

CROSS – CULTURAL ANALYSIS OF THE CONCEPT “WISH”

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ABSTRACT

The article deals with the significant role of the category of wish of English and Russian languages. Identifying dictionary or literal meanings of the concept WISH in both English and Russian languages. Semantic similarities and differences of the concept WISH. The concept Wish has its own peculiarities in respect of the communicative phraseological units and stable word groups. There are set phrases used in particular domains.

Keywords: *cross-cultural analysis, nominal meaning, phraseological units, evaluative and emotive features.*

Introduction

A wish is a concept which plays a significant role in Phraseology, Linguistics and sociocultural interaction as well, where it is used to express several meanings such as a strong desire to do something, or a hope for something to happen, or good regards on special occasions, etc. The lexeme WISH contains nominative, communicative and pragmatic functions.

The notional level of analysis indicates that the nominal or dictionary meaning of the word “WISH” has some certain linguistic meanings. For instance, according to **Macmillan dictionary** the concept “WISH” represents the following definitions:

- 1) want something to happen although it is unlikely (*I wish I were on a beach*).
- 2) feel sorry or disappointed about something that you did or did not do (*Now he wished that he had listened more carefully*).
- 3) want something, or to want to do something (*You may have a look around, if you wish*).

According to Cambridge dictionary:

- 1) **wish** *verb* (FEEL SORRY):
 - *I wish you were coming with me, Peter.* (used with the past simple to express that you feel sorry or sad about a state or situation that exists at the moment)

- *I wish I hadn't eaten so much.* (used with the past perfect to express that you feel sorry or sad about a particular action in the past)

2) wish **verb** (WANT) (to want to do something):

- *I wish to make a complaint.* ([+ to infinitive])

- *I wish she'd shut up for a minute and let someone else talk.* (used to express anger at someone's behaviour)

3) wish **verb** (HOPE) (to hope or express hope for another person's success or happiness or pleasure on a particular occasion):

- *We wish you every success in the future.*

4) wish **verb** (MAGIC) (to hope that something you want will be made real because of good luck or magical powers):

5) wish **verb** (GREET) (to welcome someone with particular words or a particular action):

- *He wishes me every morning.*

According to **Mnemonic Dictionary** the notion wish is:

1) a specific feeling or desire (noun: he got his wish),

2) an expression of some desire or inclination that functions as indirect request (noun: I could tell that it was his wish that the guests leave)

3) polite expression of desire for someone's welfare= compliments , regard (noun, usually plural: give him my kind regards; my best wishes)

4) hope for; have a wish (verb: I wish I could go home now)

5) prefer or wish to do something=care , like (verb: Would you like to come along to the movies?)

6) make or express a wish (verb: I wish that Christmas were over)

7) feel or express a desire or hope concerning the future or fortune of=wish well (verb)

8) invoke upon=bid (verb: bid farewell, wish you a nice evening)

At the same time **Collins dictionary** give such definitions as to "want, long for" (*I wish to travel*); "to entertain wishes", favorably or otherwise (*wish someone well; to wish someone ill*); "to bid", as in greeting or leave-taking (*wish someone a good morning*); "to request or charge" (*I wish him to come*); "to make a wish" (*She wished more than she worked. When it serves as a noun it is a request or command (I was never forgiven for disregarding my father's wishes); an expression of a kindly or courteous nature (to send one's best wishes)*)

The **free dictionary** defines it as to "long for" (want); "to feel a desire for" (*I wish them good luck*); "To order, entreat, or request": (*I wish you to go*); "To desire (something bad) to happen to someone": *I would not wish such an illness on anyone.*

The synonyms of wish can be the words as DESIRE, WANT, CRAVE, COVET. To "Wish" is to feel an impulse toward attainment or possession of something; the strength of

the feeling may be of greater or lesser intensity: *I wish I could go home*. DESIRE, a more formal word, suggests a strong intention or aim: *They desire a new villa*. WANT, usually colloquial in use, suggests a feeling of lack or need that imperatively demands fulfillment: *People all over the world want peace*. CRAVE stresses the force of physical appetite or emotional need. He *craves* sweets. COVET implies strong envious desire. *Covets* his rise to fame.

The Russian translation of the word *wish* is “*желание, желать*”. Как пишет Аристотель, к желанию относятся влечение, храбрость и воля. Следует добавить сюда же любовь и надежду. Действительно, как поясняется в трактате «О душе», желание (*стремление*) представляет собой нашу единую движущую силу. Желание – это живущая в каждом из нас движущая сила; наша способность существовать, как говорит Спиноза, чувствовать и действовать.

According to Толковый словарь Ожегова “желать” —это влечение, стремление к осуществлению чего-нибудь., обладанию чем-нибудь: желание учиться, заветное желание, гореть желанием, исполнение желаний, желание успеха, при всём желании (хотя и очень хочется). Он желал, чтоб ветер выл не так уныло. Пушкин, Медный всадник.

According to Толковый словарь Ефремова «желать» —это иметь внутреннее стремление к осуществлению чего-либо или к обладанию чем-либо; хотеть. Чья-либо просьба, воля. Высказывать пожелания (обычно благополучия, успехов и т.п.).

According to Словарь синонимов Абрамова — желать (пожелать) хотеть, жаждать, алкать, вожделеть, стремиться (порываться) к чему, домогаться чего, мечтать (вздыхать) о чем, бредить чем, зариться на что, облизываться; преследовать какую цель. Желая (всей душой, от души, пламенно), имею желание. Желание — воля, хотение, охота, готовность, жажда, алчность, вожделение, похоть, нетерпение, зуд, свербез; стремление, влечение, порыв, позыв, аппетит, погоня, спрос, тенденция. Желание горячее, душевное, жгучее, непреодолимое, неумеренное, пламенное.

The second level of analysis of phraseological units concerning the component “wish” appears to be in many phrases, idioms and proverbs indicating both evaluative and emotive features. The phrases that contain the word wish are:

1. **wishy washy-the phrase has a negative meaning which means *not able to decide, indecisive*: *I like you because you're decisive, because you're not wishy washy*. The phrase is emotive as the phrase attributes speaker's unpleasant feelings.**

2. **death wish-the phrase means *you want to die, inviting death, hence; it covers a negative evaluation and miserable emotions*. *To challenge the Mafia would be a death wish. It would be suicide*.**

3. wishful thinking-**means believing it is true because you wish it was true. Roy says that he is going to marry Dawn, but it is a wishful thinking. The phrase contains neural evaluative meaning as it is only a dream which may come true or not.**

4. **You wish!** (informal) used to say that something is impossible or very unlikely, although *someone* wishes it were possible. Example:

- Mark: I'm gonna marry a rich and beautiful actress one day.
- Spencer: YEAH! **You wish!** (*Spencer thinks Mark's plan is impossible or very unlikely*)

The evaluative meaning of the idiom "You wish" is negative as it creates impossible value. The emotive meaning can contribute to speaker's wishes which he believes may reach.

5. Idiom: wish something off on somebody - **means to pass something off onto someone else- "BURDEN" (Informal.)**

- **I don't want to have to deal with your problems. Don't wish them off on me.**
- **The storekeeper wished off the defective watch on the very next customer who came in.**

6. If wishes were horses, then beggars would ride-**is a Chinese proverb which is specific for this culture, meaning "wishing alone is of no use; you must act as well". Life would be very easy if goals could be achieved only by desiring. The proverb has both positive evaluative and emotive meanings which treats a human being to act or move in order to achieve his wishes or desires. In the proverb the concept "wish" has the meaning of desire or ambitions but unfortunately not all our ambitions/aims could have been achieved.**

7. The wish is father to the thought- **is the synonym to the phrase "wishful thinking". Our opinions or beliefs are often influenced by our desires and hopes. The phrase expresses a figurative meaning as wish is father to the thought means that the thought is born from the wish. Thus, the concept wish forms metaphor. This proverb is based on Shakespeare's *King Henry IV Part*. People sometimes come to believe something that they wish were true. For example: Jane hoped that her boss would resign, and the wish was father to the thought. Soon she had told everyone in the office that she was sure her boss was leaving. The phrase may show both evaluative and emotive meanings which can be either positive or negative depending on the situation.**

8. Wish in one hand and shit in the other and see which (hand) gets full first-**When a person wants the impossible. Here the concept "wish" illustrates the meaning "hope or belief".**

Joe: We need world peace. Can't we just all get along? Tom: Well Joe, Wish in one hand, shit in the other.

The emotive meaning of the proverb renders the speaker's attitude towards the unreality. The evaluative meaning of the proverb could be neutral.

9. Wishes won't wash dishes is an *American proverb* giving the idea of day-dreaming in spite of achieving all possible goals. The proverb gives a negative evaluative meaning.

10. Even the wishes of a small ant reach heaven is a Japanese Proverb where the concept wish gives the meaning of “prayers”. The meaning of the following proverb is God hears all living beings. While the proverb expresses a positive meaning, it transfers a pleasing and optimistic- emotive meaning.

11. Many kiss the hand they wish to cut off-means don't be deceived by mere politeness, as people are often polite to those they intend to harm. The concept wish gives the meaning “eager”. The emotive meaning of the proverb is negative as it illustrates possible cut offs by smiling people who may have dark ambitions towards other people.

12. If you wish good advice, consult an old man-this saying means that old people have more experience than younger ones so you can ask; go to for advice or information. Here, wish gives the meaning of “want”. The saying has positive evaluative meaning.

Below there are the Russian proverbs containing the word “wish”:

- 1) Много желать — ничего не видать.
- 2) Без охоты не споро у работы.
- 3) Желай по силе, тянись по достатку
- 4) Желание народа озеро сдвинет
- 5) было бы желание, а способ найдётся
- 6) Не все сбывается, чего желается
- 7) Дурак мечтает о богатстве, мудрец — о счастье
- 8) Желającego судьба ведет, нежелающего - тащит.
- 9) Легко желается то, что делается охотно.
- 10) На каждое хотение имей терпение.
- 11) И у маленького человека могут быть большие желания.
- 12) Желание грешных погибает.
- 13) Где желание, там и путь.
- 14) Незнание — не порок, нежелание знать — большой порок.
- 15) У сильных людей есть желания, а у слабых — мечты.

Let's analyze five proverbs given above. The proverb “Была бы охота — заладится любая работа”, the word охота gives the meaning of mood, wish, inner aspiration to do something. It presents positive meaning. “Где желание, там и путь” - the concept “желание” gives the meaning of “will” The meaning of proverb coincides the English proverb “Where there's a will, there's a way”. Both evaluative and emotive meanings are positive in this proverb as it concerns a way where there is a will. “У сильных людей есть желания, а у слабых — мечты”- the concept “желание” gives here the meaning of “goals or ambitions”, hence; the evaluative meaning is considered to be positive and emotive meaning strengthens the meaning of proverb and inspires. “Беден

НЕ ТОТ, У КОГО МАЛО ЧТО ЕСТЬ, А ТОТ, КТО МНОГОГО ЖЕЛАЕТ” - **the notion “желает” gives the meaning “to want a lot” which serves to have negative meaning.** “Не все сбывается, чего желается” - **the word “желается” means “want”-the emotive meaning is a bit unsatisfied as the speaker can’t achieve all what he wants or desires in life.**

The third level of text analysis containing the concept wish is dedicated to identify the different meanings of concept WISH in different text extracts. For instance, 1) “The cook, however, thought to himself: ‘If the child has the **power of wishing**, and I am here, he might very easily get me into trouble.’ So he left the palace and went to the boy, who was already big enough to speak, and said to him: ‘Wish for a beautiful palace for yourself with a garden and all else that pertains to it.’ Scarcely were the words out of the boy’s mouth, when everything was there that he had wished for. After a while the cook said to him: ‘It is not well for you to be so alone, **wish for** a pretty girl as a companion. In this text the “**power of wish**” gives the meaning to accomplish any wish or desire no matter what happens. While “**wish for**” stands for “make a wish”.

2) There’s a **wish list** from San Diego Council members of what they’d like to get done with that \$62 million. Councilman Scott Sherman, for instance, said he wants to use it in neighborhoods for beautification of utility boxes or sidewalk repair. Councilwoman Vivian Moreno wants some cash siphoned off for a special climate equity fund to support projects in underserved areas of the city. The phrase **wish list** stands for a list of desired but often realistically unobtainable items.

3) In China, at a time when few girls are taught to read or write, Ruby **dreams** of going to the university with her brothers and male cousins. On New Year’s Day, Ruby put on red velvet shoes and tied red ribbons in her hair. Then she went to **wish everyone a happy new year**.. Each one gave her a red packet full of lucky money. Finally, she bowed before her grandfather. “Good luck and prosperity, Grandfather,” she said. “Good luck, little Ruby,” replied her grandfather, and he handed her a very fat red packet. Ruby could feel the eyes of all her family on her as she opened the lucky red envelope. Can you guess what was in it? It wasn’t money, it was something much better than that. It was a letter from a university, saying that they would be proud to accept Ruby as one of their very first female students. So that’s how Ruby **got her wish**. It’s a true story. And how do I know this? Well, Ruby is my grandmother, and every day she still wears a little red. The phrase “**got her wish**” constitutes that Ruby achieved her goal or her dream came true.

The extracts taken from the Russian texts have the following meanings:

1. Ночью, сидя на дворе, на поленнице дров, я почувствовал настойчивое желание рассказать кому-нибудь о бабушке. М. Горький, Мои университеты. Here, the WISH gives the meaning of great will or a strong desire to do something.

2. Я хочу видеть - понимаешь? хочу видеть и не могу освободиться от этого желания. Короленко, Слепой музыкант. The given expression shows how someone

desires or longs to see someone, and it raises the feeling of inner motivation. 3. Желание его исполнили и похоронили возле церкви, близ могилы Пульхерии Ивановны. Гоголь, Старосветские помещики. The examples given above gives the meaning of request, command or order.

4. Влюбленный граф в потемках бродит, Дорогу ощупью находит. Желаньем пламенным томим, Едва дыханье переводит. Пушкин, Граф Нулин. И слышался голос Тамары: Он весь был желанье и страсть. Лермонтов, Тамара. The meaning of wish coincides with the meaning of the word LOVE, full of love to someone.

Conclusion

Wish is widely used as a polite substitute for *want* with infinitives: *Do you wish to sit at a table on the terrace?* Wish is regret, feeling sorry for something; it is a desire, strong intention and positive regards.

The cross-cultural analysis of the concept WISH/ЖЕЛАНИЕ in English and Russian languages has shown that the English phraseological units as proverbs for example, are less than in Russian language, but all phraseological units whether they are phrases, idioms or proverbs are educational and useful. The notional meanings, conceptual features, evaluative and emotive components of the concept WISH almost constitute the same meanings in both Russian and English languages.

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