

PHRASEOLOGY

RIAZ HUSSAIN



Overview

- Introduction to phraseology
- Word-groups
- **The Origin of Phraseological Units**
- **Native** Phraseological Units
- **Borrowed** Phraseological Units
- **Types of Transference of Phraseological Units**



CAUTION

**WORDS
AT WORK**

Phraseology

- In linguistics, phraseology is the study of set or fixed expressions, such as idioms, phrasal verbs, and other types of multi-word lexical units or phraseological units.

Introduction to phraseology

- Phraseology is one of the sources that enlarges and enriches vocabulary. It is the most colorful part of vocabulary system, and it represents the peculiar vision of the world of a given community. It reflects the history of the nation, the customs and traditions of the people speaking the language.



Phraseology reflects vision, history , customs and traditions



Some Informal Expressions in Punjab

- Topi Drama (ٹوپی ڈرامہ)

مٹی پاءو!

LET IT GO!

مجان ای مجاں دیاں پہنڑاں ہو ندیاں نیں

پنجابی میں کہتے ہیں 'دڑ وٹ جا'۔ یعنی
خاموش رہ، بات کو پی جا، شور نہ کر

ایسی کی تیزی کرنا

- A meaningless expression use to portray anger, contempt, jealousy, or just a little grudge. Just like the English sentence "They're gonna Pay for this"



The background of the slide is a photograph of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. The top half of the image shows the tower's spire reaching into a blue sky with wispy white clouds. The bottom half shows the lower part of the tower, including its iconic lattice structure and arches, set against a lighter sky and some green foliage at the base.

How does phraseology reflect vision, history ,
customs and traditions of people ?

Because phraseology deals with word-groups having
conventionalized meanings

Phraseology, language and Society

- Phraseology forms a special subsystem in the vocabulary system in which units are called differently by different linguists. There can be such terms as phraseological units, phraseologisms, set expressions, idioms. Thus these terms can be used interchangeably.

Motivated & Non-motivated Word-groups

Motivated Word-groups

- Semantically all word-groups are classified into motivated and non-motivated.
- If the combined lexical meaning of the whole word-group can be deduced from the meanings of its constituent words, such word-groups are called *lexically or semantically motivated*, e.g. 'a red rose, a small girl, to teach a lesson' etc.
-

Non-motivated Word-groups


- If the combined lexical meaning of the whole word-group cannot be deduced from the lexical meanings of its constituents, such word-groups are considered *lexically or semantically non-motivated*, e.g. 'red tape' means 'bureaucratic methods', or 'take place' means 'occur'.

Some Non-motivated Word- groups in English

An illustration of a light brown dog standing on a green hill, barking at a black cat with yellow eyes who is perched in the branches of a large green tree. Another large green tree is to the right. The background is a clear blue sky. In the top left corner, there is a blue and purple geometric logo.

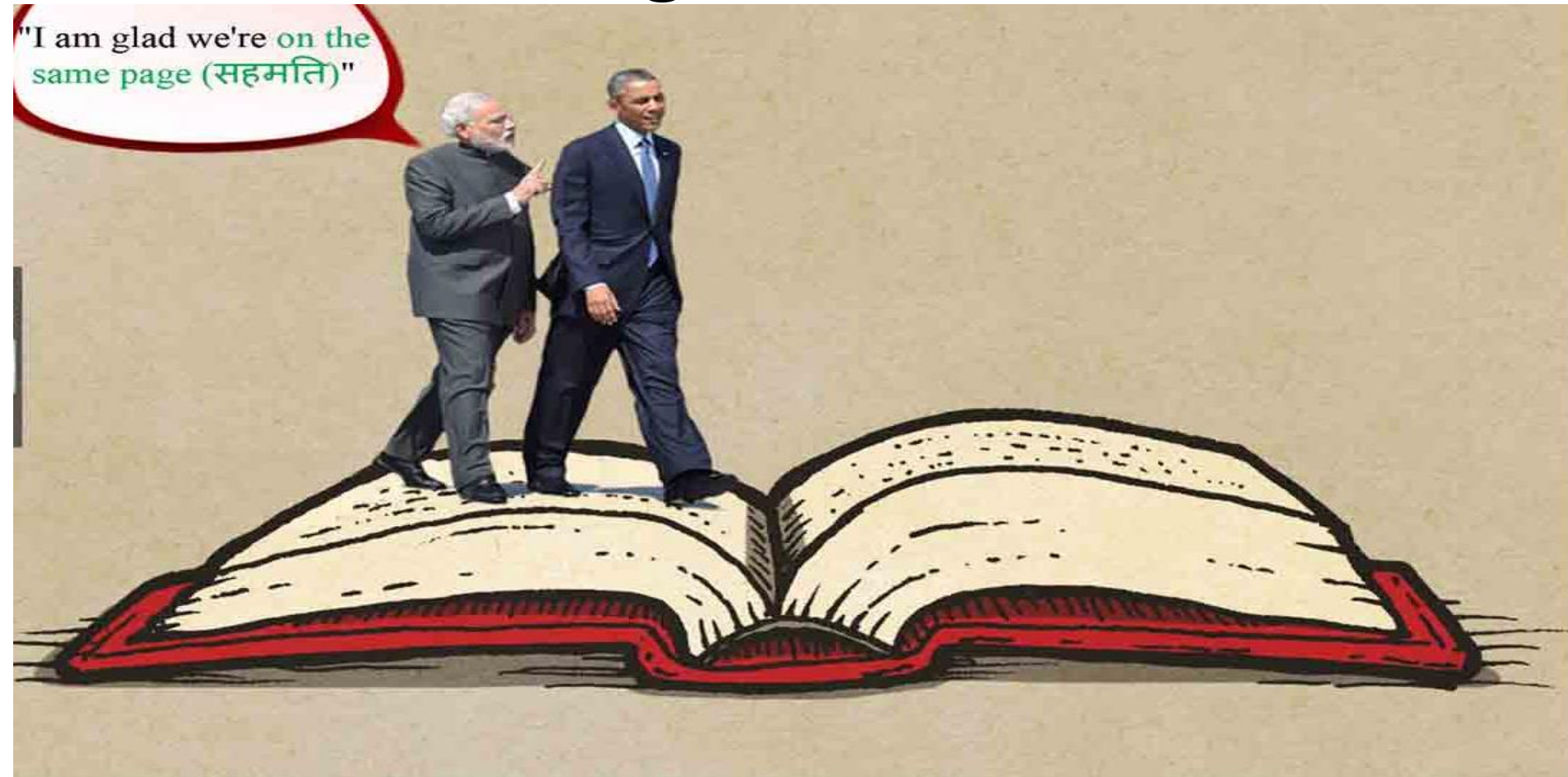
BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE

TO MIS-UNDERSTAND SOMETHING

A red pushpin is pinned to the top center of a light blue rectangular piece of paper. The paper is placed on a light brown, textured surface, possibly corkboard or cardboard. The text on the paper is in a black, serif font and is arranged in three lines, following the angle of the paper.

Are we
on the
same page?

to be thinking in a similar fashion



on the same page

Common English Idioms

Cat got your tongue?
Can't you speak?



Snug as a bug in a rug
Warm and cozy



Go the extra mile
Make an extra effort



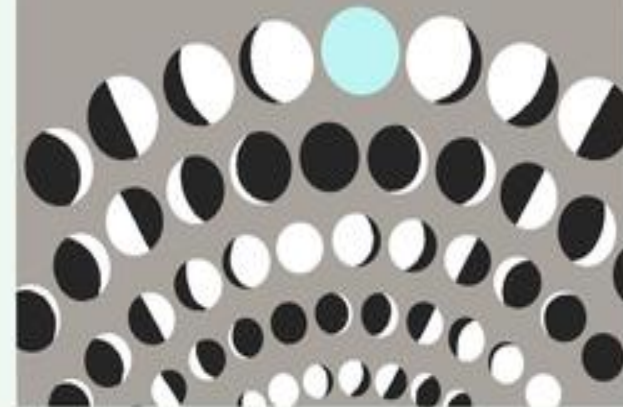
Butterflies in my stomach
Feeling nervous



To go down in flames
To fail spectacularly



Once in a blue moon
Rarely



The degree of Motivation

- The *degree of motivation* can be different. Between the extremes of complete motivation and complete lack of it there are innumerable intermediate cases, e.g. the degree of motivation in the word-group 'an old man' is higher than that of 'old boy'.
- Besides, there are cases when seemingly identical word-groups are found to be either motivated or non-motivated depending on their semantic interpretation, e.g. 'red tape' may mean 'a piece of band of a certain colour' and, in this case is semantically motivated; it can also mean 'bureaucratic methods' and thus, it seems to be non-motivated.
- Completely non-motivated or partially motivated word-groups are described as *phraseological units or idioms*.

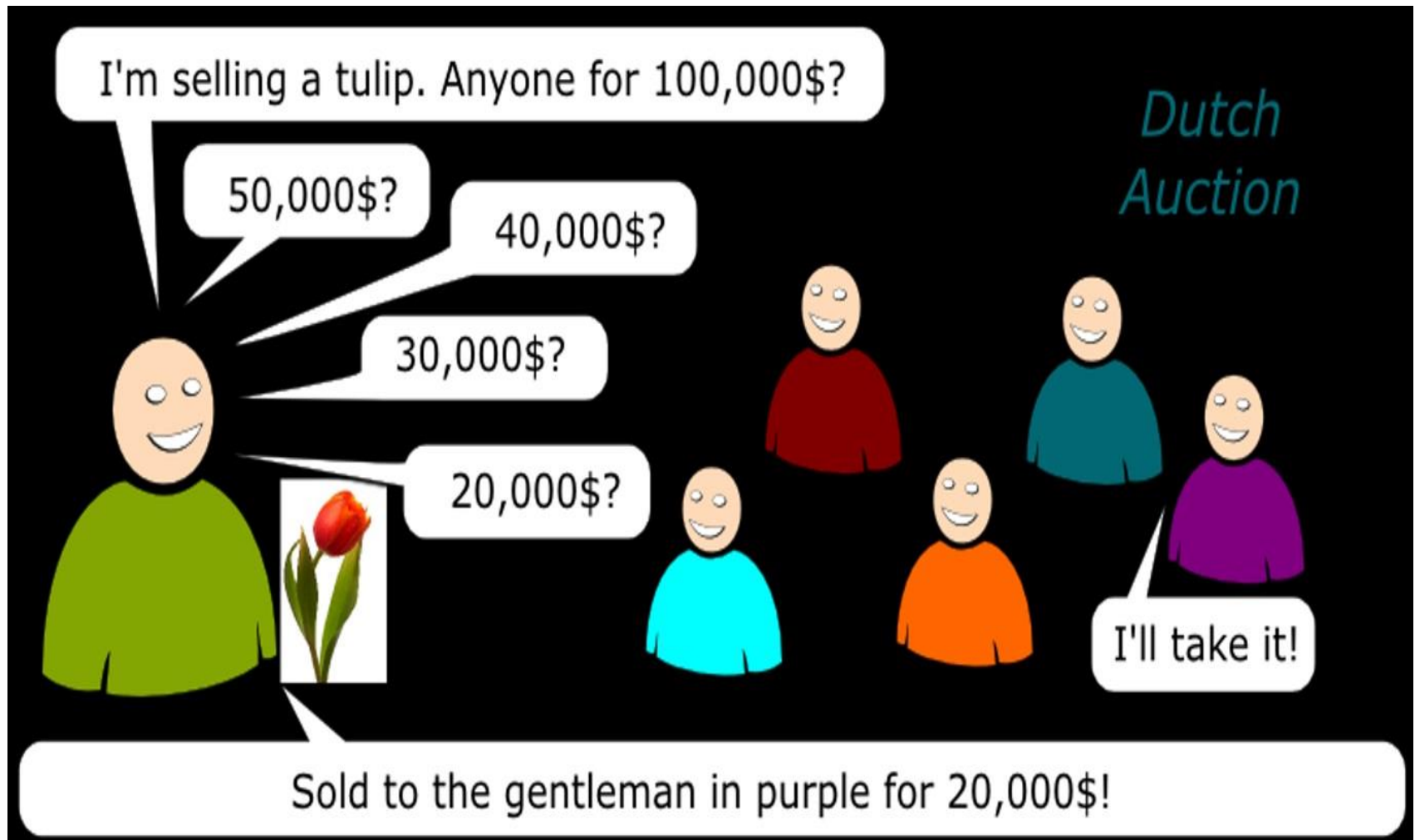
What are phraseological units ?

- Phraseological units are units in which the component parts of the expression take on a meaning more specific than or otherwise not predictable from the sum of their meanings when used independently. They convey a single concept and their meaning is idiomatic. It should be noted that when we speak about phraseological units we mean a word group consisting of two or more words, e.g. *Black Death*, *to show one's teeth*.

EXAMPLE OF CONVENTIONALIZED MEANING

- For example, 'Dutch auction' is composed of the words Dutch 'of or pertaining to the Netherlands' and auction 'a public sale in which goods are sold to the highest bidder', but its meaning is not 'a sale in the Netherlands where goods are sold to the highest bidder'. Instead, the phrase has a conventionalized meaning referring to any auction where, instead of rising, the prices fall.

Dutch Auction



Free Word-Groups versus Phraseological Units versus Words

- A *phraseological unit* is usually defined as a ready-made (reproduced) and idiomatic (non-motivated or partially motivated) unit of the language built up according to the model of free word-groups (or sentences, in case of proverbs and sayings) and semantically and syntactically brought into correlation with words. Hence, it is necessary to name the criteria exposing the degree of similarity/ difference between phraseological units and free word-groups, phraseological units and words.

Distinctive features of free-word groups and phraseological units

Free word-groups	Phraseological units
1. are formed in the process of speech according to the standards of the language.	1. exist in the language side-by-side with other stand alone words.
2. are constructed in the process of communication by joining together words into a phrase;	2. are reproduced in speech as ready-made units.

Free word-groups	Phraseological units
3. substitution is possible;	3. no substitution is possible;
4. each of its components preserves its denotational meaning;	4. the denotational meaning belongs to the word group as a single semantically inseparable unit;

Free word-groups	Phraseological units
5. less structural unity;	5. greater structural unity;
6. components may have any of the forms of their paradigm.	6. components often have just one form of all the forms of their paradigm.

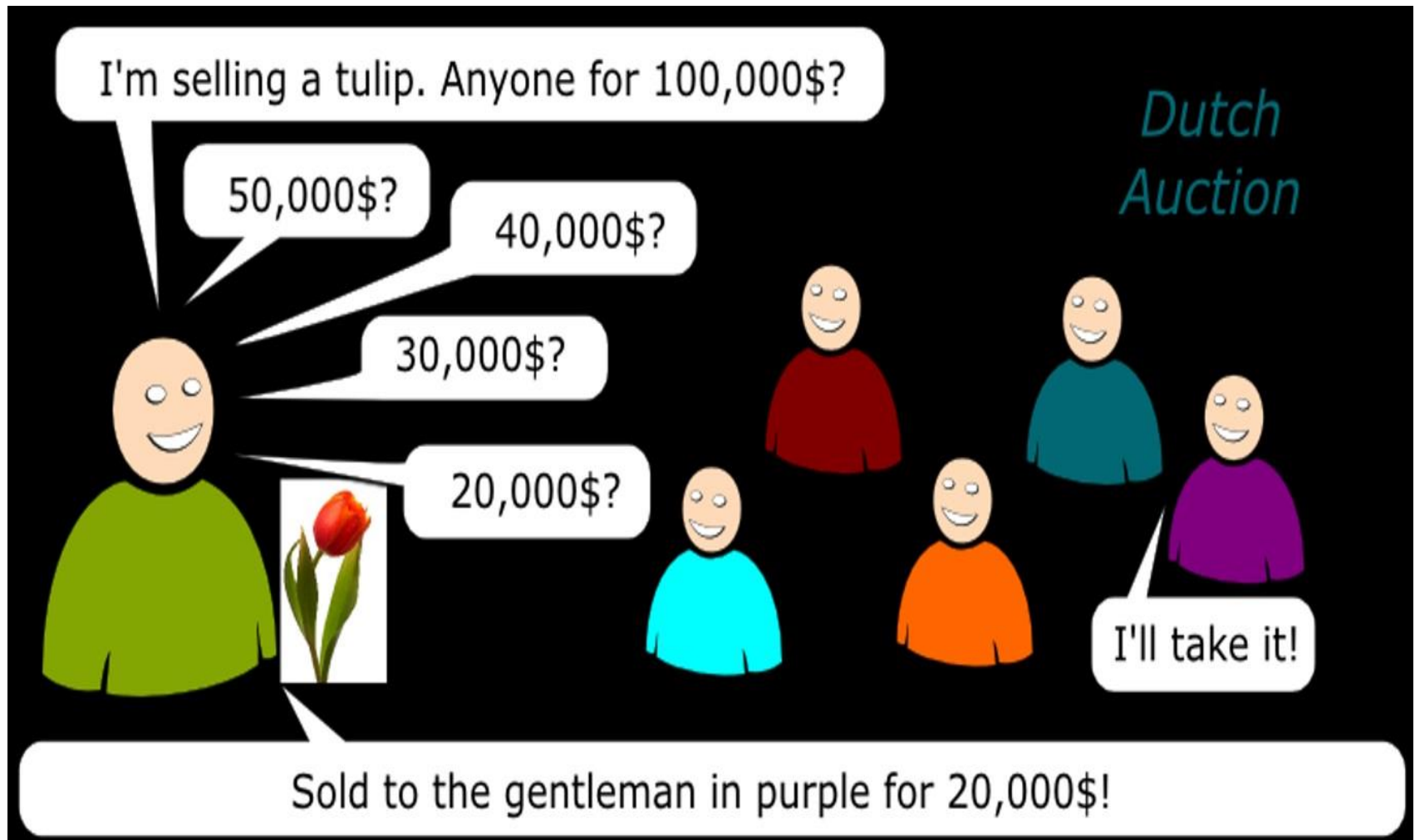
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Dutch Auction



Characteristics of phraseological units

Phraseological units can be defined as stable word groups with a specialized meaning of the whole. The following features can be singled out from this definition:

1. Stability

The usage of a phraseological unit is not subject to free variations, and grammatical structure of phraseological units is also stable to a certain extent, e.g. *red tape* NOT *red tapes*. Stability makes phraseological units more similar to words, rather than free word combinations.

Characteristics of phraseological units

2. Idiomaticity

The meaning of the whole is not deducible from the sum of the meanings of the parts.

3. Reproducibility

Phraseological units are used in speech as single unchangeable / ready-made collocations.

The Origin of Phraseological Units

- The analysis of the origin of phraseological units may contribute to a better understanding of meaning of a phraseological unit. According to the origin all phraseological units fall into two groups: native and borrowed.

Native Phraseological Units

- The main sources of **native** phraseological units are:
 1. terminological and professional units of the language, e.g. navigation:

to cut the painter – “to become independent”, *to lower one's colours* – “to give in”;
 2. British literature, e.g. *the green-eyed monster* – “jealousy” (W. Shakespeare);
 3. British traditions and customs, e.g. *baker's dozen* – “a group of thirteen”. In the past British
merchants of bread received from bakers 13 loaves of bread instead of 12. The 13th loaf was
merchant's profit;

Native Phraseological Units

4. Legends and superstitions, e.g. *a black sheep* – “a less successful or more immoral person in a family or in a group”. People believed that a black sheep was marked by the devil;
5. historical facts and events, personalities, e.g. *to do a Thatcher* – “to stay in power as prime minister for three consecutive terms”, *to carry coals to Newcastle* – “to take something to a place where there is plenty of it available”. Newcastle is known as a city in Northern England where a lot of coal was produced.
5. phenomena and facts of everyday life concerning different spheres such as sport, environment, food, etc., e.g. *to get a head start* – “start before all others” from horse racing (sport), *to eat one's words* – “to admit that something you said was wrong”.

Borrowed phraseological units

- The main sources of **borrowed** phraseological units are as follows:
 1. the Holy Script, e.g. *the kiss of Judas* – “any display of affection whose purpose is to conceal any act of treachery”;
 2. Ancient legends and myths belonging to different religious or cultural traditions, e.g. *Achilles’ heel* – “a weak part of something, especially of someone’s character, which is easy for other people to attack”;

Borrowed phraseological units

3. Facts and events of the world history, e.g. *to meet one's Waterloo* – “to be faced with, esp. after previous success, a final defeat, a difficulty or an obstacle one cannot overcome” (from the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815);
4. variants of the English language, e.g. *a hole card* – “a secret advantage that is ready to use when you need it” (American);
5. other languages (classical and modern), e.g. *the fair sex* – “women”, from French: *le beau sex*; *let the cat out of the bag* – “reveal a secret carelessly or by mistake”, from German: *die Katze aus dem Sack lassen*.

Types of Transference of Phraseological Units

Phraseological transference is a complete or partial change of meaning of an initial word group as a result of which the word group acquires a new meaning and turns into a phraseological unit. Phraseological transference is mainly based on metaphor, metonymy, simile, etc:

Transference based on **metaphor**

- 1. Transference based on **metaphor** is a likening of one object (phenomenon, action) of reality to another, which is associated with it on the basis of real or imaginable resemblance, e.g. *to join the majority* – “to die”, *fat cat* – “a wealthy and powerful person, especially a businessman or politician”.



Types of Transference of Phraseological Units

- 2. Transference based on **metonymy** is based on contiguity of properties, relations, etc. of two objects. The transfer of name is conditioned by close connections between two objects; the idea about one object is integrally linked with the idea about the other object, e.g. *a silk stocking* – “a rich, well-dressed man”. Here we see the replacement of the genuine object (a man) by the article of clothing which was very fashionable and popular among the men in the past.



Transference based on **simile**

- 3. Transference based on **simile** is the intensification of some feature of an object (phenomenon, thing) denoted by a phraseological unit by comparing it with another object (phenomenon, thing) belonging to an entirely different class in order to show resemblance, e.g. *as like as two peas, as old as the hills*.



Questions

1. What is the difference between free word-groups and phraseological units ?
2. Differentiate between motivated and non-motivated word-groups
3. What type of transference is it if it is based on the replacement of an object by a part of it?
4. What type of transference is it if it is based on the resemblance of two objects?
5. What type of transference is it if it is based on the comparison of two objects?
6. How does phraseology reflect culture, customs, traditions and history ?

Thank you