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FREQUENT TYPES OF VARIABILITY IN PHRASEOLOGY OF BIBLICAL ORIGIN

The aim of the paper is to find out the most frequent types of variability in the sub-system of the phraseological units of biblical origin that function in Modern English.

Key words: phraseological unit; biblical origin; component; substantive variability; verb variability; quantitative variability; syntactical variability.

ЧАСТЫЕ ВИДЫ ВАРИАНТНОСТИ В ФРАЗЕОЛОГИИ БИБЛЕЙСКОГО ПРОИСХОЖДЕНИЯ

Целью работы является выявление наиболее частых типов вариантности в подсистеме фразеологизмов библейского происхождения, функционирующих в современном английском языке.

Ключевые слова: фразеологизм; библейское происхождение; составная часть; субстантивная вариантность; глагольная вариантность; количественная вариантность; синтаксическая вариантность.

The paper is **targeted** at the study of the Bible [1] with the aim of finding out some types of variants in the phraseological units of biblical origin. The scientific background of our research is Alexander V. Kunin's **phraseological theory** and the **method** of phraseological identification suggested by the linguist [2] as well as the monographs and papers by T. N. Fedulenkova on biblical phraseology [3; 4].

Component analysis leads us to the following **results**, making the four most frequent types of variability explicit:

a) variability of the substantive components:

eat the bread of affliction / eat the bread of humiliation (Deuteronomy 16:3) / eat the bread of sorrows (Psalms 78:2), to rise from the dead / to rise from the grave (John 2:22; Luke 16:31), to go to kingdom-come / to go beyond the veil / to go to glory / to go to heaven (Ecclesiastes 12:5), to build something on a rock (Matthew 7:24) / to build something on the sand (Matthew 7:26);

b) variability of the verb components:

to trample under foot / to tread under foot (Isaiah 25:14), to act the fool / to play the fool (I Samuel 26:21), to bear the cross / to carry the cross (Matthew 10:38; 16:24), to cry / declare / proclaim / shout from the house-tops (Luke 12:3), to eat / swallow / take back one's words (Jeremiah 15:16), to pluck / take something by the beard (I Samuel 17:35), to take / lay something to heart (Ecclesiastes 7:2);

c) quantitative variability, i. e. variability that consists in omitting a number of components:

to touch the ark (of the covenant) (2 Samuel 6:6) > to touch the ark, to curse the day (one was born) (Job 3:1–3) > to curse the day, to sell one's birthright for a mess of pottage (Genesis 25:29–34) > to sell one's birthright, to dig a pit for somebody (Ecclesiastes 10:8) > to dig a pit, to break bread with somebody (Acts 20:7) > to break bread;

d) syntactical variability, i. e. variability that consists in the change of the syntactical position and value of the components:

to strengthen somebody's hands / to strengthen the hand of somebody (Samuel 23:16), to stink in somebody's nostrils / to stink in the nostrils of somebody (Amos 4:10), to spring from somebody's loins / to spring from the loins of somebody (Genesis 35:2), to lie at somebody's door / to lie at the door of somebody (Genesis 4:10).

Conclusions: The phraseological analysis serves to find out the four most frequent types of variability in the biblical units, namely: a) substantive variability, b) verb variability, c) quantitative variability, d) syntactical variability.

Research **perspectives** consist in the study of contextual environment of the biblical units under analysis.

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