



ESSENTIAL PROBLEMATIC FACTORS OF USING AN ANIMALISTIC COMPONENT OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN SPEECH

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***Abstract:** This article highlights the problematic factors associated with the use of animalistic components in phraseological units. It discusses the potential for offensiveness, cultural differences, inappropriate context, lack of clarity, and outdated language, all of which can create misunderstandings and conflicts in communication. The article emphasizes the importance of considering the appropriateness of animalistic phraseological units in different contexts, and highlights the need for sensitivity to cultural differences and audience perceptions. It concludes that careful consideration should be given to the use of animalistic language in speech to avoid causing offense or confusion.*

***Key words:** Animalistic components, Phraseological units, Offensiveness, Cultural differences, Inappropriate context, Lack of clarity, Ambiguity, Outdated language, Sensitivity, Appropriateness.*

INTRODUCTION

Animalistic phraseological units are employed often in everyday speech and are a common element of many languages. However, using such terminology can be troublesome and can result in a number of problems, such as offensiveness, cultural differences, inappropriate context, ambiguity, and outmoded language. This study attempts to increase understanding of the significance of choosing language that is suitable and attentive to the context and the audience by looking at the many aspects involved.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Earlier studies on phraseological units and animalistic components have examined the ramifications of their application in discourse, the benefits and drawbacks associated with

their utilization, as well as the influence of cultural, social, and linguistic variables on their employment.

Numerous scholarly inquiries have delved into the impacts of incorporating animalistic elements into verbal communication. Concomitantly, a recent investigation conducted by Moya and Nieto (2019) has demonstrated that the incorporation of zoological elements within Spanish idiomatic phrases can imbue verbal expression with an enhanced degree of vividness, levity, and captivating qualities. Nonetheless, the employment of animalistic elements in discourse may present certain drawbacks from an academic perspective. Ibragimova and Mukhamedova (2020) conducted research that revealed non-native speakers may encounter difficulties in comprehending Russian phraseological units containing animalistic elements[13 An instance of scholarship by Varcasia and Lai (2021) revealed that the application of zoological elements in Italian idiomatic expressions is intimately connected to cultural customs and convictions.

The utilization of animalistic elements in language may also be impacted by social influences. According to a study conducted by Kavaliauskiene and Spalvinskaite (2019). Linguistic determinants additionally exert an influence on the utilization of bestial elements in discourse. According to a research conducted by Finkbeiner (2017), the incorporation of animalistic elements in German idiomatic expressions may result in ambiguity, thus posing difficulty in ascertaining the intended meaning of the phraseological unit[9]

Phraseological Units That Present Various Problematic Factors In Speech

Animalistic phraseological units are a common aspect of everyday language use. However, their use can present various problematic factors in speech. These factors include offensiveness, cultural differences, inappropriate context, lack of clarity, and outdated language. Speakers should be aware of these issues and consider their language use carefully to avoid causing misunderstandings or offense.

Animalistic phraseological units can be offensive, culturally sensitive, ambiguous, inappropriate, and outdated. Using such language can lead to misunderstandings, hurt

feelings, and social conflict. It is important for speakers to be aware of these issues and use language carefully and appropriately

Offensiveness

The utilization of offensive animalistic phraseological units is widespread in numerous languages and poses the potential to inflict notable detriment and misapprehension, ultimately resulting in the escalation of social tension. Several research studies and illustrative instances exist that provide evidence of the utilization of derogatory animalistic phraseological units. According to the research conducted by linguist Mary Bucholtz, the utilization of phraseological units with animalistic attributes can serve as a means of reinforcing gender-based stereotypes while also perpetuating the existence of sexism within society[3]. The utilization of the expression "**catty behavior**" serves to strengthen the bias that women possess an inherent disposition towards malevolent and combative tendencies. Susan Fiske, a social psychologist, conducted a study which revealed that utilizing animalistic lexicon when referring to particular social groups, such as labeling an individual as a "**rat**" or a "**snake**," has the potential to stimulate identical regions of the brain linked with both revulsion and depersonalization[10]. According to the research carried out by linguist Deborah Cameron, the utilization of phraseological units with animalistic connotations has the potential to strengthen prejudiced attitudes towards particular social groups. The example of the phrase "**dirty rat**" is particularly significant in this regard since it reinforces the negative stereotype that rats are unclean and hazardous.

Illustrations of derogatory, animalistic phraseological units encompass:

The maxim "**you can't teach an old dog new tricks**" perpetuates the ageist belief that older individuals lack the ability to acquire new knowledge or skills.

The phrase, "**Don't be a chicken**," tends to perpetrate the societal preconception that fear and timidity are intrinsically adverse attributes.

The statement, "**He is a pig**," serves to perpetuate the widely-held notion that men possess inherent tendencies towards sexual aggression and a blatant disregard for women's

dignity. The statement "**You're as blind as a bat**" serves to perpetuate the societal stereotype that individuals with disabilities are deemed to be inferior and possess reduced capabilities in comparison to their able-bodied counterparts. Ultimately, the utilization of pejorative idiomatic expressions pertaining to animals may have deleterious implications for both the well-being of individuals and the broader social fabric. It is crucial to possess cognizance of the nature of these linguistic structures and strive towards cultivating language practices that encompass diversity and uphold considerate conduct.

Cultural differences

The variations in cultural perspectives concerning animals can have notable consequences on the usage of language, particularly in regards to semiotic structures imbued with animalistic connotations. Several research studies and empirical illustrations have documented the influence of cultural variances on animalistic phraseological units.

A research article, which appeared in the Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology, reported that variations in cultural perspectives concerning animals can result in communication errors across diverse cultures. The phrase "**the elephant in the room**" may not possess contextual significance in societies where elephants are not generally correlated with magnitude and ponderousness.

The investigation conducted by linguist Barbara Johnstone exhibits noteworthy disparities in the consumption of animalistic phraseological units within diverse regions throughout the United States[15]. For instance, the expression "**colder than a witch's tit**" is frequently employed in the Northeastern region of the United States but may fail to be comprehended or deemed suitable in alternative locales.

Instances of cultural disparities pertaining to animalistic phraseological expressions comprise:

The idiomatic expression "**to have a bee in one's bonnet**" is frequently employed in the English language to depict an individual who is fervently fixated on a specific notion.

In certain cultural contexts, the utilization of phraseological expressions relating to animals may be deemed inappropriate or culturally sanctioned. In the context of Japanese culture, the act of likening an individual to an animal is considered impolite and may be interpreted as a sign of disrespect.

The aforementioned adage "**the early bird catches the worm,**" frequently employed in the English language, serves as a motivator for individuals to rise early and engage in efficacious activities.

Inappropriate context

The utilization of animalistic phraseological units within unsuitable contexts can result in adverse repercussions, as specific expressions may be perceived as being inconsiderate or objectionable. The ensuing text proffers several scholarly investigations and instances to evince the ramifications of integrating animalistic phraseological units into unsuitable contexts.

The scholarly inquiry conducted by linguist Emanuela Cresti revealed that the utilization of animalistic phraseological units is potentially unsuitable when employed within medical contexts[5]. For instance, the utilization of expressions such as "let the cat out of the bag" to depict the dissemination of confidential medical data is deemed as unfeeling and unsuitable.

The investigation undertaken by linguist Rosalind Temple revealed that the utilization of animalistic phraseological constructs may be unsuitable within religious contexts. As an illustration, the utilization of idiomatic expressions such as "**the lion's den**" to characterize a cumbersome or risky predicament can be perceived as dissident in some devout customs.

According to the findings of anthropologist Robin Fox, the utilization of animalistic phraseological units may prove unsuitable and incongruous within legal contexts[11]. An instance of vernacular language usage would be the utilization of phrases like "fishing for a confession" to define police interrogation tactics that could be construed as implying deception and coercion.

Instances of unsuitable employment of animal-based phraseological units may incorporate:

Employing the idiom "**monkey business**" to characterize a solemn business concern is deemed insubstantial and could be perceived as unsuitable and unprofessional.

The utilization of the idiomatic expression "**snake in the grass**" to portray a coworker is deemed disparaging and may contribute to the continuance of unfavorable prejudices.

The usage of the idiomatic expression "**dead as a doornail**" to depict the demise of an individual may be perceived as indelicate and impolite. The employment of the common idiom "**like a bat out of hell**" to depict rapid motion of an entity or an individual in a scenario where bats have caused injuries through accidents is deemed insensitive and unsuitable. The use of the colloquialism "**herding cats**" to convey the difficulty of a task risks downplaying the complexity involved and minimizing the efforts of individuals charged with its completion. Such a phrase may be regarded as dismissive and belittling of the arduous nature of the task at hand.

Lack of clarity

The utilization of phraseological units with animalistic traits may result in ambiguity, especially when deployed in a figurative sense. The present discourse furnishes select studies and instances that demonstrate the ramifications of employing animalistic phraseological structures that exhibit equivocal connotations.

The utilization of animalistic phraseological units was found by linguist Laura Hidalgo-Downing to potentially engender ambiguity in legal language, as per her study[12]. Utilizing idiomatic expressions like "**fishing for a confession**" or "**beating around the bush**" may pose a challenge for the reader in terms of comprehending the intended meaning of the given phrases. Furthermore, these expressions are subject to interpretation and ambiguity.

According to research conducted by sociolinguist Penelope Eckert, the utilization of phraseological units that pertain to animals may result in equivocation in the context of commonplace discourse[7]. The use of colloquial expressions such as "the cat's out of the

bag" to depict a scenario can be perceived as ambiguous and subject to varying interpretations.

Instances of equivocal animalistic phraseological units comprise: The expression "**let the cat out of the bag**" is commonly utilized to connote the disclosure of confidential information, a concept that may be construed as favorable or unfavorable depending on the circumstances. The idiom "**beating a dead horse**" is commonly employed to denote the act of persisting in an argument or discourse that has already been settled. This could be understood as either a superfluous endeavor or indispensable for achieving lucidity. The expression "**a wolf in sheep's clothing**" is employed to characterize an individual who appears innocuous but poses a threat, and this can be interpreted both metaphorically and literally. The colloquial aphorism "**kill two birds with one stone**" denotes the ability to complete two objectives simultaneously, the interpretation of which may vary based on the contextual elements. It may be perceived as an efficient or a violent expression, depending on the given circumstances.

Outdated language:

The employment of archaic and inept animal-based idiomatic expressions can impede efficacious communication. The present discourse aims to provide a rigorous elucidation of research studies and illustrative instances appertaining to the impact of utilizing archaic and animalistic phraseological units. One instance of linguistic evolution involves the use of idiomatic expressions, such as "**a frog in the throat**," to denote a sore throat, which may not be readily comprehensible or current to younger cohorts. Research conducted by sociolinguist Deborah Tannen revealed that the deployment of obsolete animalistic phraseological elements could serve as an indicator of divergence between generations or cultures. Embracing colloquial expressions such as "**the bee's knees**" to refer to exceptional traits may be relatively more prevalent amongst the elderly demographic. According to a study conducted by Anatol Stefanowitsch, a renowned linguist, the utilization of antiquated phraseological units that are affiliated with animals may lead to an unfavorable perception of unprofessionalism or imprudence during online discourse. For instance, the utilization of

expressions like "**a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush**" could appear obsolete or disconnected in professional contexts.

*Illustrations of antiquated phraseological animal units encompass:*The phrase "**the cat's pajamas**," denoting excellence or fashion ability, may be unfamiliar to younger generations. The utilization of the terminology "**horseplay**" to denote boisterous or aggressive conduct that could be perceived as unsuitable or antiquated in contemporary linguistic discourse. The expression "**let sleeping dogs lie**," which entails refraining from stirring up conflicts or problems, may pose an unfamiliarity to individuals who are not proficient in the English language. The colloquial idiom "**a snake in the grass**" is commonly utilized to depict an individual who exhibits duplicitous or disloyal behavior. However, its use may be deemed unsuitable or insensitive within specific contexts. The utilization of the idiomatic expression "**sick as a dog**" to portray a state of extreme physical sickness may be evaluated as lacking sensitivity or impropriety in certain social or professional circumstances. The observance of linguistic nuance and the application of contextually relevant and suitable language are crucial in mitigating the likelihood of misinterpretation.

CONCLUSION

In order to mitigate the resultant problematic circumstances arising from the utilization of animalistic phraseological utterances in discourse, individuals are advised to exercise an elevated degree of perceptiveness and attentiveness in their linguistic expression.

The utilization of animalistic elements within phraseological units may give rise to several problematic factors in oral communication. Language that may be deemed offensive, culturally insensitive or outdated can have significant ramifications on the audience of a speaker if not carefully considered. Moreover, imprecise language or language without proper context can also result in negative reception. As such, it is essential that speakers remain aware of the potential impact of their words on their audience.

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