



## FAMILY TRADITION “WEDDING” IN THE ENGLISH LINGUOCULTURE (ON THE EXAMPLES OF LEXICAL AND PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS)

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### Introduction

A Wedding is a ceremony where two people are united in marriage. Wedding traditions and customs are relevant to each language and culture that includes a great number of cultural rituals, customs and ceremonies. This phenomenon is mainly investigated by cultural studies, however a new direction in linguistic such as linguoculturology also focuses on cultural issues in connection with language. WT has been variously defined in different epoches. A wedding is an action to adding a new member to a family and carry on one's line [1]. Wedding is a day when two young people decided to live together ahead, to love and respect each other forever. Concerning the lingucultural approach to WT scientists claim its cultural, linguistic, psychological, social importance for the science. First of all, verbal and non-verbal embodiment of the most significant positive values of a society are found in wedding communications, secondly, the wedding ritual itself gets principal one for the formation of important linguocultural

### ABSTRACT

*This article defines the English wedding as a subject of socio-cultural and linguistic analyses. Besides this paper illustrates a study of a wedding tradition (henceforth often WT) reflected in the English and linguoculturology. The tradition of “Wedding” is a cultural legacy for English nation as there concrete customs and habits are carried out. Proverbs, idioms realias, symbols of the English language enable to get acquainted with the whole process of English WT.*

concept [2]. In modern linguistics, it is observed that interest for basis concepts of a national culture, particularly, to the concept “wedding” is increasing [3]. Identifying main characteristics of lacuna in translation of notions and realias of a wedding ritual and methods of its elimination in the process of cross-cultural communication is also constitutes actuality of the research [4].

In English a number of proverbs describe wedding tradition which means language is the reflection of any cultural element. Hence, language is not only the way to pass cultural heritage from one generation into another one, but also a tool used to penetrate into the mentality, culture, worldoutlook of a nation. The study of Wedding tradition from linguoculturological point of view promotes a cross-cultural communication, provides foreign language learner with theoretical and practical material. A descriptive approach to the study of a wedding tradition, first of all, empowers future investigation on other types of tradition by creating basis of scientific, cultural and language materials.



## Literature review

Scientific research on the analysis of a wedding tradition as a linguoculturological phenomenon held by researchers investigated the notion of “wedding” from the point of cognitive linguistics considering it as a culturally marked concept. Concepts as linguistic phenomenon attracted the XX-century linguists’ attention. Linguist D. Jan in his thesis carried out a comparative analysis of the concept of “Wedding” revealing common and specific features of the concept in the Russian and Chinese linguoculturology. He studied a historical evolution of the custom of wedding and ritualized communication accompanying it, defined the ratio of verbal and non-verbal elements in Chinese and Russian wedding communication, and highlighted the principal values of Chinese and Russian wedding communication. Russian scientist A.R.Gabbasova’s thesis devoted to the comparative study of the concept of “Wedding” reflected in the Russian and Bashkir linguistic pictures of the world, analyzed speech genres forming wedding communication in the linguoculturology and examined similarities and dissimilarities of the concept in the Russian and Bashkir texts. Another comparative study of WT of Chinese and Russian languages was carried out by Go Pintin where the scientist compared the WT on the basis of Chinese and Russian proverbs and sayings. A cognitive-pragmatic aspect of the concept considering it as a lacune was researched by S.M.Guziyekova on the materials of Russian and Adyghe languages. She set universal and specific peculiarities of the “Wedding” and identified propositional functions of ritual texts of wedding customs. Apart from these, related internet sources devoted to English wedding traditions have supplied us both with the history and modern

changes of an English weddings. Scientific articles dedicated to the comparative study of the concept “Wedding” and to its realization in the linguistic picture of the world were written and published by Ye.R. Pereslegina, N.V.Nomospasskaya, M.Nikolich and others. A very interesting sociolinguistic research was done by M.Sawalmeh. He investigated speech peculiarities of wedding invitations of two different religions. The principal aim of our research is to interpret English Wedding tradition basing on the above mentioned scientific analysis to some extent. Apart from these, English examples of wedding proverbs, idioms and lexical units were selected from hard cover dictionaries, online dictionaries and informative internet sites.

## Results

The results of the analysis show that WT is a culturally-marked tradition, since the proverbs and idioms expressing it, contain elements of a national, cultural specificity. Phraseological units show that there are common views on WT one of which is regarded as a positive impact in the psychology of people having a priority over other traditions by uniting two young people into one and creating a future happy family.

## Methods and Discussions

Etymological method is the first step in the analysis of the concept. It enables to obtain necessary knowledge on the original meaning of the concept. For the English linguoculturology, the notion “wedding” has the following etymological meanings: “to pledge”, “to engage, wed”, being a French word its original form was as “weddung, weddian”, afterwards addition “-ing” formed today’s modern for “wedding” [5]. Descriptive method provided explanation on the meaning of “wedding”. According to



Merriam-Webster English explanatory dictionary “wedding” has some meanings: 1) a marriage ceremony usually with its accompanying festivities; 2) an act, process, or instance of joining in close association; 3) a wedding anniversary or its celebration — usually used in combination: a golden wedding. Finally, selection of English proverbs, idioms about wedding tradition presented an opportunity to use descriptive-typological method and find out cultural specific features of this concept. Dictionary of proverbs and idioms in the English language are the basic sources of our research. We carried out analysis of WT and pointed out similar, unique, common peculiarities of the concept.

In most phraseological units, attitude of people towards a wedding is described with the elements of joy, excitement, expectations. For example, an English idiom *big day* is used to say about the Wedding Day among people and figurative meaning of the idiom depicts that this day is highly important and crucial for the English people. It is believed that wedding brings happiness not only for the heroes of it, but also other people, such as guests, friends, relatives of a bride and a groom. The following proverb can be example for it: *One wedding brings another so at a wedding party people can meet his or her future spouse and decide to get married as the English proverbs says: Hanging and wedding go by destiny* [6]

## Weddings.

The colour “white” in the phrase “White wedding” symbolizes an English bride’s dress and the marriage that starts in a church. Cambridge dictionary describes it as following: “a traditional Christian marriage in a church, at which the woman who is getting married wears a white dress”. And also

traditional names exist for some of them: for instance, fifty years of marriage is called a “golden wedding or golden anniversary.

## Pre - wedding rituals, traditions

Choosing wedding date. English proverb *Marry in May, rue for aye* describes the English people cautious in deciding a suitable month for their wedding.

Preparation of wedding clothes. English rituals related to a bride such as something new, something old, something borrowed, and something blue is considered to be must-follow rule concerning a bride’s wedding outlook in advance. And these are the symbols of a future, happy life for a new married couple.

Such examples of pre-wedding rituals, customs were revealed only in the English language materials.

## Wedding Day.

### Wedding dishes

Resembling ritual can be noticed in English called “Wedding breakfast” [7]. However, wedding breakfast, is served after wedding and only for newly-weds. Wedding cake is served during wedding breakfast or wedding reception, as a rule. It is prepared and is eaten as a symbol of sweet, tasty life of a bride and groom. A number of sources define wedding cake as following: “Traditionally, wedding cakes were made to bring good luck to all guests and the couple” [8].

Wedding ceremony. The idiom *give someone away* means to accompany a bride to the place a groom waits for in a church. This process is full of emotional moments both for bride and groom and their relatives also. The action figuratively described in the idiom explains that a close person of a bride present



her to a groom. Another English WT is first dance which is carried out by a bride and a groom for the first time after they get married. The music of the dance, as a rule is chosen by the couple and is usually a music with a slow temp.

Greetings and wishes on a wedding day. Guests that come to congratulate a bride and a groom in English weddings express their wishes with huge emotions: "...wheat is thrown over the bridal couple with the cry "Bread for life and pudding forever," expressive of a wish that the newly wed may be always affluent. The throwing of rice, a

very ancient custom but one later than the wheat is symbolical of the wish that the bridal may be fruitful .

VI. Post-wedding activities.

After wedding comes "Wedding Reception" and it is a small party organized to let a bride and a groom be hosts for the first time after they are married. "...an English reception features an elaborate fruitcake made from cherries, ground nuts, and other sweet ingredients

Table №1. Accosication of Wedding traditions in Englis linguoculture

English
Opportunity to meet one's spouse (One wedding brings another)
Destined (Hanging and wedding go by destiny)

Table №1 illustrates English proverbs about wedding tradition found out in the paremilogical fund. For English, wedding is associated with happy moments send by destiny which is possibly brings happiness not only for newly-weds, but for those who present on a wedding day.

Certainly, there exist a great number of associations with wedding tradition, but they are not reflected in phraseological units. Examples given in the table attempt to reveal specific feature of WT of English culture.

Table №2. The reflection of Wedding tradition in the linguist picture of the word (on the English language materials)

Pre-wedding rituals	Wedding day rituals	Post-wedding rituals
Choosing appropriate data for wedding (Proverb)	Wedding dishes	Wedding reception
Preparation of Wedding clothes	Wedding wishes and greetings	
	Give a bride away (idiom)	
	First dance	



## Conclusion

Cultural communications are of a great importance in today's developing world. Since, mastering a foreign language is not enough to enter a dialogue with a representative of a foreign language; one should understand that correctness in communication requires knowledge about the nation's culture, history, mentality, character. It is not so complicated to read and learn information about it, however factual information is kept in the language and reflect in the linguistic picture of the world. English

wedding tradition possesses considerable systemic potentials. In English lexical system there fixed associations such as "wedding preparations", "importance of wedding cake, dance" and after wedding activities. In phraseological level, the notion wedding tradition includes a number of specific elements: choosing an appropriate wedding date, paying attention to the symbolic elements in a bride's dress and to accompany a bride in a church. Analysis show that wedding tradition is inherent for every linguoculture.

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