

## SOME FEATURES OF TEACHING PROVERBS BY THEMATIC CLASSIFICATION

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**ABSTRACT:** In folklore among all the variety and richness of its poetical significance and form it is difficult to find more interesting and researchable genre than proverbs and sayings, which are short, meaningful units and which have the rhythmic organization in poetic style – that people had created for centuries in their social and historical life. A saying is a short, clever expression that usually contains advice or expresses some obvious truth. Many traditional sayings are still in general use today. There are literally thousands of sayings in English (and all languages). The term saying conveys the idea of any expression of wisdom or truth, usually handed down by earlier generations. The origin of a saying is, in most cases, unknown. Many English sayings have come from other languages, and vice versa. Most sayings are effective thanks to their shortness and directness. They use simple, vivid language, often based on everyday domestic situations, making them easy to understand and remember.

Proverb is a brief phrase that presents a truth or some bit of useful wisdom. It is usually based on common sense or practical experience. The effect of a proverb is to make the wisdom it tells seem to be self-evident. The same proverb often occurs among several different peoples. True proverbs have been passed from generation to generation primarily by word of mouth. They may also have been put into written form.

This article aimed at investigating some features of teaching proverbs by thematic classification.

**Key words:** Proverbs and sayings, phrase, classification, translation, meaning, equivalent.

**INTRODUCTION.** Proverbs and proverbial sayings, with their universal value and appeal, the truths they embody and the messages they carry, have for centuries been equally popular with all nations, despite their regional diversities and, clearly, for the impact they have made. Their brevity, the teaching they give, which ranges from general truths of advice, warning and comments they offer on human experience, encourage each of us to act and behave in certain ways. It is not surprising, then, that through the ages proverbs which have prevailed and contributed significantly to the English language still form a living part of it and thus can enrich our everyday conversations. They make the language a more vivid and powerful tool of

communication. A response receives an additional weight when we don't speak merely with our own mouths and we don't use our individual expression of state of mind, but a general opinion.

The beginning of paroemiography dates back to the 16th century when in 1515 Erasmus of Rotterdam published his first collection of proverbs and proverbial sayings. Since that time people have been interested in all kinds of proverbial locutions because, as Jerzy Glusky states quoting the English philosopher Francis Bacon, 'The genius, wit, and spirit of a nation are discovered in its proverbs' (1971: 4).

One of the most effective indicators of proverbiality is metaphor. The sudden shift in topic that disrupts the normal conversational flow and signals by its 'out-of-context' quality that the statement in question is to be interpreted figuratively and not literally leads to its identification as a proverb. Most proverbs are inherently metaphorical in meaning, however, in some instances the proverb is simply a statement that becomes metaphorical only within a context that rules out a literal interpretation.

While reading about proverbs one could ask why people use proverbs at all. As we know, proverbs don't usually function as mere poetic adornments of speech, neither are they used to meet man's needs for philosophic phrasemongering. As a rule they are used for some practical purposes in various circumstances of everyday communication. According to Taylor 'Men buy and read collections *of proverbs* to awaken and enlarge reflections on the world and the nature of man, to suggest subjects for conversation, or to provide themselves with comment appropriate to situations in daily life' (Taylor, 1996). It would not be wrong to state that proverbs are used to convey our general human problems and concerns by means of traditional language. According to Mieder 'By employing proverbs in our speech we wish to strengthen our arguments, express generalisations, influence or manipulate other people, rationalize our own shortcomings, question certain behavioral patterns, satirize social ills, poke fun at ridiculous situations' (1993: 11).

**MAIN PART.** Proverbs were and are used nowadays as an effective spoken or written tool of expressing various meanings and intentions. They include wisdom, knowledge and truth which is manifested in a few colourful words. In spite of the fact the proverbs have figurative meaning, the message they carry is delivered very quickly and to the point which makes it very functional while used in spoken language, political speeches, newspaper headlines, cartoon titles and slogans in the advertisements. Proverbs can be used to manoeuvre people politically and economically and they may be very serious tool as 'expressions of stereotypical invectives or unfounded generalizations' (Mieder, 1993: X).

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several different peoples. True proverbs have been passed from generation to generation primarily by word of mouth. They may also have been put into written form.

**DISCUSSION AND RESULTS.** The semantic sphere of proverbs is very wide and cannot limit them. The proverbs describe every branch of people's life. The fact is that proverbs and sayings are similar in meaning in spite of their diversity in form and language: A bird in hand is worth two in the bush.

Many scholars tried to show the differences between proverbs and sayings in order to point out their border of limit. There are some features that can be helpful in identifying the proverbs from sayings.

Proverbs are characterized by their features:

Every proverb values or appreciates any event both positively and negatively. Such kind of features serve to make the proverbs popular among people. Proverbs express wise and complete idea and sayings express the description of something but do not give complete meanings. They consist of one compositional element.

Proverbs can be used in neutral figurative meaning. This features of proverbs widen the sphere of their usage thematically. That's why proverbs are famous among different nations and people. Sayings are characterized by limited usage in one or two nations who are near to each other geographically and in non related languages.

The function of proverbs is to prove any event or situation.

In spite of their own specific features proverbs have general sides which also belong to the other types of folklore. One of such features of the proverbs is that they are created in language in a very long time and disappear in a long period. It is connected with the formal feature of the content of the proverb. To turn some wise thoughts into proverbs some conditions are required. And this conditions may be the followings:

Firstly, the proverbs should describe the economic, social and politic life of the people.

Secondary, the idea expressed in the proverb must have global character. It means that those proverbs that describe the characters related to the human beings are the same in all the languages.

Thirdly, the idea that can be used as sample and answers to the above conditions must be complete in literary Christianized form. When the pattern idea answers these three questions it turns to be a proverb. Also it should be pointed out that the character of immediate creation of proverbs are connected with sociable structure, the dominance and non dominance of politic, cultural, social - economic life. The content expressed in proverb changes depending on the change in social life.

One of the best way to teach the proverbs is teaching proverbs by thematic classification. For example:

### **1. Family relationships:**

- The family is a haven in a heartless world
- Charity begins at home
- Blood is thicker than water
- The grass isn't greener on the 'other side', the grass isn't greener on your side.

It's greener where you water it

- It is not flesh and blood but the heart which makes us fathers and sons

### **2. Faithful and devoted love:**

- Love in a cottage
- Love is blind, as well as hatted
- Love me, love my dog
- Love will creep where it may not go

### **3. The socio-historical experience of people**

- A nod's as good as a wink to a blind horse
- As you sow so shall you mow
- Better late than never
- Curiosity killed the cat
- Don't burn your bridges behind you

### **4. Everyday and everyday experience of the people:**

- Beauty is only skin deep
- Don't worry, be happy
- Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise
- East or West, the home is best
- Haste makes waste
- Home is where the heart is

### **5. Work as the basis of life:**

- No sweet without a wheat
- Nothing to be got without pains
- He that would eat the fruit must climb the tree
- He who would search for pearls must dive for them
- If a job is worth doing it is worth doing well
- If you can't be good, be careful
- Self done is well done

**CONCLUSION.** Proverbs serve as rare base in researching or studying of people: the level of their cultural, politic, economic life in ancient time or periods. As proverbs reflect the life practice of people over different periods and also they reflect moral norms and religious faith of nation. One more feature of proverbs is that proverbs are often used in colloquial speech of people and are extended in varied forms.

As we know, proverbs are used for some practical, pragmatic purposes in various circumstances of everyday communication. It is not right to consider proverbs apart from pragmatic functions.

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