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## **ONLINE RUSSIAN-ENGLISH PHRASEOLOGICAL DICTIONARY: NEW PERSPECTIVES**

### **Abstract**

The article deals with the way of presentation of the material in online “Russian-English Phraseological Dictionary”, which is being compiled now by a group of researchers from Kazan federal university, Russia. The examples of dictionary entries based on four functions are presented.

### **Introduction**

The most important advantages of online (electronic) dictionaries are: full reflection of syntagmatic relations of words, collocations and phraseological units, the appearance of new methods of dictionary presentation of the material which combine both semasiological and onomasiological approaches, the opportunity of constant enlargement and improvement of such dictionaries, and, first of all, new opportunities for dictionary users. Though online dictionaries appeared not long ago, they have already gained popularity, being users friendly, especially among young people.

### **Main part**

Online “Russian-English Phraseological Dictionary” is partially based on “Russian-English Phraseological Dictionary” compiled by the author of the article and published in Russia in 1999, and on “Russian-English-German-Turkish-Tatar Phraseological Dictionary” compiled by the group of researchers of Kazan state university (now renamed into Kazan (Volga region) federal university) and published in Russia in 2008. Some new data is being added: meaning of Russian

phraseological units, grammatical information, etymological data, English synonyms of Russian units, translation of illustrative quotations into English, etc. All the necessary information is taken from different types of dictionaries, the Internet, including corpuses of both languages, and scientific resources.

The computer program for the dictionary was created by the specialists of the Laboratory of Computer Linguistics of Kazan (Volga region) federal university, it combines the achievements of Russian and foreign computer dictionary makers, including the so-called functional school from Aarhus university, Denmark.

Dictionary users will be able to get all necessary information by choosing different functions of the dictionary or by enumerating all the data they need by themselves. As the dictionary is a bilingual one, nearly all the information is presented both in Russian and in English with the exception of the Russian phraseological unit itself and its meaning in Russian.

As the main aim of any bilingual phraseological dictionary is to achieve maximum adequacy of rendering phraseological units of one language by means of another language, the presentation of English phraseological counterparts and the ways of translation of Russian phraseological units, which have no such counterparts is of paramount importance. That's why the English part of the entry (English counterpart/counterparts, and translation of collocations) presents all types of English phraseological counterparts or ways of translation (descriptive and lexical translation, translation loans), if possible. This information, as a proven one, is taken from "Russian-English-German-Turkish-Tatar Phraseological Dictionary".

Perhaps one of the most controversial tasks is to decide with the so-called collocations, or word combinations, which may include the phraseological unit according to the norms of the Russian language. The problem is not to mix them with lexical and optional variations which are already presented in the stable or dictionary form of phraseological units, e.g. "лезть /идти, переть/ на рожон.

полезть /попереть/ на рожон” – “put one’s finger<s> in the fire; batter /beat, butt, knock, run/ one’s head against a brick /a stone/ wall”.

Such collocations are presented in the dictionary in case of substantive, adjectival and adverbial phraseological units, if possible, as interjectional units don’t permit the so-called lexical extension, and all possible variants of verbal variations in verbal phraseological units are already included into the dictionary form. Occasional variants or possible authors’ substitutions of verbal phraseological units can’t be included into the dictionary entry.

The so-called connotational information includes the labels of functional-stylistic reference (e.g. книжн. - bookish, разг. - colloquial, прост. – low-colloquial, жарг. - jargon, etc.) and emotiveness (e.g. шутл. - jocular, ирон. - ironical, неодобр. - disapproving, груб. - rude, etc.) of phraseological units. The labels of functional stylistic labels of English phraseological counterparts are presented in the English part of the entry, e.g. “beat /blast, kick, knock/ hell out of smb” /разг./.

There are four main functions, which should find their reflection in bilingual phraseological dictionary. The simplest one (and, perhaps, the most needed by the users) is the function of understanding the meaning of the unit the user encounters in written or oral speech. For foreign users the English counterpart/counterparts and peculiarities of usage are extremely important.

The second function, dictated by bilingual dictionary, is the function of translation of Russian phraseological units. It’s quite clear that this function facilitates a lot of information in order to present the best way of translation.

The third function “appears on the stage” if the user wants to express some idea (the meaning) but he or she doesn’t remember the appropriate phraseological unit. Then the user prints the meaning, and the programme gives one or more phraseological units. In such a case the amount of data is less than with the second function.

The last function – getting additional information – works in case the user gets interested and wants to get more information about the phraseological unit. As a rule, specialists and researchers will be those interested in this function.

Let's present one Russian phraseological unit and show all the functions the user can obtain in online "Russian-English Phraseological Dictionary". The unit is "ни бельмеса", it belongs to adverbial phraseological units and is used, as a rule, in low-colloquial speech.

**Table 1. Function: to understand the meaning of the phraseological unit**

**Phraseological unit**

Ни бельмеса

**Meaning**

Совершенно ничего (не знать, не понимать, не смыслить)

**English counterpart/counterparts**

Not know a thing; not have a clue; have no idea about something; not have an inkling of anything; not know A from B; not know 'b' from a battle-dore /from a bull's foot, from a buffalo foot, from a broomstick/; not know chalk from cheese; not know beans

**Peculiarities of usage**

Said disapprovingly of a stupid person who doesn't know or understand anything

**Table 2. Function: to translate the phraseological unit**

**Phraseological unit**

Ни бельмеса

**Meaning**

Совершенно ничего (не знать, не понимать, не смыслить)

**English counterpart/counterparts**

Not know a thing; not have a clue; have no idea about something; not have an inkling of anything; not know A from B; not know 'b' from a battle-dore /from a

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not know beans

### **Peculiarities of usage**

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### **Synonyms**

Ни бе ни ме <ни кукареку>; ни бум-бум

### **Collocations**

Ни бельмеса не знать – not know a thing; have no idea about something; not have an inkling of anything; not know A from B; not know 'b' from a battle-dore /from a bull's foot, from a buffalo foot, from a broomstick/; not know chalk from cheese; not know beans

Ни бельмеса не понимать – not have a clue; not know A from B; not know 'b' from a battle-dore /from a bull's foot, from a buffalo foot, from a broomstick/; not know chalk from cheese; not know beans

Ни бельмеса не смыслить – not know 'b' from a battle-dore /from a bull's foot, from a buffalo foot, from a broomstick/; not know chalk from cheese; not know beans

### **Grammatical information**

Used in the function of an adverb

### **Examples of usage**

Этот презирал всякую работу, кроме работ на земледельческих машинах, носил синюю блузу и всем внушал, что он прирожденный машинист, хотя все знали, что он ни бельмеса не смыслит в устройстве даже простой веялки (И.Бунин).

This one despised any work with the exception of dealing with agricultural machines, wore a blue shirt and suggested everybody a thought that he was a born engineer though everybody knew that he didn't have an inkling of the construction of even a simple winnowing fan (I.Boonin).

## **Etymology, additional information**

Слово *бельмес* появилось в русском языке из татарского, где оно буквально означает «не знаю».

The word *бельмес* [bəl'mes] appeared in the Russian language as a borrowing from Tatar in which it literally means “I don't know”.

### **Table 3. Function: to find the phraseological unit according to its meaning**

#### **Phraseological unit**

Ни бельмеса

Not know a thing; not have a clue; have no idea about something; not have an inkling of anything; not know A from B; not know ‘b’ from a battle-dore /from a bull’s foot, from a buffalo foot, from a broomstick/; not know chalk from cheese; not know beans

#### **Collocations**

Ни бельмеса не знать – not know a thing; have no idea about something; not have an inkling of anything; not know A from B; not know ‘b’ from a battle-dore /from a bull’s foot, from a buffalo foot, from a broomstick/; not know chalk from cheese; not know beans

Ни бельмеса не понимать – not have a clue; not know A from B; not know ‘b’ from a battle-dore /from a bull’s foot, from a buffalo foot, from a broomstick/; not know chalk from cheese; not know beans

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#### **Examples of usage**

Этот презирал всякую работу, кроме работ на земледельческих машинах, носил синюю блузу и всем внушал, что он прирожденный машинист, хотя все знали, что он ни бельмеса не смыслит в устройстве даже простой веялки (И.Бунин).

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### **Peculiarities of usage**

Said disapprovingly of a stupid person who doesn't know or understand anything

## **Table 4. Function: getting additional information**

### **Phraseological unit**

Ни бельмеса

### **Meaning**

Совершенно ничего (не знать, не понимать, не смыслить)

### **Etymology, additional information**

Слово *бельмес* появилось в русском языке из татарского, где оно буквально означает «не знаю».

The word *бельмес* [bəl'mes] appeared in the Russian language as a borrowing from Tatar in which it literally means “I don't know”.

### **Collocations**

Ни бельмеса не знать – not know a thing; have no idea about something; not have an inkling of anything; not know A from B; not know ‘b’ from a battle-dore /from a bull's foot, from a buffalo foot, from a broomstick/; not know chalk from cheese; not know beans

Ни бельмеса не понимать – not have a clue; not know A from B; not know ‘b’ from a battle-dore /from a bull's foot, from a buffalo foot, from a broomstick/; not know chalk from cheese; not know beans

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### **Examples of usage**

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### **Grammatical information**

Used in the function of an adverb

### **Connotational information**

The expression is colloquial, may be used in jocular or disapproving sense? Is characterized by expressivity

### **Peculiarities of usage**

Said disapprovingly of a stupid person who doesn't know or understand anything

## **Conclusions**

In this paper I have tried to show the ways of presenting dictionary entries according to the functions the users need in online bilingual “Russian-English Phraseological Dictionary”. All decisions are based on the results of comparative studies of phraseological units and the latest achievements in phraseology, lexicography and phraseography.

We hope that the dictionary will be of great help for all those working in the field of phraseology as well as for numerous translators, interpreters and common users. The way of finding the necessary information will be rather easy and time-saving.



## **References**

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