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**ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**STRUCTURAL-SEMANTICAL PECULARITIES  
OF PHRASEOLOGICAL OPPOSITIONS  
IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

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## GENERAL CHARACTERISTIC

### **The urgency of the theme and its degree of processing.**

Semantic structure of phraseological units on the materials of the languages of different systems, including antonymous relations, belonging to phraseological layer, has been studied not sufficient enough. Moreover, in the antonymous relations in different levels, each phraseological unit possesses its specific feature. Discovery of these features is very important for the description of antonymity. It must be mentioned that antonyms in the English language have been investigated on different lexis, semantic and stylistic levels. Naturally, this is associated with the establishment of the antonyms, including the establishment of the nuclear of semantic structure of phraseological antonyms and types of such groups (monosemantic phraseological units; antonymity of monosemantic phraseological unit, opposed to one meaning of the homonymous phraseological units).

In all spheres of the language the moral life of the people, their world outlook and history are reflected. In many hundred years of cultural history of each people there are special places of indivisible expressions, sayings and phraseological units, characterized by the reflections of their witty meanings by the precise, sharp power of expressing the thoughts. Phraseological units, being the product of a certain social atmosphere are improving, linked with the change of life and living conditions of the bearers of the language, become stabilized and go down into the memories of the peoples. In these patterns syncretic forms of philosophical thoughts are reflected.

Phraseologisms are objective phenomena of the language. They are word combinations genetically. Phraseologisms possess concrete forms and real contents.

The all-round investigation of phraseology creates correct imagination on the semantic development of the system of utterance of the language. Antonymous phraseologisms “coded by abstract meanings” and “antonymous phraseologisms possessing autosemantic part of speech” occupy a special place in the micro system. Inter-related mutual links between the changes and stagnation, activity and non-activity, continuity and pause, finity and infinity, mutual

influence are the general forms of the existence of oppositions in each substantial existence and in each individual activity of any person. Antonymity, i.e. opposition is a language phenomena and it involves different fields of activity of a human being. Oppositions (antonymity) are global notions of the same meanings. They show themselves on the phraseological levels of the language. The urgency of the theme is conditioned just in the thorough, detailed investigation of the character of oppositions of the language on the materials of the English language.

Opposition is a philosophical-logical, linguistic and universal language phenomenon. In the society and in the language the role of this language phenomenon is great. The associations created by this phenomenon in the thinking of the human beings, it being learned within the frame of the phraseological layer of the language, the logical-language coordination of the law of opposition can be discovered. This is also one of the factors, conditioning the urgency of the investigation.

Thus, the urgency of the theme is conditioned by realization of the all-round, scientific analysis of the character of antonymity of phraseological units.

**The aims and objectives of the investigation.** The main purpose of the investigation is determination of synchronic analysis of differential semantic features, processual character of the system of relations and links of antonymity among the phraseological units, specification of the popular functions of phraseological units, basing upon the materials of the English language. To reach the aim the performance of the following tasks are intended:

- to discover general and special means of antonyms;
- to reveal the structural-semantic nature of phraseological antonyms, to discover structural-grammatical features of phrasologically oppositional paradigms;
- to describe and analyse the antonymic relations among the phraseological units, to group them by classification, to study the categorial essence of antonymous relations;
- to reveal antonymous character of phraseological units;

-to discover the mechanism of realization of contrasts formed by phraseological antonyms, to find out the main meanings of contrasts;

-to determine semantic line belonging to the phraseological oppositions;

-to specify the signs of phraseological oppositions, to determine different directions in this sphere;

-to clarify functional-semantic bases of phraseological oppositions;

-to determine the effect of expressive-stylistic means of phraseological antonyms in the literary speech;

-to study the character of the adequate components of phraseological antonymy, to investigate the opposition of adequate component in phraseological antonyms;

-to analyse the oppositional relations by the lexis-semantic and phraseological-semantic aspects;

-to reveal the quality of antonymy of phraseological systems.

**The methods of investigation.** In the performance of investigation descriptive method, method of componental and contextual analyses have been used.

**The provisions put forward for defence consist of the followings:**

-The semantic bases of phraseological opposition are the meanings contradicting to one another, meanings, opposed to one-another; the creation of phraseological oppositions by people and by individual authors is given importance.

Human factor in cognitive linguistics is being put forward for the general scientific investigation on the basis of social sciences. The basis of such an investigation signals the study of starting point of language ties basing upon the human intellect.

-New language realities should also be learned in the context of phraseological relations. All these establish models, consisting of phraseological antonyms, and their circles being in the human thinking.

-The categorial essence of antonymious relations and observation of the semantic line, characteristic to marking of the verbal

units and phraseological antonymity determine the effective, expressive-stylistic means, created by them, in the literary speech.

-The conceptual aspects of antonymious relations, phraseological semantics and language map, phraseological semantics and world model and other issues as character of word, can be studied by the revelation of conceptual characterization in future.

-The semantic backgrounds of phraseological antonyms should be determined as to the word of understanding of the contradictory, oppositional meanings.

Our research work, as other phraseological types, opens perspectives for the study of cognitive, conceptual antonymious phraseologisms as well.

**Scientific innovation of the research.** Phraseological semantics, including the study the problems of phraseological antonymity on the materials of the English language can be considered as the scientific innovation of the dissertation. In the dissertation the phenomenon of opposition is studied in complexity, on the phraseological fund of the English language, the reasons avoking this phenomenon are clarified, their structural-semantic-stylistic peculiarities are determined.

Thus the scientific innovation lies in the fact of carrying out detailed scientific-theoretical analysis of the antonymic character of the phraseological units.

Lexis opposition in the language has been much studied, but opposition belonging to the field of phraseology, being learned not sufficient enough. We have made attempts to study phraseological oppositions in the English language. In this dissertation, for the first time, the phenomenon of phraseological opposition in the English language is studied in complexity. The main features conditioning scientific innovations of the dissertation are the determinations of structural and semantic-stylistic bases of phraseological oppositions; are the specification of the structural types of phraseological oppositions in the English language, are the determinations of their main functions in the paradigmatic and syntagmatic aspects.

**Theoretical and practical aspect of the investigation.** The study of phraseological syntagmatics in the English language (phraseological polycemy, phraseological synonyms, phraseological

honyms) and their types in the widest plan, for this dissertation, can play as the role of theoretical basis. It is possible to bring clarity to the problems, causing disagreement by using conclusions of this dissertation. The conclusions of the investigation can also be applied in the formation of phraseological oppositions for the other languages, including their investigations as well.

Practically in the educational courses phraseological oppositions, introgation etc. problems are mixed up and investigated in the wrong way. To clarify such problems, it is possible to take advantage of conclusions of this dissertation in seminars. In the typological comparison of the English language, in the instruction of the subject of English, in the process of translation this dissertation can be an important manual.

**Approbation and application.** The main provisions of Dissertations have been published in the scientific journals of different universities of the Republic, including the collections, published in the foreign countries, have found its reflections in articles and theses.

The materials of the dissertation can be used in writing graduation theses and master dissertation. At the same time the materials of the investigation can be useful in writing textbooks and manuals. The materials of the dissertation can be of use especially, in writing works on text linguistics, syntactic semantics and on the types of simple sentences.

**The name of the organization in which this dissertation has been performed.** Dissertation has been performed in the department of the English lexicology of the Azerbaijan University of languages.

**The structure of the dissertation.** Dissertation consists of an introduction, two chapters, a conclusion and the list of used literatures. The introduction consists of 5 pages (7,855), the first chapter consists of 54 pages (104,195), the second chapter consists of 43 pages (80,256), The conclusion consists of 4 pages (7,153). In signs as a whole it consists of 199,455 symbols.

## THE MAIN CONTENTS OF THE DISSERTATION

In the part of “**Introduction**” the urgency of the thesis is substantiated, the aims and objectives, scientific innovations, theoretical and practical importance of the thesis are determined, the methods of investigation, the provisos put forward for the defence, approbation of the dissertation and its structure are explained.

**The first chapter**, called “**Structural Peculiarities of the Phraseological oppositions**”, consists of 5 subchapters.

In the first semichapter of the first chapter, it is spoken about “Problems of investigation of phraseological oppositions in linguistics”. Development of modern linguistics has put forward the study of speech units in different levels as an important issue. One of the important places is occupied by the principle of oppositions and correspondence of their elements.

Generally in versatility of the phenomenon of phraseological antonymy, in its fundamentality, in inner objective laws of the both languages, linked with semantic possibilities in the problems of theoretical oppositions of phraseology, there exist different opinions. Differentiations of thoughts appear in the methods, applied in the investigation of phraseological oppositions, in phraseological-semantic relations, in clarification of the notion of oppositions and polarity, in differentiation of the language phenomena having the same limits, in the substantiation of the classification of the principles of phraseological antonyms and so on.

A.T.Alexin wrote that phraseological antonyms, during such a confrontation as to their meanings as a minimum consist of two units, which mutually refuse each-other, create association in our consciences characterize the object from different, but from common features<sup>1</sup>.

In this or other level of the language, antonymity is understood as the confrontation of phraseological, language units in this case. The notion of confrontation in the determination of phraseological

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<sup>1</sup> Alyokhina, A. Phraseological antonymy in the modern English language (Manual for the students and teachers of language and non-language Higher educational establishments) / A.Alyokhina. – Chelyabinsk: – 1968. – 178.



antonymy is the main, global concept, thus the events, embracing the truth and realities do not establish antonymic relations in themselves, but they establish antonymic relations from the view of revelation and evaluation of meanings, and from the view of adopted norms and standards to which they refer.

A.M.Amirova stresses the fact that in the general phraseological meaning the meanings of phraseological units can be reflected in this or that dimension. Linked with this, phraseological antonyms show themselves in larger sphere, in the places where phraseological antonyms base upon lexis elements (including the main and secondary words)<sup>2</sup>.

E.N.Miller stresses the fact that the main indications of the belonging of phraseological units to antonyms is in the fact of their inclusion into the sphere of object composition of the lexis combinations within their composition of antonymy context<sup>3</sup>.

Each of the lexis and phraseological antonyms has its self-belonging nature. Distinctions between them have been pointed in the linguistic literature just the same as they are: "There exist semantic, stylistic and functional distinctions between lexis and phraseological antonyms: nevertheless, both spheres of such antonyms possess a stem having the only semantic opposite meaning; these stems create oppositional meanings to each other between the contrasted word and word combinations<sup>4</sup>.

The incomplete similarity of compositions of phraseologisms with antonymous meanings from the view of their components, in no way bring them to the antonymy to their components, thus, the meanings of phraseologisms are not determined as to the phraseologisms, as to the components, composing these phraseologisms –

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<sup>2</sup> Amirova, A.M. On the antonymous comparison in the sphere of phraseology // A.M.Amirova. Problems of semantics of the phraseological units. – Novgorod: – 1971. – 171.

<sup>3</sup> Miller, E.N. Nature of lexis and phraseological antonymy / E.N.Miller. – Saratov: Publishing House of Saratov University, – 1990. – 93.

<sup>4</sup> Talibov, K.A. Antonyms in the modern Azerbaijani language / Synopsis of the thesis for the candidate of sciences. / – Baku, 1971. – 16.

because such an approach would contradict to the opinion that phraseologisms are special categories being special units of the language.

Conception in the field of phraseological opposition is mainly determined in this way:

1) phraseological units being in the form of free word combinations in the English language meet the requirements of stable, fixed phraseological units;

2) phraseologisms are language units, but fixed phraseological units are the products of individual creation;

3) the structural-semantic constancy of the phraseological units, their durability can not create structural-semantic models;

4) semantic constancy, invariance are understood differently as to the whole and as to the parts, appears re-semanticization and evaluation;

5) lexis fixedness etc. not only creates possibility for the substitution of the components, but also keeps synonymic structure within the frame of phraseological variability;

6) syntactic fixedness etc. stabilizes word order, changes normative variants.

In the language phraseological antonyms are also widely used as a stylistic means. Especially in the fixtions by means of phraseological antonyms, context, comparison, contrast etc. are created. In this semi-chapter we have also based upon somatic phraseological units noted by A.Hajiyeva, because A.Hajiyeva has determined a number of qualities of English somatic phraseological units (such as action, quantity, distance, mood, mode of action etc.) on the examples of the English language<sup>5</sup> and basing all these problems in our analyses, we have made attempts to form our theoretical basis.

H.Bayramov having taken the meanings of antonymious phraseological units as basis, have investigated them, having divided them into two groups: 1) antonymity of monosemantic phraseological units; 2) antonymity of monosemantic phraseological units opposed to the meaning of one of the homonymous phraseological

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<sup>5</sup> Hajiyeva, A.H. Structural-semantic peculiarities of phraseologisms in the English and Azerbaijani languages. / A.H.Hajiyeva. – Baku: “Nurlan”, – 2004. – 147.

units. The author pointed out a number of types of phraseological units, belonging to both groups<sup>6</sup>.

N.Seyidaliyev despite the fact that distinguishes the phraseological antonyms as to their structures<sup>7</sup>, H.Hasanov taking the components into consideration divides the phraseological antonyms into 3 groups: 1) phraseologisms the first components of which are antonyms, but the second components are the same phraseologisms; 2) the second components are antonyms but the first components are just the same; 3) the phraseologisms both components of which are antonymous phraseologisms<sup>8</sup>.

Despite these investigations, as a whole opposition and coordination principles of its elements, system-semantics of the phraseological antonymic relations, categorial attitude of oppositional relations and so on problems have been drawn to still wider investigation on the basis of rich materials of the English language.

In the second semi-chapter more attention is given to the determination of phraseological oppositional semantics. Here we have made attempts to clarify the belonging of the phraseological combinations of the contradictory oppositional meaning to a part of objective reality. It is pointed out that we should not equalize antonymity with negation, because, while antonym is expressed by an opposite name (by two words and word combinations) negation is the opposite usage of the same word or word combination in different opposite cases.

Despite the fact that there is similarity in the contents between the phraseological antonyms and phraseological combinations setting up the function of phraseological antonymity from the view of forming contradiction, there are also some cases which discriminate one from the other. Thus the concept of antonymity is larger than the concept of antonym. If phraseological antonyms are linked with only their semantics, phraseological antonymity and word combinations

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<sup>6</sup> Bayramov A.H. The basis of Azerbaijani phraseology / H.A.Bayramov. – Baku: “Maarif”, – 1978. – 102.

<sup>7</sup> Seyidaliyev, N. Phraseologisms of Azerbaijani saga and language of narratives / N.Seyidaliyev. – Baku: “Araz”, – 2006. – 218.

<sup>8</sup> Hasanov, H.A. Lexis of the modern Azerbaijani language / N.A.Hasanov. Baku: “Maarif”, – 1988. – 235.

without being antonyms are expressed by expressions, by contrastive situations with opposite meanings, by contrastive thoughts and texts.

Determination of antonyms as a semasiological phenomenon is linked with a number of events.

-Phraseological antonyms expresses different feature of a certain word or word combination.

-Phraseological antonyms denote quality and signs of a word or word combination by the way of confrontation of opposite features, peculiar to the object and events belonging to one category. For e.g., to beat around the bush (qeyri-səmimi danışmaq/yazmaq, nala-mıxa vurmaq) – to get to the point (mətləbə keçmək, səmimi danışmaq); to laugh in smb's face (üzünə gülmək) – to laugh on the wrong side of one's face (arxasınca gülmək).

-Confrontation of opposite features of any phraseological combination. For e.g., to call a spade a spade (açıq danışmaq, bir şeyi öz adı ilə adlandırmaq, hətta xoş olmasa da) – to beat around the bush (nala-mıxa vurmaq, hətərən-pətərən vurmaq); a bed of roses (asan və xoş situasiya) – a bed of thorns (çətin və xoşagəlməz situasiya). Here phraseological combinations with opposite meanings expressing the opposite features of events are confronted and by this way antonyms are created.

-One of the main features of phraseological combinations is in their being one lexis phraseological field. These phraseological combinations and separately-taken words within the combination express such notions which express opposite meanings in all situations. For e.g., to hear (smth) through the grapevine (hər hansı bir xəbəri ağızdan/ordan-burdan eşitmək); to hear (smth) straight from the horse's mouth (əsas mənbədən, mötəbər yerdən eşitmək), such expressions, taken separately, also express opposite meanings.

It has also been determined that they in the text (within the text) are used parallelly. For e.g., I don't know where my head is today. I can't keep my thoughts on my work. My head is in the clouds today (Bu gün başımı itirmişəm, fikrimi cəmləyə bilmirəm). I have to be down to earth (Fikrimi bir yerə toplamaalıyam/cəmləşdirməliyəm).

Also in phraseological antonyms, contrast, antithesis and oxymoron can be used.

In the third semichapter, while investigating the characteristic features of phraseological combinations with opposite meanings, we come to share the thought of existence of the features which we mention below.

First of all we must mention that the phraseological combinations with opposite meanings, combine around one general meaning and become confronted. For e.g., A little body harbors a great soul/small rain lays great dust/little pigeons can carry great messages - kiçik açar böyük qıfılı açar.

Phraseological units with opposite meanings as to their contents, possess emotional and figurative features. For e.g., Evil (malicious) tongues make an honest to be a scoundrel - mərdi qova-qova namərd eləməzlər.

In the semantics of the phraseological units with opposite meanings the joining and junction and fusion of the sides to one another show themselves. For e.g., to strain after smth. unreal/to be out for impractical - nağdı qoyub nisyəyə satmaq (yəni realı qoyub arzu olunan bir şeyin dalınca qaçmaq).

There is also a feature of repetition of the same words within the composition of phraseological units of opposite meanings. For e.g., to be well-wishing open-hearted/candid/kind-hearted/open hearted - ürəyi açıq olmaq (saf qəlbli) – one's heart is overgrown with moss/he(she) is old in (at) heart - ürəyi daş olmaq (sərt, mərhəmətsiz insan haqqında).

While investigating these problems, we observed that not all the phraseologisms form antonymious relations, but those phraseological units which are linked with the notions of quality in one lexis field and those which are in the field of distribution, may be in antonymous relations. Antonym belongs to the phraseologisms which express opposite meanings in the contents of distribution and which act as structural-grammatical form. As a result of metaphorization their components are understood as in one word level.

In the fourth semi-chapter all-rounded information is intruded on the essence of phraseological oppositional meaning, the conditions

linked with them, about their structural-types. First of all here we have made attempts to speak about the ways of formulation of the phraseological units with opposite meanings. Two ways exist in this field:

The phraseologisms which form oppositions on the account of inner possibilities of the language: to until someone's hands - əl-qolunu açmaq (istədiyini etmək) – to give someone full scope (swing)/to give someone all the rope/to give someone the bridle/to give rein to someone/to give someone freedom - əl-qolunu bağlamaq (bir iş etməyə imkan verməmək) – not to let someone stray one step/to keep someone in check/to keep someone in leading strings.

But the others are formed by means of combining of the words in the language: A close friend may be treacherous enemy – yaxın dost satqın düşmən ola bilər, hər adama bel bağlamaq olmaz, adam adamın rəhmanı; do smb. a bad (ill) turn – do smb a good turn; shift one's ground – hold one's turn; aydın fikirlər, zülmətə düşər olan düşüncələr, ağalar dünyası – nöqərlər aləmi, qoca dünya – cavan dünya etc.

Phraseological units denoting opposition also as to their structures exist as two-componential, three componential and many-componential phraseological units. For e.g., foul play (treachery) – fair play (honest dealing) - ad almaq – ad batırmaq; to play a losing game (have a plan that + will well) – to play a winning game (have a plan that will succeed) - üzü ağ olmaq, üzü qara olmaq; to play one's cards well (conduct awaits with judgment and discretion – to play one's cards badly (conduct awaits without judgment and discretion) etc.

Also in this semi-chapter, while bringing clarity to the problem of the main factors, conditioning phraseological oppositional meanings, we have observed that here differentiability, semantic generalization, semantic polarity (semantic confrontation), importance of presence of connotative meanings in denotative ones are highlighted.

While dealing with these problems we should mention the following thoughts of the author.

Denotative attitude (in antonymous phraseologisms) the meaning of the word (and by means of this meaning, the meaning of the whole "word") is in the relation of the expressed notion which is understood.

The essence of the denotative attitude is like this: the meaning of the word reflects the object, the voice volume of the word

becomes the sign of the object. Thus, without showing any distinctive feature only the object itself is mentioned. For e.g., Proper nouns are denotative names<sup>9</sup>.

We have mentioned that, phraseological opposition is linked with opposite meanings of idioms with different contents, opposed to each-other. Thus, phraseological combinations with the meanings of quantity, quality, moment (instant) place etc. are confronted. The semantic bases of phraseological antonyms are composed of the objective ties, existing in the nature and society. One of the most important issues consists of the fact that antonymous phrasemes depend on the harmony of components, coordination as to the lexis-semantic features and on the agreement of the components.

Very often, despite the fact that this or that component of the phraseological unit becomes varied, we also observe the cases in which variation involves all the components. We have pointed out that these phraseological units consist of the followings. For e.g., long life – short life (ömrü uzun – ömrü qısa/ömrü az).

Morphological variation – this mostly shows itself in the morphological indications which are varied. For e.g., Never buy a pig in a poke – örtülü bazar dostluğu pozar, May God prolong your life! (Allah ömür versin!) – May God shorten your life! (Allah ömrünü kəssin!)

Syntactic variation shows itself in the instance of comparison: The cat shuts its eyes while it steals cream - Öz gözündə tiri görmür, başqasında tük axtarır.

In this semi-chapter, while dealing with the types of phraseological oppositions we have also pointed out, that they too are divided into two groups: a) monostructural phraseological opposition and b) phraseological oppositions with different structures. We also indicated the groups, consisting of one structure. They are as follows:

- 1) Special lexical antonymous phraseological units.
- 2) Lexical antonymous phraseological units not being specialized.
- 3) Morphological lexic antonymous phraseological units.
- 4) Antonym phraseological units being in the form of sentence.

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<sup>9</sup> Bayramov A.H. The basis of Azerbaijani phraseology / H.A.Bayramov. – Bakı: “Maarif”, – 1978. – 65.

## 5) Free antonymious comparative expressions.

Many-structural phraseological oppositions in the English language are translated into the Azerbaijani language as mono-structural phraseological oppositional. For e.g., an early paradise heaven on earth (cənnət, behişt) – perfect hell (cəhənnəm); as luck would have (xoşbəxtlikdən) – unfortunately (to one's misfortune) as ill luck would have/it make matters worse (bədbəxtlikdən).

In this semi chapter, depending upon the characterization we have also investigated the problem of translation of both mono-structural phraseological oppositions into the Azerbaijani language, in other words we have investigated the problem of introduction of equivalents.

In the fifth semi-chapter of the first chapter, we have made attempts to bring clarity to the division principles of phraseological oppositions, their paradigms of composition and the problem of their classification.

During the investigation we have come to the conclusion that in the English language phraseological oppositions act by their different features and in different forms. That's why we have considered our approach to phraseological oppositions from different features, falling them into groups, basing upon distinctive principles and their analysis as possible ways of considerations. Naturally, in this case the semantical side of phraseological opposition can be taken into consideration, in other words, in this case it can be possible to group them as to the formal-structural features.

In the existing literature antonymous phraseological units are indicated as the fact of their division into several groups: 1) antonymious phraseological units formed by the semantic grouping; 2) antonymous phraseological units formed by making changes in the structures of the phraseological units<sup>10</sup>.

Nominative phraseological oppositions: the moon is not seen when the sun shines - təzə ay çixanda köhnə ayı doğrayıb ulduz

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<sup>10</sup> Siderenko, M.I. Paradigmatic relations of phraseological units in the modern Russian language. Manual for special course/ M.I.Siderenko. – Leningrad: Publishing house LGPI. – 1982. – 18.



qayırlar; a bird in the hand (nağd) – a bird in the bush (qeyri-məlum vaxtda); in good keep (yaxşı şəraitdə) – in low keep (pis şəraitdə).

Verbal phraseological oppositions: to play a losing game (have a plan that will fail) (bir işdə yaxşı şey göstərmək) – to make a poor fist at smth (bir işdə səhlənkarlıq etmək, işə könülsüz yanaşmaq). In the Azerbaijani language they are used as follows: bərkə-boşa düşmək – bərkədən-boşdan çıxmaq; ad almaq – ad batırmaq, məsləhət almaq – məsləhət vermək, söz almaq – söz vermək etc.

Besides these we have also carried out investigations on objective phraseological opposition and on adverbial phraseological oppositions.

**The second chapter** is called “**Semantic-stylistic and functional features of phraseological oppositions**”. The first semi-chapter of the second chapter deals with opposite meanings and the ways of their expressions. Here we have mentioned variety of types of meanings from thematic view of phraseological oppositions and these varieties are expressed by: a) phraseological oppositions embracing the human being; b) phraseological oppositions characterizing the psychological position of the person; c) phraseological oppositions denoting emotionality; d) phraseological oppositions denoting distance; e) phraseological oppositions expressing opposite meanings; phraseological oppositions which express sign, quality, feature. We have exhibited these oppositions in examples.

We must note that phraseological antonyms possess symmetric semantics. In the linguistic literature it has also been indicated in the same way.

Artenyeva E.F. noted that semantic asymmetries as to their outer features show themselves in the form of limitations of different kinds. Here and in other similar to these cases, the supreme objectivity of laws shows not only their usage in large volumes, but also, it shows them in gaining still more distributive freedom as the simple member of each pair, establishing antonymity from the semantic point of view<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> Artenyeva, E.F. Phraseology and phraseography in the comparative aspect (on the materials of the Russian and Azerbaijani languages) / E.F.Arsenyeva. – Kazan: – 2006. – 104.

Antonymious asymmetric semantics as space are allrounded and as time are monosided pairs. For e.g. symmetry and asymmetry, harmony and disharmony. As to the graduality phraseological oppositions being complete and relative are divided into two groups.

In this semi-chapter we have also drawn to investigation such phraseologisms which reflect contrary comparatives. For e.g. bad faith (bədbəxt, bəxtsiz) – good faith (həyatda bəxti gətirmə, xoş tale); in good keep - (yaxşı vəziyyətdə) – in bad keep (pis vəziyyətdə); oppositional phraseologisms reflecting complementar (additional) comparative as in in deep waters (çətinliklə) – in easy street (rahat vəziyyətdə), phraseologisms basing upon vector confruntation, namely, phraseologisms indicating the opposite direction: upstairs-downstairs (yuxarı-aşağı (pilləkənlə)); trime out of mind (dəfələrlə, bir neçə dəfə) – once in a blue moon (hərdənbir, nadir hallarda).

Alongside all these, we have not left semantic groups such as phraseological oppositions and incomplete phraseological oppositins beyond our focus of attention either.

In the second semi-chapter of the second chapter we have dealt with semantic types of phraseological oppositions. We must note that the semantic variety of units in the phraseological system, opposite meanings show themselves in its degree of dependence, independence and freedom. The opposite feature of this phraseological unit in the state of independence turn to a fact, in the opposite way it is impossible to determine the opposition. At the same time both phraseological units are free; each of them possesses its right and its status.

Phraseological opposition depends on semantics. The main criterium here, the meaning of opposition is considered. Assesment point, peculiar to antonymity is not an object, but, it is just the notions of events and signs.

Opposite meaning as a notion appeared at the initial period of the development of sicial life and language. A human being, while understanding surrounding him/her objects and events, discriminated them from one-another.

In the formation of phraseological oppositions the role of antithesis and oxymoron is very great.

Antithesis as a stylistic figure of speech is also formed by means of antonyms as well. It intervenes into the essence of events, within the frame of description of contrasts, characters and situations; in the process of confrontation, degree, state and quality are taken into consideration<sup>12</sup>.

Antithesis is not only used for the purpose of discriminating different opposite notions, but it is also used to create a special stylistic effect. Thus, antithesis formed by antonymous words and word combinations, strengthens emotionality in speech, makes them more impressive. For e.g., We must learn to live together, as brothers or perish together as fools (Martin Luther King): Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country (John F. Kennedy).

During the investigation we stressed the fact that antithesis having been created from antonyms expresses opposite meanings. This does not mean that all antonyms may become antitheses. There is a certain border between them. It is true that both terms are created as a result of confrontation of notions with opposite meanings, but there are some differences between them. For e.g., People want much, but get little here the words much and little are antonyms, but in the sentence Many are called, but few are chosen word combination as are called, are chosen are antithesis. When antonymous words and word combinations acquire figurative meanings and become substantivized, they become antithesis. For e.g. It was the best of time, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredibility etc. (Ch. Dickens)

Both, antonyms and antitheses, despite the fact that denote opposition, we may note that if antonyms are used for strengthening the meanings of words and word combinations, antithesis are used to create clear and impressive views, for the introduction of portraits of comparative character, for the revelation of moral world of the character. For e.g., to pick up one's spirit/courage (cəsərət toplamaq) – to lose one's spirit (ruhdan düşmək); to go to pieces (məhv olmaq);

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<sup>12</sup> Gerkheliya, G.K. Modern English phraseology, based on negation / synopsis of the thesis for candidate of sciences. / – MOscow, 1989. – 12.

to live happily (xoşbəxt yaşamaq) and other word combinations are antonyms to each other. But man proposes, God disposes: Give everyman thy ear, but few thy voice (çox eşit, az danış).

During the investigation, by observation we made it clear that in a number in a number of cases phraseological antithesis addressed to. We'd like to mention these cases. There are observed at the point of contrastive comparison, as a means of comparison, namely comparison is observed in the both sides of phraseological opposition: distinctive features, showing themselves in the character of the images are also introduced by antitheses; contrastive situation is stated by antithesis; contrastive prospect is achieved; cardinal distinctive features showing themselves in the human conviction also appear in phraseological antonyms.

Another problem is the phenomenon of oxymoron which appear in the form of expressions, formed by semantic confrontation of synonymous word, expressing the notion from, the opposite side. For e.g., permanent guest host, crazy wisdom, mournful optimist, violent relaxation etc.

Such features as the visualization of the described events, grouping of the persons and other features as to create strong emotional influence, to make people think, to attract people's attentions to events, belong to the character of oxymoron. For e.g., black light, boring court jester, bug free software, cruel kindness, better than new, awfully pretty etc.

In the introduction of mutual thinking problems, complexity belonging to human psychology and contrastive moral problems in unity (in the literary analysis of the inner world) antonymous oppositions play important roles.

Features of naturalness and artificiality (in objects and events) are expressed in phraseological oppositions: real natural flowers (təbii çiçəklər) – artificial flowers (süni çiçəklər); an act of God (təbii fəlakət) – artificial disaster (süni fəlakət); a cupboard love (süni istək) – natural love (təbii istək); a very smile (süni təbəssüm) – natural smile (təbii təbəssüm) etc.

We have also brought clarity to the phraseological opposition with “hope” concept. For e.g., to give one's word (to promise); to

make overtures (advances) ümid vermək, but its opposition is – to lose hope (ümidini itirmək); to be unhopeful (ümitsiz olmaq) etc. We have also dealt with the phenomenon of enantiosemia, expressing the opposite meaning, in this semi chapter. We have noted that inner semantic opposition – enation semia as if combines both antonymity and polysemy in itself. Here two features cross each-other. Enantioseemics directly finds its realization in the text. For e.g., we may understand the meaning of the expression to raise one's hands in two ways. This word combination can be used in both, negative and affirmative sentences. This word combination is used in the meaning of “to threaten” somebody, to demand “surrender”, in the meaning of “to agree with smb, also to be against smb”. For e.g. If we raise our hands after they have done so, we shall be late, friends he said. We have to beat them chasing after them.

In the text enantioseemics creates powerful expressiveness. They have their own, self-belonging structural-semantic and functional parameters, structural semantic wholeness of system coordination, expressiveness in them. We stress the fact once more that the investigation of enantioseemics, certainly from the view of learning change of meanings of the word and word combinations, is also interesting and important.

In the third semi-chapter of the second chapter proverbs and sayings with opposite meanings have been attracted for the investigation. We must note that “the life portrait opening in our wit” the proverbs and sayings being the product of life-long experience of human wit in the life of each people have passed a certain historical way of development.

Those models, which can be considered as the most true models, being created in all measures, reflect, their desire for happy days, their resistance for the difficulties and different events that they meet, their behavior and conditions.

The folklore and sayings being the deepest types of bearer of meanings, have the power of cognizing the opposite, contradictory meanings in the objective form. The contents of proverbs and sayings which express the opposite meanings are linked with the work activity, life condition, moral world of the people and their mutual

attitudes to the world surrounding them. In the proverbs, expressing the opposite meanings the words of antonymic characterization come side-by-side: Charity begins at home/Deep will call deep (Bayquş xarabalığı gülüstana dəyişməz). Here the words “xarabalıq” and “gülüstan” have been used side by side. The meaning of the first proverb is “qarın qardaşdan irəlidir”.

In the fourth semi chapter of the second chapter as the noted type of oppositional meaning called converses have also been attracted to investigation.

We must note that one of the types of antonyms is converses. Converses are distinguished from the antonyms only for the fact that their distinctive signs also possess opposite direction and for this reason, in some cases converses are valued as special, self-belonging, extra-ordinary types of the phenomenon of antonymity<sup>13</sup>.

Since antonyms as to their contents involve all the words, sayings with opposite meanings, recognition of a certain group having distinctive right is contradictory to this principles. Converses of such type too may involve combinations with contradictory meanings like any other group, possessing situative mutuality. It is necessary to show the fact, taken in the wider sense in the system of the language phenomenon of conversivity is localized with semantic field.

In the fifth semi-chapter of the second chapter we have made attempts to draw attention to the types of opposite meanings as to their origin, to obligatory and relative oppositions, their usage and semantic peculiarities.

It is necessary to mention that like lexical antonyms, phraseological oppositions too as to their origin have been formed on the account of inner resources of the language and also on the account of borrowed words from other languages. That's why we can divide them into two groups as to their origin.

1. Phraseological oppositions created by the inner resources of the language.

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<sup>13</sup> Kamenetskaya, N.G. Synonyms in the English phraseology (Manual) / N.G.Kamenetskaya – Moscow: “International Relations”, – 1971. – 30.

2. Phraseological oppositions created on the account of borrowings.

In the phraseological units of the English language opposition acts in different forms. Thus, components of the phraseological combinations established complete or incomplete opposition with the components of another utterance.

The first, the second or the both components of the utterance establishing opposition consist of contradictory words. But in other sides we see similarity. That's why as in other languages in the English language too having taken the same criterium into consideration we may distinguish three groups of phraseological expressions:

1. Utterances, the first two components of which are antonyms, but the second sides are the same.

2. The second sides are antonyms but the initial sides are the same.

3. Utterances, the both sides of which are contradictory to each other.

The analysis shows that opposite meanings against each-other in phraseologisms mainly are explained in the dictionaries. One or several meanings of one word are kept in lexical antonyms, one of the words becomes in affirmative, the other is in the negative form.

Investigation of structural-semantic peculiarities of phraseological oppositions in the English language gives us possibilities to come to the following **conclusions**:

1. Antonymity is a universal phenomenon. It is one of the complex categories of lexicology. This interesting phenomenon is directly associated with oppositions appearing in the real activity of human being. Antonymity possesses both lexical grammatical and phraseological natures.

2. One of the qualities peculiar to the phraseological units of the lexical-semantic feature is antonymity. Antonymity among the language units is an opposition. Antonymity, as it is with lexical units also exists between the phraseological pairs.

3. Relation of antonymity between the phraseological units appears as a result of understanding of the object or events of the substantial word by the way of confrontation of these notions.

Contradictions, created by this means are specified as the main conclusion of the investigation.

4. The development level of the language is measured not only by the general quantity of the vocabulary of the language, but also it is measured by the antonymity (semantic) quality of the phraseological units. The fact that phraseological units possess richness of contradictory meanings appears as a result of expansion of their semantic-informative functions.

5. Nominative and verbal models of the combinations, denoting the phraseological oppositions are specified. In the investigation contradictory meaning relations in the structures of the phraseological units are taken as bases. The inner and outer meanings of the combinations, denoting the phraseological oppositions are examined. In the phraseological oppositions the meanings of utterances take part.

6. Enantiosemsis antithesis, oxymoron etc. appearing in the phraseological system of the language on the basis of phraseological opposition are specified. Semantic nuclear of opposite meanings of each antonymous line is discovered.

The main provisions of the dissertation have been reflected in the following works of the author:

1. Enantiosemsis communication with semantics of “affirmation” and “negation” // Notes of the scientific of “Gavrik national university named after V.I.Vernadskiy”. Vol 27(66), №3, p.1. Philology. Social communication. Symferopol – 2014. – c.314-317.
2. Determination of philological oppositions // Language and literature. International scientific-theoretical journal. – Baku: – 2014. 3(91), – p.26-28.
3. Role of antithesis and oxymoron in the creation of oppositions // Baku Slavic University, “Actual problems of learning humanitarian sciences”. – Baku: – 2014/4. – s.38-41.
4. Phraseological enantiosemsis. XXI century paradigm in multicultural aspect // Scientific-practical materials of the Republican conference. – Baku: – 2014, November 26, – p.94-95.
5. Structural types of phraseological oppositional semantics in the English language // Actual problems of Teaching Foreign



- Languages. Materials of Republican scientific practical conference, – AUL, – Baku: – 2015, 4-5 may. – p.20-22.
6. Implicit features of phraseologisms denoting opposition in the English Language // – Baku: Prilological problems, – 2014. №6, – p.15-19.
  7. Phraseological comparison in the English Language // Scientific investigations in the sphere of humanitarian sciences: Opening of the XXI century. Materials of the 1<sup>st</sup> international scientific practical conference. “Phraseological opposition in English”. – p.80-84.
  8. “Proverbs and sayings (paremias) with opposite meanings” // Materials of XIX Republican scientific conference of Doctorants and Young Investigators. – Baku: – 2015. – II volume.
  9. “Essence of phraseological opposition” // The thesis of international scientific conference called “Actual problems of cognitive and applied linguistics”. – AUL, – Baku: – 2016, oktober 20-21, – p.94-96.
  10. Determination of contradictory meanings between phraseological antonymy and phraseological antonyms // European Journal of Literature of Linguistics, – 2016. – p.31.
  11. Actual problems of teaching foreign languages // Materials of Republican Scientific-Practical Conference (Baku, May 5-6, 2016) “Divisin principles of phraseological oppositions”.



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