
EXPLANATORY POWER OF LEXICOGRAPHIC CODIFICATION OF POLYSEMY IN THE MODERN YAKUT LANGUAGE

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Abstract

Traditionally, polysemy is referred to as presence of several meanings, lexical-semantic variants in one word or of phraseological unit. Polysemy is a linguistic universal. It is an inherent component of languages, their constituent characteristics. Words and phraseological units of a language represent a perfect basis for polysemy development, with virtually any language unit having enough potential to develop new meanings. Relevant criteria of phraseological units are transferred semantics, semantic stability, and separate structural arrangement of the component parts. The criteria for identification of phraseological units are fully or partially transferred meanings of the component parts, separate structural arrangement, stability of lexical components, reproducibility in the fixed form.

Keywords: homonymy, variant, inclusion, substitution, inversion

1. Introduction

The most intensively developing direction in cognitive linguistics has aroused considerable interest in explanatory lexicographic codification of polysemy in the modern Yakut language.

The purpose of this paper is cognitive analysis of lexicographic codification of the polysemy phenomenon in the modern Yakut language on example of the polysemantic word ‘mouth’. The conceptual structure of the Yakut polysemantic noun ‘mouth’ is analyzed for the first time.

The methods of seme and distributive analysis are used in the study. The general research method is the inductive-deductive one.

The analyzed polysemantic word ‘mouth’ is represented in the Great Academic Dictionary of the Yakut Language [1] by two homonyms. The first one has 8 meanings and 95 phraseological units (PU) and 5 idiomatic terms. The

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second one with the meaning ‘a big bowl (choron) for kumys’ has 3 PU and 6 idiomatic terms. Since interpretation of the term phraseological unit is ambiguous in Russia and abroad [2-5], it makes sense to clarify our understanding of PU. We share the opinion of scholars who refer to PU as “a set word group of different structural types ..., the meaning of which results from full or partial transferred meanings of its component parts” [6]. The choice of the central phraseology layer as a research subject is the most relevant according to the explanatory principle [7]. As a result of the human cognitive activity knowledge is developed and represented in language forms, in particular through the units of direct nomination.

The phenomenon of the phraseological figurativeness still needs cognitive interpretation, as it is related to the world outlook and attitude, being rooted in the national background knowledge about the world, where the native speakers of a language live and act.

The relevant characteristics of PU are semantic transfer, separate structural arrangement and stability of constituent parts. When analyzing set of criteria for PU identification (full or partial transferred meanings of component parts, separate structural arrangement, stability of lexical components, reproducibility in a set form), the semantic criterion, i.e. fully or partially transferred meanings of component parts, is prioritized.

2. Discussion

The dictionary explained the basic stylistic nuances of the polysemantic PU with the component ‘mouth’: *disapproving, abusive, disparaging, dated, poetic, dialect, mythological, colloquial*.

2.1. Mouth I noun

1. An organ of human beings, animals and birds to take food in, make sounds, the mouth cavity.
2. Lips and the area around.
3. Hollow, entrance or opening in buildings, enclosed structures used to enter, exit as well as the door, fold, gate, pole etc. to close the opening.
4. The opening or entrance to a dwelling of animals (e.g. a den, burrow).
5. Opening, closing hole of some household objects (e.g. iron stove, vessel).
6. Some opening (*usually as a pipe, a deep pit*); the opening (*opposite the bottom*) of a container.
7. A place where something originates, starting point.
8. *figurative*. Subsistence, nourishment.

Phraseological expressions are units with grammatical structure represented by predicative word combinations and sentences. PU components of the polysemantic word ‘mouth’ are represented by phraseological unities, phraseological expressions, and phraseological combinations.

The mouth open – garrulous, talkative. *Compare*, (he) has no mouth.

His mouth (lip) opened – one starts talking.

(His) mouth reached the ears – the mouth to the ears (*loan translation*).

(His) mouth becomes red (yawns, becomes dark): I. he speaks a lot, is loud (usually when scolding, complaining); II. refuse completely, deny; III. be hungry and ask for, require food.

Food doesn't get into his mouth (inside) – he cannot eat (because he is stricken with grief).

Doesn't get into (his) mouth – unceasingly (chatter, talk).

He's got good luck in his mouth – *see* he's got good fortune in his mouth.

Push something into the mouth – unblushingly, shamelessly, brazenly (talk, abuse).

Throw into (his) mouth – *see* put into his mouth.

He's got good fortune in his mouth – lucky in food (usually playful, if someone comes when meals are being prepared or the table is being laid).

Without pouring a liquid into the mouth (putting food) – *equivalent*, neither bit nor sup.

Come into the mouth – informal, be caught by a sharp-tongued, quarrelsome person.

Whatever flies (gets) into his mouth – *see* having come into the mouth

Lucky in his mouth – *see* he's got good fortune in his mouth.

Whoever, whatever falls into his mouth – I. abusive, talk annoyed by long absence, waiting for someone; II. put oneself in bondage, enslaving dependence.

(He) lets fall into his mouth – *see* (he) put into his throat.

(Someone) put (throw) it into his mouth – give someone rise to abuse, scold somebody.

He's got no mouth – I. talking too much, keeping no secrets, *compare*, his mouth is open - say something that shouldn't be said, blab; II. losing appetite though having plenty of food.

(His) mouth is never full – very greedy, his greed is limitless.

Having almost torn apart the mouth – *see* having his mouth full.

(His) mouth is never close – be talkative, continuously talk, speak.

Wait until (his) mouth moves – wait for someone's order, direction (not take one's initiative).

(His) mouth becomes dark – *see* his mouth becomes red.

As much as his mouth can take – *colloquial*, (live) with plenty of food, wealthy, replete.

(He) doesn't let someone open one's mouth – doesn't let say a word (he is so talkative); dismantles, perplexes by words (being so sharp-tongued).

His mouth is so caustic (his beak is so pointed) – a formula expressing extreme indignation by interlocutor's words (by impudence, poisonous acrimoniousness of his speech, usually in folklore – lit. so poisonous his mouth is, so caustic his lips are!).

He makes noise (only) by the mouth – he likes to talk doing nothing in fact.

(He) met with the mouth – *see* (he) let (something) fall into his throat.

Doesn't open his mouth (hasn't opened yet) – didn't utter a word, didn't say anything to anybody (lit. doesn't open his mouth).

Open his mouth – I. make someone speak, start talking (usually a silent person or someone not willing to talk); II. start a conversation; speak out the first formula starting a conversation.

Having opened the mouth – I. be dumbfounded by unexpectedness, surprise; II. be engrossed by something (e.g. attentively and surprised listen to somebody with the mouth opened).

He is lying with his mouth open (starts opening the mouth) – I. starve; II. await on every step (about misfortune, surprise, trouble).

Doesn't give his mouth – taking the bit, badly controlled (about a horse).

Plug someone the mouth – please someone by a present, a bribe (to calm his anger, avoid serious consequences for oneself).

Inside his mouth – speak without making a sound, voice, in low whisper (lit. in the mouth).

(He) doesn't control his mouth – having an uncontrollable tongue, *compare*, he's got the mouth open.

Wait for his mouth – be ready to fulfil one's words, assignment (e.g. about relations between dependent, subordinate and their superior).

With the whole mouth – very loud, noisy (speak, yell, laugh).

Shut (his) mouth – colloquial, not to let say something or about something, make someone silent.

Your mouth will be dry – see your throat will be dry.

As if green grass grows out from his mouth – disapproving someone who eats delicacy more than others.

As if gold falls out of his mouth – this is said by people having no more patience to wait until the one who has some interesting news speaks.

Speech doesn't go out of his mouth – one cannot speak; speak incomprehensibly, inarticulately (due to bad illness, excitement, confusion).

(He) doesn't choke by what he lets out of his mouth – use foul / bad language.

Block for the mouth – disapproving, useless mouth, burden in a family, owning nothing, bringing no use for the family (in the past, usually unintentional burden in a poor family).

Opening of the mouth – introduction, beginning in osuokhay, olonkho, folk songs and other folklore genres.

Speak with one's mouth open – exchange a few words (usually used in negative form).

Go into the mouth – see share the mouth

Takes away the mouth – seeks to destroy, ravage (about 'abahy' - evil creatures - in olonkho).

The mouth lessens – there is one mouth less (it was said when there were less dependent).

Stories of the mouth – gossips, oral messages, stories, credibility of which is doubtful.

Sundries of the mouth (chatter, speak to no purpose) – see having got into the mouth.

Go from mouth to mouth – see go from lips to lips.

Share the mouth – old, leave home to save food, not to be a burden to the family (usually in large poor families).

The mouth grasps – meet someone with abuse, start with scolding, reprimanding.

Push into the mouth – not let one object, put to silence (by a witty, biting remark, answer, argument); confuse with a plenty of unexpected questions.

Get (give) a punch in the mouth – become silent, having been beaten in an argument.

As if being beaten (given) into the mouth – loose power of speech (be standing, sitting due to an unexpected answer, words, surprise, astonishment).

Having been beaten into the mouth – see as if being beaten into the mouth.

Doesn't get into one's mouth – I. bad, disgusting, vile (usually about abuse); II. incredibly, improperly expensive.

As if (he) has got a punch into his mouth – see, as if being beaten into his mouth.

Having got into the mouth – say without thinking, at random.

Eat for (your) mouth – have short term supply of food (without any reserve).

Push into your mouth – greedily, swallow in rush, eat something.

(It) fit (don't get) into your mouth – you'll not get over me, you will reach me (threatening, with disregard).

(It) falls down into (your) mouth – see the mouth grasps.

(It) will not miss your mouth – provide wealthy, replete life (old formula used when asking in marriage).

Sit with the mouth open – disapproving, wait to be served, get accustomed to be a dependent (of the family, society, state).

Follow (your) mouth – dated, wander seeking for livelihood, food (about paupers).

Find your mouth – find one's subsistence, food (by labour, hunting).

Rise up your mouth – have subsistence, find livelihood.

Sweeten your mouth – I. give meaningless promises; chatter; II. taste something a little, eat something tasty (very little); III. be satisfied with talking about dreams, wishes.

Move your mouth – eat something just for effect; eat a little, have a snack.

Take care of your mouth – not forget to provide oneself with food; able to provide oneself with food in any circumstances.

Be caught by the mouth – see be caught by the tongue.

Share your mouth – see share your lips.

Terror's mouth – misfortune (unavoidable, inevitable).

By one's copper bluebell mouth – poetic, by clear, ringing voice (sing songs, anthems).

Oily mouth (greasy chin) – humorous, about a person having a wealthy, replete life.

Open mouth – see mouth is open.

Fish mouth – a toothless man.

Earth mouth – abusive I. insatiable belly, glutton; II. a thief, cheat.

Ready mouth – talkative, quick in giving answers (equivalent, have quick wit).

By the empty mouth – colloquial, only by talking, exhortation (try to reach something without any dealing, presents instead of doing as it used to be, for example, when asking in marriage).

Bad mouth – colloquial, hunger, lack of food, innutrition.

Empty mouth – dialect, a man without some foreteeth.

Put a gun to the mouth (lip) – be sentenced to be shot.

The heart got up to the mouth – see heart.

Fire mouth – wit, rhetorician.

Fall down into the cave mouth (bottom) – see, cave.

Good mouth – colloquial, various and plentiful food.

Bloody mouth – abusive, bloodthirsty, covered with blood (image of a monster, vampire).

Hell mouth – gate to hell.

The mouth of abaahy (devil creature) – mythological, evil demons of the Lower World, ready to devour, destroy; mortal danger.

Echo of the mouth – linguistic, mouth sound (e.g. vowels a, i; consonants t, d, k, g, etc.).

The mouth of hell – mythological, hell.

The mouth of a mitten – see, the lip of a mitten.

The mouth of death – I. mythological, enter into the Lower World, hell; II. condition between life and death; danger of death.

2.2. Mouth II noun

A large bowl (choron) for kumys (up to 1½ bucket).

Hold the mouth (let hold) – high, entertain, treat someone (the most honoured guests were served with a bowl with kumys).

Let fall the top of the mouth – be the first to drink kumys and therewith start the ceremony of kumys drinking as well as the Ysyakh festival.

Older to be given the mouth – [= be older to be given the kumys bowl] a little older (the first kumys bowl was given to the oldest even if he was just one day older).

Passing mouth – I. general term for kumys bowls made of bent material so that its fibers are horizontal; II. round kumys bowl (wooden, up to 16 l).

Walking mouth – smaller wooden bowl with the oval handle at the bottom to which bundles of horse hair were tied.

The mouth with mane – large wooden bowl with three legs and bundles of horse hair on the sides.

Master mouth – the biggest bowl for kumys.

Long mouth – the general term for wooden kumys bowls with vertical fibre direction.

Choron mouth – large one-leg kumys goblet made of thick birch tree with volume 8 up to 32 l.

2.3. Variability of PU composition

Variability of PU composition is also widely presented in lexical and phraseological sources. Variability of fixed word complexes of phraseological type is manifestation of systematic character of phraseology, being one of the ways of development and improvement of the phraseological component of the language as a whole. Usual variants of PU are regular phenomena in the phraseological corpus of a language [8, 9]. Substitution of PU components, component inclusion into PU structure and inversion are recorded as examples of usual variability of PU with the component ‘mouth’ in Academic Dictionary of the Yakut Language.

Substitution is represented by replacement of verbal, noun, adjective, adverbial components and substitution of two components.

Substitution of noun component: *His mouth (lip) opened, Food doesn't get into his mouth (inside), Put a gun to the mouth (lip); The mouth of abaaahy (evil creature); Fall down into the cave mouth (bottom); (He) lets fall into his mouth – (he) put into his throat; Your mouth will be dry – your throat will be dry; Be caught by the mouth – be caught by the tongue; Be caught by the mouth – be caught by the tongue.*

Substitution of verbal component: *(His) mouth becomes red (yawns, becomes dark); (Someone) put (throw) into his mouth; (His) mouth becomes dark – his mouth becomes red; Doesn't open his mouth (hasn't opened yet); Sundries of the mouth (chatter, speak to no purpose); Get (give) a punch in the mouth; As if being beaten (given) into the mouth; go into the mouth – share the mouth; follow (your) mouth – find your mouth.*

Substitution of adjective component: *Good (bloody) mouth; He's got good lucky (good fortune) in his mouth.*

Substitution of adverbial component: *Having almost torn apart the mouth – having his mouth full; Go from mouth to mouth – go from lips to lips; As if (he) has got a punch into his mouth – as if being beaten into his mouth – having got into the mouth.*

Substitution of two components: *Without pouring a liquid into the mouth (putting food).*

Inclusion: *He makes noise (only) by the mouth.*

Inversion: *Open mouth – mouth is open.*

2.4. Semantic categories

PU with the component ‘mouth’ involves all semantic categories: polysemy, homonymy, synonymy, and antonymy.

Polysemy is a semantic category most represented in lexical and phraseographic resources [10]. Traditionally, polysemy is referred to as presence of several meanings, lexical-semantic variants in one word or of phraseological unit. Polysemy is a linguistic universal [11, 12]. It is an inherent component of languages, their constituent characteristics. Words and phraseological units of a language represent a perfect basis for polysemy development, with virtually any language unit having enough potential to develop new meanings. Unlike the lexical level [13], the phraseological level involves deeper semantic processes due to separate structural arrangement of phraseological units.

2.4.1. Polysemy

Open his mouth – I. make someone speak, start talking (usually a silent person or someone not willing to talk); II. start a conversation; speak out the first formula starting a conversation.

Having opened the mouth – I. be dumbfounded by unexpectedness, surprise; II. be engrossed by something (e.g. attentively and surprised listen to somebody with the mouth opened).

The mouth of death – I. mythological, enter into the Lower World, hell; II. condition between life and death; danger of death.

2.4.2. Homonymy

(His) mouth becomes red (yawns, becomes dark) – I. he speaks a lot, is loud (usually when scolding, complaining), II. refuse completely, deny, III. be hungry and ask for, require food.

Whoever, whatever falls into his mouth – I. abusive, talk annoyed by long absence, waiting for someone, II. put oneself in bondage, enslaving dependence.

He’s got no mouth – I. talking too much, keeping no secrets, his mouth is open – say something that shouldn’t be said, blab, II. losing appetite though having plenty of food.

He is lying with his mouth open (starts opening the mouth) – I. starve, II. await on every step (about misfortune, surprise, trouble).

Doesn’t get into one’s mouth – I. bad, disgusting, vile (usually about abuse), II. incredibly, improperly expensive.

Sweeten your mouth – I. give meaningless promises, chatter, II. taste something a little, eat something tasty (very little), III. be satisfied with talking about dreams, wishes.

Earth mouth – I. insatiable belly, glutton; II. a thief, cheat.

2.4.3. Synonymy

Throw into (his) mouth – put into his mouth.
Lucky in his mouth – he's got good fortune in his mouth.
His mouth is so caustic – his beak is so pointed.
(He) met with the mouth – (he) let (something) fall into his throat.
(He) doesn't control his mouth – he's got the mouth open.
Go into the mouth - share the mouth.
Oily mouth – greasy chin.
Whatever flies (gets) into his mouth – having come into the mouth.

2.4.4. Antonymy

Whatever flies (gets) into his mouth; It will (not) suffice for your mouth; (It) fit (don't get) into your mouth.

3. Conclusions

Thus, explanatory power of lexicographic codification of the polysemantic is represented by the example of the noun 'mouth' of the Yakut language in the Great Academic Dictionary of the Yakut language. The study of PU with the component 'mouth' revealed the basic types of usual variance characteristic for PU composition in the modern Yakut language, excluding lexical augment of PU components. The Dictionary reflects a large group of words and phraseological units, i.e. the so called folklore vocabulary referring to beliefs, mythology and ethnography of the Yakut which is extremely valuable in research into the Sakha history and language. The rich palette of figurativeness of the polysemantic word reflects the linguistic picture of the world of speakers.

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