THE ZOONYM *"DOG"* IN IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS IN THE BULGARIAN, GREEK, RUSSIAN AND SERBIAN LANGUAGES

Panagiotis ASIMOPOULOS
Hellenic Army Academy

Abstract

The fundamental characteristics of our beloved four-legged friends absolutely justifiably keep an eminent position in the phraseological vocabulary and the spiritual wealth of all the natural languages. The fruitful incarnations of the main representatives of the domestic animal kingdom, as are intertemporally and interlocally reflected by various artistic inspirations and remarkable literature works function as an indisputable witness of admirable psycho-spiritual interaction, as a self-evident truth of the undisturbed relationship between the human species and the adorable animals.

The present paper harmonized with the aspects of the comparative linguistics aims at the semantic analysis of the phraseologisms concerning the zoonym "dog" as thematic component. In the introductory part we perform a conceptual determination of the multi-word expressions and their typical classification according to solid criteria. Through a detailed juxtaposition of original idioms related to the selected stereotype expressions in contemporary Greek and three modern Slavic languages, namely Bulgarian, Russian, and Serbian we attempt to access their semantic nuances and to identify their crucial similarities and basic differences. So for the unhindered achievement of the set goals we use reliable linguistic material from up-to-date, lexicographic sources (general, phraseological, monolingual, bilingual dictionaries) and upgraded electronic corpora of authentic texts. The conducted four language approach confirms the expected dominant negative connotation of phraseologisms and additionally proves their wide creation based on specific – real and absurd – irrational motives.

Key-words: *zoonym, Bulgarian, Greek, Russian, Serbian*

Résumé

Les caractéristiques fondamentales de nos cher amis à quatre pattes leur assurent absolument, de manière justifiée une position privilégiée dans le vocabulaire phraséologique et dans la richesse spirituelle de toutes les langues naturelles. De nombreuses incarnations de principaux représentants du règne animal domestique, telles que reflétées de manière inter-temporelle et inter-locale par diverses inspirations artistiques et œuvres littéraires remarquables, fonctionnent comme témoin incontestable de l'interaction psycho-spirituelle admirable, comme une vérité évidente de la relation inaltérée entre l'espèce humaine et ces adorables animaux.

Cet article, harmonisé aux aspects de la linguistique comparative, vise l'analyse sémantique phraséologique relative au zoonyme « chien » en tant que composante thématique. Dans la partie introductive on va réaliser une détermination conceptuelle des expressions formées de plusieurs mots et de leur classification typique sur des critères solides. Par une juxtaposition détaillée des idiomes originaux liés aux expressions stéréotypes choisies du grec contemporain et des autres trois langues slaves modernes, à savoir le bulgare, le russe et le serbe, on va essayer d'accéder à

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leurs nuances sémantiques et d'identifier les similarités fondamentales et les différences de base. Par conséquent, pour réaliser librement les objectifs fixés, on va utiliser les matériaux linguistiques des sources lexicographiques actualisées (dictionnaires généraux, phraséologiques, monolingues, bilingues) et des corpus électroniques modernisés des textes authentiques. L'approche en quatre langues confirme la connotation dominante négative du phraséologisme et, en outre, montre la large création sur base des motifs spécifiques – réels et absurdes – irrationnels.

Mots-clés: *zoonyme, bulgare, grec, russe, serbe*

1. Introductory remarks

Phraseologisms are characterized as the stereotypical phrases or the specific expressions used in any language code whose basic features are:

- multiwordness: consisting of two or more lexemes without forming a full sentence;

- semantic-syntactic stability: the combination of those words is harmonized with the conceptual capability of the interlocutors[1];

- idiomaticity: the original meaning is not based on the syntactic parameters and the semantic constituents.

Therefore it is evident that in spite of the excellent knowing of grammar rules or the rich vocabulary the speaker cannot apply the multi-word expressions with absolute competence due to their semantic opacity. In addition he may not be aware of the acceptability identity or the conventionality framework concerning their particular circumstances of appropriate use.[2]

Since the phraseological sequences seem to be lexicalized, reproductible units, they should cover a wide range of lingual phenomena. The common denominators of so called "idiosyncratic interpretations that cross word boundaries (or spaces)"[3] are the close or the loose connection between two or more words, as well as the social status, as those established manifestations are registered in the collective memory. Swinney & Cutler[4] claim that the ambiguity nature of the consolidated expressions is presented through the grammatically correct forms and their literal meaning caused by a traditional syntactic and semantic analysis.

[1] Burger, 1998: 11; Fleischer, 1982:12-13.

[2] "We think of a locution or manner of speaking as idiomatic if it is assigned an interpretation by the speech community but if somebody who merely knew the grammar and the vocabulary of the language could not, by virtue of that knowledge alone, know (i) how to say it, or (ii) what it means, or (iii) whether it is a conventional thing to say. Put differently, an idiomatic expression or construction is something a language user could fail to know while knowing everything else in the language." (Fillmore et al., 1988:504)

[3] Sag et al., 2002:2.

[4] "However, most idioms also have the characteristic of ambiguity. That is, grammatical (well formed) idioms, such as "kick the bucket" have an acceptable literal reading for the word string which is derivable by traditional syntactic semantic analysis as well as an idiomatic reading which cannot be derived from such analysis. The problem is thus one of developing a comprehension model for dealing with phrases which are simultaneously amenable and non-amenable to traditional compositional analysis." (Swinney & Cutler, 1979: 524)

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2. Classification indicators of idiomatic phrases

For an unhindered approach to the crucial problem concerning the exact identification of the set phrases some basic criteria have been set:

a. Conventionality

The conventional nuance of the phrasemes is justified by their unpredictable meaning, providing that the separated display of every structural component has its independent functionality.[5]

b. Lexico-grammatical fixedness

The lexico-grammatical fixedness reflects the lexicalized, inflexible consolidation of the idioms[6], whereas it meets certain inviolable conditions:

1. category transformation: the lexical classification of the component parts is impossible:

I'll drop you *a line*. – send a message

* I'll drop you *a linear*.

2. deletion: there is not any erasable part:

The ball is in your court – it is up to you to make the next step.

* The ball is in court.

3. permutation: the moving of a term in a multi-word expression is impossible:

It is *in the ballpark*. – it is within an acceptable or similar range.

* *The ballpark* is in it.

4. substitutability: a synonym, hyperonym, hyponym or co-hyponym cannot replace any component of the phraseologism:

It's my *cup of tea* – it's my choice.

* It's my *cup of coffee* .

5. updating: it is difficult to add a demonstrative or definite qualifier:

I'm going back to *the drawing board*. – cease participating in a useless activity

* I'm going back to *his drawing board*.

c. Multilexicality

The multi-word expressions consist of at least two lexemes, that means:
a multi-word expression = autosemantic + syssemantic

(i) the *autosemantic elements* are autonomous meaningful units (nouns, adjectives, numerals, verbs, adverbs):

be *tied* up – be busy

(ii) the *syssemantic elements* are words that fulfill the function of grammatical connections and have restricted meaning (pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions):

who knows – I don't have any idea

d. Non-analyzability

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[5] Nayak, Gibbs, 1990: 317 do not combine the choice of a consolidated phrase with arbitrary conventions in a contextual use.

[6] Fraser, 1970:39 has proposed the seven-parted Frozenness Hierarchy that indicates the way in which the consolidated expressions allow the change, the paradigmatic replacement, the addition or the removal of elements: L_6 - unrestricted; L_5 - reconstitution of the expression through another structure organization (nominalization); L_4 - extraction of a component in an intrasentential position (passivization); L_3 - permutation of two successive components (moving the indirect object); L_2 - insertion of a component (introduction of an adverbial qualifier); L_1 - adjunction of a non- consolidated term in a multi-word expression (conversion into gerund); L_0 - completely frozen. On that subject Mejri, 2003: 28) considers that a sequence shows a higher degree of consolidation as regards the other one, when the number of the syntactically consolidated elements is superior.

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The participation percentage of the structural components in an idiomatic phrase whose conceptual framework is clear to us contributes to its essential identification. If through a detailed analysis the role of the individual elements is not distinct, it is about a consolidated expression:

be on the ball – to have qualities that are necessary for success.

e. Semantic non-compositionality

The semantic character of the multi-word expression is not accounted for a combinatory result of its components. The non-compositionality pertains to all or some of the conceptually diverging parameters:

to come around – to change opinion.

to beat a dead horse - to waste time for an already unsuccessful attempt.

f. Semantic opacity

The mythical events, the ecclesiastical history, and the literary tradition of every nation offer rich material about crystallized habits, but also serve as a solid basis for the formation of opaque expressions:

to run/ ride *roughshod* over somebody - to treat harshly, to tyrannize

(In the17th century a "rough-shod" horse had its shoes attached with protruding nail heads in order to get a better grip on slippery roads).

to leave someone in the *lurch* - to leave in a jam, in a difficult position

(The lurch comes from an old French backgammon-style game called *lourche*, then indicating the situation of beating the opponent by a huge score).

g. Single-word paraphrasability

In the paradigmatic axis the consolidated expressions replace equally a single word as far as the functional and the semantic level are concerned[7]. Indeed, Ibrahim[8] emphasizes that there is no group of words or any established syntactic structure that has not its morphologically non-consolidated equivalent:

to *keep an eye on* – to watch

to *put a cork in it* = to *shut your hole* = to *zip it* – to be quiet

h. Syntactic irregularity

The strict keeping of the grammatical-syntactic rules is not a capital requirement for considering an expression as a multi-word one:

long time no see – haven't seen for a long time

by and large – mostly, generally

i. Translatability

Seeing how the phrasemes are presented as authentic language creations of every nation, it is not possible to translate them word by word into another language. The mentioned ascertainment is interwoven with the partially synthetic aspects of the standard idioms and the multidimensional, metaphorical knowledge the individuals show in regard to the corresponding intellectual sectors.[9]

Gibbs et al.[10] argue that at one time the multi-word expressions had figurative meaning, but gradually they lost it and nowadays in people's vocabulary they are

[7] Gross, 1988 a: 10.
[8] Ibrahim, 2001: 93.
[9] Nayak, Gibbs, 1990: 328.
[10] Gibbs et al., 1997 :142.

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considered to be lexical items. Kövecses & Szabó[11] highlight that the main core of the majority of the consolidated expressions is inseparably integrated in the conceptual whole.

3. Types of multi-word expressions

In view of the distinct feature of the semantic non-compositionality the complex lexical units are principally divided into: (a) lexicalized expressions; (b) institutionalized expressions, while on the basis of their substitutability there are: (c) fixed expressions; (d) semi-fixed expressions; (e) syntactically flexible expressions.

a. Lexicalized expressions

The lexicalized expressions comply with three basic conditions: (i) elementary non-composability; (ii) specific syntactical structure; (iii) peculiar semantic function:
to spill the beans – to give away a secret or a surprise

b. Institutionalized (conventionalized) expressions

Notwithstanding the manifested syntactical and semantic composability, the institutionalized (or conventionalized) expressions are characterized by such a great frequency that prevents the use of synonyms:
salt and pepper – a black and white police car // interracial

c. Fixed expressions

Fixed expressions are fully lexicalized and additionally, due to their semantic, syntactic and morphological rigidity can neither be variated morpho-syntactically nor modified internally:

in short – briefly

by and large – generally

every which way – in many different directions

Their possible variations are:

(i) morphological, when they indicate person, number, tense:
to keep/ kept an eye out for – to maintain/ maintained awareness of

(ii) lexical either when a position of the expression is replaced by a reflexive pronoun or when a word is substituted by another word:

be full of myself/ themselves – be/ they are self-centered.

to sweep under the rug/ the carpet – to hide something embarrassing

d. Semi-fixed expressions

In semi-fixed expressions the word order, the lexical as well as the syntactic composition are strictly invariable. Nevertheless any external elements cannot be interposed between their primary components:

to rain cats and dogs – to rain very heavily

* to rain *the* cats and *the* dogs

e. Syntactically flexible expressions

This kind of expressions includes a wide range of syntactic variability, since the connectivity of their parts may be disrupted. They occur in the form of:

[11] "So far, we have shown that the meaning of many idioms (but not that of all idioms, such as kick the bucket) is not independent of the domains of knowledge that make up a large part of our conceptual system and that conceptual metaphors provide the link between the special idiomatic meaning and the conceptual knowledge. What we have to show now is that (1) the conceptual metaphors really exist, that is, they have psychological validity, and (2) that many of the idioms we have seen so far are not isolated linguistic expressions, but come from a source domain used to understand and talk about a target domain." (Kövecses & Szabó, 1996 : 333).

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(i) decomposable idioms that are likely to be syntactically flexible to some degree:

to let the cat out *of the bag* – to reveal a secret by accident

(ii) verb-particle constructions that consist of a verb and one or more particles may be semantically idiosyncratic or compositional:

to brush up on – to improve knowledge or ability

to break up – to destroy

(iii) light verbs that have little semantic content and form a predicate with an additional complement, most often a noun:[12]

to make a mistake – to commit an error.

Though the flexible expressions are idiosyncratic they have to be distinguished from the idioms, given that "the noun is used in a normal sense, and the verb meaning appears to be bleached, rather than idiomatic".[13]

4. The use of phraseological units

The dynamic presence of multi-word expressions in both oral and written speech is harmonized with the fact that they spontaneously portray usable objects, everyday activities, various emotional situations. Understandably most of the nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs which participate in the formation of those complex phrasemes have a dominant position in the basic vocabulary.

Moreover with their stylistic variation (formal or informal) the consolidated expressions describe the emotional fluctuations of speakers as at literal, as at metaphorical level. Therefore their appearance is remarkably frequent in scientific articles, advertising spots, literary inspirations, school handbooks[14], but also in special vocabularies (law, medicine, army, sports).

5. Phrasemes with zoonyms as lexical components

The intertemporal presence of representatives from the animal kingdom and as well their undeniable identity as our faithful co-travellers justify the dynamic existence of symbolic meanings and permeated human (positive, mostly negative) features or established anthropocentric stereotypes[15].

So the animals completely unfairly receive specific features through which a redemptive interpretation of delinquent human behavior is sought. On the one hand it occurs because of expanded cultural roots (Aesopian fables) and on the other hand man as reference point tries to stress his intellectual and psychosomatic superiority.

In the phraseologisms formed by zoonyms Vidović-Bolt (2007, p. 417) detects double metaphoricity: as an infallible boomerang all the qualities with which people (transmitters) describe the animals (receivers) reappear between the descriptive characteristics of the former. Finally with respect to their operative motives the same author notices[16]:

(a) the concrete motives are based on experiences from the coexistence of human beings and animals;

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[12] Jespersen, 1965 :117; Grimshaw &Mester, 1988: 205-232.

[13] Sag et al., 2002 : 7.

[14] Fleischer, 1982: 228; Gläser, 1998:125.

[15] "The stereotypes related to animals are developed by the misuse of language and the animal categories that are evaluated in accordance with their direct utility or usefulness to people." (Bertoša, 1999: 68).

[16] Vidović – Bolt, 2007:418.

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(b) the associative motives recall the behavior of animals in the circumstances in which the set phrase expresses or they reflect a thorough understanding of their world;

(c) the non-logical or abstract motives do not have a logical explanation;

(d) the non-real motives are hardly feasible;

(e) the biblical motives are connected with important events of the Bible;

(f) the national-cultural motives are unique to each nation and culture.

6. Contrastive analysis of phraseological units

The idealized relationship between the rational being and his loyal quadruped interlingually operates as an inexhaustible source for imaginative phraseologisms.

A total of two hundred and fifty nine (259) selected idioms, namely 81 Bulgarian, 63 Greek, 65 Russian and 50 Serbian constitute the text corpus of this paper. In order to achieve their constructive study we accompany the multi-word expressions by appropriate explanatory indications: B – Bulgarian; G – Greek; R – Russian; S – Serbian; C – connotation; ~ literal translation.

Their wide semantic spectrum is divided into two autonomous categories which deal with the fundamental elements that directly either originate or are related to the positive beingness and the negative influence of dogs' presence in human life:

6.1. Positive sign of the component "dog" in idiomatic expressions

6.1.1.

B_1: верен като куче ~ as faithful as a dog

B_2: вярно куче на някого ~ a dog that is faithful to someone

B_3: като куче на синджир ~ like a dog on a chain

G_1: πιστός σαν σκύλος ~ as faithful as a dog

G_2: τον ακολουθεί σαν το σκυλί ~ she follows him like a dog

G_3: πάρε άνθρωπο από σπίτι και σκυλί από μαντρί ~ take a man from a house and a dog from a corral

R_1: при верном псе и сторож спит ~ when the dog is faithful even the guard sleeps

R_2: живой пес (живая собака) лучше мертвого льва ~ a live dog is better than a dead lion

R_3: без собаки зайца не поймаешь ~ without a dog you won't catch any rabbit

R_4: собака друг, а лошадь ворог ~ the dog is friend and the horse is enemy

R_5: полон двор собачат ~ the yard is full of puppies

S_1: послушан као пас ~ as obedient as a dog

S_2: веран као пас ~ as faithful as a dog

C: loyalty, faithfulness, obedience

6.1.2.

B: имам кучешка душа ~ I have a canine soul

G: έχω σκυλίσιο θάρρος ~ I have canine bravery

R: оторви собаке хвост ~ tear the dog's tail off

C: courage, determination

6.1.3.

G: παλιός σκύλος, καλός φύλακας ~ old dog, good guard

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R: собаку *съесть* ~ to eat the dog
S: нисам куче од јуче ~ I am not a dog of yesterday
C: to have a great experience
6.1.4.
B_1: знаят ме и кучетата ~ even the dogs know me
B_2: знаят ме и късите кучета ~ even the tailless dogs know me
B_3: кучетата на село ме знаят ~ the dogs in the village know me
R_1: каждая (всякая) собака знает ~ every dog knows
R_2: об этом уже и собаки лают ~ even the dogs already bark about it
C: a popular man
6.1.5.
G_1: δουλεύει σαν το σκυλί ~ he works like a dog
G_2: είναι σκυλί (σκύλος) στη δουλειά του ~ he is a dog in his work
G_3: είναι σκυλί μονάχο ~ he is a lonely dog
S: радити као пас ~ to work like a dog
C: an active man, a hard-working person
6.2. Canine phraseologisms with negative nuances
6.2.1.
B_1: валят като на бясно куче камъне ~ they throw stones at an angry dog
B_2: мразя като червиво куче ~ to hate like a maggoty dog
G_1: γίνομαι σκύλος ~ become a dog
G_2: κάνει σαν τον σκύλο ~ he behaves like a dog
G_3: γαβγίζει σαν το σκύλο ~ he barks like a dog
G_4: κάνει σαν λυσσασμένος σκύλος ~ he acts like a rabid dog
R_1: не будите спящую собаку ~ don't wake the sleeping dog up
R_2: бешеная собака и хозяина кусает ~ the mad dog bites even the owner
S_1: бесан као пас у жежељу ~ he is as angry as a dog at the pole
S_2: љут као пас (псето) ~ as angry as a dog
S_3: нервозан као пас ~ as nervous as a dog
C: someone becomes dangerous when he gets angry
6.2.2.
B: гладен като куче ~ as hungry as a dog
G: σαν πεινασμένο σκυλί ~ like a hungry dog
R_1: набрасываться как голодная собака ~ to pounce like a hungry dog
R_2: голодный как собака ~ as hungry as a dog
S: гладан као пас ~ hungry like a dog
C: great hunger
6.2.3.
B_1: свършил я като кучето с опашката си ~ I finished like a dog with its tail
B_2: вършвам работата я като кучето на нивата ~ I do my works in the fields like a dog
B_3: прокопсал съм като бясно куче ~ I have succeeded like a mad dog
G: είναι τεμπελόσκυλο ~ he is a lazy dog
R_1: чёрных собак набело перемывать ~ to reclean the black dogs completely
R_2: стеречь собак ~ to guard the dogs
R_3: кнуты вьёт да собак бьёт ~ he weaves the whips and beats the dogs

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R_4: гонить собак ~ to pursue dogs

R_5: дразнить собак ~ to tease dogs

R_6: собакам сено (траву) косить (давать) ~ to mow (to give) hay (grass) to the dogs

R_7: собакам хвосты крутить ~ to twist the tails of the dogs

R_8: на собаках шерсть бить ~ to beat the fur on the dogs

S: лењ као пас ~ as lazy as a dog

C: negligent behavior, laziness

6.2.4.

B: куче което лае не хапе ~ the dog that barks doesn't bite

G: σκυλί που γαβγίζει, δε δαγκώνει ~ the dog that barks doesn't bite

R: собака которая лает редко кусает ~ the dog that barks doesn't bite

S_1: пас који (много) лаје не уједа (гризе) ~ the dog that barks (a lot) doesn't bite

S_2: не би надлајало ни девет (сто) паса[17] ~ even nine (a hundred) dogs wouldn't bark

C: he who threatens by words is not considered to be dangerous

6.2.5.

B: зъл като куче (пес) ~ bad like a dog

G_1: κακό σκυλί ψόφο δεν έχει ~ a bad dog doesn't die

G_2: του κακού σκυλιού το αυτί είναι πάντα ματωμένο ~ the ear of a bad dog is always bloody

G_3: από κακό σκυλί καλό μην περιμένεις ~ don't expect any good from a bad dog

R: собаке собачья смерть ~ the dog's death is for the dog

S: пас и на звезде лаје ~ the dog barks even at the stars

C: the malicious person attacks even the best man causing him problems

6.2.6.

B_1: измъча се като куче ~ to be tortured like a dog

B_2: страдам (гладувам) като куче ~ to suffer (to starve) like a dog

B_3: уморен като куче ~ tired like a dog

G: είμαι κουρασμένος σαν σκυλί ~ be as tired as a dog

R: *устать, как собака* ~ to get tired like a dog

S_1: мучити се као пас ~ be tortured like a dog

S_2: нарадити се као пас ~ to work extremely hard like a dog

S_3: уморан као пас (псето) ~ tired as a dog (cur)

C: a man who is exhausted by work

6.2.7.

B_1: живея като куче под стряха ~ to live in fear like a dog

B_2: издъхвам (пуквам) като куче ~ to exhale (pop off) like a dog

B_3: и кучетата вар не лижат (ядат) някъде ~ even the dogs don't lick (eat) the lime anywhere

B_4: краставо куче ~ a mangy dog

B_5: върви ми като на бясно куче тояги ~ it goes to me like a stick on a mad dog

B_6: заборчлял съм и на кучетата ~ I was indebted even to dogs

G_1: ζει σαν το σκύλο ~ he lives like a dog

G_2: περνάει σκυλίσια ζωή ~ he spends a canine lifetime

[17] Vidović – Bolt, 2004:148.

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R_1: голодной собаки выманить нечем ~ to lure a hungry dog with something
R_2: собаки посуду моют ~ the dogs wash the dishes
R_3: была у собаки хата ~ the dog had a hut
R_4: надражниться собак ~ to anger the dogs
R_5: лучше смерть, чем собачья жизнь ~ death is better than a dog's life
S: живети као пас ~ to live like a dog
C: poverty, helplessness, unhappy life
6.2.8.
B_1: заяждам се като куче ~ to snap like a dog
B_2: ядем като кучета [през плет] ~ to quarrel like dogs [over the fence]
B_3: като куче и котка ~ like dog and cat
B_4: живеем (сговаряме се) като куче ~ we live (live in conspiracy) like a dog
B_5: обичаме се като куче и котка ~ we love each other like dog and cat
B_6: обичам като куче тояга ~ to like the stick as a dog does
G_1: σαν το σκύλο με τη γάτα ~ like the dog and the cat
G_2: τρώγονται σαν τα σκυλιά ~ they quarrel like dogs
R: собака собакой ~ a dog towards a dog
S: живети (гледати се, мрзети, волети се, слагати се) као пас и мачка ~ to live (to look at each other, to hate, to love each other, to agree) like dog and cat
C: a relationship that is characterized by continuous and successive quarrels
6.2.9.
B_1: куче влачи, диря няма ~ the dog drags, there are no tracks
B_2: мене кучета ме яли ~ my dogs ate me
G: εγώ το λέω στο σκύλο μου και εκείνος στην ουρά του ~ I say it to my dog and he to his tail
R_1: хоть собаки ешь ~ you eat even the dog
R_2: *нужен как собаке пятая нога* ~ it is necessary like a fifth leg for a dog
S: марити као пас за пету ногу ~ to care like a dog about a fifth leg
C: a person who has no particular interest, an unconcerned man
6.2.10.
B_1: смеят ми се и кучетата ~ even the dogs laugh at me
B_2: разлайвам кучетата ~ to provoke the dogs into barking loudly
G: γίνομαι ρεζίλι των σκυλιών ~ to become the laughingstock of the dogs
R: спустить собак на кого ~ to pull the dogs on somebody
C: a man who becomes the subject of ridicule and sharp attacks
6.2.11.
B: храни куче да те лае ~ feed the dog to bark at you
G: σαν το αχάριστο σκυλί ~ like the ungrateful dog
R: сердце волка, лёгкие собаки ~ heart of wolf, lungs of dog
C: a person who doesn't feel or show gratitude
6.2.12.
B: когато бил вълка куче ~ when the dog was wolf
G_1: σκύλο πλένεις, σκύλο λούζεις, σκυλίσια πάντα μυρίζεις ~ either you wash or bathe a dog you always smell like a dog
G_2: αν κάνει ο σκύλος μάντρα θα κάνει και αυτός χωριό ~ if the dog makes a paddock, he will build a village.

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R_1: с собаками не сыщешь ~ you will not find with the dogs

R_2: его теперь собаками не найдешь ~ now you will not find him with the dogs

R_3: кормить собак оставаться холостым ~ to feed dogs, to remain unmarried

C: an unrealizable action, a wasted effort

6.2.13.

B: кучетата лаят, керванът си върви ~ the dogs bark, the caravan moves on

G: τα σκυλιά γαβγίζουν, αλλά το καραβάνι προχωρά ~ the dogs bark, but the caravan moves on

R_1: собака лает, ветер носит ~ the dog barks, the wind carries

R_2: собака лает, а караван идёт ~ the dog barks and the caravan goes on

R_3: собака лает, а бары едут ~ the dog barks and the gentlemen travel

R_4: собака лает, а владыка едет ~ the dog barks and the bishop travels

R_5: собака лает, а волк бродит ~ the dog barks and the wolf wanders

R_6: собака лает, а обоз знай идёт да идёт ~ the dog barks and the wagon – train, you know that goes and goes

R_7: иди прямо, а собака пусть лает ~ go straight and let the dogs bark

R_8: собака лает от собаки слышит ~ the dog barks, he is heard by the dog

R_9: пускай собаки грызут ~ let the dogs bite

R_{10}: добрый пес на ветер не лает ~ the good dog doesn't bark at the wind

R_{11}: нечего баять, што собаки лают ~ nothing to say that the dogs bark

S_1: пас лаје, ветар носи ~ the dog barks, the wind carries

S_2: пас лаје, караван пролази ~ the dog barks, the caravan goes on

C: it is useful to ignore unjustified criticism

6.2.14.

B: кучешки син ~ the son of a bitch

G: σκύλας γιος ~ the son of a bitch

R: сучкин сын ~ the son of a bitch

S: кучкин син ~ the son of a bitch

C: an objectionable person

6.2.15.

B: евтиното месо и кучетата не го ядат ~ even the dogs don't eat the cheap meat

G: το φτηνό κρέας το τρώνε οι σκύλοι ~ the dogs eat the cheap meat

R: дешевое мясо собаки не едят ~ the dogs don't eat the cheap meat

S: јефтино месо ни пси не једу ~ neither the dogs eat the cheap meat

C: the cheap items are thrown away

6.2.16.

B: старо куче нови работи не учи ~ the old dog doesn't learn new tricks

G: το γέρικο σκυλί δε μαθαίνει νέα κόλπα ~ the old dog doesn't learn new tricks

R_1: старую собаку новым трюкам (фокусам) не научишь ~ you don't teach new tricks (gimmicks) to an old dog

R_2: старого пса к цепи не приучишь ~ you don't accustom the old dog to the chain

S: старог пса не можеш научити новим триковима ~ you can't teach an old dog new tricks

C: it is impossible to change people's habits, traits or mindset

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6.2.17.

B: квичи како кучка ~ she squeals like a bitch

G: ουρλιάζουν σαν τα σκυλιά ~ they howl like dogs

R: визжит как сучка ~ she squeals like a bitch

S: вришти као кучка ~ she squeals like a bitch

C: an indication of impending danger or unspeakable joy

6.2.18.

B: умилквам се като куче ~ fawn like a dog

G_1: κολλήσανε σαν τα σκυλιά ~ they were stuck like dogs

G_2: μια η σκύλα, κοπάδι τα σκυλιά ~ one is the bitch, there is a herd of dogs

R: трахается как сучка ~ she has sexual intercourses like a bitch

S_1: заљубљен као пас ~ he is in love like a dog

S_2: јебе се као кучка ~ she makes love so intensively and passionately like a bitch

C: to present excessive sexual tensions, to be in an extremely playful mood

6.2.19.

B: умирам като куче ~ to die like a dog

G_1: πέθανε (ψόφησε) σαν το σκύλο ~ he died like a dog

G_2: πήγε σαν το σκυλί στο αμπέλι ~ he went like a dog in the vineyard

G_3: πάει σαν το κουτάβι ~ he goes like a puppy

S: умрети (цркнути) као пас [uz tarabu] ~ to die like a dog [with the pound]

C: someone died wronged or alone

6.2.20.

G: παιδιά, σκυλιά δεν έχει ~ he has neither children nor dogs

R: *ни одна собака* не брешет ~ neither a dog barks

S_1: нема ни пса ~ he has no dog

S_2: ни бесан пас ~ neither a mad dog

S_3: бити без кучета и мачета ~ to be without dogs and cats

S_4: немати ни кучета ни мачета ~ to have neither dogs nor cats

S_5: бити сам као пас ~ to be alone like a dog

C: an empty life, complete isolation

6.2.21.

G: τον πέταξαν σαν το σκυλί ~ they threw him like a dog

R_1: *вешать всех собак* на кого-либо ~ to hang all the dogs on somebody

R_2: спуска*ть собаку* ~ to let the dog down

R_3: за собакой палка не пропадёт (припомнит) ~ behind the dog a stick is not lost (doesn't recall)

S: трпети као пас ~ to suffer like a dog

C: a person who always experiences injustice, especially because of the faults of others

6.2.22.

B_1: избивам (изтрепвам) като кучета ~ to beat (bludgeone) like a dog

B_2: пребия като куче някого ~ to assault somebody like a dog

B_3: убивам (претрепвам) като куче ~ to kill like a dog

B_4: влача се (ходя) като пребито куче ~ he drags himself (walks) like a beaten dog

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G_1: τον σκότωσαν σαν το σκυλί ~ they killed him like a dog
G_2: του φέρομαι σαν να είναι σκυλί ~ I treat him as if he were a dog
G_3: σαν δαρμένο σκυλί ~ like a beaten dog
S_1: истући (пребити) као пса ~ to beat like a dog
S_2: поступати с ким као са псом ~ to deal with somebody like a dog
S_3: третирати као пса ~ to treat like a dog
S_4: убити као пса ~ to kill like a dog
C: violent treatment, inhumane behavior
6.2.23.
B_1: хвърлям като на куче някому ~ to throw to somebody like a dog
B_2: чакам като куче пред касапница ~ to wait in front of a butcher's shop like a dog
G: πετώ ξερόκομματο στο σκυλί ~ to throw a dry loaf of bread to the dog
S: бацити псима кост ~ to throw a bone to the dogs
C: to provide assistance in a harsh and degrading way
6.2.24.
B_1: като куче на каишка ~ like a dog in the trap
B_2: куче да вържеш някъде ще пукне ~ if you tie a dog somewhere it will burst
G: δεμένος με λουρί σαν σκύλος ~ tied on a leash like a dog
S: бити као пас на ланцу ~ to be like a dog on a tether
C: the poor living conditions of an unfree man
6.2.25.
B_1: ходи като глухо куче ~ he walks like a deaf dog
B_2: ходя като куче без сайбия ~ to walk like a dog without a master
G: γυρίζω σαν αδέσποτο σκυλί ~ to wander like a stray dog
S: лутати (ландрати, скитати се) као [јалови] пас ~ to wander (roam, ramble) like a [sterile] dog
C: a situation without control
6.2.26.
B: мъчно е някому като на куче ~ to have compassion for somebody like a dog
G_1: έχω σκυλίσιο βλέμμα ~ to have a canine look
G_2: μετανιώνω σαν το σκύλο ~ to regret like a dog
S: жао је као псу коме ~ to feel grief for somebody like a dog
C: a sad person
6.2.27.
B_1: мигам (примигвам) като куче в лапавица ~ to blink (wink) like a dog in the sleet
B_2: мигам (примигвам, объркам се) като куче във воденица ~ to blink (wink, stumble) like a dog in the mill
B_3: чудя се като куче в небрано лозе ~ to wonder like a dog in a non-harvesting vineyard
B_4: чудя се като куче в сливи ~ to wonder like a dog in a plum
B_5: объркам се като куче на мост ~ to mess up like a dog on a bridge
G: σα δαρμένο σκυλί ~ like a beaten dog
C: to look confused, to be in an awkward situation

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6.2.28.

B_1: около нещо като куче [на сватба] за комад ~ about something like a dog [at the wedding] for a piece

B_2: още не видял вълка, вика кучетата ~ although the dogs haven't seen the wolf yet, they shout

B_3: *изплезих езика като бясно куче* ~ he stuck his tongue out like a mad dog

G: φοβάται σαν το σκυλί το βόδι ~ he is afraid of the ox like a dog

C: exceeding caution

6.2.29.

B_1: наше куче ~ our dog

B_2: който обича кучето, ще му търпи бълхите ~ he who loves a dog will tolerate its fleas

G: όποιος αγαπά το Γιάννη, αγαπά και το σκυλί του ~ he who loves John also loves his dog

C: a beloved person is tolerable in spite of his obvious defects

6.2.30.

B: давам слама на кучето, а кокали на мулето ~ to give straw to the dog and bones to the mule

G_1: του σκύλου δίνει άχερα και του γαϊδάρου κόκαλα ~ he gives hay to the dog and bones to the donkey

G_2: πουλούσε σκύλους και αγόραζε γάτους ~ he was selling dogs and buying cats

C: someone performs unreasonable actions that bring him into a difficult situation

6.2.31.

B_1: намерил съм село без кучета ~ I found a village without dogs

B_2: намерил съм стадо без кучета ~ I found a flock without dogs

G_1: δε γνωρίζει το σκυλί τον αφέντη του ~ the dog doesn't know its master

G_2: χάνει το σκυλί τον αφέντη του ~ the dog loses its master

G_3: μπάτε σκύλοι αλέστε και αλεστικά μη δίνετε ~ dogs get into, grind and don't give money for the grinding

G_4: αδέσποτο σκυλί, διάβολος στην αυλή ~ a stray dog is a devil in the courtyard

G_5: αμολητό σκυλί όποιον βρει δαγκώνει ~ the unleashed dog bites anyone he finds

C: a situation without organization and control, large riots

6.2.32.

B_1: има някого като глутница кучета ~ they are like a group of dogs

B_2: като в умряло куче червеи ~ like worms in a dead dog

R_1: *как собак нерезаных* ~ like uncut dogs

R_2: собака не перепрянет ~ the dog won't jump again

S: има их као кусих (кусатих) паса ~ they are like the tailless dogs

C: a large number, a crowd

6.2.33.

B_1: той е голямо куче ~ it is a big dog

B_2: вра се като червиво куче ~ to thrust myself like a wormy dog

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B_3: хлътам като куче по чужди порти ~ to sag like a dog on unknown doors
R: как собака ~ like a dog
S: безобразан као пас ~ impudent like a dog
C: rude behavior, someone who doesn't show due respect for another person
6.2.34.
B: лъжа като куче ~ to lie like a dog
R: собака летела, ворона на хвосту сидела ~ the dog flew, the crow sat on its tail
S_1: лагати као пас ~ to lie like a dog
S_2: лажљив као пас ~ he is a liar like a dog
C: a person who tells lies at all times, an inveterate liar
6.2.35.
B: куче с масло не ги яде ~ a dog doesn't eat it even with butter
R: хоть собак вешай ~ even if you hang the dogs
S: ни пас с маслом (на маслу) ~ neither a dog [would eat it] with butter (in butter)
C: a repulsive thing, a disgusting challenge
6.2.36.
B_1: кучешко време ~ the canine time
B_2: и куче да вържеш няма да стои ~ even if you tie a dog it will not stand
R_1: собаку встоячь заносит ~ he puts the dog in a standing position
R_2: хороший хозяин в такую погоду и собаку на улицу не выгонит ~ in such weather the good master will not leave even the dog out in the street
C: extremely adverse weather conditions
6.2.37.
B: минава ми (заздравява ми) като на куче ~ I pass (I recover) like a dog
S: на псу рана, на псу и зарасла ~ the wound is on the dog, so on the dog is healed
C: a resistant reaction leads to a quick improvement without serious consequences
6.2.38.
B: ревнив като куче ~ jealous like a dog
S: љубоморан као пас ~ jealous like a dog
C: an overly jealous person
6.2.39.
G: σκυλοκαβγάς ξέσπασε ~ a dog fight broke out
R: белая собака пробежала ~ a white dog ran through
S: свађају се као пси ~ they quarrel like dogs
C: an intense brawl
6.2.40.
G_1: τιμούν τον σκύλο για χάρη του αφεντικού ~ they honor the dog for the sake of the master
G_2: ό, τι δεν μπορεί να δαγκώσει το σκυλί, το γλείφει ~ the dog licks what it can't bite
G_3: όταν ο σκύλος έχει παράδες, τον φωνάζουν αφεντικό ~ when the dog has money, they call him boss
S: пузати као пас ~ to crawl like a dog
C: a person who tends to be servile
6.2.41.
G_1: ο σκυλομούρης ~ the dog-faced

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G_2: η σκυλόφατσα ~ the dog-faced
S: ружан као пас ~ as ugly as a dog
C: an extremely harsh looking person
6.2.42.
G: σαν διψασμένο σκυλί ~ like a thirsty dog
S: жедан као пас[18] ~ as thirsty as a dog
C: great thirst

7. Conclusions

On the basis of the conducted detailed contrastive analysis concerning a large number (totally 259) of phraseological units with the semantic component '*dog'* in the Bulgarian, Greek, Russian, and Serbian languages we become aware of their partial or complete desemantisation. Furthermore, since the idioms motivated according to the behavior manifestations or the symbolic background of the animals indicate concrete situations ('*he works like a dog'*). On the other hand, due to the mutual polyhedral proximity noticed diachronically between the man and the dog the absurd motives transfer established human features to the animals ('*jealous like a dog'*), especially those with a negative connotation.

However, in spite of the outlined similarities and the main differences these lexical structures are harmonically interspersed with the ethnological roots and the cultural inheritance of every nation.

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