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Linguistic Peculiarities of English and Russian Proverbs and Sayings about Studying

Many linguists believe that learning a foreign language is not only about developing grammatical features, writing, fluent speech and reading; an important role is also played by the opportunity to get to know the history, traditions and culture of the country. It is no secret that proverbs and aphorisms, which are wisdom, the age-old value of the people, are an integral part of the spiritual culture of the language, so their skillful use in a suitable situation makes speech richer and brighter. Also the study of proverbs and sayings contributes to more effective communication. [3]

The figurative meaning of proverbs is not always obvious and it requires certain level of contemplation. The stylistic devices in the proverbs range from metaphors, metonymies, hyperboles, allegories, paradoxes, antitheses, similes to litotes and irony. It should be noted that many English and Russian proverbs and sayings have multiple meanings, which makes them difficult to interpret and compare. Several proverbs and sayings have been chosen and analyzed.

"A little knowledge is a dangerous thing" – "Всякое полузнание хуже незнания". The proverb means that as soon as we start having a little knowledge, it intoxicates us with pride and arrogance. [2] However, as soon as a person becomes more knowledgeable, they become sober. The metaphor has been beautifully used to convey that when a person does not get more knowledge and does not become an expert, they often become haughty and mislead others. As for the meaning, in the English version the words "little" and "dangerous" are used, while in Russian the words are "всякое" and "хуже". [1]

"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet" – "Корни обучения горькие, но плоды сладки". The proverb is used such a stylistic device as an antithesis. [1] The words "bitter" and "sweet" are opposites. The meaning of each word in the proverb completely coincides with the Russian version. We understand that we are talking about study and the difficult way of obtaining knowledge. If we look at the sayings from a grammatical viewpoint, we can see that the position of words in sentences is absolutely the same. [4]

"Live and learn" – "Век живи, век учись". There is a lexical repetition in the saying; the word "век" is repeated 2 times. A stylistic device such as hyperbole is used, in which emphasis is achieved through deliberate exaggeration.[4] This proverb is used to say that one has learned something from an experience that is surprising and usually unpleasant. You can reveal this proverb as interconnected processes with each other. One cannot exist without the other. Life cannot exist without mistakes and self-improvement. [1]

It is possible to note that proverbs are rich in stylistic devices which are used as means of expressing human thinking in an indirect and figurative way. Proverbs and sayings can help in the learning process to master a foreign language. Stylistic devices make proverbs more vivid, emotive and, of course, more memorizable.

Литература

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