ANNOTATION
of the thesis entitled
"Function of transformed idioms in publicistic texts (based on the national corpora of the English language)"
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The general description of thesis. Language is a dynamic system that evolves alongside societal, cultural, and technological changes. One of the most notable manifestations of linguistic evolution is the transformation of idioms, particularly in publicistic discourse. Publicistic texts including news articles, opinion pieces, and media reports frequently modify idiomatic expressions to create novel meanings, emphasize viewpoints, or enhance stylistic effect. These modifications can involve lexical substitutions, syntactic alterations, or semantic shifts, reflecting broader linguistic and cultural trends.

Modern linguistic research shows that idioms are frequently subject to change and creative adaptation. Publicistic texts provide fertile ground for such transformations, as journalists and writers frequently manipulate idiomatic expressions to align with current events, political narratives, and cultural trends. The transformation of idioms in journalistic discourse serves both communicative and rhetorical functions – specifically, capturing reader attention, reinforcing ideological positions, and enhancing the emotional impact of the text.

Corpus linguistics provides a robust methodology for analyzing transformed idioms in publicistic discourse. Large language corpora – including the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) and Sketch Engine platform – allow researchers to examine the frequency, distribution, and contextual usage of idiomatic modifications across diverse media sources.

The relevance of this research lies in the urgent need to understand how language adapts to the rapidly changing realities of the digital age. Idioms, once viewed as fixed expressions, are now dynamically reshaped by media, technology, globalization, and ethical awareness, reflecting broader cultural and social shifts. The research fills a theoretical gap by offering a structured framework for analyzing transformed idioms in publicistic discourse. It also has practical value for linguistics, language teaching, and computational systems that process figurative language. The study highlights idioms as living indicators of cultural creativity and linguistic evolution in the modern world.

The object of the research is transformed idioms in English publicistic texts, as observed through corpus-based analysis.

The subject of the research is the linguistic mechanisms and transformation patterns of idioms in English publicistic texts.

The purpose of the research is to identify, classify, and explain the mechanisms of idiom transformation in contemporary English publicistic discourse, using corpus-

based and discourse-analytic methods, in order to determine their linguistic, cultural, and pragmatic functions. To achieve this purpose, the following **research objectives** are formulated:

– analyze the theoretical foundations of the study of idioms and transformed idioms within the framework of classical and modern linguistic approaches (Makkai, Hockett, Fraser, Glucksberg, etc.);

– identify the linguistic and communicative features of idiom transformation in media discourse, including lexical, syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic modifications;

– compile and analyze a corpus of transformed idioms extracted from English-language journalistic texts and classify them by type and frequency;

– identify the dominant mechanisms of idiom modification and interpret the functions of transformed idioms in the media and their role in reflecting the cultural and ideological trends of the digital age;

– determine the significance of idiom transformation for lexicography, linguodidactics, and computational linguistics.

Research material and sources. The **material** for this dissertation consists of 96 transformed idioms extracted from contemporary publicistic discourse. Out of the total idioms identified, 96 items were catalogued in the appendix for reference, while 150 idioms were selected for in-depth analysis in the main body of the dissertation. Idioms were identified from a broad spectrum of **sources**, including international and national newspapers, online news platforms, blogs, and linguistic corpora, thereby guaranteeing a diverse and representative dataset of idiomatic usage in present-day English. For the purposes of comparative analysis, the dataset was divided into two main categories:

1. Idioms from online media sources, including The Guardian, The New York Times, BBC News, The Washington Post, The Economist, and selected blogs.

2. Idioms from print newspapers, which provided material for contrastive study, capturing idiom transformations in more traditional, editorially controlled formats.

Primary data are drawn from three major corpora – *COCA, ANC*, and *BNC* – which provide extensive examples of idiom usage in contemporary English. These are supplemented with Sketch Engine for detailed patterns analysis and Google Ngram Viewer for tracking diachronic developments in idiom transformations. This quantitative foundation allows for systematic measurement of frequency distributions and evolutionary trends across different periods of language use. To establish authoritative baselines for conventional idiom forms, the study consults standard reference works including the *Oxford English Dictionary, Cambridge Idioms Dictionary*, and *The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms*.

Methods and techniques of the research. This study employs **a mixed-methods approach** to investigate idiom transformations, combining methods and techniques from corpus linguistics with qualitative discourse analysis. Data collection was conducted using continuous sampling and targeted searches to ensure coverage of both widely circulated and contextually rich examples. The study also utilizes an ethnographic dimension through the documentation of spontaneous idiom transformations in natural speech environments. By integrating corpus-based quantitative analysis with qualitative examination of contextual usage across both

written and spoken discourse, the study achieves a comprehensive perspective on the phenomenon of idiom transformation in contemporary English usage. This multidimensional approach ensures robust findings that account for both the statistical patterns and the communicative functions of idiom modifications.

The theoretical and methodological basis of the research on transformed idioms in newspaper articles and news sites is grounded in the concepts and ideas of the following domestic and foreign scientists in the field of publicistic language learning: S.K. Kenesbayev, A.T. Kaidarov, K.Kh. Akhanov, A. Amanzholov, G.N. Smagulova, R.E. Zhaisakova, Z.K. Akhmetzhanova, F.Z. Zhaksybaeva, Zh.K. Ibrayeva, S.E. Issabekov, G.S. Kosymov, M.M. Aimagambetova, A.M. Kunin, V.V. Vinogradov, V.L. Arkhangelsky, N.N. Amossov, D.O. Dobrovolsky, V.P. Zhukov, V.M. Mokienko, A. Baddeley, R. Brown, K. Fernando, B. Fraser, R. Glaser, S. Glucksberg, L. Grant, Z. Harris, A. Langlotz, K. Pike, R. Quirk, J. Sinclair, W. Weinreich, A. Makkai, E. Thorndike, W. Weinreich, et al.

The theoretical significance of this research lies in enriching modern phraseology, linguistics, and corpus analysis by examining idioms as evolving and adaptive language units. The study integrates classical theories (Makkai, Hockett, Fraser, Glucksberg, and others) with empirical corpus data, which makes it possible to identify the patterns of change and pragmatic adaptation of idioms, reflecting the balance between linguistic stability and creativity. Moreover, the research strengthens interdisciplinary connections between phraseology, discourse analysis, and digital communication by conceptualizing the processes of idiom evolution across different languages and mass media contents.

The practical significance of the study. Firstly, it offers a methodological framework for analyzing modified idioms in social medium, which may be useful for linguists, teachers, and lexicographers. Secondly, the results can be applied in language teaching, particularly in developing study materials that present idioms as dynamic, context-dependent expressions rather than fixed phrases for rote memorization. This approach helps learners perceive idioms as tools of linguistic creativity rather than merely as memorized expressions. In computational linguistics, the results can be used to make NLP systems better at spotting figurative language and feelings in news articles and social media posts. In general, the research is useful for both academics and practitioners. It may be used as a reference for researchers looking into linguistic innovation, for teachers creating phraseological curricula, and for programmers making AI systems that understand natural language.

The scientific novelty of the research is determined by the fact that, for the first time; a dual research approach has been implemented, combining corpus and sociolinguistic analysis of publicistic texts containing transformed idioms; the traditional thesis about the fixed nature of idioms has been questioned, and the patterns of their pragmatic and structural adaptation in modern media discourse have been identified; a taxonomy of idiom transformations has been proposed, including lexical (spill the beans → spill the tea), syntactic (she broke the news → the news was broken by her), and semantic (an apple a day → a ginger shot a day) types; a correlation has been established between idiom transformation and cultural trends reflecting the characteristics of British and American media discourse; intercultural differences have

been revealed in the interpretation of modified idioms by representatives of different cultures (Kazakhstani and American students), which has clarified the role of cultural context in the comprehension of idioms;

The main provisions of dissertation submitted for defense:

1. The dynamic nature of idiom transformations in journalistic discourse. Contrary to the traditional notion that idioms are fixed expressions, this study demonstrates that idioms in journalistic discourse often undergo lexical, syntactic, and semantic changes, adapting to the contemporary linguistic and socio-political context. Transformations occur through substitutions, expansions, abbreviations, and recontextualization, creating new meanings that correspond to media rhetoric, stylistic preferences, and audience expectations. Idiom transformation is not a random process, but follows specific linguistic patterns influenced by genre, communicative intentions, and cultural background.

2. Corpus analysis reveals trends in frequency, co-occurrence, and the discursive functions of transformed idioms across various media platforms, highlighting the differences between print and online journalism.

3. American English is characterized by greater creative flexibility and a propensity for syntactic and semantic transformations, while British English retains more fixed and quotational forms characteristic of formal and literary contexts. The study provides empirical evidence that idiomatic transformations change over time under the influence of historical, cultural, and technological factors.

4. Transformed idioms are linguistic markers of cultural and ideological change, reflecting shifts in public discourse, political rhetoric, and social trends. Journalistic texts actively use modified idioms to attract readers' attention, create rhetorical effects, and establish intertextual connections, enhancing the expressiveness and persuasiveness of media language. Thematic areas where such transformations are most frequent are identified: politics, economics, technology, healthcare, and social movements. By adapting and transforming idioms, the media contribute to linguistic innovation, shaping new phraseological norms and influencing popular discourse.

5. The integration of idioms, corpus linguistics, and discourse analysis forms a comprehensive methodology that can be applied to future studies of idiom variation and media language. The results challenge traditional idiom classifications, demonstrating that idioms should be studied as flexible linguistic units rather than rigid expressions.

Approbation of dissertation. The main scientific results and conclusions of the research have been published in domestic and international journals and tested at international scientific, theoretical, and practical conferences. Ten (10) articles have been published: two (2) in the Scopus database, four (4) in the collection of international conference proceedings, and four (4) in journals included in the list of publications recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CQASHE).

The structure of dissertation. The dissertation work consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, sources, the list of references and an appendix.