

**THE REFLECTION OF THE NOTION “PRACTICALITY”
IN ENGLISH NAUTICAL IDIOMS**

The article deals with the semantic content of the notion “practicality” and its symbolic representation in English nautical idioms. The focus of the analysis is on defining the place, role and symbolic function of these idioms in English phraseological picture of the world.

Phraseological units (PUs) of any language, in the semantics of which the socially most relevant phenomena are actualized at a certain stage of the development of society, contain a large amount of national and cultural information. The peculiarity of such information is that it is not just accumulated knowledge, but the result of their imaginative rethinking. The images, symbols, standards, archetypes and mythologems contained in the PUs reflect the worldview of native speakers of this language, form the so-called national “phraseological picture of the world”.

Consideration of the internal form of phraseological units and their figurative component within the framework of the linguoculturological approach helps to reveal the complex of naive ideas of native speakers about a particular concept of national culture. The concept of “practicality” studied by us belongs to the category of abstract everyday concepts, i.e. reflecting the features essential from the point of view of a particular language community and participating in the formation of a national linguistic picture of the world. Despite the fact that this concept is universal and inherent in all linguistic cultures, its semantic scope may differ in different languages. So, in English, the semantic content of the term “practicality” consists of such semantic blocks as “functionality”, “realism” and “real facts”.

The definitional analysis shows that the semantic block “functionality” includes such values as efficiency, usefulness, ability to be suitable for a specific purpose or situation, convenience, applicability in practice, probability of being successful, feasibility, viability. The semantic block “realism” consists of the following meanings: reasonable attitude to decision-making based on experience and knowledge, reasonable planning, realistic approach, expediency, profitability,

common sense, insight, foresight, wisdom, ingenuity, practical savvy. The meanings of the semantic block “real facts” are distributed as follows: real facts or details of a situation, real circumstances as opposed to theories or ideas, practical details, mechanics, necessary, essential parts, fundamentals, basic working components, practical or technical fundamentals of activity.

Thus, the concept of “practicality” is a concept akin to efficiency. Being practical means using the experience gained in practice in order to perform more effective actions in some direction and achieve the best result, for example, in order to preserve and increase material benefits. The concept of “practicality” in the English phraseological picture of the world is represented by a wide variety of images. The analysis of the sample of idioms shows that most often the figurative component of the studied idioms is associated with the world of science and technology, with sports, with agriculture, with nutrition, with monetary relations, with precious metals, with body parts, with theatrical art. Not the last place in this series is occupied by idioms, the internal form of which is somehow connected with the maritime business.

The abundance of so-called “marine” idioms in English phraseology is not accidental. The geographical (island) position and the cultural and historical development of Great Britain associated with it are among the main factors that caused the peculiarity of the English mentality, which could not but be reflected in the English phraseological picture of the world. Success in the commercial, industrial, economic, military and political spheres largely depended on success at sea. This has developed in the British such qualities as practicality, realism, common sense, the desire for action, the desire to do all the work in the best way. Being representatives of a great maritime power for many centuries, the British have captured these qualities in a huge number of PUs.

Images of marine themes in the studied idioms are reflected in the form of a number of specific symbols.

Ship: to run / keep a taut / tight ship (well, disciplined, effectively manage a company, organization, etc.).

Ship’s rigging and parts of the ship, which include: 1. sail: to trim your sails (to reduce costs; up to “to balance the sails”); to take the rag off (to surpass, outshine everyone, be out of competition, shut up, distinguish yourself, achieve excellent results); to reef sail (take precautions, act more carefully, “tighten the belt tighter”); 2. ropes: to learn the ropes (to learn thoroughly, to find out in detail the circumstances of the case, to get up to date; to the end. “learn the ropes”); to know the ropes (thoroughly know, be aware of the case, understand, navigate well, have experience in a certain area; to know the ropes); 3. hatches: to batten / baton / button down the hatches (take precautions, prepare for difficult times); 4. anchor: to cast (have / lay) an anchor to windward (take precautions, prepare in advance, be ready); 5. deck: all hands on deck (using all workers in an emergency situation); 6. ship flags: with flying colors (successfully carry out the action; pass the test with success).

Natural and weather conditions that promote or hinder swimming: 1. reef: to take in a reef (to reduce costs, start leading a more modest lifestyle; act cautiously); 2. stranded: to make the ruffle (to overcome difficulties, succeed in anything); 3. current: to drift (to swim / to go / to sail) with the stream (tide / current) (to use the prevailing circumstances in their favor); tide: to take the tide at the flood (to use a convenient moment, to take advantage of an opportunity); 5. coast: the coast is clear (there is no danger; the situation is favorable for any action); 6. wave: to be on the crest of a wave (to be extremely successful in what you do); 7. weather: to make good weather (to withstand a storm well (about the ship)); 8. wind: how (whence / where) the wind blows (how things are); to see which way the wind blows (to take into account the current situation and possible developments before deciding what actions should be taken); the wind is in that quarter (that's how things are); 9. tailwind: to whistle for a wind (to wait for an opportunity); to trim one's sails to the wind (keep your nose in the wind); 10. squall wind: to look out for squalls (beware of danger, be careful, be alert, on the alert); 11. windward side: to get (have) the weather gauge of smb (to get (have) an advantage over anyone; to be in a more advantageous position than anyone; up to. "to be on the windward side"); to get to windward of smb (to have an advantage over someone, to be in more favorable conditions than anyone, to get around, to hold someone; up to. "to be on the windward side relative to the wind"); 12. storm: to weather the storm (to survive a difficult situation or difficult times).

Port: any port in a storm (in difficult circumstances, any solution is acceptable; up to "any port will do during a storm").

Sailor: an old hand (at smth) (experienced in something, an expert in something, a master of his craft, a seasoned person).

As can be seen from the examples, many of these symbols are associated with the ability of a navigator to manage ship equipment well, with certain actions aimed at preserving the ship during a storm or overcoming difficult sections of the way, to obtain certain advantages that contribute to a favorable voyage. Practicality in this case is expressed by the need for such skills and actions that preserve a person's life in the future or provide benefits and benefits to a person. The maritime symbolism of a number of these idioms is associated with the experience, knowledge and achievements of the navigator, as well as with the description of the real situation.

Thus, initially describing certain situations and actions of a practical nature at sea, as a result of metaphorical reinterpretation or metonymic transfer, these idioms began to be used to express practicality in a wide variety of spheres of human activity. An extensive corpus of examples of the use of these idioms in artistic and modern media texts to convey the meanings that make up the semantic content of the concept of "practicality" indicates that the concept of "practicality" is connected in the minds of the British, including with the sea, with maritime affairs. Consequently, marine idioms, evoking certain associations, reflect the national worldview and thereby participate in the formation of the English phraseological picture of the world. It should be noted that the described symbolism of the

maritime theme is expressed mainly by idioms of the semantic block “realism” (16 PUs), implying a reasonable attitude to decision-making based on experience and knowledge, a realistic approach to business, expediency, profitability, common sense. To a lesser extent, the marine theme is represented by idioms of the semantic block “functionality” (10 PUs), conveying efficiency, effectiveness or success. Less common are idioms with marine symbols that belong to the semantic block “real facts” (3 PUs), describing real circumstances as opposed to theories or ideas.