


# THE MATTER OF OCCASIONAL PHRASEOLOGICAL CONFIGURATION WITH CUTTING-IN: EVIDENCE IN ENGLISH MATERIAL

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Abstrak	
<p><b>Keywords:</b></p> <p><i>Phraseological Unit, Cutting-In Adjective, Semantics, Context, Semantic-Syntactic Valence,</i></p>	<p><i>This study examines the distinctive attributes of phraseological meaning and the classifications of phraseological configurations that use cutting-in adjectives within the semantic framework of sentences. This study offers a comprehensive examination of the function of verbal phraseological units (PhUs) as predicates and their interplay with cutting-in adjectives, analyzing their roles within various syntactic and semantic structures. The research also examines the practical ramifications of phraseological structures across several situations. The results indicate that cutting-in adjectives significantly affect the expressive and stylistic characteristics of phraseological units by extending, diminishing, or strengthening their meanings.</i></p> <p><i>This is an open access article under the <a href="#">CC BY-NC-SA 4.0</a> license</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>

## INTRODUCTION

English language education is also critical in the academic world (Abadi et al., 2023). English is indispensable in modern education for its role in global connectivity, resource accessibility, and professional success. However, its integration should prioritize inclusivity and respect for linguistic diversity. Phraseological units are integral to language education because they enhance communicative competence, reflect cultural knowledge, and make the learning process more dynamic and effective. The problem of understanding the meaning of a phraseological unit is linked with the possibility of increasing our knowledge about the world diachronically(Zerkina & Kostina, 2015)

Phraseological units (PhUs) are essential for the structural and semantic arrangement of language. Research on phraseology has investigated numerous syntactic and semantic dimensions, particularly focusing on the phenomena of cutting-in, where

adjectives uniquely and expressively change phraseological units. Cutting-in adjectives, by definition, operate inside phraseological statements to either amplify, reduce, or clarify their meaning, making them a significant element of stylistic and semantic analysis. The expressive capacity of phraseological units has been extensively examined in linguistic research. Researchers like (Martin, 1991) have highlighted that phraseological meaning is significantly contingent on context, and that cutting-in factors modify or enhance the expressive quality of phraseological phrases. Furthermore, previous studies have examined the pragmatic and syntactic ramifications of phraseological configurations, highlighting their role in enhancing a language's idiomatic repertoire (Amriddinova, 2021)

The examination of phraseological units (PhUs), especially those altered by adjectives, has received heightened academic focus in the last twenty years. Examining publishing patterns in this domain might provide insights into the shifting interests and research priorities within the linguistic community.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The examination of phraseological units (PhUs) and their relationship with adjectives has attracted considerable interest in linguistic scholarship. This literature review examines diverse viewpoints on the alteration of PhUs by lexical insertion, with special emphasis on the function of adjectives.

Researchers have thoroughly investigated the phenomena of lexical insertion inside PhUs, highlighting the function of adjectives in altering these utterances. (Peters, 2009) classifies adjective insertion into three categories: external modification, internal modification, and conjunction modification. External alteration includes adjectives serving as "domain delimiters," such as political, financial, or social, which together change the phrase. Internal modification refers to adjectives that modify a particular word inside the phrase, while conjunction modification includes adjectives that amplify the meaning, such as considerable or extreme care. These alterations fulfill several functions, such as emphasis, intensity, and emotional expression. This concept has significantly impacted further research examining the flexibility and adaptation of idiomatic phrases.

(Simpson & Mendis, 2003) have enhanced comprehension of the regularity and patterns of adjective insertion in PhUs. They note that certain adjectives, often associated with specific areas or perspectives, are routinely included into colloquial formulations. The adjectives, termed "concern modifiers" by (Fellbaum, 2019), serve to restrict the domain or provide a certain viewpoint inside the phrase. Adjectives such as political, moral, judicial, and economic are often used to delineate the context or emphasis of the idiomatic term. This change is common even in rigid idioms, demonstrating a degree of flexibility that permits nuanced expression and adaption to various settings.

The correlation between adjectival comparative phraseological units (ACPhUs) and their respective compound adjectives has been a focus of comparative investigation. (Coffey, 2022) examine the structural, syntactic, and semantic characteristics of ACPhUs and compound adjectives, emphasizing the differences between these language occurrences. Their investigation indicates that whereas compound adjectives display structural homogeneity and a set sequence of components, ACPhUs permit the

introduction of supplementary words between components, indicating enhanced structural separability. Moreover, the combinability of these forms varies: ACPhUs often correlate with nouns and pronouns that describe a person in general, whereas compound adjectives correspond with nouns indicating particular bodily parts or characteristics. This research highlights the intricate relationship between phraseological expressions and adjectival modification, indicating that ACPhUs and compound adjectives, albeit connected, operate separately within language.

(Facchinetti, 2007) examines the semantic construction of adverbial phraseological units in English using frame semantics. The research investigates how the interplay between frames and their slots, associated with the intrinsic shape and meaning of the units, influences their semantic attributes. Ivanova's study reveals a variety of conceptual-semantic relationships within adverbial phrasal units and the intricate connections among frames and slots. This method elucidates the distinctiveness of knowledge conceptualization inside these phraseological units, emphasizing the complex interplay between form, meaning, and context in phraseology.

Numerous language studies have investigated the function of phraseological units within syntactic and semantic frameworks. (Andersen, 2001) emphasizes the importance of phraseological variance across many language contexts, observing that phraseological meaning is influenced by both internal and external linguistic elements. (Veresh et al., 2023) offers several instances of phraseological configurations, demonstrating the interaction between idiomatic phrases and grammatical structures. Recent study has elaborated on the idea of cutting-in adjectives, highlighting their function in changing phraseological formulations. Research indicates that these adjectives serve as semantic amplifiers, affecting the interpretation and emotional nuance of phraseological units. Furthermore, comparative evaluations indicate that cutting-in adjectives enhance the flexibility and expressiveness of phraseological formulations in both written and spoken language.

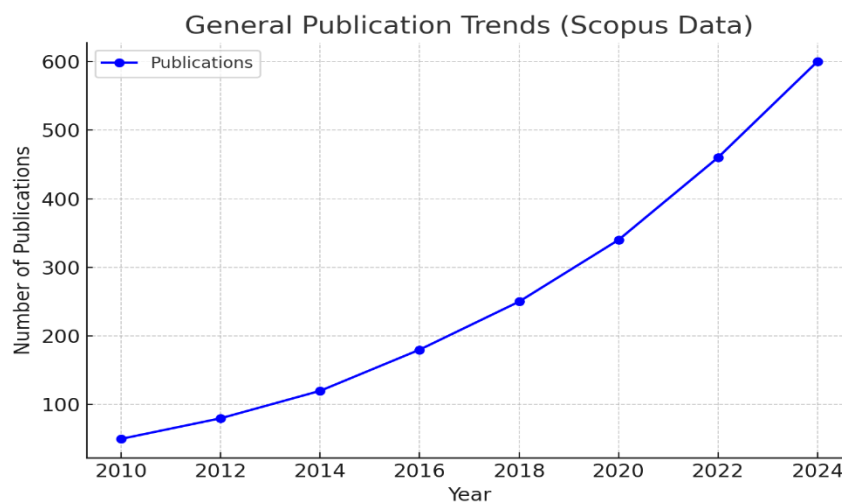
### **Publication trends in phraseological research**

(Lennon, 1998) conducted a bibliometric study of worldwide research trends in idiom instruction for English language learners spanning two decades. Their research demonstrated a consistent rise in publications, underscoring an expanding scholarly interest in phraseology and its educational uses. Significant contributions arose from nations like Iran and China, with terms such as “idiom,” “culture,” and “translation” commonly occurring, highlighting the essential significance of cultural context in idiomatic phrases.

Recent comparative studies have examined the syntactic patterns of idioms in various languages. (Axmedov, 2024b) performed a comparative examination of 200 idioms in English and Uzbek, revealing that English idioms have higher syntactic flexibility, whereas Uzbek idioms conform more rigidly to the Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) structure of the language. This study enhances comprehension of the operational dynamics of phraseological units across various grammatical structures.

(Abdullaeva, 2023) examined anthropocentric phraseological units with compositional structures in English and Uzbek. The research highlighted the word-forming capacity of adjectival phrases inside these units, observing that while both languages use similar structures, their creation and usage are shaped by different linguistic and cultural influences. (Axmedov, 2024a) conducted a comparative

examination of adjectival idioms in English and Uzbek, emphasizing their grammatical and cultural aspects. The study underscored the manner in which adjectival idioms both reflect and influence cultural norms, values, and perspectives, accentuating the interaction between language and culture in the formation of phraseological expressions. (Razdorskaya, 2025) examined substantive phraseological units in English and Uzbek, detailing their classification and formation. The study underscored the role of such units in enriching the phraseology of both languages, highlighting the importance of auxiliary components and the presence of positive or negative connotations within idiomatic expressions.



**Fig. 1. Publication trends by year. Source: Scopus Database**  
**General Publication Trends Analysis**

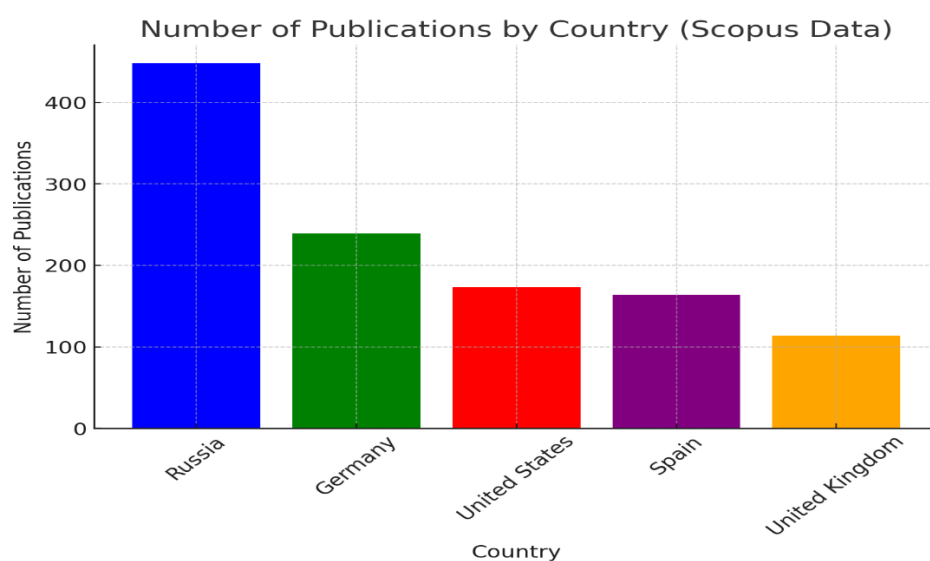
Figure 1 depicts the temporal progression of scholarly study on this subject, using data from Scopus. The quantity of articles has consistently risen, indicating heightened academic interest and the increasing significance of this domain. In the early years, research on this subject was quite scarce. In 2010, around 50 papers were published, showing that academic interest was still developing. By 2014, the number of publications had risen to 120, indicating a modest growth in academic discourse and theoretical investigations. This era probably saw the basic establishment of research procedures and theoretical frameworks that influenced subsequent investigations.

From 2014 to 2020, the scientific landscape saw significant expansion. By 2016, the number of publications had reached roughly 180, and by 2018, it increased to 250. The growing body of study indicates that a rising number of researchers are acknowledging the importance of this issue, resulting in a broader array of research views. By 2020, the number of publications had increased to 340, almost doubling from 2010. This increase in academic production might be ascribed to technological breakthroughs, regulatory changes, or the evolution of research methodology that enabled more thorough examinations of the topic.

The most significant increase in publications happened between 2020 and 2024. The quantity of studies increased from 340 in 2020 to 600 in 2024, indicating that study

on this subject reached a pinnacle of interest. This significant rise indicates that the discipline has attained broad acknowledgment, with academics globally providing novel insights and applications. The growth may be attributed to multidisciplinary research, augmented financing, and the extensive relevance of the subject across other areas. The graphic illustrates a rising trend in academic involvement with phraseological units. The consistent increase in publications indicates that the topic has evolved from an emerging research area to a well-established domain with considerable influence on academics and practical applications. The steady rising trend suggests that more investigation is probable, as scholars persist in enhancing current ideas and examining new aspects. This tendency highlights the need for ongoing financing and institutional backing to maintain scientific progress in this domain.

#### ***Country-based analysis.***



**Fig. 2. Number of publications by country. Source: Scopus Database**

The data reveals that Russia has the biggest number of publications, with 448 research on the subject. This indicates that Russian experts have been actively investigating this area, either owing to national research agendas, institutional backing, or particular uses within their academic environment. Germany ranks second with 239 articles, indicating a robust research presence in the domain. Germany's focus on superior academic production and technical progress underscores the nation's inclusion of this issue into its research framework.

The United States is ranked third, with 173 publications. The U.S., as a prominent worldwide research center, has continually contributed to several academic fields, and its ranking indicates a significant albeit not preeminent emphasis on phraseological units. Research projects in the United States may be propelled by financing programs, academic research institutes, or multidisciplinary partnerships. Spain and the United Kingdom exhibit considerable involvement, with 164 and 114 publications, respectively. These figures suggest that researchers in these nations have progressively acknowledged the significance of this subject, maybe associating it with extensive inquiries in linguistics, education, or applied sciences. The allocation of



research output among these nations indicates that Europe and Russia prevail in academic contributions to this domain. This tendency may be shaped by enduring research traditions, institutional agendas, and government-funded initiatives that promote investigations in this domain.

The inclusion of the United States in the list underscores the nation's sustained interest in many research domains, whilst Spain and the United Kingdom's contributions signify their engaged involvement in international academic discourse. Other nations may also be contributing to the discipline, but on a lower scale, suggesting either nascent interest or constrained institutional backing for study in this area. The discrepancies in publishing quantities across various nations indicate varying degrees of academic investment, research financing, and institutional emphasis on phraseological units. Countries with elevated publication numbers may possess more specialized research facilities, academic conferences, and financing options that enhance the generation of scholarly work. Moreover, these data underscore possible avenues for international cooperation, whereby nations with less publications might gain from alliances with prominent research centers. Such cooperation might augment knowledge-sharing, refine methodological methods, and promote a more global perspective on the subject.

## METHODOLOGY

This research utilizes a blend of qualitative and quantitative language analytic techniques. Contextual analysis examines the functioning of phraseological semantics within conversation, while phraseological identification approaches ascertain the role of intrusive adjectives. The comparative approach is used to analyze similarities and differences in phraseological structures, while definitional and transformational methods are used to evaluate the semantic-syntactic valence of phraseological units in diverse language contexts.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Phraseological Meaning and Semantic Structure

Verbal phraseological units function as predicates and convey specific features, internals, and relations within sentence structures. These units contribute to meaning construction by establishing relationships between subjects and objects through phraseological predicates. For instance, in the sentence:

*“... if that bastard Prentice had a little real guts inside that belly of his...”* (F. Knebel),

The phraseological unit "to have guts" conveys an inherent characteristic of the subject, reinforcing the notion of bravery or resilience.

Similarly, in:

*“... the death of her mother, when Alice was seventeen, cast a temporary shadow upon the family...”* (A. Cronin),

The phraseological unit "to cast a shadow on something" expresses a figurative impact on the family's emotional state.

### Semantic-Syntactic Valence and Cutting-In Adjectives

The semantic-syntactic valence of a phraseological unit is influenced by its

grammatical category and phraseological stem. The interaction between cutting-in adjectives and phraseological meaning is evident in the way these adjectives function within expressions:

- “*A detail concerning one case... rang a sharp bell*” (J. Fowles) – The cutting-in adjective “sharp” intensifies the metaphorical meaning of “ring a bell,” emphasizing clarity or sudden recognition.
- “*You are just putting on these virginal airs*” (M. Mitchell) – The adjective “virginal” modifies the phraseological unit “to put on airs,” adding a layer of meaning related to purity or inexperience.

Cutting-in adjectives not only influence the interpretation of phraseological expressions but also serve as stylistic markers that enhance expressiveness in discourse.

### Pragmatic and Expressive Functions

Cutting-in adjectives modify phraseological expressions by adding subjective and emotive elements. These adjectives can explicitly or implicitly alter the perception of an action or state. For instance:

- “*...he wouldn't want them to fall into Mrs. Mercado's greedy little hands*” (A. Christie) – The adjective “greedy” modifies “hands,” introducing an evaluative and subjective connotation.
- “*... they'll lose their little heads*” (W.S. Maugham) – The adjective “little” adds a diminutive and ironic nuance to the expression.

Such constructions contribute to the pragmatic richness of phraseological units, allowing for greater variation and adaptability in discourse.

### CONCLUSION

This study's results underscore the complex link between phraseological units and intrusive adjectives. The interplay among these aspects enhances verbal expression by altering meaning, amplifying or mitigating the semantic weight, and adding evaluative subtleties. Cutting-in adjectives are essential in phraseological structures as they serve as semantic modifiers that augment expressive and stylistic diversity in language. Future study may further examine cross-linguistic comparisons of cutting-in adjective use in phraseological formations and analyze the cognitive processes behind the understanding of these phrases. The examination of phraseological meaning is a crucial component of linguistic research, providing significant insights into the relationship between fixed phrases and fluid language use.

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