

**AN ALGORITHM FOR THE FORMATION OF THE RUSSIAN
PAREMIOLOGICAL MINIMUM**

UM ALGORITMO PARA A FORMAÇÃO DO MÍNIMO PAREMIOLÓGICO RUSSO

UN ALGORITMO PARA LA FORMACIÓN DEL MÍNIMO PAREMIOLÓGICO RUSO

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ABSTRACT: The article is devoted to the paremiological minimum of the Russian language. The relevance of the study is due to the need to allocate a list of paremias that are in the “zone of recognition and the correct understanding of the meaning” by all native speakers of Russian language in order to further use the data obtained in teaching Russian as a foreign language. The use and understanding of paremiological units, as well as the anti-proverbs formed from them, is rather difficult for foreigners. Also, proverbs and sayings show a foreigner the traditions, customs and way of thinking of the Russian people. By monitoring posts on social networks and using passive observations of the speech process of native speakers were identified the communicative situations in which paremias were regularly resorted to. The authors provide a review of existing research in this area, conclude that it is necessary to conduct an additional experiment in order to obtain the most objective results. The main attention is paid to the description and justification of the proposed algorithm for identifying the paremiological minimum. The choice of primary material for the questionnaire is explained, preliminary results of a comparison of various sources of paremias are presented. Examples of formulations of questions proposed to informants are given that make it possible to identify not only the fact of recognition of paremias, but also their understanding. Further ways of research development are presented.

KEYWORDS: Paremiology, Paremiologicalminimum, Proverb, Saying, Russianasforeignlanguage

RESUMO: *O artigo é dedicado ao mínimo paremiológico da língua russa. A relevância do estudo se deve à necessidade de alocar uma lista de paremias que estão na “zona de reconhecimento e a correta compreensão do significado” por todos os falantes nativos da língua russa, a fim de continuar a usar os dados obtidos no ensino de russo. como uma língua estrangeira. O uso e a compreensão das unidades paremiológicas, bem como dos anti-provérbios formados a partir delas, são bastante difíceis para os estrangeiros. Além disso, provérbios e ditados mostram a um estrangeiro as tradições, costumes e modo de*

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pensar do povo russo. Por meio do monitoramento de postagens nas redes sociais e da observação passiva do processo de fala de falantes nativos, foram identificadas as situações comunicativas nas quais as paremias eram regularmente recorridas. Os autores fazem uma revisão das pesquisas existentes nesta área, concluem que é necessário conduzir um experimento adicional para obter os resultados mais objetivos. A principal atenção é dada à descrição e justificativa do algoritmo proposto para a identificação do mínimo paremiológico. A escolha do material primário para o questionário é explicada, resultados preliminares de uma comparação de várias fontes de paremias são apresentados. São apresentados exemplos de formulações de perguntas propostas aos informantes que permitem identificar não só o fato do reconhecimento das paremias, mas também sua compreensão. Outras formas de desenvolvimento de pesquisa são apresentadas.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: *Paremiologia, Paremiológico mínimo, Provérbio, Ditado, Língua estrangeira*

RESUMEN: *El artículo está dedicado al mínimo paremiológico de la lengua rusa. La relevancia del estudio se debe a la necesidad de asignar una lista de paremias que se encuentran en la "zona de reconocimiento y la correcta comprensión del significado" por parte de todos los hablantes nativos del idioma ruso con el fin de seguir utilizando los datos obtenidos en la enseñanza del ruso. como lengua extranjera. El uso y la comprensión de las unidades paremiológicas, así como los anti-proverbios que se forman a partir de ellas, es bastante difícil para los extranjeros. Además, los refranes y refranes muestran a un extranjero las tradiciones, costumbres y forma de pensar del pueblo ruso. Mediante el seguimiento de publicaciones en redes sociales y mediante observaciones pasivas del proceso del habla de hablantes nativos se identificaron las situaciones comunicativas en las que se recurría habitualmente a las paremias. Los autores brindan una revisión de las investigaciones existentes en esta área, concluyen que es necesario realizar un experimento adicional con el fin de obtener los resultados más objetivos. Se presta especial atención a la descripción y justificación del algoritmo propuesto para identificar el mínimo paremiológico. Se explica la elección del material primario para el cuestionario, se presentan los resultados preliminares de una comparación de varias fuentes de paremias. Se dan ejemplos de formulaciones de preguntas propuestas a los informantes que permiten identificar no solo el hecho del reconocimiento de las paremias, sino también su comprensión. Se presentan otras formas de desarrollo de la investigación.*

PALABRAS CLAVE: *Paremiología, Paremiológico mínimo, Proverbio, Dicho, Ruso como idioma extranjero*

Introduction

The question of formation a paremiological minimum was first raised by G. Permyakov. Paremiological minimum is understood as “the minimum composition of proverbs and other stable sayings known to all native speakers of the Russian language” (PERMYAKOV, 1988). To find the units that will be included in the minimum from the many Russian language paremias, scientists decided to conduct a linguistic experiment,

consisting of a two-stage questionnaire of a group of informants. As a result, about 500 units of the paremiological minimum were allocated.

However, this experiment, as well as the idea of formation a paremiological minimum, was criticized. A number of defects were noted, due to which the results of the study can be considered as subjective (IVANOV, 2015).

First, the selection of the primary material for the experiment was carried out by the researcher independently, relying only on his linguistic competence.

Secondly, the informants who took part in the survey lived in one region (Moscow and the Moscow region). Also, the number of informants was recognized as insufficient (300 people in the first stage and 100 in the second) (IVANOV, 2015).

According to V. Mokienko the idea of the existence of a paremiological minimum “for all” speakers of a particular language seems to be impossible, since the use of proverbs and sayings is individual (MOKIENKO, 2010).

Despite the validity of criticism of the experiment conducted by G.Permakov and the controversy of the idea of a unified paremiological minimum, the prospect of formation a list of paremias that are in the “zone of recognition and correct understanding of the meaning” by all speakers of linguistic culture gives a number of unique opportunities, especially from the point of view of the methodology of teaching Russian as a foreign language (KHABIBULLINA et al., 2019).

The purpose of this article is to develop a set of methods to form the paremiological minimum for studying Russian as a foreign language, using the experience of previous studies and modern information technologies.

Methods

An analysis of the works of famous Russian-speaking paremiologists (G.PERMYAKOV, E.IVANOV, V.MOKIENKO, T.BOCHINA, O.ABAKUMOVA AND OTHERS) gave an impetus to defining the main preconditions for a paremiological minimum creation, helped to find the main problems, consisting mainly in the subjective nature of such studies and the low frequency of use of paremias in the speech of modern native speakers.

Using the method of passive observations of native speakers of the Russian language in various communicative situations, including the content of texts posts and comments on popular social networks, gave an opportunity to identify the main cases of using paremias and to make sure that paremiological units are part of modern Russian speech.

To form the paremiological minimum of speakers of Russian linguistic culture, a sociolinguistic experiment is planned taking into account the main errors of the experiment made by G. Permyakov, entailing the subjectivity of the results.

The main part of the experiment will be a large-scale questionnaire conducted in real and virtual formats, in which more than 3,000 native Russian speakers living in different regions of Russia and having different social statuses will take part.

To form the primary list of paremeological units offered to informants in the body of the questionnaire the comparative method is used. The following sources are used for material:

- 1) The lexical minimum for Russian as a foreign language. Level C1.
- 2) The paremiological minimum made by G. Permyakov.
- 3) The core of the main paremiological fund made by E.Ivanov.
- 4) The linguo-cultural minimum in the mirrorof the “anti-phrases” internet game created by Chen Yaxing.
- 5) The paremiological minimum in the vocabulary of the linguistic personality of modern created by L. Petrova.

Analysis of the obtained data and quantitative calculation allow us to select a list of parameters that forms the basis of the questionnaire. A unit occurring in three or more sources will be included in the list of paremias, which constitute the primary material for the study.

Results and Discussions

Passive observations of spontaneous speech of native Russian speakers showed a low level of frequency of use of paremias. Nevertheless, there is a number of communicative tasks for which Russian speakers prefer to use proverbs and sayings (BAJRAMOVA, 2017). An appeal to common wisdom is used as a win-win argument in a dispute. In this case, the speaker often begins to build his sentence with the phrase "No wonder they say that (Fattakhova et al., 2017). However, it should be remembered that with the help of paremias one can prove various points of view, including those that are opposite to each other.

For example, the proverb “Constant dropping wears away a stone.” will prove that even a minimal impact, applied constantly, can lead to a significant result (Bajramova, 2017). To prove the opposite point of view that in a situation of inequality of forces there is nothing

left but to obey, since any actions will be absolutely useless, is the saying “Don't you kick against the pricks!..”

Paremiias are often used in the communicative situations of encouraging (“There is no silver lining”), motivation (“A cat in gloves catches no mice”), admonition (“Work done, have your fun”).

Analysis of posts on the popular social network Instagram demonstrated the use of paremiias with an ornamental purpose, that is, with the goal of "decorating" a text (Nikitina, 2015). Often, paremiias are used as the only signature under an image, while the picture itself and the contents of the proverb or saying are not always related to each other. Paremiias are regularly used in hashtags for posts. For example, about 30 thousand posts with a hashtag in the form of the proverb “It is good to be visiting, but it is better at home” are found, and over 50 thousand posts with the hashtag “It is good to be visiting”.

One of the problems in the framework of an objective experiment in order to identify the paremiological minimum is the formation of a list of units that will go into the body of the questionnaire. As noted above, we selected five sources for the formation of this material. The goal of combining five different lists of paremiias is to achieve objective results. Let us consider each of them in more detail.

The lexical minimum for Russian as a foreign language C1 includes 67 proverbs and sayings. The material from this source is of particular value to us, since it was selected by the methodologists as necessary for study by foreign citizens who plan to work as philologists, translators, editors, diplomats, journalists, and managers in the Russian-speaking team (ANDRYUSHINA et al., 2018).

The paremiological minimum of Permyakov, the creator of the idea of the existence of such list of units, was identified through an experiment and consists of 500 units (Permyakov, 1988). The Permyakovs minimum has been repeatedly criticized, however, it is of interest in this study as one of the sources for the selection of primary material. Comparative composition of this paremiological minimum with other sources is also recognized as promising.

E. Ivanov, who criticized the Permyakovs minimum, is the creator of the core of the main paremiological fund, which includes 110 paremiias. Paremiological fund is understood as a linguistic category, combining proverbs and sayings that are widely used at different stages of the historical development of the language (Ivanov, 2015). The core of the fund includes the most recognizable paremiias. These units were identified by conducting an

experiment, more than 90% of informants marked them as “known”. About 30 paremias from the core of the fund are not included in the minimum of G. Permyakov.

The paremiological minimum in the vocabulary of the linguistic personality of modern students, developed by L. Petrova, was included in the list of sources due to the lack of future questioning of persons under the age of 18 as informants. This minimum was formed in 2007 through a survey of students. It consists of 174 units.

The main task of forming a paremiological minimum is the selection of units for study by foreigners to make communication in Russian more successful. Of particular difficulty for students are anti-phrases, for a correct understanding of which it is necessary to recognize traditional paremias in the content of anti-phrases, to know their meaning, to understand the semantics of a new phrase (Bochina & Chen, 2018). For this reason, our sources include a list of paremias, often acting as prototypes for such sayings (PALEKHA et al., 2017).

Comparison of the above lists of paremias gives us the opportunity to allocate units for the primary questionnaire material. It includes paremias found in three or more sources.

Another task when working with these sources is to compare units included in the lexical minimum C1 with the paremias from the rest of the lists. A number of paremias were identified that are included in the lexical minimum, but are not contained in other sources and, conversely, proverbs and sayings were found recorded in three or more lists, but are not a part of the lexical minimum C1. This fact also confirms the need to form a paremiological minimum of Russian language, including for its use in compiling lexical minima in the Russian language.

In addition to resolving the issue of the primary material for the experiment, it is necessary to pay attention to the nature of the questions offered to informants. In early questionnaires, the testers were asked questions aimed at identifying the fact of recognition of paremia, the adequacy of its perception was not tested.

We propose to make two blocks of questions: recognition and understanding of paremiological units.

In the “recognition” block, the following task formulations are presented: “Choose the correct continuation of the following phrase,” “insert the missing word,” “choose the correct version of the proverb / saying”, etc.

The “understanding” block consists of tasks such as “choose the meaning of a proverb”, “choose a phrase that is suitable for describing the given situation”, etc.

The creation of several questionnaire variants, built on the same model, but filled with different material, helps to reduce the testing time to 7-10 minutes and, thereby, attracts more

informants. It is planned to attract more than 3,000 Russian speakers living in different regions of Russia and having different social statuses to participate in the experiment. To realize this idea, it is proposed to use the Google Forms service during the survey and distribute the form using popular social networks.

The first three questions of the questionnaire are dedicated to the personality of the informant: information about the region of residence, gender and age of the participant. An analysis of the data obtained helps not only to verify the wide geography of the study, but also to compare the results, thereby making a conclusion about the paremiological literacy of residents of different regions.

Summary

The proposed algorithm allows to avoid the errors made in previous experiments and achieve the most adequate results. The results obtained by comparing the groups of paremias identified by various scholars and conducting a large-scale questionnaire will make a significant contribution to paremiology and the methodology of teaching Russian as a foreign language.

Conclusions

The proposed algorithm for the formation of the Russian paremiological minimum includes the following key positions:

- participation in the experiment of more than 3,000 native speakers, living in different regions of Russia and having different social statuses;
- reducing testing time by creating several questionnaire options built on the same model in order to attract more informants;
- the presence in the survey of questions about the personality of the informants (region, gender and age);
- the comparison of five different sources to form the primary list of paremias for the questionnaire material;
- the creation of two blocks of questions: “recognition” and “understanding” of paremiological units.

The research based on the described algorithm involves obtaining objective results.

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