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The Form Changes and Shifts of Meaning of the English MWUs

Abstract. The modern linguistics has a wide variety of approaches to describe the natural language meanings. In our research we rely on the corpus-based approach to offer a particular way of looking at Multi word units (MWUs) change, creation and rearrangement. The paper presents the insights into form changes and shifts of meaning of MWUs using the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) friendly interface. The derived MWUs outlined in the paper are regarded as the secondary units where the actual meaning is changed, modified or erased. The operations of semantic deviation are described in the light of shift and rearrangement demonstrating mimesis when the initial meaning of MWUs can be partially modified or removed. The semantic shifts are viewed as the secondary and the post-secondary changes. In the process of semantic deviation the old meaning of the modified figurative expression is deleted and the brand new conceptual unit appears.

Key words: *MWUs, COCA, shift and rearrangement, neo, mimesis*

1. Introduction

In our research we use the procedure of analysis of MWUs (Multi words units) which is directed towards compiling the MWUs with understanding that these units may be new, unknown or partially known or unpredictably changed. The modified figurative expressions demonstrate mimesis, but the converted MWUs appear to be completely new conceptual units. What is the most important for our research and what we find interesting is compiling the registry of MWUs consisting of Phraseologic Units (PU) seen as Phraseologic N-grams: set expressions, free expressions, phraseologic units, neology units, shell words, other MWUs found in dictionaries and context. All the units denote the common idea that can be unknown, unique or lacunar thus needs extra clarification what can be done in compiling the registry of MWUs.

In this article we focus on the cognitive scenario “change in form and meaning” analyzing some types of MWUs in corpus data. Today, with the rapid development of the corpus-based studies and computational approaches along with the availability of huge electronic corpora has made possible to see the change of form and meaning in MWUs.

1.1. Insights into MWUs: multidisciplinary research

Reproducibility of the secondary and post-secondary rearrangement is the new linguistic area for research and analysis of the deviation of MWUs including modifications of form and meaning to be studied. The research problem is correlating with frame semantics, its cognitive scenarios that making the research area especially significant for cognitive semantics.

The linguists explore the idea of MWUs changes of form and meaning. The analysis has been done on the basis of corpus data. The interpreted data are used within the framework of cognitive semantics. The analysis has shown that MWUs are often used in modified form as corpus data illustrate and that MWUs change their form and meaning according to the cognitive scenario “change in form and meaning” from positive to negative, neutral to colloquial, bookish to neutral, etc. The core idea is often implicated from the previous form partially rearranged; the inner form being modified can be readable due to understood implications and the reconstructed previous empirical knowledge. MWUs are broadly interpreted as all phraseologic units (phraseologisms), non-fixed collocations (weakly idiomatic phrases), idiomatic phrases, all set phrases of a language including proverbs that can be found in corpora by linguistics including computational scholars (Colson 2017: 17). Other definitions illustrate the terminology growth related to MWUs, some of the most common terms being chunk, cliché, collocation, extended lexical unit, fixed expression, formulaic sequence, idiom, idiomatic expression, lexicalized phrase, multi-word unit, phraseme, phraseologism, phraseologic unit, phrasal lexical item, phrasal lexeme, prefabricated chunk, prefab (Hüning, M., & Schlücker, B. 2015: 450). Some of these terms are regarded synonyms and close terms according to definitions by different scholars, but for the most part meanings overlap only partially. In general all MWUs can be described as extended lexical units with different degrees of syntactic fixedness and semantic compositionality, fixed or free (idiom and collocation) (Hüning, M., & Schlücker, B. 2015: 450).

The recent studies explore corpus data, fixed expressions and phraseology (Colson 2017). As Masini states (2005: 145) MWUs are “lexical units larger than a word that can bear both idiomatic and compositional mean-

ings". Sprenger (2003: 4) finds that MWUs as lacunar fixed set-expressions can be defined as specific combinations of two or more words with an opaque meaning or a deficient syntactic structure. These MWUs can be often lacunar to nonnative speakers which can be overcome in the broad context of the corpus data.

MWUs are variably-based identified as phraseologic units, multiword lexical units, polylexical words, items characterized for fixedness, including psycholinguistic fixity (speakers conceiving it as a unit), structural fixity (with variations) and pragmatic fixity (Lopez 2015: 162).

The MWU being a part of the "frozen phraseology" correlate with cognitive endozone of lacunarity. The obvious characteristic of MWUs is indicating their part of speech. The lacunar taxons of MWUs corpus include several slots in the POS structure (parts of speech): fixed verbal idiom (e.g. *bite the bullet*), fixed frozen adverbial (e.g. *all at once*), fixed particle verbs (e.g. *stick out*), non-fixed complex nominal (e.g. *daycare center*). The modified proverb can be traced as changed MWUs: the archaic "The suit does not make the man" turned into modern "Clothes do not make the man" according to the cognitive scenario "change in form and meaning" due to changes in the socio-cultural context (Pintarić & Škifić 2006: 210).

1.2. MWUs as N-grams in COCA search

The idea of representing MWUs as bigrams (two-word units) as (1) *easy rider*, *New York*, *pay attention*, *sharp criticism* and three words units (trigram) as (2) *to be in a habit*, *take a bath*, *deliver a speech* and multi words units (MWUs) as (3) *add insult to injury*, *at the drop of a hat*, *back to the drawing board*, *barking up the wrong tree*, *beat about the bush* is popular in computational linguistics (Colson 2017: 19). Bigrams, trigrams and multigrams are easily taken from corpus environment as COCA or BNC and other available or self-made corpora and can be analyzed according to the frequency rate extraction from the corpus data to illustrate the rare lacunar usage or to indicate MWUs as popular collocations.

The search for MWUs in corpora is a modern tool in learning and teaching EFL. To know the word in context KWIC or searched for the English collocations of the base is searched (*habitude – habit*) and from its entry, the collocation expressing the terminative aspect of habit (i.e. *get out of a habit*) is retrieved (Heid 1994: 252).

The COCA Corpus gives possibility to access the authentic corpus data for analysis and comparison of the changed forms of MWUs. MWUs have changed as: the search entry *bird in the hand* gives the variation result (the

changed proverb): (1) “*A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush – Better a bird in the hand than AIDS in the ass*” (COCA 1991, ACAD, LatAmPop-Scult), the search entry *shaken not stirred* (the changed quotation) gives the variation result: (2) *classic shaken, not stirred martini – Diet Coke, shaken not stirred* (COCA 1990, FIC, Knopf A.: Jurassic Park), the search entry *eggs is eggs* gives the variation result (the changed metaphorical expression): (3) *as sure as eggs is eggs – And this, in his strained English: Eggs is eggs and pigs is pigs* (COCA 2015, FIC, IowaRev), the search entry gives the result of re-think (the rearranged verbal idiom): (4) *to kick the bucket – it’s easier to kick the bucket than to kick the habit, to shoot the breeze – telephoned at least once a month, usually to shoot the breeze* (COCA 2014, Mag, Science News); the search entry *make up* gives the variation result evident in the COCA context (polysemantic phrasal verbs) (*to make up* – (5) *The city of Los Angeles had to make up a funding gap in the project after the value of federal low-income housing tax* (COCA 2017, NEWS, Los Angeles Times).

Some MWUs demonstrate change in meaning depending on post prepositions as the light verb constructions *to have a look* gives variation results (*to have a look* – (1) *They called me to have a look at him, but I just smiled and waved* (COCA, 2016, FIC, The Antioch Review; *I’ll be there by about one-thirty to have a look around the area* (COCA, 2016, FIC, Bk: HardAsIce); the search entry *to wash car* gives the result of syntactic fixedness: *to wash car* – (2) *I wash car windows for all the jerks on their way to work* (COCA, 1998, FIC, scholastic).

The stereotyped similes may be changed and rearranged, for instance the search entry *as nice as* gives the result (1) *as nice as nice can be* (COCA, 2008, FIC, ContempFic), (2) *as nice as I can get* (COCA, 2007, SPOK, Fox_Susteren), (3) *as nice as I can put it* (COCA, 1993, SPOK, ABC_Special); the search entry *beg and [...]* with zero ending gives the result of the rearranged binomial expressions as (1) *beg and pray* (COCA, 2017, SPOK, NPR: Fresh Air), (2) *to beg and plead, shout and scream* (COCA, 2015 MAG, ChristToday), (3) *to beg and creak under bloated budgets* (COCA, 2008, MAG, AmSpect); t-Complex nominals vary in the context: *man about town* – (1) *a celebrity man about town* (COCA, 2015, SPOK, PBS: PBS Newshour), *man about town* – (2) *a true man about town* (COCA, 2015, NEWS, USA Today), *man about town* – (3) *sophisticated man about town* (COCA, 2009, MAG, AmericanSpectator), *man about town* – (4) *a single man about town* (COCA, 2007, MAG, Newsweek). MWUs in collocations can be fixed, with additional meanings added due to articles co-occurring in COCA (definite/indefinite/zero), for instance: *hard frost* – partially rearranged in before (1) *the first hard frost in October* (COCA, 1994, MAG, MotherEarth), *hard frost* – (2) *after hard frost* (COCA, 1995, MAG, MotherEarth), *hard frost* – (3) *the*

onions for storage any time after they lie down and before a hard frost (COCA, 1996, MAG, MotherEarth).

MWUs stay fixed in fossilized or frozen forms (*all of a sudden* – *All of a sudden, he's in a rush* (COCA, 2016, FIC, Bk: ConfessorsClub) and routine formulas unchanged as *Good morning* demonstrate high frequency rate (*all of a sudden* gives 7324 results and *Good morning* – 21803). It is possible to find non-fixed MWUs in the broad context of COCA, in the manner of making a query: for instance, *budge*.[v*] gives different verb forms as: *let alone budge, will barely budge at all, will not budge on these issues*, etc. (COCA 1997, 2011, SPOK, PBS Newshour).

1.3. The Theory of Semantic Change: deletions or coining a neo

MWUs transfer into other languages can be implemented by deletions cutting off the unknown or euphemized element causing the informative lacunae, by sense substitutions or formal form shifts forming the partial cognitive or formal lacunae, by innovations eliminating lacunae by creating new word unit, by commentary and other interpretations filling in lacunae by the accompanied explanation (Szerszunowicz 2013: 207).

When the initial meaning can be modified or partially removed, thus the secondary meaning arising out, so we deal with semantic shift. If the form of the word (nominative unit) or multi-word units (communicative units) change, the lexical and semantic changes occur. The changes took place according to the principles of the Theory of Semantic Change (Lopez 2015: 167). As Lopez interpreted the phraseologic process can be lacunar as phraseological meaning can be opaque along with source meaning unclear. Phraseologic units demonstrate the ideal “test bench” proving the validity of the Invited Inferencing Theory of Semantic Change.

As Lopes finds (2015: 174) phraseologic units carry a heavier semantic load, thus the conventionalized implicatures can be very comparing to other linguistic elements. The archaic expression like *down the pike* (194 COCA results) turned into other more evident etymology changing into *down the pipe* (69 COCA results), the set-expression *American Idiot* (COCA, NEWS, 2016, OCRegister) returns 84 results in COCA engine that were presupposedly borrowed from the idiomatic expression the *American Patriot* with 46 COCA results.

Sometimes it happens when the origin of the word/term is borrowed from Latin or Greek, or from other foreign languages, cf.: *tele-collection*. The neologism is exploring mimesis and looks like the old term, but it is completely brand new conceptual unit like *-ism* derivatives into abstract

nouns, cf.: *Trumpism* (55 units in COCA search). Old terms' traces are iterated by the new second-hand users disguised as pseudo-terms as in *Trumpism of the Day* where the neological unit *Trumpism* occurs.

MWU can be polyfunctional, thus the one meaning has to dominate contextually, Cf.: *JFK* (2207 units in Frequency rate) as (1) *Junior Fellowship Kidz*, or as *Junk Food Kitty* (796 entries for Junk Food), or (2) *Jihads For Kerry, John Fitzgerald Kennedy* as in (3) *the JFK assassination* (58 frequency rate) (COCA, 2017, NEWS, Chicago Sun-Times); (4) *John F. Kennedy = John F Kennedy International Airport* (erasure of the word airport) (COCA, 2017, SPOK, NPR: Planet Money).

Picture 1. JFK variation: *Junk Food Kitty*, *JFK assassination*, *John F Kennedy International Airport*



Source: the Internet.

The Phraseological MWUs are secondary units that are in comparison with free expressions have stable indirect meaning, can be described as highly figurative, metaphoric, being stick together in the preserved collocation, e.g.: *Early bird catches the worm*. Still, these secondary units can be modified, and changed into the post-secondary, tertiary, undergo fourth change and beyond, cf.: (1) *There's an early bird buy-one, get-one-free special*, (2) *to work the early bird on Friday*, (3) *with early bird discounts*, (4) *the Early Bird Detective Agency*, (5) *moderate early bird*, (6) *with early bird dinner specials*, (7) *early bird bingo*, etc.

According to Mieder (2009: 77) the phraseologic units and felicities are often used to demonstrate argumentation strategies for they are easy-to-understand expressions and demonstrate persuasive argument by able-to-get

way with conclusive proof supported by metaphors and popular phraseology, cf.: (1) “*Opportunity doesn’t come easy*”, (2) “*One man cannot make a movement*”, (3) “*A new politics for the new time*”. Some set-phrases, collocations and proverbs make politician’s speech popular (cf. Obama’s proverbial Rhetoric in “*Yes, we can*” (2009)), other fading away (2009: 161). As Mieder states (1993: 209) proverbs like: “*A woman’s tongue wags like a lamb’ tail*” or “*Spare the rod and spoil the child*” have disappeared or are on their way out while such proverbs as “*A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle*” or “*There is no free lunch*” are steadily gaining in currency. Some proverbs are rearranged: “*Use it or lose it*”, “*Pay as you go*” and “*lipstick on a pig*” (1993: 83).

The proverbs are seen as traditional signs of cultural values. The linguists have studied proverbs to observe expressions of national wisdom to change and reoccur (Mieder 1993: 205). The new proverbs as they emerge illustrate new values:

Nothing but money is sweeter than honey. Banks have no hearts,
and Money makes the mare go but not the nightmare.
Old shoes and old friends are best. Mud thrown is ground lost.
Friendship can’t stand on one leg alone.
You have to summer and winter together before you know each other.
(Mieder 1993: 228)

The secondary units or all rearranged units on the one hand have some similar traces, demonstrating mimesis; on the other hand they have some vivid formal replacements or semantic change or multiple semantic or other changes as in artifact rearrangements, cf.: *Diamonds Are A Girl’s Best Friend* introduced by Carol Channing, vivified in other tributes.

The term “law of Hobson-Jobson” is used in linguistics to define the process of phonological change when loan words can be adapted to the phonology rules of a new language. This term indicates that words are changing in appearance as the Spanish *cucaracha* becoming English “*cockroach*”, and English “*riding coat*” becoming French *redingote*. The secondary term that derived from *Hobson-Johnson* is *Hanklyn-Janklin* demonstrated mimesis to the earlier term denoting the contemporary glossary of Indian English terms and Indian-derived words in mainstream English by Nigel Hankin, named as a tribute to its 1886 forebear Hobson-Jobson (Purcell 2009).

Multi-word units correspond to one grammatical phrase constituted by several lexemes separated by a blank (Bolly 2009: 9). They differ from free combinations, whose constituents keep their syntactic and semantic independence, and from compounds, which are morphologically made up of

two elements which have independent status outside these word combinations.

Often MWUs alter their sense while entering other linguistic area. The borrowed set expressions appear in different areas like “two peas in a pod” in different areas: translations (retranslations), film industry (remakes), arts (repetitive copies, recopies, similar replicas), in internet (related videos), in marketing (mimetism representations as celebrity imitation in appearance, clothes or manners, twinsumers¹, etc.).

When MWUs are also terms from two languages differ considerably or when a term exists in one language only, there are three basic techniques for reproducing the term in another language: borrowing, creating new term and creating equivalent paraphrase (Arntz 1993: 15).

The use of a loan word, i.e. the direct coining of a term from another language, is indicated when the content of the term is especially typical for the area in which the source language is spoken and is therefore difficult to translate (e.g. drugstore in North America and ombudsman in Sweden). That language usage is by no means restricted to the case shown by word Engl. *Know-how*, Ukr. *nou-khau* and very many others which were taken over into Ukrainian unchanged. A loan translation (e.g. Engl. *contact lenses*, Ukr. *kontaktni linzy*) can facilitate the comprehension of a term which is unknown in the area in which the target language is spoken: however, this requires a motivated term in the source.

According to conceptual change theory the semantic change is like “rearranging nodes in the network” which needs addition or deletion some links and nodes, involving restructuring and replacing the whole conceptual networks (Pavel 1993: 22).

The other important issue of MWUs transfer and words’ migration from one language into other, from one sphere into another: e.g. the term *reproducibility* from biology migrates to linguistics, the term *nonlinear dynamics* used by linguistics in synergetic approaches.

MWUs change in headings changing their meaning, in film’s names, e.g.: “*Men prefer blondes*”. Creating sequels of books and numerous screen versions provide lacunar prototypical copies, relic or artifact parodies, such as “*Casino Royale*” (1967). New versions are not worthy without comparison to older ones. Translation and a new film are always intertextual. The intertextuality is a “right hand” of semantic lacunarity. Artifact, where you can find the gaps, is incomplete with respect to its real or virtual prototype. Memory

¹ TWINSUMER trend: consumers don’t connect to “just any other consumer” anymore; they are looking for the most relevant of their taste “twins”.

and Identity can be both lost in “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind” (King 2013). When something is lost in translation, it must be the identity of the original.

Among the most important factors of MWUs transfer and reproducibility are creativity and mimesis (Pavel1993: 30). Some characteristics of MWUs can be observed in scientific discourse, corpus data, and wide context search engines. The neos of MWUs show the lexical creativity as Pavel states: “concept-theme feedback loops display remarkable similarities” to the original MWUs in comparison to the post secondary MWUs (1993: 30).

Among the current best new words (hybrid compounds) in American English are there challenges to translation, e.g.: *masterdating*, *nonversation*, *cellfish*, *errorist*, *internest*, *chairdrobe*, *afterclap* (New Modern random words). These rearranged MWUs are highly frequent and rather colloquial.

2. Methodology and materials

Our approach relies on corpus-based studies with possibility of data extraction from different corpora. Due to the intuitive interface of the Corpus of the Contemporary American English we have chosen COCA. As our purpose to rely the corpus based approach to teaching EFL we prefer online method which gives the possibility to operate huge data without specialized tools.

2.1. Reproducibility in demo: artifact replicas, the units of deviation, the changed MWUs, neology

Often MWUs alter their sense while entering other linguistic area. Thus, the set expressions borrowed from other language and culture are changing their appearance. This is Hobson Jobson phenomenon. When artifact enters the new territory, the change in appearance often takes place, compare Vasily Perov’s “The Hunters on a halt” (1871). The replicas are slightly changed but the original is visible and identifiable, thus its reproducibility is evident.

The two illustrations (their titles are working as conceptual metaphors) bellow are not the only examples of reproducibility of the original “The Hunters on a halt”, but the following copies “*The Chukot Hunters*” and “*The Smoko time*” demonstrate how the intra-cultures react and rearrange the original into the secondary and the post-secondary replicas with embedded cognitive and conceptual changes shown by the different diachronic and national heritage.

Picture 2. The Original of “The Hunters on a halt”



Picture 2a. “The Smoko time”



Picture 2b. “The Chukot Hunters”



Source: the Internet.

The conceptual metaphors demonstrate reproducibility in MWUs as “*The Hunters on a halt*” (Picture 2) turns into “*The Smoko time*” (Picture 2a) and “*The Chukot Hunters*” (Picture 2b). Highly figurative MWUs are not phraseologic units but also have semantic and visual form change, with a reproducibility feature in common with other recopies: remakes, winged phrases, high profile cases, *cause celebre* and other reproduced copies of the original.

3. Results

3.1. Frequency data analysis and concordance search for MWUs: the current usage

The MWU is a good precedential turn of phrase, then the frequency of usage rises and the felicity turns into the stable collocation fixed in speech, then in writing, in fiction, magazine, academic discourse with different rate of occurrence, cf.: (1) *time flies so quickly* (COCA 1996, CBS SPOKEN), (2) *time flies like an arrow* (COCA 2009, FIC Analog), (3) *time flies by anyway* (COCA 1997, NEWS, SanFrancChron).

Syntactic “fixedness” relates to the degree of grammatical rigidity or frozenness of the unit, including constraints on syntactic order and transformational deficiencies of the MWU under study: “a sequence is considered syntactically fixed if it does not allow any of the combinatory or transformational possibilities that are typical of this kind of sequence” (Bolly 2009: 9).

Metaphorical and metonymic multi-word combinations are typical cases of semantic opacity. “Lexical restrictions” relate to the degree to which there are constraints on the “commutability” of the MWU’s constituents. That is, PUs show “preferred lexical realizations” on the paradigmatic axis: they display arbitrary lexico-grammatical restrictions in restraining possibilities of paradigmatic substitution of one constituent for another (quasi) synonymic item.

Then, after pushing “Find matching string” you are getting 100 collocations represented in the frequency of usage order in the next page by the KWIC concordance examples (short textual illustration) to each set expression like or *down the gauntlet*. The meaning derived from MWUs can be seen as modified phraseological unit, cf.: *The Republicans in the House have thrown down the gauntlet* (COCA, 2013, SPOK PBS).

Alongside this restricted interpretation of phraseology in “phraseologic approach”, there is another way of defining it, which she refers to

as the “frequency-based approach”. An expanded definition of phraseology would therefore include the study of all the “frequently occurring syntagmatic combinations” revealed by corpus linguistic analyses (Bolly 2009: 10). In order to follow the change of the phraseological unit we rely on search engine of COCA to find similar collocations with the structure “down the [*N]”, for instance: “*down the drain*”.

This corpus-based approach enabled the researcher to consider the advanced learner variety from a new perspective, in terms of overuse, underuse, and misuse. The combined method of investigation highlighted a striking difference in phraseologic behaviour between high-frequency MWUs in available dictionaries and in corpora data.

The constant change and modification of free and fixed expressions are given by dictionaries and corpora data also having data presented by styles (Magazine (MAG), Academic (ACAD), fiction (FIC), other items in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), Cf.: (1) *Blue Beard – a man who marries and kills his wives* (Longman, 129), (2) *Blue Beard: PHOTO (COLOR)*, 1991, pastel, 131/2 x 13 (COCA, AmerArtist 1992), (3) *portrait as Blue Beard* (COCA, 1992, AmerArtist), (4) *original story of Blue Beard* (COCA, 1992, AmerArtist), (5) *rewriting of Blue Beard, Carter story as a repeat performance of Blue Beard* (COCA, 1992, AmerArtist).

Due to the quantitative analysis of the corpus data by to the “Clusters” and “Collocates” tools of the *OxfordWordsmith Tools 4.0* concordancer our preliminary analysis reveals (a non-significant) difference in the frequency of use of some recurrent sequences and collocational combinations in the native and non-native corpora.

Some MWUs may be avoided (underuse) and some well-known MWUs may be overgeneralized (overused). The deviant production related to the word semiosis in the native area of the term. For instance, in America it is not popular to use old forms of words, so the paper-and-pencil game (now electronic also), where we put O or X in nine squares trying to win a row of three O's or X's was changed from *Noughts and Crosses* (OXO) (BrEngl) into *Tick-tack-toe* (AmEngl) derived from “*tick-tack*”, both with possible roots to the ancient Egypt game. The expression *Noughts and Crosses* is not available at COCA. The word *nought* is the old form of the word *zero*, rarely used in American English according to the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), giving totally 72 results for Academic discourse (5), precisely: ACAD/Theological Studies (2), ACAD/PublicLaw (1), ACAD/Current Psychology (1), ACAD/ArtBulletin (1), FIC (51), MAG (9), NEWS (3), SPOKEN (1). This change demonstrates how thematic variation preserves the conceptual stability (Pavel 1993: 21).

“Non-compositionality” relates to the degree to which the phraseologic unit is semantically opaque and often lacunar. A string of words is considered to be partially non-compositional when the meaning of at least one of its constituents no longer corresponds to its prototypical or literal meaning. One can consider the meaning of a combination of words to be totally “non-compositional” when “the meaning arising from word-by-word interpretation of the string does not yield to the institutionalized, accepted, unitary meaning of the string” (Moon, 1998: 8).

4. Discussion

The last three above-mentioned internal features of PUs (syntactic, semantic and lexical criteria) should be considered in terms of continua. In other words, this would mean that there are degrees of syntactic fixedness, semantic non-compositionality and lexical restrictions, and that this variability differs from one PU to another. Combining these three graded criteria on one scale should thus arguably make it possible to classify word combinations from the freest to the most phraseologic (Bolly 2009: 24).

As the extraction in COCA of MWUs, PUs and non-fixed bigrams, trigrams and N-grams demonstrate that the contemporary language can be verified to the corpus-based approaches which are important for non-native English speakers and TEFL. We find the other worthy corpora as BYU – BNC (the British corpus), Strathy (Canadian corpus), iWEB or stand alone corpora like LOCNESS to dig in the further research for the sake of corpus and applied linguistics.

5. Conclusions

The derived MWUs demonstrate high frequency usage due to the Corpus based Analysis and Concordance Search, provided by COCA. The semantic shift of MWUs, set-phrases and idioms deviations take place at all levels of the contemporary discourse: in Fiction, Academic, Spoken, News, and Magazine. In order to eliminate the informative lacunae of the modified MWUs in the secondary and post-secondary deviations there is provided to use compare and contrast tool, wide context tool, idiomatic search engines, etymological background analysis enabling to reconstruct the intra- and inter- change of the formal level and semantic shift of the inner modifications bringing home the message.

The analysis of corpus data and concordance illustrations in COCA showed how phraseologic units were slightly changed and modified by

means of the secondary (subsequent) semantic derivation. Many MWUs in Spoken and Magazine, News endozones were high-frequency collocations of deviant nature in the modern AmEnglish comparing with their non-deviant source MWUs in EFL (English as Foreign Language). This is the reason why neology and phraseology are better learned and taught at the university level, where the self-education and corpus analysis are engaged.

The detailed study has revealed that most errors concerned the misuse of MWUs in TEFL are explained not by out-date resources EFL users use, but due to the rapid semantic change of MWUs making neology or rethought winged phrases or idioms in the real time regime, what is affirmed by corpora data from the current spoken, academic and magazine discourses. Some other questions concerning MWUs change, modification and transfer remain open to debate.

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Die Formänderungen und Bedeutungsverschiebungen der englischen MKEs

Zusammenfassung

Die moderne Linguistik verfügt über eine Vielzahl von Ansätzen für die Beschreibung der Bedeutungen. In unserer Forschung verwenden wir den Korpusansatz,

um eine besondere Sichtweise auf Bildung, Veränderungen und Umgestaltung von Wörtern als Multi-Komponenten-Einheiten (MKE) vorzuschlagen. Im Artikel wird die Verschiebung der ursprünglichen Bedeutungen von Multi-Komponenten-Einheiten (MKE) untersucht, die in Rahmen von Veränderungen ihrer kognitiven Szenarien beschrieben werden. An Beispielen aus der modernen amerikanischen Variante der englischen Sprache werden die Einsichten in die Veränderungen der Form und die Verschiebungen der Bedeutungen von MKE gegeben. Die abgeleiteten MKE, die in der Arbeit beschrieben werden, werden als sekundäre sprachliche Einheiten betrachtet, bei denen die tatsächliche Bedeutung geändert, getarnt, modifiziert oder gelöscht wird. Die Vorgänge der semantischen Abweichung werden als Verschiebungen und Neuordnungen beschrieben, die die Ähnlichkeit demonstrieren, wenn die ursprüngliche Bedeutung von MKE teilweise modifiziert oder gelöscht werden kann. Die semantischen Verschiebungen werden als sekundäre und postsekundäre Änderungen betrachtet. Im Verlauf der semantischen Abweichung verschwindet die alte Bedeutung des modifizierten bildhaften Ausdrucks und dabei entsteht ein neuer Begriff. In der Arbeit werden die Operationen der semantischen Ableitung beschrieben. Die kognitiven Szenarien werden als Verschiebung und Neuordnung sowie zweite und folgende Ableitung beschrieben. Die empirischen Verfahren und Methoden zeigen, wie sich die umgeordneten MKE in ihrer Form verändern und sich semantisch verschieben. Die semantischen Verschiebungen werden als die sekundären und postsekundären Änderungen betrachtet. Die anfängliche Bedeutung von MKE kann auch teilweise modifiziert, getarnt oder gelöscht werden. Im Prozess der semantischen Ableitung ändert sich die tatsächliche Bedeutung. Die modifizierten bildhaften Ausdrücke zeigen Ähnlichkeit mit den ursprünglichen MKE, die konvertierten MKE scheinen völlig neue konzeptionelle Einheiten zu sein. Die Interpretation des Umstrukturierungsschemas der MKE wurde durch verfügbare empirische Verfahren vorgenommen, um sekundäre und postsekundäre Abweichungen der MKE hervorzuheben. Einige Fragen, die sich auf die sprachlichen Einheiten mit vielen Komponenten beziehen, sind weiterhin für Diskussionen offen.