

УДК: 802.0:808.2:800.872=111

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ФРАЗЫ. ПРОИСХОЖДЕНИЕ И ЗНАЧЕНИЕ

Во всех языках мира существует очень много устоявшихся словосочетаний. Люди, принадлежащие к определенным социальным организациям или народам, используют свойственные этой группе людей выражения. Часто именно благодаря этим словосочетаниям мы можем определить личность человека, с которым мы общаемся.

Most of us have our favorite fixed phrases which are often used. These definite phrases can tell us a lot about the personality. We can denote whether the person is literate or not, if he or she is fond of literature, sciences, etc. E.g., people who are keen on Shakespeare are likely to use his quotations often, for example “to be or not to be” or “All that glisters is not gold”.

Further, if one group of people use phrases connected with “battle of sexes”, we can undoubtedly say that they belong to a feminist or misogyny movements. For instance, “ behind a great man there is a great woman”, or “a woman without a man is like fish without a bicycle”.

Moreover, different nations have their own proverbs, based on cultural realities. If we compare several proverbs, we understand which culture they belong to. “To carry coals to Newcastle”, or “if the mountain won’t come to Mohammed, Mohammed must go to the mountain”, “two heads are better than one”. People use proverbs in speech in order to look or sound witty. Such phrases as “a fool and his money”, “a leopard can’t change his spots” make speech more vivid and full of imagination. Due to proverbs we can express ourselves more extraordinarily.

Besides that, we should mention the group of phrases which were given to the world by Americans. “The Big Apple”, “another day, another dollar” and so on. Most of them are based on the idea of the American dream, which is subjectively supposed to imply wealth, freedom and democracy.

Furthermore, we have particular words in the Russian language that are used all over the world, but we do not consider them to be alien. They appeared in Russian thanks to globalization. We all know these words: “ok”, “bikini”, “blue jeans” and “Teddy Bear”.

To sum up, people use a lot of fixed phrases and do not pay much attention to their origin. Sometimes they misuse them due to misunderstanding of their meaning. Analyzing the phrases people use we can define the personality, as well as the social belonging of communicators, which might be helpful in determining the strategies of cross-cultural communication.