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Linguistic Features of Geographical Idioms in the English and Russian Languages

English and Russian speakers actively use diverse geographical idioms in communication. In spite of the fact that the phraseological units have their peculiarities, they may transmit the same meaning. The idioms connected with geography have been selected and analyzed from the viewpoint of their meaning and stylistic features.

English speakers use the phrase “carry coals to Newcastle” to show the idea of “supplying something to a place or person that already has a lot of that particular thing” [2]. It refers to the fact that coal mining played a significant role in Newcastle's economy, and it would be irrational to provide the city with an extra amount of coal. In the idiom, the phenomenon of alliteration can be observed; the [k] sound is repeated in the words "carry", "coals" and "Newcastle". For expressing the same idea, the phrase «ездить в Тулу со своим самоваром» is used in the Russian language. Tula is considered to be a place where a lot of samovars are produced there, that is why there is no need to carry another one there.

To say that “it takes time to achieve something important, and you should not expect to succeed immediately”, the phraseological unit “Rome was not built in a day” is used in the English language [4]. Rome is a large city, the former capital of the Roman Empire, and it has required a lot of time and efforts to transform the place into something significant. To express an identical idea, Russian speakers use the phrase «Москва не сразу строилась» [1] but instead of Rome, the name of the Russian capital is used.

As “a way of saying that you do not understand something that is said or written”, the idiom “It is all Greek to me” is used [2]. Probably, it means that the Greek language sounds quite peculiar and complicated for perceiving by foreigners. In the idiom, the phenomenon of assonance can be observed, the [i] sound is repeated. Russian speakers use the phrase «Китайская грамота» to transmit an identical idea [1].

In the English language, there is a phrase such as “Canterbury tale” that conveys the meaning of a cock-and-bull story [3]. It refers to the literary work “The Canterbury Tales” that was written by G. Chaucer and consisted mostly of narrative poems. For expressing the same thought, the phrase «нести с Дона, и с моря» is used in Russian.

In conclusion, it should be noted that similar ideas can be expressed with different English and Russian geographical idioms and the use of diverse stylistic devices.

Литература

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