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The features of the use of phrasal verbs in the economic and financial context of professional English

THE FEATURES OF THE USE OF PHRASAL VERBS IN THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONTEXT OF PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH

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The article deals with the relevance of the use of phrasal verbs in the economic and financial context of professional English. Firstly, the vocabulary of narrowly focused texts replete with terms, terminological phrases, various lexical structures and abbreviations. Secondly, the number of phrasal verbs in modern language is growing and they serve an important function due to their brevity and expressiveness. Thirdly, they are not only characteristic of spoken language because today they are more frequently used than «simple» verbs, which are their synonyms.

The article defines the features of the use of phrasal verbs in the economic and financial context of professional English. To achieve the set goal, the following research methods were applied: descriptive (for a general description of the main features of phrasal verbs in English); contextual-interpretive (to identify the main function of phrasal verbs in English), as well as the method of creating a problem situation with the help of phrasal verbs in English. The author highlights the main features of phrasal verbs in English; identifies the main function of phrasal verbs in English; determines the peculiarities of the use of phrasal verbs (based on the economic and financial context) in English.

It has been proved that phrasal verbs are a very popular and flexible part of the English vocabulary. They occur in informal conversation due to their greater emotional content. It is believed that this is the reason why they should not be used in business speech. However, economists and financiers can no longer do without using phrasal verbs precisely on account of their ability to convey a clearer picture of what is happening in these spheres of activity. In turn, many phrasal verbs can become a full-fledged part of the formal business style of speech. They function in professional vocabulary and acquire a specific semantic meaning depending on the discourse in which they are used. It is necessary to add that not only phrasal verbs but also such a well-known phenomenon as set phrases or idioms deserves our attention and it will be the perspective of our further research.

Key words: professional English, the field of economics and finance, context, phrasal verbs, terms, terminological phrases.
Introduction. When dealing with the issue of translation of English-language texts, in particular the translation of specialized English-language texts, first of all, it is worth determining what their features are. It should be noted that these texts in any foreign language have their own lexical and syntactic features. Let us look at these features in more detail in our article. To begin with, it makes sense to dwell on the lexical features of specialized texts. The vocabulary of narrowly focused texts is replete with terms, terminological phrases, as well as the presence of lexical structures and abbreviations. In addition to the use of highly specialized vocabulary and terminology, specialized texts are characterized by the use of commonly used vocabulary, but its quantity is limited. As for phrasal verbs, they have now begun to actively penetrate into professional texts.

In turn, the society as a living organism cannot function without means of information transmission. Language, being just such a means, reflects the realities and traditions of a particular society. In addition, it is worth noting that the language reflects all «cultural and everyday events in the life of the people».

Thus, the most unique and noteworthy phenomenon in the English language are phrasal verbs. Representing stable lexical units, phrasal verbs occupy a special place in the research of linguists. The fact that the number of phrasal verbs in modern language is growing, along with the increasing frequency of their use, proves that they serve an important function due to their brevity and expressiveness.

As it is known, the widespread use of phrasal verbs is one of the most unexpected pitfalls that a foreigner studying literary English stumbles upon when trying to understand live speech. Phrasal verbs are not only characteristic of spoken language. A great number of such verbs have entered the language of the media and the language of various professional communities, for example, lawyers, doctors, managers, economists or financiers. This is explained by the fact that many phrasal verbs have changed «their identity» over time, that is, they have moved from one stylistic layer to another, acquired new meanings and lost old ones. Some phrasal verbs are more frequently used than «simple» verbs, which are their synonyms. So, analysis of phrasal verbs and the features of their contextual use in English economic and financial texts will be the main aspect of our research.

The aim and objectives of the research. Due to the stated above, the purpose of this research is important and relevant. It is connected with the determination of the features of the contextual use of phrasal verbs in English (based on economic and financial texts). To achieve this aim, it is necessary to accomplish several objectives of the research:

1) to highlight the main features of phrasal verbs in English;
2) to identify the main function of phrasal verbs in English;
3) to determine the peculiarities of the use of phrasal verbs (based on the economic and financial context) in English.

Materials and methods. Such research methods as descriptive (for a general description of the main features of phrasal verbs in English); contextual-interpretive (to identify the main function of phrasal verbs in English), as well as the method of creating a problem situation with the help of phrasal verbs in English.

Discussion. From the point of view of the famous Hungarian researcher K. Lomb, «I like to say that we should study languages because languages are the only thing worth knowing, even poorly» [1, p. 12]. During the analysis of the special literature, especially if it concerns such urgent problems of general Lexicology as the ambiguity of lexical units in the text of any style, most often it is inherent in the artistic style itself, one can see that it is in the context that all certain information for unambiguous understanding is contained the meaning of the lexical units we need and their correct use in the language.

The term «phrasal verb» was first used by English grammarian Logan Pearsle Smith in...
the dictionary «Words and Idioms», considering phrasal verbs to be the most striking idiomatic feature of the English language [2, p. 169]. Phrasal verbs are special verbs of the English language, consisting of a meaningful verb and one or more prepositions (rarely adverbs). Their use in spoken language is very common and they also perform a communicative function due to their own dynamism and semantic relations between their parts [2]. Considering the features of phrasal verbs, it is impossible not to mention the ambiguity of many of them. As an example, consider the phrasal verbs to count on and to drive at. The first one «to count on» is translated as розраховувати на когось. It consists of the simple verb count – розраховувати, підраховувати, брати до уваги and the preposition on – на; the same applies to the phrasal verb «to drive at» – натякати. It also consists of the simple verb drive – їхати and the preposition at in the meaning of у, біля. It is also possible to consider the phrasal verbs «to trade in», «to trade with», «to trade off», «to trade (up)on»/«to pay back», «to pay down», «to pay off», «to pay out» and their meanings in various context [3].

They successfully traded (in) household chemicals and detergents together with their partners. – Вони успішно торгували побутовою хімією і миючими засобами разом зі своїми партнерами.

My friends decided to trade in their old car in exchange for buying a new one. – Мої вирішили здати старий автомобіль у рахунок купівлі нового.

They are uneasy with trading off future revenue for easy cash now. – На даний момент їм неприємно обмінювати майбутній прибуток на легкі готівкові гроші.

He recently traded in his Jeep for a red Mercedes. – Нещодавно він обміняв свій джип на червоний мерседес.

Unfortunately, fraudsters traded on the credulity of a client and sold him a low-quality product. – На жаль, шахраї використали довірливість покупця і всунули йому неякісний товар.

The management also refused to give them back pay. – Керівництво також відмовилось повернути їм заробітну плату.

The buyer paid $7,000 dollars down for gold rings with diamonds. – Покупець виклав сім тисяч доларів готівкою за золоті каблучки з діамантами за золоті каблучки з діамантами we should be able to pay off the debt within two years. – Ми будемо в змозі погасити борг протягом двох років.

Tomorrow they will pay out our wages. – Завтра нам дадуть заробітну плату.

As it is mentioned above, phrasal verbs are a very popular and flexible part of the English vocabulary, especially in colloquial or informal speech. They occur in conversation more often than their equivalents, expressed by a regular verb, due to their greater emotional content. It is believed that precisely because of their emotional fullness they should not be used in official business speech. However, with the increase in the number of phrasal verbs, they are increasingly recognized in other areas, for example, in economic articles. Financiers and economists can no longer do without using phrasal verbs. They help to convey a clearer picture of what is happening in the economic sphere of activity. Therefore, we decided to analyze phrasal verbs in different contexts and understand whether they can become a full-fledged part of an official business or journalistic style of speech. Such phrasal verbs as «to aim for» – «прагнути, ставити собі за мету», «to break up» – «припинити», «to break into» – «заявити про себе, пробитися», «to fill out» – «заповнювати», «to go through» – «опрацьовувати, ретельно розбирати» can find application in any style and are very often found in texts of an economic orientation [4, p. 82]. Let us pay attention to their meaning in the examples given below:

We are aiming for a 50 percent share of the German market. – Ми прагнемо зайняти 50 відсотків німецького ринку.

The firm made up her mind to break up with the old partner because of his stock market manipulation. – Фірма вирішила припинити співпрацю зі своїм давнім партнером через його маніпуляції на фондовому ринку.

Are there new markets you’d like to break into? – Чи є нові ринки, на які б ви хотіли вийти?

It took me several hours to fill out the application form. – Заповнення анкети зайняло кілька годин.

He went through the contract quite carefully, checking all the details. – Він досить уважно ознайомився із договором, перевіривши всі деталі.

Many phrasal verbs implement their dictionary meanings without acquiring new ones in the field...
of economics and finance. Such phrasal verbs as «to carry out» – виконувати, проводити; «to equip with» – обладнати; «to focus on/upon» – зосередити увагу на; «to find out» – дізнатися; «to point out» – вказати, звернути увагу на (помилки); «to put forward» – висунути (ідею, кандидатуру) witness about it [5]. Again, let’s give some examples:

I don’t understand why I’m being punished for simply carrying out an order from my superior. – Я не розумію, чому мене карають через те, що я просто виконав наказ свого керівника.

At last the fountain has been reconstructed and equipped with LED lighting in different colors. – Нарешті фонтан був реконструйований і обладнаний світлодіодним підсвічуванням різних кольорів.

It will be necessary for everybody to focus on (upon) the topical issues of our research. – Кожному необхідно буде зосередитись на актуальних питаннях нашого дослідження.

Has anyone bothered to find out how much all this is going to cost? – Хтось намагався дізнатися, скільки все це коштуватиме?

She always points out my mistakes in front of the boss to make me look bad. She likes humiliating me. – Вона завжди вказує на мої помилки в присутності керівника, щоб я виглядав погано. Їй подобається принижувати мене.

The proposals that you have put forward deserve a serious consideration. – Пропозиції, які ви висунули, заслуговують серйозного розгляду.

It is also necessary to note a group of phrasal verbs that function in professional vocabulary and acquire a specific semantic meaning, fall into the financial and economic sphere and are influenced by its features. Let us analyze some of them. The verb «to deal with», on the one hand, in common vocabulary is translated as «упоратись/мати справу» and, on the other hand, in the field of economics and finance this verb has a slightly different context as «розглядати проблему або питання/вирішити проблему або питання; вживати заходів». For example:

She can’t deal with her brother’s bad behaviour. – Вона не може упоратись зі своїм братом через його погану поведінку.

We have dealt with the company for years. – Ми мали справу з компанією протягом багатьох років.

The government must deal with unemployment. – Уряд повинен впоратися з безробіттям. (або вирішити питання з безробіттям)

Can you deal with this gentleman's complaint? – Чи можете ви розглянути скаргу цього джентльмена?

Thus, the key assumption of comparative advantage trade models and theories fell away: even if high technology exports have been growing in developing countries, this does not mean that we deal with similarly dynamic sectors with significant increasing returns. – Таким чином, ми відкидаємо ключове припущення про порівняльні переваги торгових моделей і теорій: навіть якщо експорт високих технологій зростав у країнах, що розвиваються, це не означає, що ми маємо справу зі схожими динамічними секторами з високою прибутковістю [6, p. 10].

The verb «to chip in» in common vocabulary and in informal speech is translated as «втручатись (у розмову, у бесіду)». The same verb in the field of economics and finances also has another meaning, namely «забрати участь».

For example:

It is indecent to chip in a conversation between adults. – Непристойно втручатися у розмови дорослих.

Other committee members chipped in with suggestions. – Інші члени комітету надали свої пропозиції.

The verb «to drum up» in common vocabulary and in informal speech means «викликати». The same verb in the field of economics and finances has another meaning, namely «просувати; розкручувати бізнес, продажі, обізнаність, клієнтів».

For example:

He was trying to drum up some enthusiasm for his idea. – Він намагався викликати ентузіазм з приводу своєї ідеї.

Advertisements should help to drum up some business. – Реклама має допомогти запустити певний бізнес.

The verb «to make up» in common vocabulary and in informal speech is translated as «гримуватися; вигадувати; миритися». The same verb in the field of economics and finances has a slightly different context again. It means «компенсувати».

For example:
She made me up like a clown. – Вона нафарбувала мене як клоуна.

Make up your own sentence or even better a story with new expressions. – Складіть власне речення, а ще краще розповідь з новими виразами.

Make up with your friend and clear up all the misunderstandings between you. – Помирися вже зі своїм товаришем і з’ясуй усі негаразди між вами.

She tried to make up for lost time by working extra hard. – Вона намагалася надолужити згаяний час, наполегливо працюючи.

The verb «to take over» in common vocabulary and in informal speech is translated as «захопити» (in metaphorical sense). The same verb in the field of economics and finances has a slightly different context again. It means «брати під контроль/переняти обов’язки». For example:

Inexplicable anger took over him. – Незрозумілий гнів охопив його.

This book will surely take over you. – Ця книга неодмінно захопить твою увагу.

Jane took over as director after Richard retired. – Джейн зайняла посаду директора після того, як Річард пішов у відставку.

Our experts can take over all such responsibilities. – Наші фахівці можуть взяти на себе виконання всіх цих обов’язків.

The same applies to such phrasal verbs as «to ask around», «to bail out» and «to step up», «to stock up» and their meaning in the appropriate context [7].

Ask around and find a company you trust with your possessions. – Поцікавтеся і знайдіть компанію, якій ви довірите своє майно.

(to question, to make inquiries)

The government tried to bail out the struggling airline industry. – Уряд намагався врятувати авіаційну галузь, яка переживає труднощі.

(to help, to provide financial assistance)

We plan to step production up by nearly 75% over the next six months. – Ми плануємо збільшити виробництво майже на 75% протягом наступних шести місяців. (to increase)

The supermarkets are full of people stocking up for the New Year’s holiday. – Супермаркети переповнені людьми, які роблять запаси до новорічних свят. (to make supplies)

Thus, as it is mentioned above, there are a large number of phrasal verbs in the English language. Today, their number is constantly growing, and this especially applies to professional English. Even in spite of the fact that they mean certain difficulties for future specialists (especially when it comes to their study and understanding in a certain context), they still attract people with their identity, clarity and brevity.

**Results.** As a result of the study, the main features of phrasal verbs in English were highlighted; the main function of phrasal verbs in English was identified; the peculiarities of the use of phrasal verbs (based on the financial context) in English were determined. Thus, we can confidently say that each foreign language has its own individuality. The English language in turn is obviously very interesting and multifaceted due to many lexical phenomena. This applies not only to ordinary English, but also to professional English. Phrasal verbs occupy a strong place in professional English and acquire a specific semantic meaning in a particular area of activity. Phrasal verbs are not translated literally, but appropriately for a given context, which in turn confirms the fact that they change their meaning depending on the discourse in which they are used (in our case we are talking about financial and economic discourse).

Summarizing all the above presented, phrasal verbs related to the field of economics and finance should be used in students’ speech. The use of phrasal verbs in the appropriate context will help future specialists not only improve their cultural level, but also develop communication skills. That is, the very idea of phrasal verbs expands the ability to build relationships with partners and competitors, correctly understand others, participate in discussions, and delve into all the nuances of the conversation. This is really necessary, since not only phrasal verbs related to a given field of activity, but also such a phenomenon as set expressions or simply idioms also need correct understanding and the ability to use in the right place and, accordingly, the right context. That’s why the use of phraseological or set expressions related to economical and financial sphere will be the perspective of our further research.

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