**SEMANTIC STRUCTURE AND EVALUATING CHARACTERISTICS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH COMPONENTS DENOTING AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS**

**(with reference to Ukrainian, English and German)**

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**Summary.** The article is dedicated to the complex study of Ukrainian, English and German phraseological units with components naming people by their occupation in the agriculture-related industries. The person designations reflecting the place people occupy in social relationships network make up an important part of any language lexis, as they represent the nature of various social roles, values and views of different ethnical and social communities. The article highlights structural, semantic and stylistic features of set phrases with components denoting agricultural occupations. The role of denotation for the profession of this type in the formation of the phrase meaning is traced. Special attention is paid to evaluation of agricultural occupations, their approval or condemnation in the language society. As a result of the research, it is stated that phraseological units with components denoting agricultural occupations in Ukrainian, English and German express a wide range of meanings. In the inner structure of set phrases these professions may have direct original meanings as well as the following derivative phraseological ones: the denotation of any worker, social status, a certain type of personality. It is concluded that a positively evaluated verbal stereotype of a farmer represents the basic concepts of human activity: labour, though difficult, is considered to be the basis of a happy and prosperous life. Agricultural occupations meet all the requirements existing in public consciousness, such as benefit, creative work, physical labour, importance of a product, responsibility, quality of work and its complexity, qualifications; that is why they are highly appreciated.

***Keywords:*** *phraseology, phraseological unit, proverb, agricultural occupation, structural and semantic features, evaluating characteristics.*

The studies of phraseological units containing lexemes of a certain semantic class are an important scientific field in modern phraseology. They allow deeper study of certain features of set phrases, such as structural and semantic or national and cultural ones focusing on some definite fragments, aspects and components of the phraseological picture of the world.

J. I. Golovanova analysed estimated categorization of a professional in Russian phraseology, taking into consideration agricultural occupations as well. The researcher points out that Russian culture, as a part of Slavic cultures, is agricultural by its nature, and therefore the images typical of agricultural and peasant labour and life are the basis for the Russian language picture of the world. Many Russian proverbs and sayings confirm this statement, e. g.: *Сеять разумное, доброе, вечное; Что посеешь* – *то пожнешь; Один с сошкой — семеро с ложкой.* The estimation of a plowman (*a peasant,* or a hyponymous *reaper or mower)* turned out to be positive within phraseological material. A plowman is presented as hard-working *(Хвастать не косить — спина не болит; В августе серпы греют, вода холодит; Где пахарь плачет, там жнея скачет: Не печь кормит, а нивка: Не будет пахатника, не будет и бархатника; Крестьянскими мозолями и бары сыты живут),* but poor person *(Меж сохи да бороны не укроешься; От трудов праведных не нажить палат каменных).* In addition to names of people by their occupation this image also includes denotations of typical actions (mowing, plowing, sowing, etc.), the farmer`s tools (a plow, a chain, a scythe), the results of his work (a crop field, bread), as well as clothing elements (shoes) [5, p. 287].

The aim of our research is to study Ukrainian, English and German phraseological units with components denoting agricultural occupations in terms of their structural, semantic, stylistic features and evaluating characteristics. We stick to wide understanding of the term “phraseological unit”, including idioms, similes, proverbs and sayings into it.

To achieve this aim we set the following tasks: 1) to identify and study the structural and semantic features of phraseological units that contain the component denoting an agricultural occupation in the Ukrainian, English and German languages; 2) to trace the role of an agricultural or related professional name in forming idiomatic meanings; 3) to disclose comprehension and evaluation of the agrarian sector representatives from the point of view of the language society.

Ukrainians are the nation with an ancient, highly developed agricultural culture. Mainly this occupation caused the traditional way of life, material culture, the system of major holidays, ceremonies and traditions (agricultural calendar in particular), world outlook, spiritual values of the Ukrainian people.

Agricultural occupations revealed in the phraseology of the languages under study can be divided into two groups: 1) those connected with land and plants: in Ukrainian – *хлібороб, жнець*, *плугар, орач*, *молотник*, *косар, копач*, *городник*; in English – *farmer*, *plowman*, *gardener*; in German – *Bauer*, *Scheunendrescher*, *Gärtner*; 2) those connected with animals: in Ukrainian – *пастух*, *лиман, вівчар,* *різник, кушнір;* in English – *shepherd, shearer*, *flayer*, *cowboy,* *milkman;* in German – *Schäfer, Hirt.*

Among the names of people according to agricultural activity, we can distinguish a separate subgroup with the meaning “landowner, master, owner”, which is notable not only for purely professional, but also for social and property characteristics: these people owned and managed the land in one or another way.

In Ukrainian phraseology, the most common of this group is the word *пан* (a landowner). Since it has several meaning, we are only interested in the following lexical and semantic variants: “1) landowner in ancient Poland, Lithuania, pre-revolutionary Ukraine and Belarus; 2) the one who held a privileged position in pre-revolutionary society, belonged to wealthy classes of the urban population, intellectuals; 3) the one who has power over others; owner” [10: 6, p. 41]. This lexeme can be found in 180 phraseological units.

The lexeme *господар* (landlord) used in 26 set phrases also has several meanings in the Ukrainian language, but only the following are acceptable for denoting people by occupation: “the one who deals with farm and domestic economy”, “an owner”, “a private employer of the labour force” [10: 2, p. 140]. The word *хазяїн* (an owner) is almost synonymous to the previous one with the semantics: “the owner of the farm and domestic economy”, “enterpriser, capitalist”, “the peasant, who owns the land and has the necessary tools of labour; a farmer” [10: 11, p. 8]. Having these meanings it is used in 34 set phrases.

The English equivalents of previously mentioned Ukrainian lexemes are the word *master* (used in 23 idioms), but only in the meaning “a man who has control or [authority](https://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/authority) over [servants](https://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/servant) or [workers](https://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/worker)”, “the owner” [6, p. 1012], the word *holder* (used in 1 set phrase) “someone who owns or controls something” [6, p.776] and *host* (used in 2 idioms) “owner, manager” [7]. In the phraseology of the German language we can state the occurrence of the word *Herr* (18 phrases) with the meaning “1) a ruler of small possession; 2) a minor landowner in the XIV-XV centuries” [9] and similar in meaning *Wirt* (4 idioms) belonging to this subgroup.

In the original meanings, the names of people by agricultural occupations can be found in proverbs, sayings and similes, denoting properly people by profession, craft, temporal or amateur occupations. In other words, one can state the identity of the direct and derivative meanings in the phrases of such types, at least in case when these set phrases can be interpreted using word for word translation. It can be demonstrated in Ukrainian proverbs *Два когути, два дими, дві* ***господині*** *ніколи не погодяться* [8, p. 209]; *Земля потребує доброї погоди, доброго насіння, доброго* ***робітника***[2, p. 5]; English – *The* ***labourer*** *is worthy of his hire*; German – *Ein* ***Bauer*** *zwischen zwei* ***Advokaten*** *ist ein Fisch zwischen zwei Katzen*; *Der* ***Herr*** *sieht mehr mit einem Auge, als der* ***Knecht*** *mit vieren* (also *Wenn der* ***Herr*** *kurzsichtig ist, so ist der* ***Diener***).

It becomes obvious from the above-mentioned examples that among the phrases, where the names of people by agricultural occupations are used in their original meaning, there are also such expressions in which these denotations express mixed characteristics – social economic combined, for example, with cultural and appraisal. Another proof of this statement may be Ukrainian proverbs ***Пан*** *завжди паном, а* ***хам*** *хамом* [8, p. 260]; *Не дай, Боже, з* ***хама******пана*** [8, p. 97], in which the landowner is presented as a person with a high social status and he is characterized by elegant manners as opposed to a man of low social origin. The meaning of these proverbs can be disclosed as follows: people who have a certain social economic status, have their own norm of culture and cannot change their own nature. The level of behaviour, upbringing, and even intelligence is reflected in the associative field of the person`s name by his / her occupation.

Many names of people by their occupation have derivative meanings that are not generated by the inner phraseological context, but are realized in it. Derivative meaning “the one who has power over others” is realized with the help of Ukrainian lexemes *пан, хазяїн* and *господар*: *бути* ***паном****чого* “to become the owner of something, to manage and use something freely” [10: 6, p. 41]; ***пан*** *або пропав*; *На готовий крам найдеться* ***пан*** [8, p. 228]; *В своїй хаті кожний* ***пан*** [2, p. 71]; *сам собі* ***пан***; *В своїм добрі всяк* ***хазяїн*** [8, p. 429]; ***господар*** *становища*; *Не той* ***господар*** *землі, що по ній бродить, а той, хто по ній за плугом ходить*. English nouns *master* and *mistress* can have the same meaning (compare “a man who has control or authority over somebody or something” [6, p. 1012] and “a female owner; the woman who is in control of something” [6, p. 1012]): *the* ***master*** *of misrule* “the head of Christmas entertainment” [3, p. 13]; *to be* ***master*** *of one`s* (or *of one`s own*) *time* “to manage one`s time freely” [3, p. 102]; *lord and* ***master*** “1) a man, a lord; 2) the master, the head” [3, p. 626]; ***master*** *of ceremonies* “1) ceremonial master 2) entertainer” [АУФС, p. 666]; *to be* ***master*** *of one`s self* “to control oneself; to keep calm” [3, p. 102]; ***master*** *of the revels*; ***Master*** *of the Rolls*; ***master*** *of the situation*; *meat for one`s* ***master*** “something too beautiful for somebody” [3, p. 669]; *Money is a good servant but a bad* ***master*** “a person must dispose of money, but not vice versa” [3, p. 677]; *Love is the* ***master*** *of all arts*; ***mistress*** *of the Adriatic* “the city of Venice” [3, p. 676]. German lexemes *Herr* and *Meister* can also have similar derivative meaning “einer, welcher [Macht](http://deacademic.com/dic.nsf/pierer/226/Macht) und [Gewalt](http://deacademic.com/dic.nsf/pierer/170610/Gewalt) über eine [Person](http://deacademic.com/dic.nsf/pierer/23617/Person) oder eine [Sache](http://deacademic.com/dic.nsf/pierer/41345/Sache) hat” [9]: ***Herr*** *der Lage sein* [4, p. 276]; *Jeder ist* ***Herr*** *in seinem Hause* “Everybody is a master in his own house” [4, p. 277]; *der* ***Herr*** *und* ***Meister*** [1]; ***Meister*** *über etwas werden* and others.

Being used as components of idiomatic phrases, predicative in particular and proverbs with figurative meanings, the names of people by the agricultural occupations express the following common derivative phraseological meanings:

1. “A worker”, or an employee, that is, a person who performs some kind of work, which is not necessarily the one indicated by the occupation name. The generalizing metaphor can be traced in the following English set expression: *A bad* ***shearer*** *never had a good sickle*.

2. “Social status”. First of all, it should be noted that any name of a person by occupation also denotes a certain social status, which is related to the work performed. However, in this case a somewhat generalizing meaning is emphasized – “position by significance”, lower or higher, depending on the name itself. At the same time, the emphasis is put on the reputation gained by its performer rather than the type of activity. Accordingly, some occupations are more or less important for the society, for example: Ukrainian proverb *Побраталася свиня з* ***пастухом*** (sarcastic depicting of the desire to have friendly relations with more significant people); German saying *Der* ***Herren*** *Sünde, der* ***Bauern*** *Buße* «Пани грішать, селяни спокутують» (it can be interpreted in such a way that someone is guilty, and another person who has lower status in society is punished).

3. “Some certain type of personality”. The vocabulary, used in phrases, reflects the features associated with the denotations, which are reflected in the inner form of these formations. Thus, in the inner phraseological context the Ukrainian lexemes *хазяїн – хазяйка* and *господар – господиня* show the correlation with such a feature as diligence: *В доброго* ***хазяїна*** *й соломинка не пропаде* [2, p. 37]; *Як маєш буть злим* ***господарем****, то волюй буть добрим челядником*; *Краще бути гарною наймичкою, ніж ледачою* ***хазяйкою*** [8, p. 458]. Besides laziness and idleness are condemned in the proverbs containing these denotations: ***Господар*** *– що свині попродав* [8, p. 450]; ***Господиня****: три городи, одна диня* (it is about the lazy housewife who has not planted the garden); ***Господиня*** *Маґда по припечку гайда* [8, p. 478]; *Се Химка* ***хазяйка***; *Химка й* ***хазяйка****, та лопати нема* [8, p. 477]. It is pointed out that a wife should be a skilled housewife (and not necessarily beautiful). First of all she should cook tasty dishes: *Красоти на тарілці не краяти: аби з нею* ***господиня*** *була* [8, p. 379].

In the Ukrainian proverbs *Макогін* ***хазяїн*** *у хаті* and *Кочерга до печі* ***хазяйка*** *– вона своє діло зна, жар загріба* both professional lexemes denotes a significant role of these tools in the housekeeping, probably in family relationships as well.

The inner form reflecting some certain real, albeit figuratively, situation mostly related to the professional activity is characteristic of many phraseological units under study. The process of agricultural activity is represented by the German idiom *den* ***Herrn*** *herauskehren* (or *zeigen*) “to behave oneself like a master” [4, p. 277], Ukrainian proverb *Січень січе та й морозить,* ***ґазда*** *з лісу дрова возить* [2, p. 32], *Де* ***копачі*** *копали, там і гроші пропали* [8, p. 515].The inner form of some of these phrases, which reflect the working process realities, is also connected with the labour effectiveness. The correlation existing between the work quality and its result is presented by the inner form of such Ukrainian proverbs: *Ледаякого* ***бортника*** *і мед ледачим пахне* [8, p. 328]; *Де* ***орач*** *від напруженої роботи плаче, там жниця від гарної пшениці скаче* [2, p. 53].

Many phraseological units contain the names of labour means and tools that also play their role in creating a phrasal meaning, being connected with the working process. Ukrainian proverb *Вийшли женці в поле жати та й забули* ***серпи*** *взяти* proves that fact. The importance of the instrument both for the worker and for an average person is also underlined in the Ukrainian proverb: *Без* ***плуга*** *не орач, без* ***молота*** *– не коваль*.

Consequently, the inner form of the phraseological units is characterized by using names of objects, things and concepts, which people of a certain kind of occupations deal with. Thus, there is some connection between the meanings of some occupations and certain objects associated with them, for example, “shepherd” – “herd (cattle)” in the Ukrainian proverb *Який пастух, така і його череда*; нім. *Wie der* ***Hirt****, so die* ***Herde*** (or ***Vieh***).

In the sphere of every kind of professional activity, there are some beliefs, values, and views common to representatives of a particular profession. Any activity affects people who are engaged in it. On one hand, occupation proposes them a set of requirements related to the presence of these or those physical, mental and intellectual abilities. On the other hand, it forms a person`s perception of the surrounding world.

The Ukrainian language picture of the world is based on images and stereotypes typical of peasant labour and everyday life. The main occupation is agriculture, it is a traditional source of material goods, and this can be proved by the presence of the corresponding vocabulary in the structure of Ukrainian idioms and proverbs: *У серпні* ***хліборобу*** *три роботи: і косити, і орати, і сіяти* [2, p. 32]), *В* ***орача*** *руки чорні, та хліб білий,* ***Плугач*** *оре і в праці рветься, а панське черево отак аж дметься* [8, p. 91], *Добрий* ***жнець*** *не питає, чи широкий загінець.* The inner phraseological context of these set phrases shows that agricultural labour is hard and exhausting; it requires diligence and persistence from its performers. In English idiomatic phrase *afternoon* ***farmer*** “a lazybones” [3, с. 21] inner form indirectly indicates the hard work in agriculture, which begins at dawn; consequently, the *afternoon farmer* is one that is unwilling to get up early.

This positively evaluated verbal stereotype of a farmer, associated with the given lexemes, represents the basic concepts of human activity: labour, though difficult, is considered to be the basis of a happy and prosperous life.

As a result of the research, we can state that phraseological units with components denoting agricultural occupations in the languages under study express a wide range of meanings. Except their direct meanings, these professions have the following derivative phraseological ones: the denotation of any worker, social status, a certain type of personality. There is a scale of values in public consciousness of a certain people according to which representatives of certain professions are evaluated. The categories of this scale include: public benefit, creative work, physical labour, importance of a product, responsibility, quality of work and its complexity, qualifications. Agricultural occupations meet all these requirements and that is why they are highly appreciated.

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