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ANIMAL IDIOMS IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES: SEMANTIC AND
PRAGMATIC DIFFERENCES

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PREFACE

Each language stores a layer of culture, all the changes laid down and made by many generations of its speakers. Idioms with an animal component like, dog, cat, horse, bull, have a long history, since these animals have been living with humans since ancient times; horses and cattle were a source of food and helped people in agriculture, and cats helped people fight rodents and so on (Mardar, 2019). Animal idioms are a common feature of both the English and Russian languages. These idioms are used in everyday conversations and provide a unique insight into the culture of both languages. According to Zhukova (2011), idioms help to understand cross-cultural differences and simplify communication. This bachelor's thesis embarks on a focused exploration of animal idioms, unraveling the semantic and pragmatic peculiarities, that distinguish their usage in the English and Russian languages. The work aims is: to conduct a comparative study of animal idioms in English and Russian languages, to explore the semantic and pragmatic differences between animal idioms in English and Russian languages to investigate the cultural, historical, and linguistic factors that contribute to the usage and meaning of animal idioms in both languages, to provide a deeper understanding of the similarities and differences between English and Russian animal idioms, to contribute to the field of cross-cultural communication and translation. The research problem for this study is to analyze the semantic and pragmatic differences of animal idioms in English and Russian languages, and to determine the factors that contribute to these differences. The study will explore the cultural, historical, and linguistic aspects that shape the use and meaning of animal idioms in both languages.

The paper consists of four parts: the Introduction, two main chapters and the Conclusion. The Introduction of this thesis surveys the significance of idiomatic expressions in languages and introduces the specific focus on animal idioms. The subsequent chapters delve into the semantic and pragmatic dimensions, seeking to unravel the ways in which animal idioms are metaphorically woven into the fabric of language in both English and Russian. Chapter I "Theoretical Overview of Animal Idioms in English and Russian Languages" offers a theoretical foundation. This chapter navigates through historical roots, cultural contexts, and overarching frameworks that shape the usage of animal idioms in both languages. Chapter II "Practical Research Using a Collected Corpus and a Survey of Native Speakers," represents the practical dimension of our research, where a curated corpus and insights from native speakers become invaluable tools for unveiling the semantic and pragmatic distinctions in the usage of

animal idioms. The concluding chapter synthesizes the theoretical insights and practical observations, weaving together the narrative of our exploration.

PREFACE.....	4-5
INTRODUCTION.....	7
Background and Rationale.....	7-8
Why animal idioms?.....	8-9
Objectives and Hypotheses.....	9-12
CHAPTER I. THEORETICAL OVERVIEW OF ANIMAL IDIOMS IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES.....	13
1.1. Definition of idioms and their role in language.....	13-18
1.2. Role of idioms in language.....	18-20
1.3. Concept of animal idioms.....	20-24
1.4. Analysis of semantic and pragmatic features of animal idioms.....	24-29
CHAPTER II. PRACTICAL RESEARCH USING A COLLECTED CORPUS AND A SURVEY OF NATIVE SPEAKERS.....	30
2.1. Data collection methods	30-31
2.2. Quantitative analysis of collected corpus of animal idioms.....	32-39
2.3 Qualitative analysis of collected corpus of animal idioms.....	39-45
2.4. Results of native speakers' survey.....	45-53
CONCLUSION.....	54-55
SUMMARY IN ESTONIAN.....	56
REFERENCES.....	57-60
APPENDIX.....	61

INTRODUCTION

Background and Rationale

Many researchers have studied the meaning of differences in animal idioms (e.g. Zhukova 2011; Rusu 2015; Mardar 2019; Gerasimova 2021, etc.). In modern conditions in developing world, the ability to interact with representatives of different cultures is very important. Idioms are important because they reflect the history and mentality of a nation. Idioms help understand cultural differences in different languages and conduct productive cross-cultural communication (Zhukova, 2011).

Idioms have been known to mankind for a long time, but linguists began to study them intensively only about 60 years ago. There is no universal definition that applies to most idioms. According to Mardar (2019), an idiom is an expression consisting of two or more words, in which the meaning of all the words in it has a unique meaning that is different from the meaning of each of those words. Sinclair notes that an idiom can be described as a set of words that together convey a general or specific meaning (Sinclair, 1996). Hornby notes that an idiom is a fixed expression no part of which can be altered or changed under any circumstances (Hornby, 1995). According to Tiechuan (2015), idioms are considered expressions that cannot be understood literally. There is also an opinion that idioms are products of collective creativity (Mardar, 2019). Korostenskienė and Tarnauskaitė in their article (2015) state that idioms are figurative expressions derived from or based on metaphors; thus, they reveal how conceptual system of people works and how they perceive the world. Idioms have fixed, figurative meanings, reflect the connection between cultural concepts and linguistic unity, and can arise from metaphors (Korostenskiene & Tarnauskaite, 2015). Idioms are often used by people in conversation to convey a hidden meaning. They are found in human speech as well as in literature and the media. At the same time, idioms are often limited in terms of syntax, and the meaning of an idiom comes from all the words that make it up (Gerasimova, 2021).

Every language retains a layer of culture, all the changes coined and implemented by generations of speakers of that language. English, like all languages, contains many phraseological units, and cultural differences often cause difficulties in translating stable units (Rusu, 2015). Idioms are often used by people in conversation to convey a hidden meaning. They are found in human language as well as in literature and the media. At the same time, idioms are often limited in terms of syntax, and the meaning of an idiom comes from all the words that make it up (Gerasimova, 2021). Every language retains a layer of culture, with any

changes invented and implemented by generations of speakers. English, such as Russian, like all languages, contains many phraseological units, and cultural differences often lead to difficulties in translating stable phraseological units (Rusu, 2015).

Why animal idioms?

Idioms with animal components such as dogs, cats, horses, and bulls have a long history, because these animals have lived with humans since Antiquity. Horses and cattle are a source of food and help humans in agriculture, and cats help humans fight rodents, etc. (Mardar, 2019). Malkova and Kuzina (2019) argue that language and culture are closely related to each other and through the idioms of a certain language, they help to understand the personality of people, native speakers of the language there.

Idioms in different languages have their own meanings and are part of culture. Idiomatic expressions can have different structures, including ungrammatical ones, and exhibit the following characteristics: synthesis, institutionalization, semantic opacity (Gerasimova, 2011). In different languages, there are stable combinations using various speech elements, including animal ones. Korostenskiene, Tarnauskaite (2015) and Rusu (2015) used the word “zoonym” in their study to refer to a discourse with an animal component. Zoonyms can be considered a separate class of idioms containing labels that native speakers assign to animals (Korostenskiene & Tarnauskaite, 2015). Malkova and Kuzina (2015) note that the basic difference between idioms and animals is that an idiom is usually a group of words and animal is just a word meaning animal. The following types of animals are found in stable form: mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, insects (Malkova & Kuzina, 2015). Rusu (2015) uses the term “zoosemy” in a narrow sense and refers to units associated with the animal world. She notes that “the word zoosemy comes from the Greek zoo – “animal” and sema – “meaning”, and constitutes the theme of animals” (Rusu 2015: 254). Such words are just metaphors, because people often pass on the name of an animal to name something solely based on a hidden, distant comparison with it. At the same time, the literal meaning of the word does not disappear, which greatly facilitates metaphorical interpretation (Rusu 2015: 254). Shmakova and Belaya in their work (2021) use another term to refer to certain idioms with animals: ornothonym. An ornothonym is represented by a word or combination of words that identifies a bird, giving it a second name (Shmakova & Belaya 2021). People's use of ornithonyms is directly related to their outlook on life and psychology. In English and Russian, idioms with ornithonyms are divided into: abstract concepts, metaphysical categories: proverbs and sayings (Shmakova, Belaya, 2021). Rusu in his article (2015), draws attention to proverbs, since stable units, even

with such words, can be both positive and negative, even neutral. Proverbs are mainly expressed in the form of emotions and resemble simple sentences, but at the same time they also contain metaphors (Rusu, 2015).

In Russian and English there are more or less the same images and symbols, so the hare is a coward, and the fox symbolizes cunning. But often when translating proverbs, the concept or structure changes, like the proverb with the dog (Rusu, 2015). Proverbs reflect the richness of English and Russian. People learning English or Russian as a foreign language may be confused if they hear a proverb, especially if the saying is different from their everyday vocabulary. This can be especially difficult if proverbs in Russian and English have different meanings and concepts. Knowing the different variations and equivalents of proverbs in Russian and English can greatly facilitate the process of learning and understanding a foreign language, which is why stable expressions are an indispensable part in terms of learning any foreign language and culture (Rusu, 2015).

Objectives and Hypotheses

Stable expressions and idioms come from certain cultural characteristics of these languages. Sometimes when translating text, understanding idioms can cause various problems. Therefore, their analysis is important to understand as well as understand the cultural context and human specificities (Tiechuan, 2015). Idioms with animals can have both a communicative function and a bonding meaning. Such images come from the depths of centuries of popular culture, because the development of human civilization has never been separated from the animal world.

People often use animal names to refer to certain qualities of others. The essence of the idiom is the simple life of people and the belief in kinship with animals. This point is confirmed by ancient calendars and a large number of synonyms in different languages, many of which have become idioms (Malkova & Kuzina, 2021). Idioms provide only abstract figurative meanings conveyed by use, for example, of the names of animals. Associations with animals in different cultures can have both similar and different meanings (Zhukova, 2011). Personal meanings may vary due to people's differences in religion, customs, and values. Idioms with animals in different languages of the world are unique. People from different countries may have different attitudes towards different animals. According to Gerasimova (2021), differences in the interpretation of idioms with animals between different people are explained by differences in history, thinking style, climate, interpretation of uniqueness. At the same time, it is a sign of

the uniqueness and uniqueness of a certain object, everybody, and culture. Using animal idioms, people express feelings, emotions and images. In one language, such an animal has a positive meaning, in another - the opposite, as, for example, in the case of lions and dogs(Tiechuan, 2015).

Idioms with animals express habits, create associations. Associations contain a certain meaning based on emotions and perception of the world around it(Zhukova, 2011). Therefore, in Russian and English, the mouse has a negative association, the dog in Russian has a negative association, and in English has a positive association (Zhukova, 2011). On the other hand, the use of idioms with different animals yields similar associations in different cultures, as can be said of a person who exhibits certain qualities of a "white crow" (rus.) or "black sheep" (eng.). As noted by scientist Mardar (2019), in English and Romanian, most negative expressions including the components "cat", "dog", "cow", "horse" are associated with negative characteristics of a person. Tiechuan in his work (2015), which compares animal idioms in English and Chinese, pointed out that in English and Chinese, some images of animals are similar, e.g. Fox, wolf and pig are similar images in both English and Chinese. Peacock in Chinese and English has the same concept, but it creates different associations, so in English we call people who represent something, in Chinese culture, peacock is an animal positive (Tiechuan, 2015). Also in Chinese there is no meaning to the animals "eel" or "snake", but in English there is, and these points relate to the question of why images of animals are similar or different. (Tiechuan, 2015).

Korostenskienė and Tarnauskaitė in their article(2015) noted that in English and Spanish culture, horses are positive animals, while in Lithuania, donkeys are negative. Synonyms for horse are used more often than synonyms for donkey, because horses are used more in agriculture and have a positive image(Korostenskiene & Tarnauskaite, 2015). The positive meaning of the horse in English, Spanish and Lithuanian is considered a means of transportation, strength, and somewhere there is a connotation, somewhere it is not, the horse is also used as a symbol of confidence(Korostenskiene & Tarnauskaite, 2015). The negative characteristic of horses in English and Lithuanian is noisiness. According to Korostenskienė and Tarnauskaitė (2015), idioms with "donkey" occur infrequently and have a neutral meaning. These are physical qualities, not personality, which carry the connotation of "exhausting work" (Korostenskiene & Tarnauskaite, 2015). According to Malkova and Kuzina(2015), mammals are the most common idiomatic element because they live closer to humans. People often use zoonyms to mark negativity, and based on this, some zoonyms have only negative meanings,

typically Russian and English. For example, such an animal zoonym is the word "rat". Gerasimova (2021) notes that in English, Indonesian, and Uzbek, animal idioms often convey a certain quality or characteristic. In Russian, Uzbek, Indonesian and English, the expression "like a cat with a dog" means "to argue" and this meaning may come from the daily existence of animals in the house, or in Indonesian and Uzbek culture, dogs are considered bad animals and in British culture, good animals(Gerasimova, 2021).

Shmakova and Belaya(2021) note that English and Russian idioms with the root word "peacock" describe a person, qualities, social status, certain habits and have the same meaning and appearance. The images of such idioms mean an arrogant person, as well as a well-dressed person and they belong to ancient times and are associated with the personification of birds and the comparison of a person with a bird(Shmakova & Belaya, 2021). Shmakova and Belaya (2021) note that the components of idioms with the abbreviations "swallow" and "peacock" correspond to the cultural norms of the peoples and are a sign of their identity and idioms are often used in the speech of representatives of different languages and cultures and express their identity and uniqueness. Tiechuan in his article (2015), notes the history and origin factors of idioms. There are three components: duality of evolution, aesthetic perspective, and habitat(Tiechuan, 2015). The duality of evolution refers to the social and cultural characteristics of humans and thus to the development of language. Humans are universal, have life experience, and know which animals have which qualities. With the same form of idiom, there can be differences in its meaning in different languages. Idioms often contain references to the country's history, lifestyle and traditions. Due to cultural communication, papers can also appear that trace different idioms in different languages, but these are often borrowed words (Tiechuan, 2015). In other words, thanks to evolution, the richness of languages is increasing. In terms of aesthetics, nothing can be without aesthetic significance. In this regard, according to Tiechuan (2015), aesthetics in English and Chinese are different and this can be influenced by religion and worldview.

Regarding the environment, modifying the habitat is difficult but can be adapted to living organisms. Geographical factors contribute to the formation of customs and traditions. Different food, different craft may be familiar in different places. For example, in Chinese culture, pets play an important role in the family, and in English culture, fish and the sea play an important role as crafts, and therefore there are many idioms in these languages, related language at this time(Tiechuan, 2015). Idioms are often used in people's communication, and

in order for them to better understand different languages, it is important to study culture and customs so that they can convey information accurately, exact and precise.

In conclusion, it can be said that there are many idioms referring to animals in different languages, including individual components of animals, and they have different connotations and meanings in different languages. To distinguish different idioms, authors such as Rusu (2015) use theoretical composition, distinguishing different groups of idioms within idioms with animal composition and different terms for designation. Authors, such as Korostenskienė and Tarnauskaitė (2015), compare similar idioms and distinctions with animal constituents in different languages. In conclusion, all authors (Korostenskienė & Tarnauskaitė, Tieuchan, Rusu and others) agree that idioms reflect the richness of language and that it is possible to better understand any culture through their idioms in its language. The hypothesis of this study is that there is significant semantic and pragmatic differences between animal idioms in English and Russian languages due to differences in cultural and historical context as well as linguistic structure and usage. The research questions aim to compare the similarities and differences between idioms about animals in English and Russian languages, and to explore the cultural and historical context that affects the use of idioms about animals in English and Russian languages, evaluating the effectiveness of animal idioms in conveying meaning, humor and metaphorical expression in both languages.

CHAPTER I THEORETICAL OVERVIEW OF ANIMAL IDIOMS IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES

1.1. Definition of idioms

In the process of development of the science of linguistics of the English language, idioms and idiomatic expressions always remain under the attention of scientists, translators and teachers. The problem of defining the concept of idiom has been used for a long time in linguistic work but has not yet been clearly resolved. The content and scope of this concept have not yet been fully defined and agreed upon and are still subject to debate. There is no unity of opinion and no agreement on the fixation of terminology, called indifferent meanings like “idioms”, “idiomatisms”, “phraseological units”, “(actually) phraseological units”, “phraseological units”, “phrasal lexemes”, “phrasems”, “phrase combinations”, etc.

Initially, the word “idiom” comes from the Greek “*idíōma*”, which means “peculiarity, originality”. At the same time, it is interesting to note the historical relationship between the word “idiom” and cognates in French: *idios* and *idiot*, which have the meaning “peculiar, personal, private.” Here it can trace the relationship of the word *idiotism* with the word *idiom*, which have a common etymology, having as their starting point *idiotisme* (French), *idiotismus* (Latin), with the meanings “ordinary or vernacular (vulgar) manner of speech” and *idiōtismos* (Greek) “manner of speech of a commoner.” In addition, it is important to say that the term “idiocy” is believed to have become the first to designate widely used and characteristic of a language expressions, the meaning of which does not follow from their grammatical structure or from the meaning of their constituent elements(it was used as a synonym for French term *idiom*, which described “peculiar features and peculiarities of a particular language”, which later replaced the concept of “idiocy”(Smith, 1959)).

In modern linguistics there is a huge selection of definitions for the term “idiom”. This is due to differences of opinion regarding both the scope and content of this concept. It is believed that the term “idiom” especially underwent evolution in the twentieth century, when two branches of the study of linguistic idioms emerged: continental European and Anglo-American.

In the Anglo-American tradition, in practice, an idiom is generally understood as any figurative expression that has a national identity. For example, one of the first researchers to study idioms was Logan P. Smith, who for this purpose collected a huge number of idioms from all possible areas of origin. He used idioms based on those of the Bible and Shakespeare's novels and was

inspired by the method of etymology common at the time (1959), although Smith admits that he does not know the etymology of some idioms. Collecting it is obviously a huge achievement, considering that idioms were not such a common topic at the time. Smith does not outline a linguistic explanation of idioms as such, but he speaks of idioms more lyrically: “Idioms are the little sparks of life and energy in our speech; they are similar to substances called vitamins, which make our food nutritious and healthy; diction, devoid of idiom... soon becomes tasteless and insipid”(Smith 1959: 15).

Around the same time, G. Sweet studied the problems of idioms (i.e., “special sentences”, in which, unlike “ordinary” sentences, the meaning of the whole cannot be derived from the meaning of the constituent elements, for example: I cannot help it. How do you do?) is considered by him in grammar. In addition, G. Sweet noted the analogies of such sentences with complex words, in which the meaning of the whole is “isolated” from the meaning of the parts. However, the scope of the concept of “idiom” in his interpretation is limited only to sentences(Sweet, 1955).

However, with regard to the study of the “idiom” and its theoretical foundations, theorists and linguists have come a long way in order to find the most accurate formulation and highlight the features of this figure of speech. Thus, it is worth noting that, first of all, the characteristics and scope of application of the idioms in relation to which they were studied differ(Katsarou, 2011).

Here it is worth starting with the study of Murat H. Roberts, who studied this phenomenon from the perspective of its socio-cultural features of application, which distinguishes his research from more recent ones, since he does not consider in such detail the linguistic nature of idioms as complex lexical units with certain lexical grammatical attributes. One of his earliest attempts to define an idiom was made back in 1944. Thus, according to Roberts, an idiom is a manifestation of “discourse,” that is, the “internal composition” or structure of thought transmitted through a certain linguistic code. An idiom reflects a special organization of thought, a mental type of language with the help of various means of expressiveness, which allow one to fully and clearly present the thought itself in its entirety, rather than demonstrate it sparingly and callously. Roberts was convinced that language is best revealed when it is most idiomatic, that is, most transparent, so that the speaker's thoughts appear clearly and without linguistic distortions(Roberts, 1944).

It is also important to note the exploration of the concept of "idiom" by J. J. Katz and P. M. Postal in 1963. They examined the phenomenon of using “idioms” from the perspective of

syntax. Thus, linguists have proposed the following definition: “An essential feature of an idiom is that its full meaning and, more generally, the meaning of any sentence containing an idiomatic extension does not demonstrate the meaning function of the elementary grammatical parts of the idiom”(Katz et al. 1963: 20). Based on this, idioms are syntactically complex compounds in a language, consisting of two or more morphemes that cannot be interpreted separately(Katz et al., 1973). The point of view that a special combination of words in an idiom leads to the creation of completely different semantic constructions that were not obvious at first examination was also held by W. Cheif ,W. Weyreich and B. Fraser, which was reflected in their studies in 1968, 1969 and 1970s years.

A pragmatic analysis of the concept of “idioms” was carried out by J. Strassler in 1982 and represented one of the first serious attempts to explore the discursive functions of idioms. J. Strassler himself set himself a specific research goal, believing that every idiom has a non-idiomatic synonym at the semantic level. Strassler wondered why idioms exist and why they can only be used under certain circumstances. Based on this, J. Strassler’s interpretation is as follows - idioms are not only semantic-syntactic combinations with a specific meaning embedded in them, but they also fulfill a specific function in everyday discourse(Strassler et al., 1982).

It is believed that Charles F. Hockett is one of the main modern theorists who has studied the term “idioms” to its fullest extent and seriously. He used the term "idiom" as an explanation for certain lexicographical and syntactic phenomena that define the fact that the meaning of an idiom cannot be predicted from its composition(Fatmawati, 2011). As a result of this approach, even individual words fall under the definition of idiom. R.J. Alexander, analyzing the definitions of set expressions given in various dictionaries, draws attention to the fact that the coexistence of a large number of definitions and the division of idioms into many different subtypes, such as catch phrases, pragmatic idioms, animal metaphors, idiomatic similes, allusive idioms, etc., it leads to a loss of concepts and confusion in terminology(Alexander, 1992: 37). Crystal defines an idiom according to two criteria: the first criterion is that the meaning of an idiom cannot be determined based on the values of the components that make up the idiom, as in the textbook expression «kick the bucket»; the second criterion speaks of an idiom as a stable expression in terms of lexical composition and grammatical structure (Crystal, 2003: 163).

Thus, based on various theoretical studies of the Anglo-American school, the following conclusions can be drawn.

1. The meaning of an idiom cannot be inferred from the meaning of each of its parts. This conclusion can be supported by the fact that the meaning of "slow down" cannot be obtained from the parts of "hold your horses"
2. When an idiom is used, it is not allowed to change the word order. Thus, the expression "Hold your restless horses" will no longer retain its idiomatic meaning.
3. Synonymous lexical elements in an idiom cannot be replaced. For example, the expression "in love" cannot be replaced with "head over heels in love."
4. In addition, it has been noted that idioms belong to the informal register, often have a figurative or metaphorical meaning, and, in addition, have homonymous literal counterparts.

If talk about the European continental tradition, then it gave a broader and more detailed description of idioms. First of all, S. Bally, whose works were first published in 1905, made a great contribution to the study of linguistic idioms. However, the study of idiomatic expressions is also associated with the names of such linguists as V. Vinogradov, N. Amosova, A. Kunin, V. Telia, etc.

Here, the point of view of the Russian linguist I. Anichkov deserves attention, who, back in 1927, made an attempt to found the "science of word combinations," denoting it as the science of word combinations and contrasting it with syntax, which considers combinations of word forms. To idioms, or in the other words idiomatisms, I.E. Anichkov considered not so much exclusively stable combinations of words, but rather combinations of prepositions and words, as well as sayings and proverbs. In addition, I.E. Anichkov put forward the theory that in any language any word is somehow limited in its use, in other words, an infinite number of free phrases cannot exist in a language, therefore these free phrases must be studied within the framework of a special science - idiomatics, along with any other types phrases, even the most idiomatic ones. I.E. Anichkov gave the name to the science - idiom (from the Greek idioma - "originality") and distinguished it from phraseology (Anichkov, 1992).

In addition, in 1967, linguist A.A. Reformatsky put forward the concept according to which idioms can be not only lexicalized combinations, but also individual words used in figurative meanings (Reformatsky, 2008). Since the 1960s, idiomatic phraseology was considered primarily within the framework of the language system. But since the late 1970s scientific

works of domestic scientists changed the approach to idiomatics, starting to conduct research into the functioning of idiomatic expressions in works of English fiction of the 19-th and 20-th centuries, scientific prose and English-language advertising. During this period, it is important to note the work of professor A.I. Smirnitsky, who developed his own approach to the study of English phraseology. A.I. Smirnitsky put forward the concept that the general meaning of a compound word cannot be deduced from its constituent parts. The concept was given the name “idiomatic language education.” The main feature of the idioms themselves was their bright stylistic coloring, emotional richness, and departure from the usual neutral style(Smirnitsky, 2008).

O.S. Akhmanova, a Soviet lexicologist and lexicographer, also made a great contribution to the study of phraseology of idioms themselves. Thus, she was one of the first to substantiate that the goal of studying everyday use and identifying the patterns of functioning of phraseological units and idioms themselves cannot be achieved without turning to detailed works of oral and written speech. Her study concluded that phraseological units can be reproduced in different registers of speech(Akhmanova, 2005).

Linguist L.A. Chinenova also highlights the speech aspect as one of the extremely important for understanding idiomatic units, since in her opinion it is possible to identify which processes have a special impact on the language system. Thanks to this, idioms are constantly changing and developing(Chinenova, 1986). Also, the famous linguist A.V. Kunin, in his research on idiomatic phraseology, revealed that the idiom, modified through the speech characteristics of characters and the author’s speech in works of literary and artistic creativity, acquires the status of a speech norm in modern literary language(Kunin, 1996).

Thus, based on various theoretical studies of the continental school, the following conclusions can be drawn.

1. In the European tradition, and specifically according to the interpretation of Soviet linguists, by “idiom” it is customary to understand that the general meaning of a stable combination of words is not deducible from the sum of the meanings of its lexical components, i.e. it is determined by semantic integrity;
2. A distinctive feature of idiomatic expressions is their bright stylistic coloring, emotional richness, and use not only within the framework of a neutral style;
3. There is a constant variability of idioms due to active use in oral speech;

4. Deformation is identified as a unique functional property of idiomatic expressions.

1.2. Role of idioms in language

An idiom is a special sign of a language: cultural semantics, or cultural connotation, which is created by the reference of the idiom to the subject area of culture, is “woven into its semantics” (Kovshova 2009: 5). This reference is carried out in the process of perception and reproduction of the idiom in speech by ordinary native speakers, and the idiom performs both linguistic and cultural functions: figuratively conveys information about what is happening in the world and at the same time transmits cultural meanings, cultural prescriptions, stereotypical ideas, etc. Linguist V. Ogoltsev believes that idioms have a cultural component of meaning, which underlies the comparative description of the semantic structure of idiomatic units, which are compared with each other in semantic and grammatical form. He emphasizes that the national identity of a language finds its most vivid and direct expression in idioms (Ogoltsev 1982: 130).

The role of idiom in language is that the idiom fully realizes a person’s ability to express his attitude to what is happening in the world. As the creator of an assessment, as an expresser of emotion, the speaker (and listener) reveals his cultural position - whether what happens in the world is worthy or unworthy of a person, whether it is appropriate for a person to do something or not. As a result of the cultural interpretation of the idiom in the process of its use, the most important component of the cultural and linguistic meaning of the idiom is formed, the content of which is the value-emotional attitude to what is happening. Culture here is understood as a space of cultural meanings, or value content developed by a person in the process of understanding the world, and codes, or secondary sign systems, in which various material and formal means are used to signify these cultural meanings (Kovshova 2009: 4). In various ways, the coded value content developed in culture makes up the overall picture of the world, in which the worldview of a particular society is revealed. The most universal, basic code is language, and therefore in natural language culture “finds” signs (sign bodies) to embody its meanings that have value content. Language is the optimal means of expressing cultural meanings, contributing to their preservation and transmission; Culture “borrows” the “bodies” of signs to present its meanings from language, transforming many of its signs from signs of a verbal code into signs of a verbal code of culture, and thereby doubling its secondary nature.

The most important object of linguoculturology are such verbal signs of culture as phraseological units; The fact that culture “borrows” the “bodies” of signs to present their

meanings in phraseology does not seem to be accidental. The specificity of the sign, substitutive, function of an idiom in a language is determined by its special position, determined by the tropical nature of the internal form of the idiom, or their imagery. The idiom is built on a metaphor, thus it belongs to the field of analogical thinking, to the field of creative consciousness, which involves the comparison of incomparables, the creation of an approximate identity, i.e. irrational modeling. The creation of a correspondence between objective reality, what is happening in the world and a linguistic sign, such as a phraseological unit, has a tropeic character: a pair of mutually incomparable significant elements, between which relations of adequacy are established, form a semantic trope that underlies the internal form of the phraseological unit. The image of a phraseological unit becomes that unique conductor of culture, thanks to which the interpenetration of two semiotic systems – culture and language – takes place. The following happens: the figurative and motivational component of a phraseological unit in the process of its interpretation in the cultural space gives rise to the cultural connotation of a phraseological unit. A two-sided linguistic sign falls into the “filter” of another system – culture, due to which cultural meanings are highlighted through the linguistic “material”, and the linguistic “material” itself becomes the body of a new sign – a cultural sign, which embodies the categories and meanings identified in the culture.

An idiom as a linguistic sign “emerges” at the intersection of language and culture. The internal form of the idiom is based on already cultivated entities, and a connection occurs, expressed in the formation of the imagery of the idiom and its semantics. It is not the trope that underlies the internal form of a phraseological unit that creates its cultural connotation - from the combination of cultural codes with their value content, the tropical essence of the idiom is born: it stores and transmits, when using the idiom, the cultural meanings “woven” into its semantics. The reproduction of an idiom is determined by its cultural function - it is a means of storing and transmitting cultural information about a person and the world; the idiom “came” into the language from a culture that “carries out memory of itself” (Lotman 1992: 129).

Idiom as a sign of secondary semiotization performs a special function in the symbolization (standardization, stereotyping) of the world. Created in culture, an idiom is capable of embodying stable meanings that were “embedded” in the linguistic semantics of the idiom during its creation, serve as the cultural basis of this semantics and are extracted from it in speech. In this special cultural function, the idiom is a linguistic symbol (standard, stereotype).

The communicative functions of idioms are formed in culture and are largely determined by the cultural connotation of a given linguistic sign. Choice in culture is always motivated (Stepanov 2004: 66), and the choice of idioms in communication for the purpose of performing a speech act (for example, euphemization of speech) is conscious and motivated primarily by the cultural semantics of a particular idiom. The restriction on the use of idioms, examined using the example of euphemization of speech, has not a conventional, but a cultural explanation.

Idiomatic units are concentrated in the language for centuries and are formed again in each era, because they absorb cultural information, make it possible to say a lot using fewer linguistic means, and at the same time reach the depths of the people's spirit and culture (Maslova 2001: 120). Idioms contain linguistic connotations, which are a way of understanding the worldview and make a great contribution to its formation, reflecting an evaluative attitude towards it. Studying the mentality of the people through idioms helps to understand the attitude of the people to the modern picture of the world, their attitude to the world around them, to the actions of people.

1.3. Concept of animal idioms

In most languages of the world, animal names are regularly used to name a person, his appearance, abilities, character traits, relationships with other people, and lifestyle. Man himself is a product of living nature, an integral part of the living world, and it is normal that he looks for parallels in the living world, the world of his own kind, in the world of fauna.

Idioms with animals become a kind of personification, symbols of the moral and intellectual qualities of a person, that is, in addition to the real meaning, they contain something specific, additional, vague, often not entirely known, hidden from us. In the vocabulary of any language in the world, idioms with animals represent a very specific layer. It is idioms with animals that reflect differences in national cultural ideas, psychological, mental and social characteristics and various customs inherent in a particular linguistic community and culture as a whole. Idioms with animals are quite complex linguistic units that have significant information potential and perform various functions in the language.

How to explain the high activity of such idioms, that is, the ability to be part of different expressions, in Russian and English? Perhaps this linguistic phenomenon is nothing more than a reflection or consolidation of close and prolonged contact between humans and fauna, the origins of which go back to ancient times, to those eras of human evolution when animalism

was the basis of the worldview(Lyasota 1984: 97). Then the first generalizations-symbols began to take shape, concretized in the image of an animal. Later, the domestication of animals gave rise to new forms of symbolization.

Such units, as certain figures of speech, are found in almost every language. They give speech imagery, expressiveness and liveliness. Different languages, including English and Russian, use different thematic variants of idiomatic expressions (comparisons, proverbs, metaphors, colloquialisms, jargons, etc.).

Many such expressions, as a rule, have either a completely or partially figurative meaning. The main feature of idioms with animals is the discrepancy between the plan of content and the plan of expression, which determines the specificity of phraseological units and gives depth and flexibility to its meaning.

Almost all expressions with an animalistic component are related to humans. Most of them are anthropocentric, therefore, in phraseological units with a zoonym component, much attention is paid to the physical, external, moral, emotional and psychological characteristics of a person. Also may notice an association there that is based on the metaphorical human-animal transfer. Idioms with animals have a figurative meaning, describing the human world with the help of animals.

The national specificity of such expressions is manifested in various types of human activity, character traits, positive or negative personal qualities of people. The sources of nationally specific features of idioms with animals can be differences in the animal world, features of the way of life, the nature of work, values, historical conditions for the formation of language and many other factors.

Words denoting animals belong to the oldest layer of vocabulary in all countries of the world. "Zoonyms represent complex linguistic consequences in which information potential is inherent. In zoonyms, as in any other area of language, the peculiarities of human life are reflected, when images of animals in different countries are endowed with, at first glance, completely unmotivated phenomena, and sometimes even contrary to the logic of things. These fantasies and fantasies go back to the depths of the images of human consciousness, its beliefs and mythology"(Kochova 2015: 56).

Proverbs and sayings as a type of idioms with animals constitute a fairly large layer in the phraseological fund of different nations and are distinguished by great thematic diversity. All

their elements are subordinate to their main task - to reveal the thought more fully, more accurately and brightly; in this sense, proverbs and sayings about animals can be an example of extreme brevity and lack of amorphism. In modern science, there are many approaches to the classification of proverbs and sayings; one of them is thematic, according to which researchers identify a separate group "Man and his relationship to the surrounding animal world." The peculiarity of phraseological units containing zoonyms is that their symbolic meaning is built on the basis of the figurative meaning of structural components and, above all, metaphor and metonymy with "living" imagery, which gives proverbs and sayings maximum colorfulness in terms of expression and capacity in terms of content. Zoonyms are very often included in proverbs. All of them received their own characteristics, which were assigned to them as in folk tales, and in folk wisdom and in phraseological turns (Telia 1996: 110). Zoonyms are part of the language system, also part of the linguistic picture of the world.

It is in language that the historically established ideas about the world, about the organization of life, and about the system of values that have historically developed in the ordinary consciousness of the people are reflected. An in-depth study of a language - its vocabulary, structure, speech behavior of native speakers - allows us to describe the originality of thinking and psyche of an ethnic group, the uniqueness of its national culture. Each representative of an ethnic group, as a native speaker, is also a carrier of culture. Therefore, "linguistic signs acquire the ability to perform the function of cultural signs and thereby serve as a means of representing the basic attitudes of culture" (Maslova 2001: 63). It is generally accepted that the phraseological composition of a language represents "its most original phenomenon" not only in terms of systemic and regular anomaly, but also in terms of expression by phraseological units of the national identity of the people - native speakers (Telia 1996: 215). According to Pak Seong Gu, in this regard, "of particular importance is the study of zoonyms that are part of the phraseological units of two differently structured languages in order to describe the system of associations and connotations associated among the speakers of the two compared languages with ideas about one or another animal in the projection on a person" (Pak Sung Gu 2000: 72).

Animal idioms can serve different functions. They can:

- 1) describe a person's appearance. For example, a queer bird - eccentric, as red as turkey-cock - red as a lobster;
- 2) describe a person's mental abilities. For example, a spring chicken - a young man, inexperienced, to be dumped as ass - to be stubborn like a donkey.
- 3) Evaluating human actions.

For example, a little bird told - a magpie on its tail brought it, to see how the cat jumps - wait where the wind is coming from will blow;

3) contain an indication of behavior. For example, bull at a gate –furiously, furiously; eat like a bird - eat like a bird, very little;

4) contain an indication of the person’s character. For example, to be on ones high horse - to be arrogant, a bull in a china shop - like an elephant in china shop, clumsy(Kunin, 1984).

Animals personify those qualities and character traits in which they are similar to humans, for example, a fox is cunning, a dog is loyal, a cat is wayward, and so on. That is why today many animal names have already become metaphors.

However, when using phraseological units with a zoonym component, the culture and specifics of the country should be taken into account. That is, in different countries animals are perceived differently. For example, in Russian the word “cow” means “awkward, clumsy, clumsy,” but in English this word has a connection with fraud, and fair cow means scoundrel.

Thus, phraseological units in general and with a zoonym component in particular can convey and reflect the history and existence of a particular people. This happens in three ways:

1) Complexly, that is, with all components together, conveying the overall meaning.

2) Separately, that is, by elements of its composition. For example,

too much pudding will choke the dog - от слишком большого куска пудинга и собака подавится

3) Prototypically, that is, free phrases that describe the life of the people (for example, traditions, holidays, customs, historical events, and so on): as a hog on ice - как свиньи на льду(Russian equivalent - как корова на льду)

Y. Alshanskaya notes that almost every idiom with animal component has three “levels” of meanings that are closely related to each other. The first meaning – “ordinary” – is the name of this or that animal, the second – “mythological” – is reflected in traditional folk culture, in folklore texts. Based on these two “levels,” a stereotypical meaning or stereotypical image is formed, which is actualized when using a zoonym for a zoomorphic characteristic of a person (Alshanskaya, 2005). One of the main functions of such expressions - expressive coloring of speech, assessment of the phenomenon. When this or that event happened, the people necessarily gave an assessment of what was happening, thereby carrying out an evaluative

function. Thanks to their expressiveness, phraseological units make their perception easier for people, allowing them to evaluate and rethink the expression themselves. It can also conclude that idioms with a zoonym component convey the long process of human evolution, the development of a people and their way of thinking. They play an important role in everyday life, making a person's speech brighter, more expressive and more emotional. They are passed on from generation to generation, becoming outdated and updated again, depending on the degree of development of the language.

1.4. Analysis of semantic and pragmatic features of animal idioms

The semantic and pragmatic features of animal idioms can be seen in their rough comparison in different languages. So, as a basis for such a comparison, it can take the names of the most common domestic animals and the corresponding idioms with these animals in the Russian and English languages. Based on the names of domestic animals, such as cat, dog, goat, it can try to trace the semantics and pragmatics of idioms in the English and Russian languages, since domestic animals played an important role in human life in both English and Russian cultures, and the habits animals served as the basis for the emergence of many phraseological units and idioms in both Russian and English languages.

If talk about Russian idioms, for example the idiom “кот в мешке,” according to the Big Dictionary of Russian Proverbs by V.M. Mokienko and T.G. Nikitina(2007), means something unverified and unknown with a disapproving and playful connotation. Regarding the etymology, this expression is borrowed from the French language by tracing the idiom “acheter chat en poche” (buy a cat in a poke) during the Russian-French bilingualism of the Russian nobility in the 18th-19th centuries. Due to the fact that traders often acted dishonestly and deceived customers, this expression “купить кота в мешке” appeared independently in the Russian language. The idiom “кот наплакал” according to the academic dictionary of Russian phraseology(2020), means a very small amount of someone or something and carries an ironic connotation. It is usually used when talking about the amount of money, emphasizing its lack, but can also be combined with other items. The exact origin is unknown, but it is assumed that it came from the Arabic (stop receiving money), but the purely physiological theory of origin is not refuted. However, the phraseological unit comes in handy when describing a negligibly small quantity and is a clear equivalent to the phraseological units “всего ничего” or “с гулькин нос”, etc. The idiom “кот, который гуляет сам по себе emphasizes such traits of cats as individuality and rebellion, even despite human taming. This expression has become a

strong equivalent of an individualistic nature that does not obey rules and is not subject to whom he does not worship. In the Russian language cats are treated as pets, a negative attitude is often manifested, and phraseological units clearly and expressively indicate this. Often, such traits of cats are emphasized as freedom of action and a kind of arrogant behavior, a tendency towards individuality and independence. In general, a negative attitude is manifested; cats are often perceived as a symbol of the warlike creatures, or domestic animals that spend most of their time on the street and in wilder conditions, retaining wild traits and obeying natural instincts. All this opens up great metaphorical potential for transferring qualities and actions to describe a person and his behavior.

The phraseological unit “собака на сене”, according to the Phraseological Dictionary of the Russian Literary Language(2008), means someone who himself does not use something and does not allow others to use it with a reprehensible connotation of meaning. The origin of the expression goes back to the fables of the ancient Greek philosopher Aesop, in which he first used this phrase. In the idiom “спустить собаку,” which, according to the Phraseological Dictionary of the Russian Literary Language(2008), means to unfairly and undeservedly scold someone, the predatory and furious side of dogs, the thirst for blood, is emphasized. At the same time, a dog can only bark at a person, which can sometimes be equated to tearing apart. This means that a word can hurt more than physical violence. Be that as it may, meeting an angry dog never bodes well for a person; most likely, he will be scolded undeservedly and unfairly. The meaning of the Russian idiom is the unit “to eat a dog” according to book “The basics of phraseology”(2013) says that a person who ate a dog in something is a great expert in something, has a lot of experience. The exact origin is unknown, but may go back to the speech of peasants who, after agricultural work, “собаку бы съели” or to an expression that appeared as a result of the abbreviation of the saying “собаку съел, а хвостом подавился” (about someone who did something difficult and tripped for nothing). A dog as a domestic animal that is not eaten looks unnatural in this speech context and has a negative and abusive function, despite the positive context of the phrase as a whole. Thus, it can be noted that in the Russian language a negative attitude towards dogs prevails, which are at least sometimes called the best friends of a person. Despite the well-known devotion and love for their owners, the perception of a dog as a predatory and evil animal used in hunting or searching for something has become entrenched in phraseology, and the abusive component associated with the dog has become established. The dog is either perceived as an idle and thoughtless animal, or it is objectified and loses the features of a living being.

In Russian, the expression “(что-то сделать)как свинья” is common, for example, to get drunk, and according to the Phraseological Dictionary of the Russian Literary Language(2008) it means: very strongly, ugly (to get drunk, to be drunk, etc.). This expression is widespread in the Russian language, and the connection is based on the fact that the image of a pig is often associated with boorish, antisocial behavior, and lack of cleanliness. This also includes other expressions with a similar meaning, such as: “измазался в грязи как свинья”, “ешь как свинья”, etc. The unit “put a pig on (someone)” reveals a bright negative connotation and, according to the Phraseological Dictionary of the Russian Literary Language(2008), it implies preparing trouble for someone on the sly. In context it has an ironic connotation. The exact origin is unknown, but may be related to the religious prohibition against eating meat among Muslims. Thus, in the phraseology of the Russian language, the image of a pig is negative, a pig is presented as a source of meat, as an unkempt and unclean animal, narrow-minded and not understanding anything, an omnivore, eating everything indiscriminately. All this opens up great opportunities for transferring these qualities to a person, which are perceived as abusive, derogatory, or with a hint of irony.

If we take English idioms, then, for example, the proverb: “While the cat's away, the mice will play.” Collins Dictionary defines this expression as meaning that when the person responsible for something goes away for a while and leaves other people to their own devices, their behavior changes, becoming negative in one way or another, depending on the context. For example, if a boss leaves the workplace, employee motivation decreases and, consequently, productivity decreases. The same may apply, for example, to a group of children without adult supervision, prisoners, without the supervision of jailers, etc. The cat, being the main danger for mice, keeps them in constant fear, not allowing them to run amok, relax, feel safe. And the idiom “let the cat out of the bag,” as defined by the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, means to give away a secret, to make public. It occurs by analogy with the expression “pig in a poke” and is associated with the activities of traders at fairs, who had to prove that they were selling a real product and not a fake, show what was inside, so as not to get a “pig in a poke”. In the English-speaking community, the cat is also perceived as a symbol of counterfeit, poor quality goods, and deception that they are trying to hide. The idiom “cat got someone's tongue”, which is a remark or question of a judgmental nature and, according to the Cambridge Dictionary, means an expression in relation to a person who annoys you with his silence. In Russian, examples of equivalents can be give “язык проглотил” “воды в рот набрал” etc. It was originally used by adults in relation to children who refused to speak badly after doing

something, but these days it is no longer a prerequisite for use. Thus, the English language emphasizes the predatory and quarrelsome nature of cats, highlights certain behavioral and character traits that are transferred to certain human qualities. Often there is a transformation of an animated object (a cat) into an inanimate one (a fake, some kind of secret). In general, a neutral attitude towards this type of animal remains, with a slight bias towards a negative connotation.

If consider idioms with the “dog” component, then, for example, the unit “dog in the manger” has a completely identical meaning and expression in Russian - “собака на сене”. This is explained by the common origin, as well as the equal significance of the expression for two different cultures. If analyze “keep a dog and bark oneself”, according to the Oxford Dictionary definition, it is used when someone wants to know why a person does something himself when he pays someone else to do it. It can also be translated: “to take the rap for others,” “to do someone else’s work.” The first appearance of the saying dates back to the end of the 16th century. Literally means that it is unreasonable, having a dog, to bark instead of it, to carry out its “direct duties.” The idiom “go to the dogs”, meaning: to decline, go down the drain, change in a bad way (Merriam-Webster). Partially equivalent to the Russian “пойти псу под хвост.” Originally comes from the Middle Ages, when pieces of low-grade meat were thrown to dogs, also showing contempt for this type of animal. The idiom “dog ate my homework” is defined by the Free Dictionary as a lame excuse for someone not doing something on time. Often used in a humorous manner in school and student environments. The expression “the dog ate my homework” originated at the beginning of the 20th century and is due to the fact that this animal loves to chew paper. This observation served as the basis for an anecdote, which, in turn, served as the basis for consolidating phraseological units in speech. Thus, there is a tendency towards pity and respect towards dogs, towards a hard life, which is transferred to a human life, full of hard work, troubles, which will ultimately lead to the best. The dog is also perceived as a carrier of diseases, fleas, and a predator with a craving for meat, but it is emphasized that one will have to fight for a piece of meat, the faster the better. If we consider idioms with the “pig” component in English, then, for example, “a pig in a poke,” which is translated into Russian as “pig in a poke,” has a similar meaning of fake with the only difference being that in English it the role is given to the pig, not the cat. An analysis of the idiom “like pigs in clover” using the dictionary (Dictionary.com) gives the following definition: completely satisfied, happy. The expression “like a pig in clover” was first used in the early 18th century and was based on the animal’s predilection for this type of plant. In the Russian language there are the following

variants of this phraseological unit: как сыр в масле кататься”, “жить припеваючи, etc. Or, the idiom “put lipstick on a pig” As defined by the Oxford Dictionary, it means: it is useless to try to make something perceived with hostility and disapproval appear more attractive. In other words: make cosmetic changes that do not change the essence. The implication is that in order to make truly meaningful changes for the better, it is necessary to change internally; external changes are more likely to cause only greater hostility, being exposed as an attempt to deceive. The following idioms, like “make a pig of yourself” and “to eat like a pig” have a similar meaning: eat like a pig, eat too much, eat greedily (Dictionary.com). This also includes eating, accompanied by slurping, non-compliance with the standards of decency at the table. This disparaging remark, which is made to a person while eating, is associated with the pig’s tendency to gluttony, eating food in any conditions, even those associated with dirt and sewage.

Thus, the image of a pig in English phraseology represents the following features: immense absorption of food, inability and indiscriminateness in eating food, helplessness, undemandingness and unpretentiousness. Some of the pig's body parts are used in English phraseological units, symbolizing something useless and meaningless, while the piglet can be perceived as something unknown and with unknown qualities.

Regarding specific types of animals, the analysis shows that basically “cats” in Russian are presented as: predatory, cocky, wild, individual creatures. In English, cats are represented as: quarrelsome, predatory, hardy, and freedom-loving creatures. Considering the component “dog” can conclude that in the Russian language the following main features are distinguished: predatory, idle, thoughtless, evil, with a good scent, used in curses and often objectified. The English language emphasizes the following features: rapacity, hard work, the severity of fate, the transmission of diseases, feigned ferocity, perseverance, empathy and understanding are shown. As for the “pig” component, the Russian language distinguishes such main features of a pig as uncleanliness, untidiness, stupidity, and indiscriminate omnivorousness. In the English language, the main features are the following: immense and indiscriminate absorption of food, undemanding and unpretentiousness, the inability to be outwardly embellished.

These features also indicate the following cultural and national features:

1) the Russian language is characterized by: expressiveness and high emotional coloring, a large number of abusive components, instructive or prejudicial, a widespread negative, reprehensible attitude. Due to various historical reasons, folk wisdom, developed by ancestors

and entrenched in proverbs and sayings, is widespread in the language, and there are also mythological and religious overtones;

2) the English language is characterized by: a some business approach and the desire to find benefits, division of the whole into the particular, objectification of living beings, straightforwardness and pragmatism of statements, expressiveness and emotionality, along with moralizing, is low, generalization of concepts takes place. Historical events have a great influence on the formation of certain concepts and expressions; a desire for a more tolerant attitude that avoids conflicts is manifested. There is also a high degree of irony, which is reinforced by slang phrases and expressions.

CHAPTER II. PRACTICAL RESEARCH USING A COLLECTED CORPUS AND A SURVEY OF NATIVE SPEAKERS

2.1. Data collection methods

The purpose of the work is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of idioms with animals within the English and Russian languages to recognize their semantic and pragmatic differences. For this reason, a framework of information collection strategies has been done, which made it conceivable to get a choice of animalistic idioms from a few sources. The first step of the practical research was the analysis of sources, such as phraseological dictionaries, counting on the English and Russian languages, and a look in them for idiom expressions with animals and their possible meanings and specific application. These sources give a list of animal idioms with their implications and cases of use. In addition, to ensure a diverse sample, different criteria for selecting expressions were used. Various areas of use of idioms were taken into consideration, such as the trade environment, lifestyle, and the sociocultural contexts of their use were moreover taken into account. As a result of employing a variety of information collection strategies, a agent list of animal idioms was made, which is able be emphasized within the ensuing investigation of their semantic and pragmatic highlights. In addition to review of traditional sources, attention is also paid to some online sources, that provide access to a wide range of English and Russian idioms. It is, some blogs, social networks posts and some online publications. To obtain the sample, a random selection method was used to select idioms from various areas of life and contexts of their use. It paid attention to such areas as everyday communication, business correspondence, literary works, as well as written genre. This moment helped to collect a diverse number of idioms that reflect different aspects of English and Russian people's linguistic behavior and helped to get an overview of both classical idioms and the so-called, slang, non-literary idioms used specifically.

Following, an analysis of animal idioms collected as part of the consider will be carried out in arrange to distinguish the semantic, pragmatic and cultural highlights of their use in English and Russian. To realize this objective, both quantitative and qualitative strategies of analysis are used.

To begin with, a quantitative analysis of the collected corpus of animalistic expressions was carried out. This includes checking the whole number of idioms, as well as their dispersion into categories such as type of animaland context of use. The distribution of idioms by level of use in different sociocultural contexts is additionally considered.

To conduct the second part of the study, related to the survey of native speakers, a survey was created and conducted. It incorporates a survey counting questions around the perception and understanding of animal idiom expressions in English and Russian, respectively. The choice of respondents for interviews was carried out randomly among native English and Russian speakers living in several countries and having different sociocultural characteristics. This permitted us to create the most representative sample possible, reflecting the differences of perception and use of animal idioms in different cultural contexts. The survey was conducted both in written and oral frame, depending on the preferences of the respondents. The interviews were conducted at a time convenient for the respondents to guarantee greatest responsiveness and unwavering quality of the information obtained. The questions within the survey concerned both the understanding of particular animal idioms and their interpretation, and the recognition of the context of their use in different circumstances. The survey also included questions around preferences in using expressions with animals in ordinary discourse, as well as around the perception of their meaning and emotional connotation.

The results of the interviews were recorded and analyzed to distinguish the most trends and contrasts within the perception of animal idioms, expressions between native speakers of English and Russian. These information served as the basis for the second part of our study and made it conceivable to pick up a more deeper understanding of the semantic and pragmatic features of the use of animal idioms in different language situations.

The collection of idioms proceeded as follows. The basis for the selection of idioms was primarily the presence of an “animal” component in them. A total of 51 idioms were selected for the study - 28 English and 23 Russian idioms. An approximately equal number of idioms were selected in both languages in order to evenly evaluate their features in the languages. Idioms were selected using a random selection method - this method allows English idioms to be selected in three dictionaries and in one of the groups on the social network Facebook, where group members (ordinary people) discuss the everyday use of idioms and their features. The choice of modern dictionaries and an active Facebook group was determined by the moment to evaluate the most modern features of the use and possible meanings of these idioms. Russian idioms were selected in two dictionaries and one of the groups of the social network VK (ВКонтакте), where group members (ordinary people) discuss the everyday use of idioms and their features.

2.2. Qualitative analysis of collected corpus of animal idioms

A qualitative analysis of idioms was carried out according to the following parameters: semantic meaning, emotional connotation. The evaluative component shows the ability of the idiom to express the speaker's approving or disapproving attitude to the subject of the message and is the main one in the semantic meaning of the idiom due to its sociolinguistic nature (Katermina 2005: 32). For idioms of interest to us that characterize a certain situation or, for example, nominate a person based on character traits, emotional connotation becomes especially important due to the specifics of the object of study itself, since usually what characterizes a person or situation represents evaluative categories, evokes an emotional-evaluative attitude. Idioms have been preserving generally accepted ideas about the properties of a person's mental makeup for centuries, expressing their stable negative or positive perception by people. That is why idioms can reflect character in the language system and literary texts. The opinion of people about character, fixed in phraseology, is connected with their value picture of the world, which has developed in a linguistic society and reflects social priorities, personal spiritual aspirations (Telia 1996: 122). The assessment is usually expressed descriptively in dictionary definitions, in dictionary commentary and in dictionary evaluation marks in the range "positive – negative" (contempt, neglect, disapproval, respect, approval, etc.). Accordingly, the edges of the range will be positioned as polar values. With this approach, the polarity of the ratings is represented, for example, in the form of the symbols (+) and (-).

English idioms:

Idiom	Semantic meaning	Emotional connotation
An albatross (around somebody's neck)	A heavy burden	Negative
Be like a bear with a sore head	Not in the mood, annoyed	Negative

The early bird catches the worm	Early success	Positive
Break a butterfly on a wheel	Excessive cruelty or injustice	Negative
Fat cat	A very rich or influential person, especially in business or politics	Negative
No spring chicken	Not young	Neutral/Negative
A sitting duck	An easy target for criticism or some attack	Negative
Have a frog in your throat	Have difficulty speaking	Neutral/Negative
Like cat and mouse	A tense situation or conflict	Negative
The dog days	Very hot weather or a period of inactivity	Neutral/Negative
A rat race	Stressful situation or competition	Negative
Pull a rabbit out of the hat	An unexpected or magical solution to the problem	Positive
Make sheep's eyes at	Demonstration of sentimentality or romantic feelings	Positive
Up with the lark	Early rise	Positive

Sort out the sheep from the goats	Separating the good from the bad	Neutral/Positive
Turn turtle	Failure or the reverse situation	Negative
Brass monkeys	Very cold	Negative
Be somebody's pigeon	Deception or fraud	Negative
Have eyes like a hawk	Very good observation or attentiveness	Positive
Drink like a fish	Drink alcohol in large quantities	Negative
To hold the bull by the horn	Take control of a difficult situation or problem	Neutral/Positive
For donkey's years	A very long time	Neutral/Negative
Horse of a different color	A completely different situation or factor	Neutral/Positive
Beard the lion in its den	To run into someone powerful or authoritative	Neutral/Positive
Have a memory like an elephant	Very good memory	Positive
Eager beaver	Very energetic, diligent or diligent	Positive

Till the cows come home	For a very long time, forever	Neutral/Negative
A lone wolf	Single, independent	Neutral

Table 1. English idioms, their semantic meaning and emotional connotation

Russian idioms:

Idiom	Semantic meaning	Emotional connotation
Смотреть как баран на новые ворота	Fruitless attempts, inability to understand the obvious	Negative
Будет вам и белка, будет и свисток	Everything necessary will happen, as expected	Neutral/Positive
Переть как бык	To move forward vigorously and unceremoniously, interfering with others	Neutral/Negative
Волк в овечьей шкуре	A man pretending to be someone else than he is	Negative

Денег куры не клюют	A very rich man	Negative
Львиная доля	The main or the most part	Neutral/Positive
Это вам не жук чихнул	An important or serious event	Positive
Три кита	The three most important or significant aspects or factors in something	Neutral/Positive
Черная кошка пробежала	Quarrel, hostility	Negative
Хорош гусь	A smart, attentive and responsible person	Positive
Ухватить синицу за хвост	Achieve the impossible or difficult	Positive
Золотая рыбка	The source of luck or desire	Positive
Как черепаха	Very slow	Negative

Жареный петух клюнул	Anyone experienced difficulties, troubles, found themselves in a difficult, difficult situation	Negative
С высоты птичьего полета	From a high position or point of view	Neutral/Positive
С воробьиный нос	A small fraction, an insignificant amount	Negative
Собаку съел	to acquire great art, significant experience, skill in something;	Positive
Темная лошадка	Unknown or mysterious situation or man	Neutral/Negative
Считать ворон	to be inattentive	Negative
Свинью подложить	Betray or deceive	Negative
На кривой козе не обскачешь	Justice or the inevitability of punishment	Negative
Забодай комар	a strong emotion of any kind	Positive

Конь в пальто	A man posing as someone else	Neutral/negative
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Table 2. Russian idioms, their semantic meaning and emotional connotation

To analyze the results of the survey on English and Russian idioms, the following parameters were considered: semantic meaning and emotional coloring. For ease of comparison, graphs with the percentage distribution of these parameters were compiled.

English idioms:

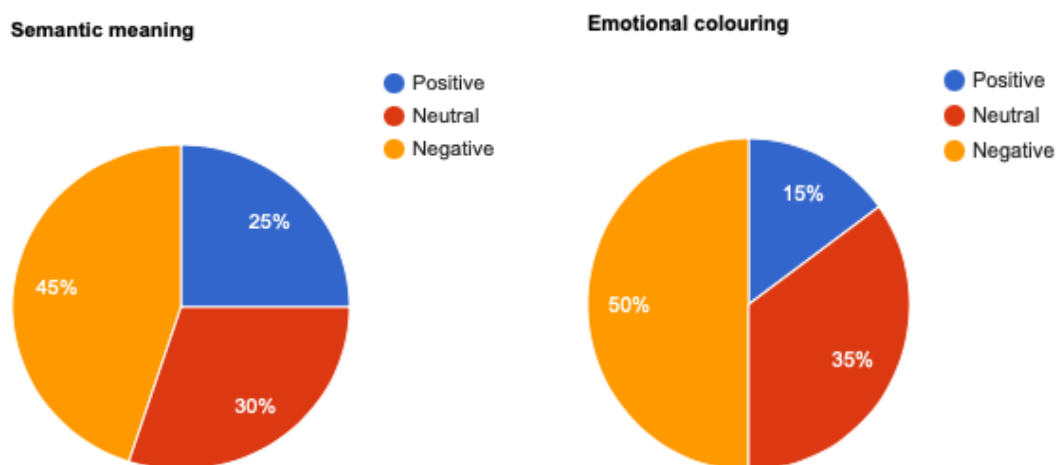
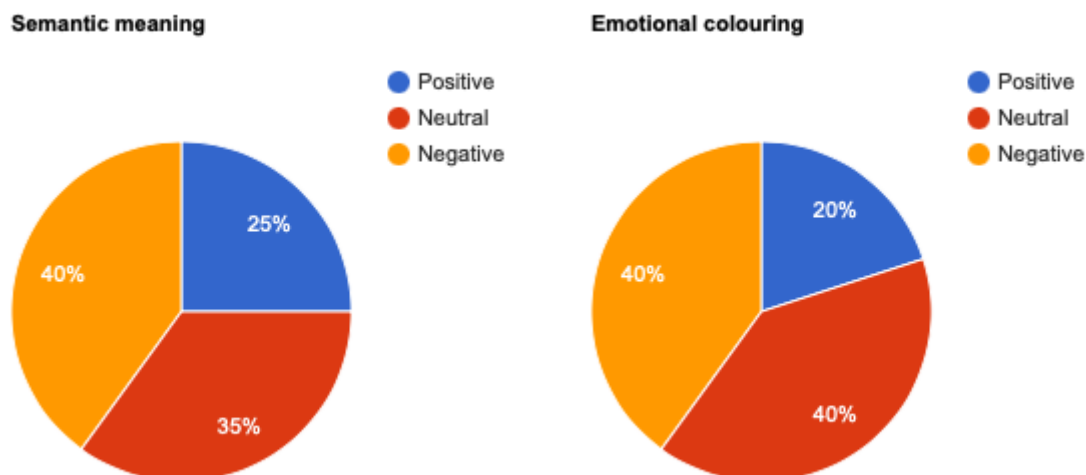


Chart 1. Assessment of the semantic meaning and emotional connotation of English idioms.

Russian idioms:



Graph 1. Assessment of the semantic meaning and emotional connotation of Russian idioms.

It can be seen from the graphs that idioms with negative semantic meaning prevail in both categories. However, in English idioms, the negative color is much higher than in Russian. It may do conclusions, like idioms with different semantic meanings and emotional coloring are found in both cultures. This may indicate differences in cultural perceptions and perceptions of different situations, when idioms are used. According to our corpus, idioms are more characterized by negative evaluation. This point correlates with the opinion of the famous linguist and researcher of idioms A.V. Kunin, who argues that "idioms with a negative assessment are significantly more than those with a positive assessment"(Kunin 1996: 182). This is due to the fact that some manifestations of a human nature, such as rudeness, hypocrisy, cruelty, isolation, lack of communication, etc., are universal in different national cultures and have a negative attitude towards themselves.

2.3. Quantitative analysis of collected corpus of animal idioms

Idioms «an albatross(around somebody's neck)», «be like a bear with a sore head», «the early bird catches the worm», «break a butterfly on a wheel», «fat cat», «no spring chicken», «a sitting duck», «have a frog in your throat» were found in Longman Pocket Dictionary. Idioms «like cat and mouse», «the dog days», «a rat race», «pull a rabbit out of the hat», «make sheep's eyes at», «up with the lark» were found in Collins online dictionary. Idioms «till the cows come home», «a lone wolf», «sort out the sheep from the goats», «turn turtle», «brass monkeys», «be somebody's pigeon», «have eyes like a hawk» were found in Oxford online dictionary. Idioms

«drink like a fish», «to held the bull by the horn», «for donkey's years», “horse of a different color», «beard the lion in its den», «have a memory like an elephant», «eager beaver» were found in one of the Facebook social network groups dedicated to the study and everyday use of idioms.

Idioms «смотреть как баран на новые ворота», «будет вам и белка- будет и свисток», «переть как бык», «волк в овечьей шкуре», «денег куры не клюют», «львиная доля», «это вам не жук чихнул», «три кита» were found in Academic Dictionary of Russian Phraseology(Академический словарь русской фразеологии). Idioms «черная кошка пробежала», «хорош гусь», «ухватить синицу за хвост», «золотая рыбка, «как черепаха», «жареный петух клюнул», «с высоты птичьего полета, «с воробьиный нос» were found in Phraseological dictionary of the Russian literary language(Фразеологический словарь русского литературного языка). Idioms «собаку съел», «темная лошадка», «считать ворон», «свинью подложить», «на кривой козе не обскачешь», «забодай комар», «конь в пальто» were found in one of the VK(Вконтакте) social network groups dedicated to the study and everyday use of idioms.

"An albatross (around somebody's neck)": The idiom prefixes a fundamental expression ("an albatross") with a specific phrase ("around somebody's neck") that describes a burden or issue.

"Be like a bear with a sore head": The sentence's grammatical structure uses the simile "be like" to allude to a state of resemblance (being like a bear with a bad headache).

"The early bird catches the worm" implies that the one who gets up earlier has more time to accomplish more. It consists of two parts: the subject (the early bird) and the action (catch).

"Break a butterfly on a wheel" : Idiom is created by joining the word "break" with an object ("a butterfly").

"Fat cat" - this idiom consists two words: "fat" and "cat". "Fat" describes the condition of "cat" and can be considered as an adjective denoting excessive wealth or influence.

"No spring chicken" - this idiom consists of two parts: "no" and "spring chicken". "Spring chicken" is used to refer to youth. The particle "no" generally changes the meaning of the expression to the opposite, that is, it indicates that this person is no longer young. Syntactically, it is also a combination of noun and adjective, modified by negation.

"Sitting duck" - the idiom consists of the article "a", the nouns "sitting" and "duck". Syntactically, in this idiom, "sitting" acts as a participle indicating the state of a "duck", and "duck" is interpreted as someone in a vulnerable position or in danger.

"You have a frog in your throat" - this idiom includes the article "a", the verb "to have", the nouns "frog" and "throat". Syntactically, the verb "have" here indicates the presence of something inside the "throat", and "frog" is used to describe the feeling as if something is interfering in the throat.

"Like cat and mouse": Idiom contains two nouns ("cat" and "mouse"), it used to refer to bad, hostile relationships.

"The dog days": Idiom contains a name of two nouns, "dog" and "days") indicating a hot weather time period.

"A rat race": Idiom includes a subject ("a rat") and an action ("race"), describing a stressful situation or competition.

"Pull a rabbit out of the hat" - this idiom consists of the verb "pull", the indefinite article "a", the nouns "rabbit" and "hat", as well as the preposition "out of". Syntactically, the verb "pull" indicates the action of extracting something from "hat", and "rabbit" serves as the object of this action, "out of" indicates the direction of action and this all expresses an unexpected or magical solution to the problem.

"Make sheep's eyes at" - this idiom contains the verb "make", as well as the nouns "sheep's eyes" and "at". Syntactically, the verb "make" indicates the action of "sheep's eyes", that is, the creation of a certain kind of eyes or facial expression, and "at" indicates the object to which this action is directed. Idiom describes demonstration of sentimentality or romantic feelings.

"Up with the lark" - this idiom includes the preposition "up", the preposition "with", the definite article "the" and the noun "lark". Syntactically, "up" indicates the direction of movement or position, "with" establishes a connection between "up" and "lark", and "the" determines that it is a specific "lark"; this in combination means an early rise.

"Till the cows come home": Idiom includes a temporary expression that describes a long wait or a long period of time.

"A lone wolf": The phrase consists of a nouns ("a lone wolf") describing an individual who prefers to act alone.

"Sort out the sheep from the goats" - this idiom consists of the verb "sort out", the definite article "the", the nouns "sheep" and "goats", as well as the preposition "from". Syntactically, this is a phraseological expression where the verb "sort out" indicates the action of separation or classification, "the" defines the nouns "sheep" and "goats", and "from" indicates the separator between them.

"Turn turtle" - this idiom consists of the verb "turn" and the noun "turtle". Syntactically, the phrase contains the main verb "turn" and the noun "turtle". By using the verb of "change" or "move" the position, and a turtle is the target - "turtle" is a direct object example. Indicates a failure situation.

"Brass monkeys" - this idiom contains noun "monkeys" and the adjective "brass". Syntactically, this is an expression where "brass" describes "monkeys". Means very cold weather.

"Be somebody's pigeon" - this idiom consists the verb "be", noun "pigeon" and the possessive pronoun "somebody's". Syntactically, "to be" means a state or property, "someone's" defines "pigeon" as belonging to someone, and directly "pigeon" is the object of this state or property. It means deception or fraud.

"To have eyes like a hawk" - this idiom contains verb "to have", the noun "eyes" and the comparative construction "like a hawk". Syntactically, the verb "have" indicates or possession of something, the noun "eyes" is the object of possession, and "like a hawk" compares "eyes" with the eyes of a hawk, describing their properties or features. It means a good observation.

"To drink like a fish": idiom contains a verb ("to drink") and a comparison ("like a fish") that describes drinking alcohol in large quantities.

"Take the bull by the horns": idiom combines action ("hold") and object ("bull"), describing decisive action.

"For donkey years": idiom contains preposition "for" and expression "donkey years" that describes a long period of time.

"Horse of a different color": The phrase includes a metaphor ("horse of a different color") denoting a completely different circumstance or situation.

"Beard the lion in its den": The phrase contains an action ("beard") and an object ("the lion") that describe courageous behavior.

"Have a memory like an elephant": The phrase includes a simile ("like an elephant") to describe an excellent memory.

"Eager beaver" is an idiom consisting of the adjective "eager" and the noun "beaver". Syntactically, this is a phrase where "eager" describes a "beaver", indicating its characteristics or behavior. "Beaver" is an object of description and can be used to describe a person who is energetically and diligently engaged in his work or tasks, like a hardworking beaver.

"Смотреть как баран на новые ворота": The phrase includes a verb ("смотреть") and a simile ("как баран на новые ворота"), forming a metaphor for expressing bewilderment or misunderstanding.

"Будет вам и белка, будет и свисток": The phrase consists of a future expression ("будет"), a noun ("белка"), followed by a repeated predicate ("будет и свисток").

"Переть как бык": The phrase includes a verb ("переть") and a simile ("как бык") which means to move forward vigorously and unceremoniously, interfering with others.

"Волк в овечьей шкуре": The phrase contains a subject ("волк") and object ("в овечьей шкуре"), forming to express hidden intentions or deceitful behavior.

"Денег куры не клюют" is an idiom where noun "куры" is the subject, and the verb "клюют" forms a predicate. It indicates that there is a very rich man.

"Львиная доля" a phrase where "львиная доля" acts as a definition for "доля". "Доля" is an object to which the adjective "львиная" is applied, which indicates a large or significant part of something.

"Это вам не жук чихнул" a phrase where "это" is a subject, "жук" is a noun, and "чихнул" is a verb. Within the framework of the idiom, a predicate is formed, through which a comparison of the situation with a sneezing beetle is expressed, which indicates a disdainful attitude towards something important or serious.

"Черная кошка пробежала": idiom includes a description of an event ("ran") followed by a definition of animal and color ("черная кошка"), which means quarrel or hostility.

"Хорош гусь": idiom includes adjective ("хорош") and noun ("гусь"), means a dexterous person.

"Ухватить синицу за хвост": idiom contains a verb ("ухватить") and an object ("синицу") expressing the unexpected luck.

"Золотая рыбка": idiom consists of "золотая" acts as a definition for "рыбка". "Рыбка" is object to which "золотая" is used: idiom means the source of luck or desire.

"Как черепаха": in this idiom "как" is an introductory word, and "черепаха" is a noun forming a predicate of comparison. Idiom means slowly.

"Жареный петух клюнул" is syntactically a phrase where "жареный" acts as a definition for "петух". "Петух" in this case is the subject, and "жареный" is the verb forming the predicate. Idiom means anyone experienced difficulties, troubles, found themselves in a difficult, difficult situation.

"С высоты птичьего полета": idiom, where "с" is a preposition, "высоты" is a noun, and "птичьего полета" is an adjective forming the definition for "высоты". The idiom means from a very high altitude.

"С воробьиный нос" is syntactically a phrase where "с" is a preposition, "воробьиный" is an adjective forming the definition for "нос". The "нос" in this case is the object to which the definition of "воробьиный" is applied. Idiom means a small fraction, an insignificant amount.

"Собаку съест": The phrase contains a verb ("съест") and a noun ("собаку"), means complete understanding or mastery of the situation.

"Темная лошадка": The phrase consists of a definition ("темный") and a noun ("лошадка"), means unknown or mysterious situation or man

"Считать ворон": the phrase contains a verb ("считать") and an object ("ворон") forming meaning for expressing inattentiveness.

"Подложить свинью": the phrase includes a noun ("pig") and a verb ("подложить"), which means betray or deceive.

"На кривой козе не обскачешь": the phrase contains a preposition ("на") and a comparison ("кривой козе"), expressing justice or the inevitability of punishment.

"Забодай комар": where "забодай" is a verb forming a predicate, and "комар" is a known thing that is the object of action. Idiom means a strong emotion of any kind.

"Конь в пальто": idiom, where "конь" is a noun acting as a subject, and "в пальто" is a prepositional phrase denoting a man posing as someone else.

Russian idioms can be derived from the syntactic structure of Russian and English idioms in such a way that Russian idioms are often dominated by simple constructions in which keywords convey the semantic meaning of the idiom. Some idioms use comparative constructions describing the actions or characteristics of animals. Idioms in English have a more complex syntactic structure, as they include both nouns and verbs, as well as other parts of speech. There are also prepositional constructions indicating the place or circumstance of the action. With noticeable differences in syntax, both Russian and English idioms show the peculiarities of culture and language, which indicates that it is important to study them in the context of interlanguage communication and translation. English idioms often contain expressions from spoken language and slang that reflect the peculiarities of English-speaking culture and communication. Russian idioms sometimes contain outdated or rarely used expressions that reflect the historical and cultural characteristics of the Russian language.

2.4. Results of native speakers' survey

The practical part presents the results of a survey conducted among native speakers of English and Russian and aimed at identifying the use and understanding of idioms by native speakers of both languages. This study provides an understanding of how native speakers of Russian and English perceive and apply idioms in everyday speech and communication. Expressions are an integral part of language, they often carry social nuances and unique meanings that will not be understood by native speakers. Understanding how these idiomatic expressions are perceived and used by native speakers is fundamental to mastering the semantic and practical aspects of dialect communication. To better analyze the understanding and use of idioms by native speakers of English and Russian, a questionnaire was created, on the basis of which interviews were conducted with native speakers based on the goals and objectives of the study.

The purpose of the survey was to study the preferences, possible understanding and use of English and Russian idioms among native speakers of English and Russian languages. The purpose of the survey was also to identify the main trends in the use of idioms in various situations, as well as a possible understanding of their semantic meaning. Russian and English speakers perceive and use idioms in their speech more broadly, and it also helped to determine the socio-cultural and linguistic significance of idioms in English and Russian language environments. This information is important when conducting linguistic and cultural studies,

and may also be useful in the future, for the development of educational materials and teaching foreign languages. The reason of the overview was to ponder the preferences, understanding and use of English and Russian idiomatic expressions among speakers of both languages. It sought to distinguish the most trends and differences within the use of idioms in several situations, as well as an understanding of their semantic meaning.

Group	Language	Age	Gender	Occupation	Field of Work	Number of Participants
1	EN	18-25	F	Students	Education	5
2	EN	26-35	M	Employed	IT	5
3	EN	36-45	F	Employed	Finance	5
4	EN	46-65	M	Employed	Medicine	5
5	RU	18-25	F	Students	Education	5
6	RU	26-35	M	Employed	IT	5
7	RU	36-45	F	Employed	Finance	5
8	RU	46-65	M	Employed	Medicine	5

9	EN	56-65	F	Employed	Marketing	5
10	RU	66+	M	Retired	-	5

Table 3. Survey participants.

This table represents a detailed division of survey, divided 50 participants into 10 groups, to 5 in each group, taking into account their language background (English or Russian), age categories (from 18 to 65+ years), gender, occupation (for example, students working in IT, financial or medical fields) and area of work. Each group includes five people, which ensures the representativeness of the sample and allows for more accurate results. This fine-grained breakdown allows participants' responses to be analyzed in the context of their characteristics and to identify possible differences or general trends depending on the specified parameters.

Group	Frequency of use of idioms	The most familiar idioms from the collected corpus of idioms presented	Confidence in understanding idioms	Example of using idioms
Group 1 (EN, 18-25, F, Students, Education)	Sometimes	the early bird catches the worm, fat cat	Partially confident	These fat cats have concentrated their financial power of the corporation in their hands. As practice has shown, those who came

				to the sale earlier than anyone last week turned out to be more fortunate, as early bird catches the worm.
Group 2 (EN, 26-35, M, Employed, IT)	Very often	break a butterfly on a wheel, up with the lark	Completely confident	The technology of work has been completely revised here - talk about breaking a butterfly on a wheel. Daddy was up with the lark at five this morning.
Group 3 (EN, 36-45, F, Employed, Finance)	Sometimes	fat cat, the early bird catches the worm	Partially confident	This man is a fat cat, I've known him for a long time - he started with a small workshop in the garage, now he has the largest concern for licensed car repairs in the county. Someone who is very active and alert in the early morning hours is prone to success, as the early bird catches the worm.

Group 4 (EN, 46-65, M, Employed, Medicine)	Never	an albatross around somebody's neck, break a butterfly on a wheel	Not confident	It an unsolved problem feels like an albatross around my neck. Who in this difficult situation breaks a butterfly on a wheel?
Group 5 (RU, 18-25, F, Students, Education)	Sometimes	денег куры не клюют, львиная доля	Partially confident	Видела машину нашего нового председателя - похоже,- у него денег куры не клюют! Львиная доля собственников не пришла на собрание.
Group 6 (RU, 26-35, M, Employed, IT)	Very Often	золотая рыбка, как черепаха	Completely confident	Такси с этим водителем ползет как черепаха. Он пожелал сестре поймать золотую рыбку, которая должна исполнить все желания.
Group 7 (RU, 36-45, F,	Sometimes	забодай комар, конь в пальто	Partially confident	Этот конь в пальто ловко растворился в толпе. Желаю успеха в

Employed, Finance)				делах, забодай тебя комар!
Group 8 (RU, 46-65, M, Employed, Medicine)	Never	с высоты птичьего полета, с воробьиный нос	Not confident	Она посмотрела на город с птичьего полета и была удивлена его красотой! Во дворе вырубили почти все деревья, скоро и кустов останется с воробьиный нос!
Group 9 (EN, 56-65, F, Employed, Marketing)	Very often	eager beaver, have eyes like a hawk	Completely confident	"He's always the first one in the office and the last one to leave - he's a real eager beaver!" My brother always finds some new details in the interior when he comes here - he has eyes like a hawk.
Group 10 (RU, 66+, M, Retired, -)	Never	как черепаха, жареный петух клюнул	Not confident	Поезд ползет по рельсам, как черепаха. Они не воспринимали ситуацию на

				<p>предприятия адекватно, пока жареный петух не клюнул.</p>
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Table 4. The results of the survey participants' responses by groups.

Based on the results of the survey, the following conclusions can be drawn. If we take as a parameter the frequency of use of idioms (see Table 5) by the majority of representatives of the group, then among English-speaking respondents the largest proportion of those who never use idioms or use them rarely (40%), which may be due to the peculiarities of their communication or preferences in expressing thoughts, taking into account both age and the profession. Among the Russian-speaking survey participants, the largest share was among those who sometimes used idioms (50%), which indicates a wider use of idioms among representatives of Russian culture. In both English-speaking and Russian-speaking groups, there is a significant proportion of respondents who sometimes or often use idioms (60% for English-speaking groups and 80% for Russian-speaking groups), which may indicate the widespread use of idioms in both cultures.

Group	Very often	Sometimes	Never
EN	20%	40%	40%
RU	30%	50%	20%

Table 5. The results of the survey participants' about frequency of using idioms

Paying attention to the more common idioms from the collected corpus, the most significant idioms in English-speaking groups are "the early bird catches the worm" and "fat cat". It can be concluded that these idioms are quite common in English-speaking countries and are often found in different contexts. The expression "The early bird catches the worm" speaks about the

importance of being active and that in order to succeed, you need to start a business as early as possible; "fat cat" is usually used to refer to rich and influential people, more often in the business field. As for the Russian-speaking groups, the most familiar idioms in Russian-speaking groups are: "денег куры не клюют" and "львиная доля". These idioms reflect the peculiarities of Russian culture and are often used in various situations. Idiom "Денег куры не клюют" expresses an ironic attitude to wealth. The Russian idiom "Львиная доля" indicates a significant part of something, drawing attention to the importance or significance of this part, and also refers to the lion as a symbol of strength, power; this point is quite clear and significant for Russian speakers. Thus, familiar idioms reflect the cultural characteristics of each of the groups under consideration and are often used in everyday communication to express certain thoughts, ideas and emotions.

As for confidence in understanding idioms(see Table 6), it can be noted that the frequency of use and confidence in understanding idioms varies depending on the age category, language, gender and professional sphere of respondents. The age and cultural characteristics of the survey participants affect the level of understanding of idioms, as well as their active use. For example, younger respondents most often used idioms, but were less confident in their understanding compared to older groups. Russian-speaking survey participants showed greater confidence in understanding and using idioms compared to English-speaking survey participants. Gender and professional sphere also have an impact on the level of knowledge and confidence in the use of idioms. Thus, data analysis reveals differences in use and the understanding of idioms by different groups of respondents, which may be related to their cultural and linguistic characteristics.

Group	Language	Confidence in understanding idioms
1	EN	50%
2	EN	100%
3	EN	50%

4	EN	0%
5	RU	50%
6	RU	100%
7	RU	50%
8	RU	0%
9	EN	100%
10	RU	0%

Table 6. Percentage of confidence in understanding idioms by groups and languages

And finally, with regard to the results regarding the presentation of examples of idioms by different groups, it can be concluded that English-speaking respondents aged 18 to 25 years and 26 to 35 years demonstrate active use of idioms in the context of their daily lives and professional activities. The examples of the use of idioms given in the respondents' responses reflect the experience and possible context in which respondents use idioms. People between the ages of 46 and 65 rarely use idioms in examples. This is due either to the less active use of idioms in their daily lives, or to a preference for specifics in communication. Russian-speaking respondents, if we highlight the age from 26 to 35 years, also actively use idioms in speech. The examples they gave reflect different situations from their lives and work, which highlights the widespread use of idioms in Russian culture.

CONCLUSION

The paper conducted a research study to investigate the meaning and real world applications of animal related sayings, in both English and Russian languages. The examination included an overview in the section followed by a practical investigation using data from a corpus and feedback, from native speakers.

In the first chapter of the study was conducted a theoretical review of semantic and pragmatic aspects of animal idioms in English and Russian. During the analysis, it was determined that idioms play an important role in language, enriching it with expressiveness and contributing to the transmission of complex concepts. The main concepts and definitions of idioms were considered, as well as the features of animal idioms as one of the most common types were highlighted. Regarding the definition of idioms, the author's closest concept is Crystal's (2003) concept from the Anglo-American tradition, who described that it is impossible to determine the meaning of an idiom literally by every word, and also that an idiom is a lexically and syntactically stable and indivisible combination. Since by conducting the practical part, it was possible to make sure that all idioms involved in the study, without exception, meet the criteria of this definition - all their components obey the same meaning and the idioms themselves are indivisible combinations. Also in this chapter, the features of semantic and pragmatic interpretation of idioms in various cultural and communication contexts were considered.

In the second chapter of the study was conducted a practical analysis of the gathered data corpus and the findings of the survey of native English and Russian speakers. Initially, the techniques for data collection were explained, encompassing the collection of the corpus and the conduct of a survey. Then a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the collected material was carried out, during which the main features of the use and understanding of animal idioms in each of the linguistic communities were identified.

The hypothesis of the study, which suggested noticeable differences between idioms with animals in Russian and English, was confirmed. The results obtained during the study emphasize the importance of taking into account linguistic and cultural factors when using, studying and comparing idioms in intercultural communication, as well as expand understanding of the function and meaning of idioms in language and culture.

The research conducted for this work also provides opportunities for future research in the field of linguistics and cultural studies, as well as for the creation of new methods of teaching foreign

languages that take into account the semantic and pragmatic characteristics of idioms in different languages and cultures.

SUMMARY IN ESTONIAN.

Bakalaureusetöö teema oli «Loomade idioomid inglise ja vene keeles: semantilised ja pragmaatilised erinevused». Töös viidi läbi uurimus, et uurida loomadega seotud idioomide tähendust ja tegelikku rakendust mõlemas inglise ja vene keeles. Töö hõlmas jaotise ülevaadet, millele järgnes praktiline uurimine, kasutades korpuse andmeid ja emakeelena kõnelejate tagasisidet.

Uuringu esimeses peatükis viidi läbi teoreetiline ülevaade loomaidioomide semantilistest ja pragmaatilistest aspektidest inglise ja vene keeles. Analüüsi käigus tehti kindlaks, et idioomadel on keeles oluline roll, rikastades seda väljendusrikkusega ja aidates kaasa keeruliste mõistete edasiandmisele. Käsitleti idioomide põhimõisteid ja definitsioone, samuti toodi välja loomakeelsete idioomide kui ühe enamlevinud tüübi tunnused. Idioomide definitsiooni osas on autori lähim kontseptsioon angloameerika traditsioonist pärinev Crystali(2003) mõiste, kes kirjeldas, et idioomi tähendust on võimatu kindlaks määrata sõna-sõnalt iga sõna järgi ning ka seda, et idioom on leksikaalselt ja süntaktiliselt stabiilne ja jagamatu kombinatsioon. Kuna praktilise osa läbiviimisega oli võimalik veenduda, et eranditult kõik uuringusse kaasatud idioomid vastavad selle definitsiooni kriteeriumitele - kõik nende komponendid alluvad samale tähendusele ja idioomid ise on jagamatud kombinatsioonid. Ka selles peatükis käsitleti idioomide semantilise ja pragmaatilise tõlgendamise tunnuseid erinevates kultuuri- ja suhtluskontekstides.

Teises peatükis viidi läbi kogutud andmekorpuse ning inglise ja vene keelt emakeelena kõnelejate küsitluse tulemuste praktiline analüüs. Esialgu selgitati andmete kogumise tehnikaid, mis hõlmasid korpuse kogumist ja küsitluse läbiviimist. Seejärel viidi läbi kogutud materjali kvantitatiivne ja kvalitatiivne analüüs, mille käigus selgitati välja loomakeelsete idioomide kasutamise ja mõistmise põhijooned igas keelekoosluses. Uuringu hüpotees, mis viitas märgatavatele erinevustele vene ja inglise keeles loomadega kõnelevate idioomide vahel, leidis kinnitust. Uuringu käigus saadud tulemused rõhutavad keeleliste ja kultuuriliste teguritega arvestamise olulisust idioomide kasutamisel, uurimisel ja võrdlemisel kultuuridevahelises suhtluses ning idioomide funktsiooni ja tähenduse mõistmise laiendamist keeles ja kultuuris. Selle töö jaoks läbiviidud uurimustöö annab võimaluse ka edaspidisteks lingvistika ja kultuuriuuringute alasteks uuringuteks, samuti uute võõrkeelte õpetamise meetodite loomiseks, mis võtavad arvesse eri keelte idioomide semantilisi ja pragmaatilisi omadusi ja kultuure.

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APPENDIX

Question	Answer
How often do you use English idioms in your speech?	Very often / Sometimes / Never
Which English idioms from the list are most familiar to you?	
How confident are you in understanding the meaning of the selected idioms?	Completely confident / Partially confident / Not confident
Can you give an example of using the selected idioms?	