

DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH PHRASEOLOGY EXPRESSING GENDER  
RELATIONS

**Ubaydova Taxmina Abdurafikovna**

*Master student of Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages*

**Ashurova N.A**

*Scientific supervisor: senior teacher*

**Abstract:** *Women are powerful creatures of God, playing a highly crucial role in the society. They are not only emotionally intelligent, but also intellectually. Today women empowerment has increased considerably, as parity in a lot of fields have been provided. Their roles of females have been overvalued by many. They are mothers, who can bring up leaders, high-achievers, activists, influencers. This article discusses the status of women in society, the growth of women's status, the gender factor in English phraseology and its manifestations.*

**Keywords:** *status of women, phraseology, gender factor, society, stereotypes.*

*Main part*

However, not many years ago the power which women have today would have seemed an impossible dream to many women. Before the rise of the women's movement there were no such things as equal rights or equal opportunities for women. Even with diversity among women, women are oppressed as women by patriarchal structures such as rape, pornography, and sexual harassment that regulate women's sexuality and construct women as beings whose main role is to service men's needs. For the most part, women were expected to get married and then be responsible for childcare and for carrying out all the household tasks.

Women Empowerment has attracted the attention of academicians, political thinkers and social scientists in underdeveloped, developing and developed countries, because of the widely accepted truth that a society built on the inequality of men and women involves wastage of human resources which no country can afford in present times. With huge literatures and bulky expenditure on women empowerment schemes, it becomes imperative to understand the concept of empowerment of women to have a better understanding of its policy implications.

Gender stereotypes underlie formation of the certain social expectations in relation to genders, encouraging one and negatively estimating other features and qualities of people depending on their biological sex. In this connection use of a word "girl" in a phraseological unit "girl boy" for giving to an idiom a negative shade of value is indicative, for example. Also the word "mum/mummy" can has negative connotation, unusual for equivalent concept dad. The idiom "mummy's boy" has obviously expressed pejorative painting just because its structure includes a word



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"mummy's" (the affinity of the boy to mother is regarded as something unacceptable, inappropriate to the standard canons of courage). Similar connotations have idioms "old woman" and "play the woman". Tearfulness, softness, etc. are considered as attributes of female behavior and are considered as inadmissible for the man. It is remarkable, that if the word "woman" can be used for the characteristic of the man the word "man" is not used for the characteristic of the woman. So, the pair of phraseological units "play the woman " and "play the man " are used only for the characteristic of the men, the first in negative, the second in positive sense («to behave as it is necessary to the man»).

Phraseological units of lexical sets "character" and "mental abilities" show typical in representation of English language community female behavior. Negative qualities prevail here:

- Talkative and irritable (old cat, common scold)
- Fussiness and impulsiveness (meddling duchess)
- Whims (pretty Fanny's way)

Positively painted idioms prevailing in a quantitative sense accent first of all such

"male's" qualities, as:

- Honesty and reliability (a man of honor)
- Boldness and endurance (a man of courage, a man of decision, a man of character)
- Will (master of situation, to play the master, a man of his word).

In English idioms we can observe rather scornful attitude to mental abilities of the woman is fixed also: the phraseological unit woman's reason acts as a pseudo-image of irrational thinking.

Among the phraseological units describing the status of the man and the woman, the tendency to accent predominating position of the man in the house {lord and master, master of the house) is appreciable. To be the wife, the mistress and mother consider natural applicability of the woman, therefore phraseological units, describing her as neutral. For the man to be the good family man - separate virtue and a corresponding idiom (family man) possesses a positive shade of value. Absence in English phraseology of an idiom family woman is an indirect parameter that women are not acceptable as member of society: as the family is thought as natural sphere of realization of the woman, this fact does not require an additional verbal explication. Generally, asymmetry doesn't consist in estimation but in:

1. The quantity of the idioms describing the social status of men, almost four times surpasses amount of the idioms describing the status of women;
2. "Man's" phraseological units status are characterized by great thematic variety. The presentation of the gender factor of English phraseological

units is specific enough, as cannot be established on precise patrimonial distinctions in connection with absence in English language of a grammatical category of gender. Thus, gender marked, i.e «fixing or registration of a gender component in English idioms», - the phenomenon exclusively lexicon-semantic, as markers of a gender can act first of all the lexemes designating the person man's or a female, or semantic components in semantics of phraseological units. Accordingly gender marked can be both the plan of expression, and the plan of the maintenance.

The gender markers concerning to anthroponomy, represent the open system of gender oppositions, as:

1. Suppose replacement of this or that name, caused and justified by a communicative situation; For example, Tom, Dick and Harry (the first comer, everyone) can turn in Tom, Dick and Sheila to include women in this concept;

2. The repertoire can be expanded in connection with occurrence of new persons in various spheres of a public life, whose activity has historical value, For example, to do a Thatcher - to remain in a post of the prime minister three terms successively (Margaret Thatcher - the former prime minister of the Great Britain), or according to

Hoyle - duly (Hoyle - the author of the known book «Manual to game in whist»).

Andocentric character of the plan expression gender marked English idioms of all three groups proves to be true the fact, that the lexemes specifying the person of a male, possess greater phraseological activity, than the words designating the person of a female. Definition of gender markers of the plan of maintenance of phraseological units assumes an output in qualitatively new and more complex level of the analysis of idioms. It is important to pay attention also that specificity of definition of gender markers of the plan of the contents in many respects depends on sphere of a subject designation of idioms, i.e.f whether they belong to sphere animated or inanimate. Gender markers of the plan of maintenance of phraseological units, nominating people, concerning sphere animated, can act as:

1) The words designating male or a female; For example, A Jack the Lad - self-confident and not so serious the young man who behaves as he wants, not paying attention to opinion of associates;

2) The words designating the person in general without taking into account his sexual characteristic. Basically it is such lexemes, as person, someone, everyone, everybody, you, For example, every mother's son - everyone, everyone.

In semantics of the phraseological units designating inanimate objects, gender markers as those are absent, for example, King's/Queen's weather - wonderful weather. However it does not exclude implicate expression of a gender component in their semantics.



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Summing up to the aforesaid, it is possible to draw a conclusion that the phraseological fund of English language can have various gender markers and gender marked can be both the plan of expression, and the plan of maintenance of phraseological units.

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