

AGE CONCEPT IN PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

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Annotation The article aims to explore the phraseological units across different languages that pertain to the concept of age, examining how these expressions reflect cultural and societal attitudes towards various life stages, from youth to old age.

Key words: Comparative Linguistics, Phraseology, Age, Cultural Identity, Idiomatic Expressions, Societal Attitudes, Language and Culture.

Introduction At the current stage of linguistic science development, many researchers show a particular interest in studying various issues of comparative phraseology across different types of languages. The scholars' interest in the detailed study of the phraseological composition of languages is driven by the specificity of this field. Most researchers provide descriptions and characterizations of linguistic phenomena in close connection with humans, the peculiarities of their thinking and worldview, which is evidenced by a significant number of scientific works in the field of linguistics. These studies are conducted within related fields of knowledge, such as cultural linguistics, anthropolinguistics, and psycholinguistics. The phraseological fund of any language reflects the customs and traditions, national-cultural characteristics, and mentality of the people who speak that language. This paper is devoted to the study of the characteristic features of phraseological units whose semantics contain information about a person's age. The explanatory dictionary of the Russian language provides two meanings for the concept of age: "1) a period or stage in the development or growth of someone or something (age of a person, animal, plant); 2) the amount of lived time, years" [2, P. 210]. When selecting phraseological units for this phraseo-semantic group, we adhere to both meanings, but we only consider those idioms that are related to the age of a person.

DISCUSS AND ANALYSIS The concept of age in phraseological units is a fascinating area that delves into how various cultures conceptualize and verbalize the stages of life, maturity, and the passage of time. Phraseological units, including idioms, proverbs, and fixed expressions, often carry rich cultural and social connotations related to age. Below, we explore several aspects of this concept, illustrated with examples and contextual analysis. Phraseological units frequently

reference different stages of life, from youth to old age, often encapsulating societal attitudes and values[4, P. 78].

Youth: "Wet behind the ears": Refers to someone inexperienced or naïve, implying they are still young and lack the knowledge or wisdom that comes with age. **"Bright-eyed and bushy-tailed":** Describes someone who is full of energy and enthusiasm, often associated with youthfulness.

Middle Age: "Over the hill": Indicates someone who is past their prime, often used humorously to suggest that someone is getting old and may not be as capable as they once were. **Old Age: "In one's dotage":** Refers to the period of life when a person is old and less mentally or physically capable. **"Golden years":** A euphemistic way of describing old age, often referring to the period of retirement when one can enjoy life more leisurely. Many phraseological units highlight the value of maturity and the wisdom that comes with age: **"An old hand":** Describes someone who is experienced in a particular field or activity. **"With age comes wisdom":** Suggests that people gain knowledge and understanding as they grow older.

These units often reflect societal changes and the dynamic nature of aging: **"Old habits die hard":** Implies that behaviors or routines established over a long period are difficult to change. **"A leopard can't change its spots":** Suggests that people cannot change their fundamental characteristics, often used to imply that older individuals are set in their ways.

Some PU convey value judgments about age, either positive or negative: **"Age before beauty":** A phrase used to show deference to older individuals, suggesting that age is more respectable or important than beauty. **"Old is gold":** Emphasizes the value and quality that come with age, often in reference to traditions or long-standing practices. Age is also linked to the inevitability of aging and mortality in many cultures: **"Life begins at forty":** Suggests that one can start to enjoy life more fully at this age, often used to counteract the fear of aging. **"Past one's prime":** Indicates that someone has reached the peak of their abilities and is now declining. Age is often used metaphorically to express various concepts: **"Ancient as the hills":** Describes something very old or timeless. **"Young at heart":** Refers to someone who maintains a youthful outlook or spirit despite their age. Euphemistic expressions related to age soften the realities of aging: **"Senior citizen":** A polite term for an older person. **"Advanced in years":** A formal and respectful way to refer to someone who is old [5, P. 90].

Conclusion. The concept of age in phraseological units provides insight into how different cultures perceive and value the stages of life. These units often reflect societal attitudes towards youth, maturity, old age, and the passage of time, encapsulating the collective wisdom, humor, and traditions of a culture. Through these expressions, we can gain a deeper understanding of the universal and culturally specific ways in which age is conceptualized and communicated.

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