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Pavel Dronov

Institute of Linguistics
of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Idiom modifications in bilingual dictionaries of idioms¹

The article focuses on the problem of representing idiom modifications (both standard and non-standard context-based and double-take effect-modifications, cf. *tip of the large/huge iceberg*, *die bittere Suppe auslöffeln* v. *tip of the electoral iceberg*, *jmdm die finanzielle Suppe auslöffeln*) in lexicography. A number of approaches to idiom modifications and their representation in dictionaries are discussed. Afterwards, a structure of a bilingual dictionary of idioms containing data on various idiom modifications is offered. The most notable pieces of information in an entry of such a paper are explanation of an idiom's actual meaning and its underlying metaphor, and examples of the most common modifications of the idiom, including the number or percentage of their occurrence in language corpora. The resulting work would be equally useful as a student's dictionary and a scholarly book dealing with comparative and contrastive research. Besides, if transformed into a monolingual dictionary, it would be interesting for laymen, notably, due to various creative and non-standard idiom modifications.

Key words: idioms; idiom modifications; lexicography; bilingual dictionaries; corpus.

1. Introduction

Traditionally, idioms are perceived as rather rigidly fixed expressions. However, experience shows that they can be modified in various ways without ceasing to be themselves (i.e., without breaking into separate constituents; on idiom-breaking see Ifill 2002). Their components can often be seen substituted for one another, cf. English *to do sth. against time/the clock*; German [*für jmdn.*] *die*

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Kastanien/Kartoffeln aus der Feuer holen ‘to be employed (by being manipulated, or otherwise utilized) to undertake the dangerous part of sb else’s enterprise’ (literally, “to drag chestnuts/potatoes out of the fire”, cf. English *to pull the chestnuts out of the fire, cat’s paw*). Likewise, a NP of an idiom can be used in its plural form, or can have a different article attached to it (cf. English *to blow whistles* instead of *to blow the whistle*); these are called morphological modifications (on morphology in idioms see Čermák 2007). Some idioms may be transformed syntactically, like *in the beans he spilled* or *the nettle is firmly grasped* (see Dobrovol’skij 2005; Möhring 1996). Besides, they can have adjectival and genitive modifiers inserted into them, cf. *to grasp the political nettle, to take full advantage, tip of the large iceberg*. The English equivalent of a genitive modifier should be an of-construction, such as *to go through the motions of requesting*. These modifications, known as lexico-syntactical ones, were analyzed, inter alia, in Dobrovol’skij 2007b, 2008; Dronov 2010. Usually, modifications are divided into formal (it is the structure of an idiom that gets modified like in the aforementioned examples) and semantic (idioms change their meanings in a specific context, e.g. when *they had a mountain to climb* refers to a group of alpinists)—see Burger (1998). Sometimes a formal modification leads to some shifts of meaning.

As one can see, differentiation of the types of modification depends on the linguistic level of representation. Semantic and pragmatic effects of the use of idioms and their modifications, their discursive behavior were studied in a number of treatises and articles, such as Dobrovol’skij and Piirainen (2005), Nacisicione (2001, 2002), and Omazić (2008). It is certain that a comprehensive phraseological dictionary, the one that can be useful both for a linguist and an aspiring language learner, should include a wide variety of non-standard (creative) and standard idiom modifications, the latter appearing in actual usage as idiom variants in their own right.

The aforementioned term “variant” has to be dwelt upon. As a rule, researchers demarcate “modification” from “variation.” Phraseological variants are often depicted as forms of an idiom that are compatible with the same set of words and share a common lexical invariant and identical meanings, as well as stylistic and syntactical functions (see, for instance, Kunin 1964). Therefore, Russian *valât’ duraka/van’ku valât’* or English *skeleton in a closet/cupboard* are phraseological variants. As for idiom modifications, they are seen as occasional alterations of an idiom, examples of its non-standard use. Some researchers, such as Schenk (1992), and Wasow, Sag, and Nunberg (1983), perceive them only as the cases of insertion of a (usually adjectival) modifier into the structure of an idiom. In a number of works lexical substitutions, such as *to be born with a wooden spoon in one’s mouth* instead of *to be born with a silver spoon in one’s mouth*, are also in-

cluded (Ernst 1981; Omazić 2008); insertion of a modifier is dubbed as *adnominal modification*. In this article modifications are perceived as any alterations of a form of an idiom, both standard and non-standard, with no reference to semantic or stylistic changes. It should always be borne in mind that, although some standard modifications can be called variants, these terms cannot be synonymous. This can be illustrated by the fact that some idiom modifications have meanings so different from the original form that they should be treated as idioms in their own right, cf. Russian *valât' duraka* 'to behave in a foolish, playful or comical manner' (lit. "to roll/felt a fool") and *svalât' duraka* 'to commit an ill-advised, irresponsible and apparently regrettable act.' Here *valât' duraka* is morphologically modified, with the aspect of the verb component changed from imperfective to perfective).

Another vital problem connected with idioms in lexicography is standardization. There always are a number of seemingly standard modifications that do not appear creative or artificial to a reader/listener. No matter how skilled a lexicographer may be, s/he cannot have a linguistic intuition of a native speaker (unless a lexicographer is a native speaker him or herself). Consequently, it is necessary to specify the criteria of standard and non-standard idiom modifications. D. Dobrovol'skij has proposed a hypothesis determining types of modification. According to it, a modification is standard:

- a. if an idiom is analyzable (on semantic analyzability of idioms see, e.g., Dobrovol'skij 1996, 2007a; Gibbs 1991);
- b. if a modifier is correlated with the actual meaning and the underlying metaphor, the inner form of the idiom (Dobrovol'skij 2007b).

If a modifier is correlated only with the actual meaning, a modification is context-based. If a modifier is correlated only with the inner form, this leads to a double-take effect when a word-group may be perceived both as an idiom and as a free word combination.

As is shown in some recent works (Dronov 2009, 2010), this hypothesis is more than plausible. It should be borne in mind, however, that the number of standard modifications—at least among lexico-syntactical ones—tends to be rather small. The corpus-based research shows that the most frequent modifications in English, German and Russian are context-based, e.g. English *to earn political brownie points*; German *trickreiches Fersengeld geben* 'to flee in a tricky and inventive manner' (based on *Fersengeld geben* 'to run fast', lit. "to give heel money"); Russian *navodit' demokratičeskij gl'anec* 'to represent sb. or sth. as more desirable and democratic than they really are' (based on *navodit' gl'anec*

‘to represent sb. or sth. as more desirable than they really are’, lit. “to give polish”) (Dronov 2010: 15).

This article deals with the problem of idiom modifications from the lexicographical view. Its subjects are the degree of representation of idiom modifications in contemporary mono- and bilingual dictionaries, and basic principles of representing this kind of information in a dictionary of idioms.

2. Idiom modifications in contemporary dictionaries

Modern monolingual dictionaries of idioms have basic modifications included in their entries (usually headwords), cf. English *take something into account/take account of something* (Kirkpatrick and Schwarz 1993), [*do sth.*] *against time/the clock* (Makkai, Gates, Boatner); German *Kastanien/Kartoffeln aus der Feuer holen* ‘to pull the chestnuts out of fire, to do sb else’s dirty job’, lit. “to pull chestnuts / potatoes out of fire” (Duden Band 11); Russian *složít’ golovu (za kogo-l./čto-l.)/položít’ [svoû] golovu (za kogo-l./čto-l.)* ‘to die (for the just cause)’, lit. “to lay one’s head for sb./sth.” (Baranov, Dobrovol’skij et al. 2009); Croatian *izgubiti/gubiti pamet* (lit. “to lose [perfective/imperfective aspect] mind”) (Vrgoč and Fink Arsovski 2008). Sometimes the criteria of definition of idioms and their modifications that are used by lexicographers do not appear transparent enough. For instance, the German *wie ein geölter Blitz* (lit. “like an oiled lightning”) clearly is a modification of the idiom *wie ein Blitz* ‘very quickly, as fast as a lightning’ (lit. “like a lightning”); yet, it is considered a separate idiom in the Duden dictionary (Duden Band 11).

An interesting approach towards dictionaries of idiom modifications can be found in Alina Melerovič and Valerij Mokienko’s “Frazeologizmy v ruskoj reči” (lit. “Idioms in Russian Speech”) (Melerovič and Mokienko 2005). The authors divide modifications into semantic (double-take effect, connotational changes, etc.) and structural semantic ones. The latter are, in turn, divided into those that do not break the referential identity of an idiom (e.g. component increase or decrease, changes of word order and construction of negative/assertive forms), and those resulting in creative idioms and words (extraction of non-standard idioms out of standard set phrases, creation of non-standard idioms on the basis of structural semantic inversion and alteration of the categorical meaning of an idiom; contamination of a phraseological unit, etc.) (Melerovič and Mokienko 2005: 17–32). By the component increase these authors mean “occasional use of a phraseological unit with several components or component clusters diffused by words of free and unrestricted usage” (Ibid.: 23). The term used by A. Melerovič and V. Mokienko seems too generalized, for their examples

contain both lexical and or lexico-syntactical modifications (for instance, *otkryvat' Ameriku neskol'ko raz* 'to claim sth widely known (modifier: several times)', lit. "to discover America (modifier: several times)" [a rough English equivalent would be *to reinvent the wheel several times*]; *otkryt' ne odnu novuû Ameriku* 'to claim (modifier: a number of new) things that are widely known', lit. "to discover (modifier: not [just] one new) America", cf. a rough English equivalent *to reinvent a number of new wheels*; *komar nosu ni podo što ne podtočit* 'something is done so well that it is impossible to fault it (modifier: in any way)', lit. "a mosquito will not stick its proboscis (modifier: under anything)", cf. *it will go without a hitch in anything*; *deržat' za pazuxoj âdernyj kamen'* 'to lay a sinister scheme (modifier: involving nuclear weapons) against sb'; lit. "to embosom a (modifier: nuclear) stone", cf. *to hide nuclear batteries*). Besides, the authors do not differentiate between more or less standard and non-standard modifications.

There exists a wide variety of mono-, bi- and even polylingual dictionaries of idioms, such as (Fink Arsovski and Hrnjak 2006; Lubensky 1995; Schlemann and Knight 1997a, 1997b). While many are purely student-oriented, some are based on comparative studies, providing counterparts of a number of idioms in various languages (nine Slavic languages, in the case of Željka Fink Arsovski and Anita Hrnjak's dictionary) and, therefore, can be of great assistance to a scholar. It is interesting to note that some bilingual dictionaries, e.g. Sophia Lubensky's *Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms* (Lubensky 1995), reflect one of the types of idiom variation: there exist idioms that are able to change their word order. This ability can hardly result from their semantic properties, e.g. the Russian idiom *na tebe lica net* 'you have a gloomy face', lit. "there is no face on you" has fixed word order, with ^{??}*net na tebe lica*, ^{??}*lica na tebe net* being non-standard. On the other hand, *dat'/vrezat' duba* 'to die', lit. "to give/indent [some] oak [apparently, for a coffin² or the ornament upon it]" has a free word order (*dat' duba*, *duba dat'*, *duba vrezat'*, *vrezat' duba*).

² According to Baranov, Voznesenskaâ, Dobrovol'skij et al. (2009: 166), an image evoked by *dat' duba* is "to start resembling the oak (lumber or a dead tree)". Besides, the authors of this dictionary assume that it is related to the informal word *zadubet'* 'to become frozen stiff' (lit. "to become tanned [like leather], to barken") that has the same root as *dub*. Therefore, the original underlying image of the idiom in question might have been "to be frozen or to stiffen like a tree" (a reference to the state of *rigor mortis*).

3. Proposal for a model of a bilingual dictionary of idioms and their modifications

Apparently, it is necessary to include more information on idiom modifications into lexicographical sources. Such dictionaries would prove useful for linguists working in the field of contrastive phraseology (see Dobrovol'skij 1988), translators, and teachers as well.

Our idea is to combine the features of the forecited monolingual and bilingual dictionaries. Apart from a headword, an explanation of the meaning and synonyms, an entry must include the variations and the most common modifications of the idiom supplemented with examples and data on their frequency (*infra*). Besides, the explanation of the meaning should be much broader in order to show how this or that idiom is motivated. These points need clarifying.

3.1. *Explanation of the underlying metaphor*

Underlying metaphors, which staple idioms, are rather rarely described in English, German and Slavic phraseological dictionaries although there are notable exceptions, such as Kövecses, Tóth, and Babarci 1998). In a large number of dictionaries—both modern and older—the inner form was included into entries on an irregular basis (see Duden Band 11; Kirkpatrick, Schwarz 1993; Melerovič and Mokienko 2005; Mihel'son 1902, 1903; Lubensky 1995). In some Russian dictionaries, such as Baranov, Voznesenskaâ, Dobrovol'skij et al. (2009), Teliâ et al. (2006), idiom explanations always contain descriptions and explanations of underlying images and metaphors; in Teliâ et al. (2006), these are followed by exhaustive cultural commentaries.

In Baranov, Dobrovol'skij, et al. (2009), an explanation of the inner form is introduced by special operators, namely: *osmyslâetsâ* 'conceptualized as', *associiruetsâ* 'associated with', *opisyvaetsâ* 'described as', *upodoblâetsâ* 'paralleled with', etc. (see Baranov, Dobrovol'skij, et al. (2009: 8–9). This system of explanations might prove as useful in bilingual dictionaries as it is in the monolingual ones.

3.2. Provision of examples of idiom modifications

An entry must contain the most widely spread examples of formal modifications (see supra). Preferably, it should also include percentage of these variants within the statistically valid selection of idiom modifications based on text corpora.

That information is to be placed at the end of the entry (in the examples section, after the ♦ sign), rather than incorporated into the explanation of the actual meaning and the underlying metaphor of an idiom. The latter, being a vital part of idiom semantics, is particularly important.

Different types of idiom modifications are introduced by special operators such as **S** (syntactical transformations, cf. *the nettle was grasped*), **L** (lexical modifications, cf. *to do sth. against the clock/against time*), **LS-Adj** (lexico-syntactical modifications formed by means of the insertion of an adjectival modifier into the idiom), **LS-DmPr** (lexico-syntactical modifications formed by means of the insertion of a demonstrative pronoun into the idiom), **LS-PersPr** (lexico-syntactical modifications formed by means of the insertion of a personal pronoun into the idiom), **LS-Quant** (idiom modified by a quantifier). The number of these modificational operators may depend upon the structure of this or that idiom. For instance, NP-idioms similar to *tip of the iceberg* can hardly be syntactically transformed; therefore, their explanations cannot contain an **S** operator.

In order to understand whether this or that modification is seemingly standard, context-based or leading to double entendre, one has to introduce some specific operators, namely **Standard**, **Context-Based**, **Double-take Effect**.

Frequency of modifications should also be included in entries. Of course, it is necessary to obtain as much data on such occurrences as possible. One good way of doing it is combining the results found in various text corpora. Yet, a problem arises here, since text corpora tend to have varying numbers of words, e.g. 100 million in the Time Corpus, BNC or DWDS corpus and dictionary of and 400+ million in COCA and COHA. To calculate the percentage, all the contexts where idiom is used both in its basic and modified forms are counted as a hundred per cent. Then ratios of contexts containing modifications are calculated. The results are to be compared in all the analyzed corpora by means of statistical methods, for instance, Student's t-test. It is worth remembering that sometimes modifications vividly represented in one corpus lack any representation in another. In this case, one apparently has to specify the corpora to which the statistics are applied.

One shall also bear in mind the differences of syntax in the search engines of the corpora: for instance, one and the same search query aimed at finding adjectival modifiers inserted into an English idiom, say, *to jump/hop/get on the bandwagon (of sth.)* will look like *on the * [bandwagon]* in COCA (with square brackets indicating a lemma), whereas in BNC it will appear as *on the _ bandwagon*.

It appears necessary to illustrate these patterns of making a bilingual dictionary by an appropriate example, such as *die Suppe auslöffeln*, a German idiom meaning ‘to solve the problem that was created by one’s own words or deeds; to be held accountable for sth. and to face the consequences’. The search is conducted by means of two corpora, namely [DEREKO] by the *Institut für die deutsche Sprache*, Mannheim, containing over 3.9 billion words with a growth rate of 300 million words per year (see, for instance, Kupietz, Belica, Keibel and Witt 2010) and DWDS-Kernkorpus by the *Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaft*, with 100 million words.

The search is conducted in all the subcorpora and archives of DEREKO, from *the Archiv der geschriebenen Sprache*, the *Archiv morphosyntaktisch annotierter Korpora (CONNEXOR-Tagset)* to the *Archiv der Süddeutschen Zeitung*. Due to the fact that some texts appear in more than one archive, all the repetitions need to be eliminated. The search queries for *die Suppe auslöffeln* and its modifications are as follows:

die &Suppe &auslöffeln, &auslöffeln die &Suppe, die &Suppe /+w3:1 &auslöffeln, &auslöffeln die /+w3:1 Suppe (the components are lemmatized so that all the occurrences of the idiom could be located, small intervals between the verb phrase and the noun phrase included; to find morphological modifications, e.g. *eine Suppe auslöffeln*, articles are omitted);

die /+w4:2 &Suppe &auslöffeln, eine /+w4:2 &Suppe &auslöffeln, &auslöffeln die /+w4:2 &Suppe, &auslöffeln eine /+w4:2 Suppe (lexico-syntactical modifications; intervals are bigger so that groups of adverbial and adjectival modifiers could be included as well).

In DWDS, where the online search engine provides automatic lemmatization, queries are rather simple: *Suppe auslöffeln, die Suppe auslöffeln, auslöffeln die Suppe*. To find lexico-syntactical modifications, intervals from one to four are included, e.g. *die #1 Suppe auslöffeln* (one word between the components), *die #4 Suppe auslöffeln*.

The total number of contexts containing the idiom in DEREKO equals to 884. However, the overall number of modifications is much smaller. Two of them can be considered more or less standard, since they meet the requirements mentioned in the introduction to this article: *die bittere Suppe auslöffeln* (lit. “to scoop the bitter soup”), *diverse Suppen auslöffeln* (lit. “to scoop various soups”). The latter is also a morphological modification with a pluralized form of the noun phrase and a zero article.

In five contexts one can find context-based modifications formed by the insertion of *finanziell* ‘financial’, *kaukasisch* ‘Caucasian, belonging to the Caucasus’, *kurdisch* ‘Kurdish’, *dreckig* ‘dirty, scummy, scruffy, raunchy’. Besides, there are two modifications producing the double-take effect. In the first case, the idiom is modified by the participle *übergehend* ‘merging, to sth., passing to sth., ignoring’, which may also mean ‘overflowing’ when referred to the process of cooking. This diversity of shades of meanings leads to some double entendre. The same applies to *die „verpfefferte Suppe“ auslöffeln*, lit. “to scoop the peppered soup”.

Apart from these, an example of a genitive attribute inserted into the idiom is found: *die „Suppe der CDU“ auszulöffeln*, lit. “to scoop the ‘soup’ of the Christian Democratic Union”. Like an of-complement, its English counterpart, a genitive attribute that modifies an idiom may be seen as a sign of its semantic analyzability of an idiom; besides, it serves the purpose of topic-indication (Langlotz 2006: 183, 263–265). In addition, there are two contexts where the idiom is modified by a prepositional phrase that leads to the materialization of the underlying metaphor and, therefore, to the double-take effect: *mit langen Löffeln die Suppe auslöffeln*, lit. “to scoop the soup with long spoons”, *mit dem Messer die Suppe auslöffeln*, lit. “to scoop the soup with the knife”.

In thirty-six contests out of 884, there appear contaminations of *die Suppe auslöffeln* and *(jmdm./sich) eine Suppe einbrocken* ‘to do sth. unwise, for which one may take full responsibility and face the disagreeable consequences’ (lit. “to break bread into soup for sb / oneself”). Five of them have adjectival lexico-syntactical modifications (*die eingebrockte Suppe auslöffeln*, lit. “to scoop the crumb-filled soup”), while the rest contain attributive clauses: *die Suppe auslöffeln, die X eingebrockt hat*, lit. “to scoop the soup, into which X has broken bread (oneself)”.

In some cases, either the idiom or its noun phrase are enclosed in the quotation marks or guillemets. Though most of them are direct quotations, there are 12 interesting occurrences, some of which have already been cited above. They tend to demonstrate the marked use of *die Suppe auslöffeln*, e.g. *Die «Suppe»*

dürfen dann andere auslöffeln, lit. “then ‘the soup’ is to be scooped by the others.” They appear to be similar to the hedges described by George Lakoff (1973). All these contexts should be taken into account in the making of a dictionary entry.

On the whole, though various modifications can be found in DEREKO, their numbers (and, therefore, their percentage) are egregiously small. In DWDS, however, the situation is entirely different. There are only 49 occurrences, and thirty-two of these contain contaminations of *die Suppe auslöffeln* and (*jmdm./sich*) *eine Suppe einbrocken* ‘to do sth. unwise, for which one may take full responsibility and face the disagreeable consequences’. All of them follow the pattern of *die Suppe auslöffeln, die X eingebracht hat*. In five contexts, which are counted separately as morphological modifications of *die Suppe auslöffeln*, an indefinite article is used instead of *die*.

Finally, the search in DWDS reveals that in one context the idiom is transformed both morphologically and syntactically: *beim Auslöffeln der Suppe*, lit. “during the scooping of the soup”. Apparently, such a kind of word class recategorization, with a verb turning into a noun, should be regarded as a morphosyntactical modification.

In order not to extend the dictionary entry infinitely, only one to two typical modifications of each type are listed. The final dictionary entry should look like this:

Die Suppe auslöffeln: to solve the problem that was created by one’s own words or deeds; to be held accountable for sth. and to face the consequences; *this is conceptualized as* the act of scooping the poorly-cooked soup (cf. (*jmdm. / sich*) *eine Suppe einbrocken*, lit. “to break bread into a soup for sb. / oneself”, *in der Suppe sein* ‘to face dire consequences because of one’s unwise actions’, lit. “to be in the soup”) out of a vessel with a spoon. Possible contaminations with *eine Suppe einbrocken*, e.g. *die Suppe auslöffeln, die jnd. eingebracht hat* (Infra). Similar idioms appear in other languages, cf. Russian *rashlëbyvat’ kašu*, lit. “to gulp out the porridge”, English *to be in the soup*. ♦ **LS-Adj. Standard** (DEREKO 0.23%): Hofherr: "Das vielfach an mich herangetragene Rezept 'trotzdem tun als ob nichts geschehen wäre' findet sicher kein Gehör, weil der Gemeinderat und ich den Ort sicher nicht ins finanzielle Desaster führen, wie dies manche Politiker im Bund in der Vergangenheit getan haben - und jetzt alle *die bittere Suppe auslöffeln müssen*." [I00/JUL.43524; DEREKO]. Was Sie genau mit «Sidekick» meinen, weiss ich nicht, aber in unserem neuen Stück

«Alles uf Chrankeschii» spiele ich einen Assistenzarzt, der *diverse Suppen auslöffeln muss, die sein Chef ihm einbrockt*. Also wieder ein Mensch, der zu Anfang nicht sehr viel Durchsetzungsvermögen hat. [A98/DEZ.84505; DEREKO]. **LS-Adj. Context-Based** (DEREKO 0.57%): Präsident Jelzin will den Ministerpräsidenten die „*kaukasische Suppe*“ *auslöffeln lassen* [P96/FEB.05483; DEREKO]. Während in Wien der zweite Tag des Staatsbesuchs des türkischen Präsidenten Süleyman Demirel plangemäß über die Bühne ging, forderte der Grün-Abgeordnete Peter Pilz - ein ausgewiesener Kurden-Kenner - Außenminister Schüssel zu einer „überfälligen Initiative“ in der Kurden-Frage auf. Anderenfalls müsse Europa die „*kurdische Suppe auslöffeln*“, warnte er. [P98/NOV.46669; DEREKO]. „Die Kommunen müssen immer die *finanzielle Suppe auslöffeln*“, meint Udo Hauck, der Leiter des Sozialamtes, wenn er auf höhere Leistungen für Kriegsflüchtlinge angesprochen wird (wir berichteten auf unserer Südwest-Seite) [M99/OKT.69638; DEREKO]. Wer will wetten, dass kein Cent für die Räumung der Hallen übrig bleiben wird? Dann geht das Prozedere los: Als mögliche Zahler kommen noch die Besitzer des Grundstücks beziehungsweise des Objekts in Frage. Die werden wohl auch keine große Freude damit haben, die *dreckige Suppe auszulöffeln*. [BVZ07/AUG.00100; DEREKO]. **LS-Adj. Double-take Effect:** (DEREKO 0.23%) „Fafga“ hin oder her, Thema fad oder nicht - in der Wirtschaft brodelts. Nur: Wer die *übergehende „Suppe“ auslöffeln soll*, das weiß noch niemand. [O99/APR.46305; DEREKO]. Bad Sobernheimer Kappensitzung lebte besonders von Lokalkolorit - Beim Fußballverein soll endlich jemand die „*verpfefferte Suppe*“ *auslöffeln* [RHZ09/FEB.20459; DEREKO]. **LS-Adj. Contamination** (DEREKO 4.07%; DWDS 65.3%): 1. die *eingebrockte Suppe auslöffeln* (DEREKO: 0.57%): Zu den neuen Erfahrungen zählt nämlich auch die Erkenntnis, dass der «Kleine», obwohl er an der Krise keine Schuld trägt, die *eingebrockte Suppe auslöffeln darf*. [A10/JAN.02267; DEREKO]. Zu hoffen ist, dass das Gremium des Bundesrates nicht verzagt und kühle Tatkraft beweist. Sollen doch die Hirsche Grübel und Villiger die *eingebrockte Suppe auslöffeln*. [A09/MAR.02798; DEREKO]. 2. die *Suppe auslöffeln, die X sich eingebrockt hat* (DEREKO: 3.5%; DWDS: 55.1%): Der Politiker macht klar, dass Blessing und alle anderen Banker auch die *Suppe selbst auslöffeln sollen, die sie sich eingebrockt haben*. [HAZ09/MAR.00587; DEREKO]. Wir können doch nicht alle im Rückwandereramt beschäftigt werden! Wir, die wir hier sesshaft sind, die wir unsere Familie und unsere Zukunft in Argentinien haben, müssen einmal die *Suppe auslöffeln, die die Herren Geschäftsreisenden in Nazismus uns einbrocken*. Aber es

steht nicht nur unser persönliches Schicksal auf dem Spiel. [o.A., Was ist mit Patagonien?, in: Das Andere Deutschland 01.03.1939, S. 3, S. 275; DWDS]. Mit anderen Worten: Die Stuttgarter Kultusministerin und ihr Rechtsberater Ferdinand Kirchhof müssen nun gegen die einzig plausible (und die einzig zu erwartende) höchstrichterliche Auslegung ihres eigenen Gesetzes klagen. Das heißt, *sie müssen nun die Suppe auslöffeln*, *die sie sich selber eingerührt haben*. [DIE ZEIT, 14.10.2004, Nr. 42; DWDS]. **LS-Gen. Context-based** (DEREKO 0.11%): Hier werden bewusst und/oder unbewusst Ereignisse „unter die Bürger“ gestreut, um die eigenen Schwächen der CDU zu vertuschen. Wir sind nicht bereit, *die „Suppe der CDU“ auszulöffeln*. Den Stadtteil Sassenroth als Provinz zu bezeichnen (ironisch abwertend für kulturell rückständige Gegend) ist eine Brüskierung, wie sie nicht schlimmer ausfallen konnte. [RHZ09/JAN.20060; DEREKO]. **LS-Prep. Double-take Effect** (DEREKO 0.23%): *Mit dem Messer die Suppe auslöffeln* (A99/NOV.82416; DEREKO). Schulz warnt davor, Trittin beim Landesparteitag am Wochenende "abzustrafen" für das schlechte Erscheinungsbild der Grünen seit dem Magdeburger Parteitag. Im Grunde müsse Trittin „*mit langen Löffeln die Suppe auslöffeln*“, die sein Vorgänger im Bundesvorstand, Ludger Volmer, ihm hinterlassen habe. [R98/MAI.35702; DEREKO]. **M-Article, LS-Adj. Contamination** (DWDS: 10.2%) Alle diese Reformen, so dringlich und notwendig sie auch sind, können die Folgen des demografischen Umbruchs nur mildern, nicht jedoch beseitigen. In den kommenden Jahren und Jahrzehnten *werden wir eine Suppe auslöffeln müssen, die wir uns im Laufe einer Generation eingebrockt haben*. [DIE ZEIT, 25.07.2002, Nr. 31; DWDS]. **MS-Recategorization** (DWDS 2%): Der Augenblick ist günstig für Schröders Besuch: weit genug in der irakischen Nachkriegskrise, um sich in der Interventionsskepsis bestätigt zu sehen, und nicht weit genug, um *beim Auslöffeln der Suppe* wirklich schon mit zulangem zu müssen. [DIE ZEIT, 26.02.2004, Nr. 10; DWDS]. **Hedges** (DEREKO 1.36%): *die „kaukasische Suppe“ auslöffeln lassen, die übergehende „Suppe“ auslöffeln soll, die „verpfefferte Suppe“ auslöffeln, die „Suppe der CDU“ auszulöffeln* (Supra). Das Risiko für Katastrophen - die ja wohl in solchen Genmanipulationen beinhaltet sind - halten diese Multis für sich sehr klein. *Die «Suppe» dürfen dann andere auslöffeln*. [A98/MAI.35788; DEREKO]. Nun muss die Landespolitik auch *die „Suppe auslöffeln“* und für ausreichend gymnasiale Angebote in der Fläche sorgen. [RHZ07/OKT.26425; DEREKO].

It should be noted that, despite the idiom *die Suppe auslöffeln* being informal, no status label is placed after the headword. Since most of the idioms are informal (see Baranov and Dobrovolskij 2003), use of **informal**, **razg.** (< Russian *razgovornyj âzyk* ‘vernacular, common language, informal language’), **ugs.** (< German *umgangssprachlich* ‘vernacular, common language, informal language’) and similar labels seems inexpedient. However, other labels, such as **neutral**, **formal**, **mainly journalism**, etc., are still necessary. For example, *pomp and circumlocution* is a lexical modification of *pomp and circumstance* used chiefly by the press. Consequently, its status label must look like this: **L. (lexical) pomp and circumlocution mainly journalism.**

4. Conclusion

To sum it up, the proposed structure of an entry for an idiom modification dictionary includes the following components:

1. Headword (including a status label, if needed).
2. Explanation of the meaning of the idiom.
 - 2.1. Explanation of the meaning proper.
 - 2.2. Explanation of the underlying metaphor.
3. Synonymous idioms and word-groups.
4. Examples of the most common modifications of the idiom, including the number or percentage of their occurrence in text corpora.

Such a dictionary, based on the original research of idiom modifications and combining the features of mono- and bilingual dictionaries of idioms, should serve as both a learner’s dictionary and a scholarly book.

Creation of bilingual dictionaries of idioms via corpus-assisted research is a challenging but rewarding task. The data obtained at the course of writing such bilingual dictionaries may be used for comparative and contrastive research similar to Dobrovolskij and Piirainen (2005), and Piirainen (2006, 2008). Besides, if transformed into a monolingual dictionary, such a work would prove interesting not only for a language student, but for a layman as well (notably, due to various creative and non-standard idiom modifications).

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Authors' address:

Kafedra inostrannyh âzykov (Department of foreign languages)
Institut âzykoznanîâ RAN (Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences)
Vavilova, 44, korpus 2
Moscow
Russia
nord.dronov@gmail.com

MODIFIKACIJE IDIOMA U DVOJEZIČNIM RJEČNICIMA IDIOMA

Ovaj se članak usredotočava problem prikazivanja modificiranih idioma u leksikografiji (standardnih i nestandardnih, kontekstualno ovisnih i modifikacija idioma koje se mogu tumačiti i u doslovnom značenju, npr. *tip of the large/huge iceberg*, *die bittere Suppe auslöffeln* v. *tip of the electoral iceberg*, *jmdm die finanzielle Suppe auslöffeln*). Raspravlja se o nizu pristupa modifikaciji idioma i njihovom prikazivanju u rječnicima, a zatim se predlaže struktura dvojezičnog rječnika idioma koji sadrži podatke o različitim modifikacijama idioma. Najistaknutije obavijesti su objašnjenja o značenju idioma i metafore na kojoj počiva te primjeri najčešćih modifikacija, uključujući i broj njihove porabe odnosno postotnog udjela u jezičnim korpusima. Publikacija koja bi rezultirala bila bi jednako korisna kao priručnik a za student i kao znanstveni rad komparativnog i kontrastivnog karaktera. Pored toga bi bio zanimljiv i laicima u svojoj jednojezičnoj inačici zbog mnoštva obavijesti o kreativnim i nestandardnim modifikacijama idioma.

Ključne riječi: idiomi; modifikacija idioma; leksikografija; dvojezični rječnici; korpus.