannot).

Acknowledgements

The work is performed according to the Russian Government Program of Competitive Growth of Kazan Federal University.

References

- Horn, L. (1989). A natural history of negation, Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 679.
- Huang, Y. Spelke, E, Snedeker, J. (2013). What exactly do number words mean?, *Language Learning and Development*, v. 9, pp. 105-129.
- Levinson, S. (1983). *Pragmatics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 420.
- Levinson, S. (2000). *Presumptive meanings*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 450.
- Stalnaker, R. (1980). *Pragmatics: Implicature, Presupposition, and Logical Form* by Gerald Gazdar, *Language*, Vol. 56, No. 4, pp. 902-905.
- Sung, C., Avdeev, M. (2011). Korean. Introduction course, 242.
- Valieva, J. (2017). Semantics Of Numeral «Man» (Thousand) In Proverbs Of The Tatar Language, *The Turkish Online Journal of Design, Art and Communication TOJDAC*, Special Edition, pp. 827-831.
- Valiyeva, Y. (2017). The Numeral of "BER" (one) in Tatar proverbs at the description of the concept "Greed", *Innovation, Technology, Science. Collection of articles of the International scientific and practical conference*, pp. 76-78.
- Valiyeva, Y. (2016). Semantics of a numeral two in proverbial sayings of Tatar, *The Priority Scientific Directions: from the theory to practice*, No. 31, pp. 105-110.
- Valiyeva, Y. (2017). Phraseological units of Tatar with the BER component numeral (one) semantic group "Traits of character", *Results of modern research and development the Collection of articles of winners of the International scientific and practical conference*, pp. 127-129.