TATIANA FEDULENKOVA

Stylistic Use of Phraseological Units in Discourse. By Anita Naciscione. Amsterdam/ Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2010. Pp. xiii, 292. With 10 figures and 20 illustrations.

Anita Naciscione's book *Stylistic Use of Phraseological Units in Discourse* is an excellent study of the vast range of stylistic use of phraseological units (PUs). The book falls into two main parts. Part One is devoted to theoretical research: elaboration of technical terms, offering a new approach to key terminology and basic concepts. Anita Naciscione follows Kunin in her understanding of PUs (Kunin 1970): a PU is a stable combination of words with a fully or partially figurative meaning. However, she justly argues that PUs have a third category – that of cohesion as a semantic and stylistic relation (p. 32; p. 64) whether it refers to the base form, core use or stylistic use in discourse (pp. 60-64).

Anita Naciscione believes that proverbs are part of phraseology from the linguistic point of view, that is, part of the phraseological stock of language on the following grounds. Semantically, they comply with the main categorial requirements: stability, figuration, and cohesion. Syntactically, they feature sentence structure (simple, compound or complex), and they never exceed sentence boundaries in their base form. Stylistically, functioning of proverbs presents a great variety of patterns of stylistic use (see, for instance, Mieder 1989), the same as in other types of PUs (p. 19).

The book is a major theoretical contribution to the development of this research area for the following reasons.

1. The theoretical conception is based on cognitive stylistics: the whole book is written with a cognitive approach in mind, and it offers a comprehensive view of all aspects of the subject. Anita Naciscione concludes that stylistic changes reflect the development of figurative thought in discourse, which is closely linked

with creativity in language use. A cognitive linguistic approach is a tool that helps to perceive, to understand, and appreciate stylistic use. Unfortunately, the cognitive perspective is not reflected in the title of the book.

2. The stylistic functioning of PUs, including proverbs, is analyzed in discourse (pp. 73-74; 209-210). Anita Naciscione argues against the widespread approach to analyze PUs in separate sentences, taken out of context. A discourse-based approach enables her to disclose the flow of the thinking process and sustainability of figurative thought across sentence boundaries, paragraphs, chapters and even a whole book. Sustained stylistic use reflects extended figurative thought and contributes to the perception of the text as a cohesive entity. In this way, the PU acquires a discourse dimension (pp. 191-192).

3. The book gives an excellent diachronic insight into stylistic use of PUs, going back to the OE, MiE and EMoE periods up to Modern English. The diachronic angle has proved fruitful; it serves 1) to disclose and substantiate the regularities of stylistic functioning of PUs; 2) to reveal cross-centuries stability of the language units themselves (which does not exclude their changes and development in the course of time, p. 58) and 3) to bring out stability of the stylistic pattern (or stylistic device, to use an older term) that lies at the basis of the stylistic instantiation, which means concrete, unique cases of actual use (p. 72), such as extended metaphor, pun, split-up, allusion, replacement, and others. Stylistic patterns are also characterized by stability across centuries. For example, when analyzing extended metaphor as one of the most widespread stylistic patterns in the use of PUs, Anita Naciscione gives examples starting from OE (year 750), MiE, Shakespeare's plays up to MoE where extended metaphor covers longer stretches of text (pp. 84-90). Her analysis of allusion as a stylistic pattern presents great interest as it has not been researched in phraseological stylistics as yet. It is a creative technique that develops a novel meaning of the basis of phraseological metaphor, e.g. Chaucer uses the proverb *curses, like chickens, come home to roost*, which is alluded to in "The Canterbury Tales": "And ofte tyme swich **cursinge** wrongfully retorneth agayn to him that **curseth**, as a bryd that retorneth agayn to his owene nest" (p. 113). The proverb is alluded to and

extended, even though only one of the base constituents has been preserved. As a result of diachronic analysis, she comes to the conclusion that both the PU and the stylistic pattern are stored in the long-term memory of language users.

4. The chapter on visual representation of figurative thought is both interesting and useful. It offers a rich variety of well-researched illustrations (bigger and clearer pictures would have been desirable, though). Anita Naciscione's analysis reveals the subtle interrelation between the verbal and the non-verbal in representation of stylistic use. She stresses the importance of knowledge of the political, socio-cultural, and semiotic implications (pp.187-189). Visual representation creates new meaning, "stretches our imagination and sustains figurative thought" (p. 175).

5. Part Two is of great practical value. It explores challenges, which stylistic use of PUs cause in practical applications in various spheres of life. Here Anita Naciscione argues for applied stylistics, that is, practical applications of the theory. The reader feels that it could have been extended, especially the section on advertising, but then realizes that applied stylistics deserves a separate monographic investigation. This part provides useful insights for a diverse range of practitioners. The blend between theory and practice has been skillfully woven and the edition is useful for a wide spectrum of readers, including not only academics, but also teachers, students, translators, lexicographers and specialists in the advertising world. For all these different reasons, I feel that this high-quality edition by John Benjamins deserves a paperback publication to provide access to more people interested in the given area.

The text is well written, direct and to the point, and in a style which makes a complex subject easy to follow. The contents are well documented with extensive references. Ample textual illustrations have been taken from a wide range of English stylistic use in different genres: prose, poetry, drama, and media texts. Much attention has been paid to elaboration of key terminology, and the book is supplied with a glossary of clear-cut definitions of key terms. I may conclude that Anita Naciscione's book *Stylistic Use of Phraseological Units in Discourse* opens up new perspectives for further research in phraseological stylistics.

References:

Kunin, Alexander V. 1970. *Angliyskaya frazeologiya: teoreticheskiy kurss* [English Phraselogy: A Theoretical Course]. Moskva: Vysshaya shkola.

Mieder, Wolfgang. 1989. *American Proverbs: A Study of Texts and Contexts*. Bern, Frankfurt/M., New York and Paris: Peter Lang.

Tatiana Fedulenkova
Department of English
Pomorsky State University
P.O. Box 32
164501 Severodvinsk
Russia
E-mail: fedulenkova@list.ru