

The reflection of national mentality in phraseological systems of english and ukrainian languages

Studying foreign languages people often face difficulties concerning translation the texts which contain phraseological units, idioms and proverbs. Mistakes in using and translation phraseological units are not always caused by misunderstanding lexical and grammatical meaning of the word. Attention should be paid to stylistic variations and sphere of usage.

Having compared phraseological units of modern English and Ukrainian languages we came to the conclusion that both languages have a lot in common.

First of all, phraseological systems of both languages reflect all spheres of human life, history, peculiarities of social and family relationships, everyday life, ethical and moral principles. Plants, animals and nature of both countries are widely presented in phraseological systems.

Speaking about sources of phraseological units we can single out three main groups: native English/Ukrainian phraseological units; borrowings from other languages, phraseological calques.

The first group is the biggest one and it includes phraseological units which reflect traditions and customs of a nation, everyday life, folk songs, fairy-tales, historical facts, terminology, national literature: *to beat the air, baker's dozen, blue stocking, a black sheep, a crooked sixpence, to be born under a lucky star, to accept the Chiltern Hundreds, the curse of Scotland, a Dutch feast, on the top of the wave.*

The second source of phraseological units is intercultural communications. It contains bibleisms, Antique Words, borrowings from French, German, Spanish, Slavic languages: *sell one's birth right for a mess of pottage; Achille's heel; the bed of Procrustus; the thread of Ariadne; after us the deluge; the fair sex; castles of Spain; speech is silver, silence is golden; tilt at wind mills; the Knight of the Rueful Countenance.* Both English and Ukrainian languages are rich in phraseological units which reflect national and cultural peculiarities of the nations and such lexical material may be widely used in English language at high school.