Characteristics of Russian binomials: frequency, word order, irreversibility, abstractness

Bub A.

National Research Tomsk State University, Laboratory of linguistic anthropology, Tomsk, Russia
aleksandrabub@yandex.ru

Formulaic utterances, i.e. pre-fabricated multiword units, are part and parcel of everyday communication as they account for between 20% and 50% of adult native language (Siyanova-Chanturia, 2015). Recent studies have focused on various types of multiword units including formulaic sequences, idioms, and collocations. Our research is aimed at investigation of one particular type of above mentioned expressions - binomials (e.g. king and queen, here and there in English, война и мир, север и юг in Russian).

Despite being profoundly investigated in the European linguistic tradition, binomials have been scarcely targeted by the Russian researchers. In this study we looked at various parameters of such units, namely their frequency, word order, reversibility or irreversibility, and the degree of abstractness. For research purposes such methods as subjective estimations and psycholinguistic questioners was used. The data on frequency have been taken from Russian National Corpus. The data on other parameters have been collected via questioners. A group of 50 Russian native speakers took part in the study.

The report will represent the obtained results and provide a definition of binomials in the Russian language.

Keywords: formulaic language, binomials, Russian language.