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## A STUDY OF CANINE PAREMIAS AND THEIR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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*Proverbs and sayings play an important role in the transmission of collective wisdom from generation to generation. In them, people reflect their attitude to native nature, wildlife, social and historical experience of their ancestors, express their worldview, moral norms and aesthetic ideals. Proverbs and sayings, in addition to the semantic features, make our language bright and expressive. In modern linguistics there is a special interest in the paremiological fund of national languages. The connection of language with society and human culture is being studied more and more. Proverbs and sayings give us the most valuable material for the study of these phenomena in a broader linguistic and cultural and cognitive aspects. This work analyzes the image of the dog in set expressions (proverbs, sayings, metaphors, etc.) on the basis of ideas about this animal that emerged in British culture. From time immemorial, people have identified themselves with animals, which has led to a large number of zoonymic paremias in the English language. The authors study common features in the functioning of this zoomorphism. Dogs have been a beloved companion of humans for centuries, earning the nickname "man's best friend." But dogs are more than just loyal pets; they have also played an important role in language and culture. Dog-related paremias, or sayings and proverbs, have been used to convey wisdom, morality, and cultural values in many different societies. From the well-known phrase "every dog has its day" to more obscure expressions like "let sleeping dogs lie," dog-related paremias continue to be a part of our everyday language. This article delves deeper into the world of dog-related paremias and explore their meanings, origins, and cultural significance. It examines the different types of canine sayings, from those that praise the loyalty and companionship of dogs to those that warn against their potential danger. It also analyzes the ways in which dog-related paremias reflect the values and beliefs of people.*

**Keywords:** *sayings and proverbs, paremias, folk wisdom, metaphor, zoonymic component, anthropomorphic approach.*

**Introduction.** People at all stages of development asked themselves questions about the surrounding world. Knowledge and experience, accumulated during the study and analysis of reality, were recorded in their language. Having passed through generations, folk wisdom was embodied in language expressions (aphorisms, idioms, proverbs, sayings). It is in them that the human mind, everyday life, and worldview are manifested in such a multifaceted way. Formed primarily by the needs of everyday communication, phraseological units play the role of nominative-characteristic and expressive means.

**The purpose** of the article is exploration of dog-related paremias, and to shed light on their enduring appeal and their continued relevance in modern language. Traditionally, folklore projects all the features of human society, features of people's character and relationships between them onto animals. Since ancient times, animals have been endowed with human traits, feelings and thoughts. This anthropomorphic view was reflected in people's religious beliefs, mythology, folklore, and later in art. The evaluation of animals through human moral categories (good, evil, lazy) is common in feature films, in media texts, in

children's books, songs and other forms of popular culture. It is characteristic of man to find his own features in the world of nature, to perceive it in human terms.

Analyzing canine paremias can serve multiple purposes, from linguistic and cultural analysis to educational and literary analysis. It is a rich and interdisciplinary field that draws on insights from linguistics, anthropology, cultural history, and other disciplines to deepen our understanding of human language and culture.

**The analysis of the investigation and published works.** The study of dog-related paremias is a rich and interdisciplinary field that draws on insights from linguistics, folklore studies, anthropology, and cultural history. Many scholars and researchers have made analyses of dog-related paremias, including linguists, anthropologists, and cultural historians. Some of the prominent researchers who have explored the topic of dog-related paremias include Wolfgang Mieder, a professor of German and folklore studies, who has published extensively on proverbs and paremiology; Alan Dundes, an American folklorist who has written on a wide range of topics in folklore, including animal symbolism and proverbial wisdom; and Karl Pfeifer, an Austrian linguist who has studied the use of animal metaphors in proverbs. Peter Trudgill, a sociolinguist who has written on language and culture in the UK and other English-speaking countries. Trudgill has studied the use of dog-related sayings in British English, including expressions like "you can't teach an old dog new tricks" and "it's a dog's life". In "The Dialects of England" Trudgill claims that dog metaphors are extremely common in English, and dog-related expressions and proverbs have played an important role in the language for centuries. His insights into the use of dog-related sayings in English dialects illustrate the important role that animals have played in human language and culture, and the ways in which language reflects our attitudes, beliefs, and values (Trudgill, 2000, p. 168). Sarah E. Garding explores the use of dog-related proverbs in the United States and England, highlighting the similarities and differences in how dogs are perceived and valued in each culture (Garding, 2019).

The recent work "A Dog's Best Friend: Studies in Canine Sociability and Culture" edited by Jocelyne Porcher, Jean-Philippe Cointet, and Emanuele Ferraris includes chapters on the cultural history of dog-human relationships, the role of dogs in literature, and the cultural significance of dog-related expressions (Jocelyne Porcher, Jean-Philippe Cointet, and Emanuele Ferraris, 2020, p. 400). In addition, the field of animal

studies has grown in recent years, which has led to new research on the role of animals in human language and culture. This includes studies on the use of animal-related expressions in different languages and cultures, as well as research on the cultural significance of specific animals. For example O. Verkhovtsova and O. Ishchenko studied the national and cultural specifics of the linguistic objectification of collective ideas about the world by representatives of European ethnic communities on the material of paremias with the zoonymic component "wolf" (O. Verkhovtsova, O. Ishchenko, 2022, p. 89–93). It is obvious that the topic has generated interest among researchers in many different countries and disciplines, reflecting the enduring appeal of dogs and their place in human language and culture. The writings of linguists on the topic of dog-related paremias suggest that the study of these expressions can provide important insights into the ways in which humans have used language to express their attitudes, beliefs, and values, as well as their relationships with animals like dogs.

**The presentation of the main material.** The role of the zoomorphic elements is determined by the importance that animals had at the early stage of human development, when they were not separated from the human group, and animism was the basis of the worldview. At that time, man did not yet consider himself as a unique being occupying a special position in the system of the universe. Totemism became a manifestation of this – the idea of a primitive society about the world, in which a person not only sees himself as a descendant of some animal, but also includes it in the social hierarchy, placing it at the top of the hierarchical gradation. It was then that the first generalizations-symbols, embodied in the image of one or another animal, began to be formed.

The man tamed many different animals. But one of the first were dogs. Dogs were, are and will be man's best friend. From time immemorial, dogs have helped people hunt, graze cattle, protect it from wild animals, and simply share leisure hours. Now we know much more about how smart, loyal, sensitive and friendly our pets are, what amazing intuition they have and even, as scientists have recently proven, memory! No wonder that the word 'dog' actively functions in the modern English language, a vivid example of which is proved by the presence of this lexeme in many phraseological units.

The word "dog" has made quite a bed for itself in the English language. Altogether the entry for the noun "dog" take up a monster 11,000 words in the OED, running to twenty-two pages (The

Wordsworth Dictionary of Phrase and Fable, 1993, p. 222).

Analyzing the proverbs in which the concept of a dog is verbalized, we divided them in the following groups:

1) units with a direct meaning social position (poverty, uselessness, contempt, disgust, failure, random luck, disappearance, unbearable desire): **lead a dog's life** (an unhappy existence); **work like a dog** (work hard); **go to the dogs** (deteriorate shockingly); **in the doghouse** (in disgrace); **small dog, tall weeds** (about someone who has no ability to handle a job); **lying dog** (leave things as they are); **to be dog-eared** (broken-down, damaged, decaying), **bird-dog** (to pay close, usually unwelcome, attention to someone else); **every dog has his day** – this idiom means that everyone will eventually have their moment of glory or success, no matter how unlikely or undeserving they may seem at first:

*Lying dog, Wynstan thought, you were eager for this work, and you got fat on the profit* (Follett, 2021, p. 454).

*He knifed my husband in cool blood, leaving him to die in the street like a dog* (La Plante, 2023, p. 32);

2) expressions showing physical and physiological signs (age, hunger, satiety, sense of smell, thinness, morbidity, survivability, ugly or sloppy appearance): **dressed up like a dog's dinner** (in an ostentatiously smart or flashy manner); **a dog's breakfast/dinner** (untidy, badly organized, a mess); **sick as a dog** (very sick, usually with symptoms such as nausea or vomiting); **to be in dog's skin** (to imagine oneself in someone else's situation, particularly in order to understand their feelings or motivations); **dog tired** (extremely tired or exhausted); **to be dogged** (to be persistent, determined, and tenacious in pursuing a goal or completing a task).

*She was dressed up like a dog's dinner just to go to the pictures.*

*Stephan arrived at home two days ago for a short spot of leave so that bucked Enid a bit. Like a dog with two tails she was* (Bennett, 2014, p. 331).

*Despite facing numerous setbacks, the athlete remained dogged in his pursuit of the championship title.*

*Eddy rolled his eyes, smiled and shook his head. "You're like a dog with a bone!"* (La Plante, 2023, p. 271).

*Charlie was badly hang over, he felt as sick as a dog* (Bennett, 2014, p. 164);

3) character traits (talkativeness, indifference, fear, lying, irritability, anger, dislike, laziness, fussiness, insolence, treachery, avarice, sadness) **a dog in the manger** (a person who selfishly keeps something that he or she does not really need or

want); **you can't teach an old dog new tricks** (reluctant or unwilling to change old habits or long-held beliefs); **his bark is worse than his bite** (he is not as unpleasant or frightening as they seem); **mean as a junkyard dog** (especially nasty and combative demeanor); **dog it** (to be lazy); **barking dog never bites** (someone who regularly makes angry); **dog-eat-dog** (be competitive in a cruel and selfish way); **a dog in church** (an unwanted guest); **top dog** (a leader, a winner). **Churchill's black dog** – this phrase was used to describe Winston Churchill's lifelong battle with depression, and is often cited as an example of how even successful and accomplished individuals can struggle with mental health issues.

*I hate my job, so I just dog it in the office until it's time to go home.*

*A: "I'm really scared to tell Mr. White that I haven't finished my project. You know how he yells." B: "Yeah, but a barking dog never bites. He'll get over it."*

In the Bible dog signifies worthlessness and offence: "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision." Proverbs 26:11: "As a dog returneth to his vomit, [so] a fool returneth to his folly" (The Wordsworth Dictionary of Phrase and Fable, 1993, p. 572).

Although the well-known idiom says that dog is a man's best friend, and we find many confirmations of this in our life, for some reason phraseological units with a kind word about dogs are very scarce in English. **Dog and bone** (not willing to stop until you have finished dealing with something, especially a problem that is worrying you); **dog's days** (to refer to the hottest part of summer, and is often associated with lethargy, inactivity, and a general feeling of being uncomfortable); **see a man about a dog** (when you do not want to say what you are really doing, especially when going to the toilet); **call your dogs off** (to tell someone to stop criticizing, attacking another person).

*So call off your dogs*

*Give someone a call*

*I know there's something wrong with the limits*

*We got turned around, but we could spin it* (Lake Street Dive, 2023).

The idiom "every dog has its day" is often used in literature and the press to convey a sense of hope or resilience, suggesting that even in the face of adversity, individuals can ultimately achieve success or recognition.

*So every dog has its day*

*If the stars line up that way*

*And every night has its day*

*If the sun comes up again* (Wilton, 2004, p. 221).

However, there is also a positive spiritual meaning to dogs: the Bible says that all of our sins can be healed with confession. And it is portrayed as a dog licking the wounds to heal them. It is clear that the spiritual meaning of the dog is associated with healing. Luke 16:21: "*And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dog came and licked his sores*" (The Revised English Bible with Apocrypha, 1989, p. 580).

Dogs have long been used as metaphors to describe determination and loyalty, as well as tenacity. William Shakespeare too uses these descriptions, but also depicts dogs in relation to their role in war and fighting, and his writings have formed a key part of our study of the English language. Shakespeare did use the word "dog" in his works. In fact, the word appears over 200 times in his plays and sonnets (Jach, 2005). Here are some examples:

*Let Hercules himself do what he may, / The cat will mew, and dog will have his day* (Shakespeare, 1998, p. 656).

The character who says these lines is Hamlet in Shakespeare's play "Hamlet". Hamlet is speaking to Horatio about the inevitability of fate and the idea that even the most powerful figures will eventually meet their downfall. The phrase "dog will have his day" means that even the most downtrodden or overlooked person or thing will eventually have a chance to succeed or shine.

*I had rather hear my dog bark at a crow than a man swear he loves me* (Shakespeare, 2003, p. 69).

It is Beatrice, a sharp-tongued and witty character from Shakespeare's play "Much Ado About Nothing" who says this. The line appears in Act I, Scene I, where Beatrice is talking with her uncle and some of the other characters about love and marriage. She goes on to express her disdain for the idea of marriage and the insincerity of many men's professions of love.

The phrase "**dog-Greek, dog-Latin**" appears in Shakespeare's play "Troilus and Cressida". The character Thersites uses the phrase to describe the language used by the character Ajax, who speaks in a pompous and overly formal manner that Thersites finds difficult to understand.

*And then there's Thersites, too, who will say anything, despite the fact that he knows nothing, If I could only understand this dog-Greek, dog-Latin* (Shakespeare, 1998, p. 770).

Shakespeare used the phrase "dogs of war" in his play "Julius Caesar," specifically in Act III, Scene I. The full line is "*Cry 'Havoc!' and let slip the dogs of war*". The line is spoken by Mark Antony as he prepares to go to battle against Brutus and Cassius. The phrase "dogs of war" refers to the unleashed violence and chaos that occurs during wartime (Shakespeare, 1998, p. 120).

These examples show that dogs and dog-related expressions are a common theme in literature, and can be used to convey a wide range of emotions and ideas.

**Conclusion.** The suggested examples illustrate the insights and perspectives of the study of dog-related paremias, highlighting the richness and complexity of this fascinating area of research. These sayings and proverbs are an important part of human language and culture, appearing in many different situations and cultural contexts. They often reflect cultural values and beliefs, such as the importance of loyalty, obedience, and courage. The studied material allows us to conclude that proverbs with the "dog" component in the English language are anthropocentric, as they exhibit certain qualities, external characteristics and features inherent in a person. Such qualities as ferocity, deceit, gluttony, rapacity, as well as readiness for difficulties and dangers, fidelity are reflected in the proverbs and sayings under consideration and they relate directly to a person. In addition, we found out that the semantic structure and lexical content of the studied expressions are marked stylistically, that is, involve colloquial, bookish and obsolete vocabulary. At the same time, the animal world acts as a universal cultural principle of metaphorization. Sayings or proverbs containing the lexeme dog reflect the objective world in the form of a universal or unique series of metaphors that are associated, on the one hand, with wildlife; and on the other hand, with patterns of behavior and human activities. Phraseologisms as a component of culture, at the same time act as a mirror of popular culture, folk psychology and philosophy, keeping information about mentality, usually in the encrypted form. They contain information about the spiritual life of the ethnic group, and represent the picture of the world in general.

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## **ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ ПАРЕМІЙ З КОМПОНЕНТОМ «СОБАКА» ТА ЇХ КУЛЬТУРНОГО ЗНАЧЕННЯ**

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*Важливу роль у передачі народної мудрості від покоління до покоління відіграють прислів'я та приказки. У них люди відображають своє ставлення до рідної природи, тваринного світу, соціально-історичний досвід предків, виражають свій світогляд, моральні норми та естетичні ідеали. Прислів'я та приказки, крім семантичних особливостей, роблять нашу мову яскравою та виразною. У сучасному мовознавстві особливий інтерес викликає пареміологічний фонд національних мов. Зв'язок мови з суспільством і людською культурою вивчається все більше і більше. Прислів'я та приказки дають нам найцінніший матеріал для вивчення цих явищ у більш широкому лінгвокультурологічному та пізнавальному аспектах. У цій роботі аналізується образ собаки в британській культурі. З давніх-давен люди ототожнювали себе з тваринами, що призвело до появи великої кількості зоонімічних паремій в англійській мові. Досліджено спільні риси функціонування цього зооморфізму. Собаки протягом століть були улюбленими супутниками людей, заслуживши титул «найкращий друг людини». Але собаки – це більше, ніж просто віддані домашні тварини; вони також відіграли важливу роль у мові та культурі. Паремії, або приказки та прислів'я, пов'язані з собаками, використовувалися для передачі мудрості, моралі та культурних цінностей у багатьох різних суспільствах. Від загальновідомої фрази «у кожної собаки свій день» до більш незрозумілих виразів, таких як «нехай сплячі собаки лежать», паремії, пов'язані з собаками, продовжують бути частиною нашої повсякденної мови. Ця стаття заглиблюється у світ паремій, пов'язаних із собаками, і досліджує їх значення та походження. У ній розглядаються різні типи висловів, від тих, що вихваляють відданість і товарицькість собак, до тих, які застерігають від їхньої потенційної небезпеки. Стаття також аналізує, як саме паремії, пов'язані з собаками, відображають цінності та переконання людей.*

**Ключові слова:** *прислів'я та приказки, паремії, народна мудрість, метафора, зоонімічний компонент, антропоморфний підхід.*