Cognitive analysis of verbal heart idioms formation in the Chechen language

Milana Abueva

Chechen State University named after A. Kadyrov, Grozny, Russia

Abstract. The richer is a fund of phraseological language, the more expressive and brighter is the language itself. Idioms are not aimed at naming objects, they are used to enrich and decorate the language. The purpose of the paper is to conduct a cognitive analysis of verbal heart idioms formation in the Chechen language. To reach the goal the following objectives has been set: collecting and systemizing verbal heart idioms component in accordance with cognitive (metaphorical) models; defining cognitive (metaphorical) models lying in the basis of heart idioms formation; defining the frequency, productivity and deployment of the models. The following research methods has been used: continuous sampling method, method of semantic and cognitive analysis, method of quantitative analysis.

1 Introduction

Language in its ethnocultural aspect is a source of continuous interest. Idioms are the brightest data carriers about way of life, experience, culture and history of people. Being based on metaphorical models they can reflect people's way of thinking and mentality. Phraseology of the Chechen language presents a vast area for analysis in connection with poor research of the aspect and impetuous development of general scientific knowledge in the modern world.

Among the scholars contributed to the phraseology of the Chechen language are Karasaev with his “Classification of phraseological units in the Chechen language”[1]; “General types of phraseological units in the Chechen language from the point of view of their semantic unity”, “On the issue of some Chechen idioms’ origin”[2]. In his work “Lexicology of modern Chechen language Matsiev classified idioms by parts of speech, defined the object and objectives of the phraseology[3]. D. Baysultanov has made a considerable contribution into the Chechen phraseology in his work “Expressive stylistic characteristics of Chechen Idioms”[4], he described the level of Chechen phraseology development and determined further prospects for research. Baysultanov studied idioms’ semantic unity, described characteristics of phraseological means of literal expressiveness.

Though the abovementioned researches allow not to refer the phraseology of the Chechen language to terra incognita, it is still has a lot of research gaps. Among the research gaps are the following: phraseological semantics, comparative studies, cognitive research of idioms...
that will highlight the peculiarities of mental structures reflected in culture and language, promote to description of language and conceptual view of the world. A man learns a world around him by studying his body, his feelings, emotions, fears and then basing on this experience he tries to explain and convey other phenomena and concepts around him. This human ability stands at the origin of figurative language creation. In cognitive linguistics the way of thinking about one domain in terms of another is called a conceptual metaphor. Karaulov believes that knowledge of language in itself is impossible “without going beyond its boundaries, without turn to its creator, user” [5]. Idioms with elements of somatic vocabulary constitute a universal layer of any language. Somatic vocabulary represents basic and frequently used vocabulary. Idioms with elements of somatic vocabulary are at the front of rendering figurative meanings.

In the given research we discuss the formation of Chechen verbal idioms having in their structure one the most productive somatic vocabulary element – heart from the cognitive linguistics point of view. Matsiev notes that the Chechen language is abundant with idioms. He considers verbal idioms the most widespread and productive [3]. According to Lakoff [6], metaphors structure our notions and everyday experience. It is metaphors that lie in the basis of many idiomatic expressions. The phenomenon of productiveness and frequency of heart metaphor can be found in many languages. And there is hardly a language where the somatic vocabulary element – heart is not used in the meaning of ‘core’, ‘central’, ‘important’. Heart is a container for feelings, wisdom and deep thoughts. The idioms like ‘to learn by heart’, ‘apprendre par coeur’ (fr.), дагахь камо (chechen) do confirm it. Study of conceptual metaphors allows us to get the process of idioms’ formation. 2 Methods

As research material of 60 verbal idioms with heart component in their structure by means of continuous sampling method in the Chechen historical fiction novels by L.Yakhyayev ‘Brave Taymaskha from Gekhi’[12] and novel by A. Aydamirov ‘Long nights’ [13] have been analysed. Furthermore, a semantic analysis of idioms have been conducted. The analysis has brought out cognitive metaphoric models, lying in the base of formation of studying idioms.

Theoretical contribution of the study is to enrich the theory of phraseology with new data. The findings of the paper can be used in comparative studies in phraseology, cognitive linguistics (description of language and conceptual view of the world; studies of the Chechen mentality).

In the given article we study verbal heart idioms, dividing them into three main groups of metaphoric models on the basis of which they were formed. Furthermore, productivity and frequency of the models is determined.
3 Results

HEART IS A LIVING ORGANISM.

Verbal idiom ‘дог’ gives the heart mental characteristics, heart...

The next idioms are the ones based on artefact metaphorical model HEART IS AN OBJECT...

Metaphorical model of living organism is considered to be very productive in many...

The heart in the following verbal idioms has the properties of a living person:

Verbal idiom ‘дог’ give the heart mental characteristics, heart...

Verbal idiom ‘дог’ gives a heart characteristics...

Verbal idiom ‘дог’ has a belief peculiar to many cultures to listen to one’s heart and it will give the right...

Verbal idiom ‘дог’ has an antonym...

Verbal idiom ‘дог’ is represented as a

languages. A considerable part of heart idioms has been formed...

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HEART IS A CONTAINER. ‘Догъэца’ (literally: to boil to one’s heart) — at one’s heart in one’s mind, in one’s soul; ‘Догъэцэла’ (literally: to boil to one’s heart)

HEART IS AN OBJECT OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS. ‘Дог’кхеб’ (literally: to buy a heart) — to gift a heart.

The following metaphorical models which were the basis of the idioms formation have been detected:

1. HEART IS A PAPER: ‘Дог’кхачадан’ — in one’s mind, in one’s soul; ‘Дог’кхачадан дага’ — to have something in heart.

2. HEART IS A EXPLOSIVE OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедам’ — to make oneself feel resentment.

3. HEART IS STICKY OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедан’ — to feel pity for somebody.

4. HEART IS A FREEZED OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхат’ — to feel resentment.

5. HEART IS A CONTAINER: ‘Дог’кхера’ — to feel heartburn.

6. HEART IS A STICKY OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхум’ — to feel heartburn.

7. HEART IS A EXPLOSIVE OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедам’ — to feel heartburn.

8. HEART IS A FREEZED OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхет’ — to feel heartburn.

9. HEART IS A STICKY OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхат’ — to feel heartburn.

10. HEART IS A EXPLOSIVE OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедам’ — to feel heartburn.

11. HEART IS AN EXPLOSIVE OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедам’ — to feel heartburn.

12. HEART IS A CONTAINER: ‘Дог’кхача’ — to feel heartburn.

13. HEART IS A STICKY OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхем’ — to feel heartburn.


15. HEART IS A FREEZED OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхет’ — to feel heartburn.

16. HEART IS A STICKY OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхат’ — to feel heartburn.

17. HEART IS A EXPLOSIVE OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедам’ — to feel heartburn.

18. HEART IS A FREEZED OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхет’ — to feel heartburn.

19. HEART IS A STICKY OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхат’ — to feel heartburn.

20. HEART IS A EXPLOSIVE OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедам’ — to feel heartburn.

The second type with heart is conceptualised as an object of food: ‘дегабаамба’ (literally: heart is food)

21. HEART IS A STICKY OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхача’ — to feel heartburn.

22. HEART IS A EXPLOSIVE OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедам’ — to feel heartburn.

23. HEART IS A FREEZED OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхет’ — to feel heartburn.

24. HEART IS A STICKY OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхат’ — to feel heartburn.

25. HEART IS A EXPLOSIVE OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедам’ — to feel heartburn.

26. HEART IS A FREEZED OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхет’ — to feel heartburn.

27. HEART IS A STICKY OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхат’ — to feel heartburn.

28. HEART IS A EXPLOSIVE OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедам’ — to feel heartburn.

29. HEART IS A FREEZED OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхет’ — to feel heartburn.

30. HEART IS A STICKY OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхат’ — to feel heartburn.

31. HEART IS A EXPLOSIVE OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедам’ — to feel heartburn.

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38. HEART IS A FREEZED OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхет’ — to feel heartburn.

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40. HEART IS A EXPLOSIVE OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедам’ — to feel heartburn.

41. HEART IS A FREEZED OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхет’ — to feel heartburn.

42. HEART IS A STICKY OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхат’ — to feel heartburn.

43. HEART IS A EXPLOSIVE OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедам’ — to feel heartburn.

44. HEART IS A FREEZED OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхет’ — to feel heartburn.

45. HEART IS A STICKY OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхат’ — to feel heartburn.

46. HEART IS A EXPLOSIVE OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедам’ — to feel heartburn.

47. HEART IS A FREEZED OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхет’ — to feel heartburn.

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49. HEART IS A EXPLOSIVE OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедам’ — to feel heartburn.

50. HEART IS A FREEZED OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхет’ — to feel heartburn.

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57. HEART IS A STICKY OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхат’ — to feel heartburn.

58. HEART IS A EXPLOSIVE OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхедам’ — to feel heartburn.

59. HEART IS A FREEZED OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхет’ — to feel heartburn.

60. HEART IS A STICKY OBJECT: ‘Дог’кхат’ — to feel heartburn.

In the framework of metaphorical model heart is a living organism have been collected 24 verbal heart idioms. Heart is compared here with a man and has a lot of functions: it cries and smiles, becomes tired and recovers, raises, gets up and stands, it can be petted, inclined, ached and defeated; it can gloat over, feel bad, and not to accept; it can be asked for forgiveness and can become mild. This cognitive metaphorical model can be marked as a frequent one.
Metaphorical model: **heart is an object** occurred to be the most frequent, having collected 34 verbal heart idiom in its structure. The analysis showed productivity and deployment of the given model. The model subdivided into the following subdivisions: **heart is a freezed object, heart is a sticky object, heart is an explosive object, heart is a container, heart is a paper, heart is an object of economic relations, heart is an exhaustible resource.**

References