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STUDY OF PRIVATE CONJUNCTIVE COMBINATIONS IN WORLD LINGUISTICS

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Annotation The article analyzes the history and theoretical foundations of the study of private conjunctive combinations in world linguistics. The formation of the concept is considered from the practical work of H.Palmer to the theoretical foundations of J.R.Firth. The English linguistic school, the Russian phraseological tradition and European approaches are compared. At the present stage, research in the field of corpus linguistics and lexicography is highlighted.

Keywords: private conjugations, phrases, phraseology, corpus linguistics, Firth, Vinogradov, lexical conjugation, phraseology, restrictive conjugations, lexicography.

Annotatsiya Maqolada dunyo tilshunosligida xususiy birikuvchili birikmalarning o‘rganilish tarixi va nazariy asoslari tahlil qilinadi. Tushunchaning shakllanishi H.Palmerning amaliy ishlaridan boshlab, J.R.Firthning nazariy asoslarigacha ko‘rib chiqiladi. Ingliz tilshunoslik maktabi, rus frazeologiya an’anasi hamda Yevropa yondashuvlari solishtiriladi. Zamonaviy bosqichda korpus lingvistikasi va leksikografiya doirasidagi tadqiqotlar yoritiladi.

Kalit so‘zlar: xususiy birikuvchili birikmalar, collocation, frazeologiya, korpus lingvistikasi, Firth, Vinogradov, leksik birikuvchanlik, phraseology, restricted collocations, leksikografiya.

Аннотация В статье анализируется история и теоретические основы изучения частных конъюнктивных сочетаний в мировой лингвистике. Формирование концепции рассматривается от практических работ Х.Палмера до теоретических основ Ж.Р.Ферта. Сравниваются английская лингвистическая школа, русская фразеологическая традиция и европейские подходы. На современном этапе освещаются исследования в области корпусной лингвистики и лексикографии.

Ключевые слова: частные спряжения, словосочетания, фразеология, корпусная лингвистика, Ферт, Виноградов, лексическая спряженность, фразеология, рестриктивные спряжения, лексикография.

Private collocations (English: collocations; Russian: фразеологические сочетания) are combinations of words that are restricted in semantic and syntactic terms yet are not fully idiomatic. They play an important role in ensuring the natural flow of language, maintaining the stability of speech units, and clarifying lexical meaning. This article provides a detailed analysis of the history of the study of private collocations in world linguistics, the main theoretical approaches to them, and their development at the present stage.

The concept of private collocations began to take shape in English linguistics in the first half of the twentieth century. Initially, the phenomenon attracted attention for practical purposes – in the process of foreign-language teaching. In 1933, Harold Palmer systematically treated stable word combinations in English in his *Second Interim Report on English Collocations*. Palmer regarded private collocations as a fundamental condition for the production of natural speech by language learners[1].

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Although Palmer's work was of practical significance, the scholar who developed the concept of private collocations in theoretical depth is J.R.Firth. In the 1950s Firth advanced the well-known proposition "You shall know a word by the company it keeps". According to his theory, the meaning of a word emerges through its habitual association with the words in its contextual environment. Firth treated collocation as an independent level of meaning in language[2]. In his *A Synopsis of Linguistic Theory* he presented collocation as an essential component of lexical meaning[3].

Among Firth's pupils and followers, M.A.K.Halliday and J.Sinclair occupy a special place. In his 1966 article "Lexis as a Linguistic Level" Halliday distinguished lexis as a level independent of grammar. He interpreted collocation as the syntagmatic association of words and stressed the necessity of measuring their frequency. Halliday regarded collocation as an important means of textual cohesion[4].

John Sinclair, one of the founders of corpus linguistics, placed the notion of collocation on an empirical footing. His 1991 book *Corpus, Concordance, Collocation* marked a major turning point in the field. Sinclair defined collocation as pairs of words that co-occur with statistically significant frequency. By distinguishing the "idiom principle" from the "open-choice principle" he demonstrated that language is structured primarily on the basis of stable combinations[5]. Sinclair's approach was subsequently deepened with the further development of corpus linguistics. Scholars such as Stefan Gries proposed various statistical methods for measuring collocation. In his 2013 study Gries analysed the achievements and shortcomings of collocation research over a period of more than fifty years[6].

In Russian linguistics, private collocations were studied within the framework of phraseology. Academician V.V.Vinogradov elaborated a classification of phraseological units in the 1940s-1950s. He divided phraseological units into three groups:

1. Fully idiomatic combinations;
2. Partially motivated combinations;
3. Private collocations.

It is precisely the third group *private collocations* – that comprises combinations whose constituent parts retain their meaning while being semantically restricted[7]. In Vinogradov's *Русский язык (Грамматическое учение о слове)* the valency properties of the word and its combinatorial possibilities are treated in detail. He emphasised that the lexical combinability of words differs from their grammatical combinability. The Russian school made a major contribution to the establishment of phraseology as an independent discipline and subsequently influenced the linguistics of other Slavic languages as well[8].

In German linguistics, Franz Josef Hausmann developed the concept of collocation from the standpoint of lexicography. He introduced the distinction between "base" and "collocate" and proposed optimal methods for recording collocations in dictionaries. Hausmann's approach exerted a strong influence on German and French lexicography[9].

In France, Igor Melcuk elaborated the notion of "phrasemes" within the framework of Meaning-text theory. He proposed that collocations be expressed by means of "lexical functions". Functions such as Magn (intensification) and Oper (operation), for example, make it possible to describe private collocations in a systematic fashion[10].

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In English linguistics, scholars such as A.P.Cowie, Peter Howarth and Rosamund Moon have examined the relationship between phraseology and collocation in depth. In the 1998 collection *Phraseology: Theory, Analysis, and Applications*, Cowie compared the approaches of different schools. Howarth analysed collocations in academic writing and demonstrated their importance in the speech of language learners[11,12].

From the late twentieth to the early twenty-first century, the study of private collocations developed in close connection with corpus linguistics. Large text corpora made it possible to identify statistically significant collocation pairs. In *Collocations in a Learner Corpus*, Nadja Nesselhauf analysed collocation errors in learner speech. She termed collocations "restricted collocations" and showed the difficulties involved in their acquisition[13].

In *Fixed Expressions and Idioms in English*, Rosamund Moon examined the boundaries between fixed expressions and collocations on an empirical basis. Drawing on corpus data, Moon elucidated the frequency, variation and pragmatic aspects of fixed expressions[14].

The *BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English* (1986), compiled by Morton Benson, Evelyn Benson and Robert Ilson, is regarded as a classic example of the lexicographic recording of private collocations. In this dictionary collocations are classified into grammatical and lexical types and presented in a form convenient for language learners[15].

The study of private collocations in world linguistics has passed through several main stages. The concept, which first arose out of practical needs (Palmer), acquired a scientific foundation through Firth's theory. Subsequently, the work of Halliday and Sinclair led to the growth of empirical research within corpus linguistics. In Russian linguistics, Vinogradov's phraseological classification singled out private collocations as an independent category. European schools (Hausmann, Melcuk) made important contributions from the perspectives of lexicography and theoretical modelling.

Today, private collocations occupy a significant place not only in theoretical linguistics but also in applied fields – foreign-language teaching, lexicography, computational linguistics and translation studies. Their investigation serves to deepen understanding of the natural structure of language, to enhance communicative competence, and to improve the quality of language models based on artificial intelligence. In the future, the integration of multilingual corpora, cognitive linguistics and neurolinguistic approaches is to be expected in this field.

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