

**Eighth Lecture: Faces of Similarities between a ) Collocation and Idiomatic Expressions , b ) Collocation and Phrasal Verbs , c ) Collocation and Compounding .**

**Lexical and Grammatical Collocations .**

1- Faces of Similarities between a ) Collocation and Idiomatic Expressions , b ) Collocation and Phrasal Verbs , c ) Collocation and Compounding .

a ) Collocation and Idiomatic expression A collocational relation holds between two lexemes L1 and L2 if the choice of L1 for the expression of a given meaning is contingent on L2 , to which this meaning is applied . Thus , between the following pairs of lexical units collocational relations hold : to do : a favour , to make : a mistake , close : shave , narrow : escape , at : a university , in : a hospital . " An idiom is a complex , multiword expression whose meaning is non compositional , that is , not predictable from the meanings of the constituent parts . For example , one cannot work out that spill the beans means ' reveal the information ' or cut the mustard means ' meet an expected standard ' just on the basis of knowing the meanings of each of the individual words in the expressions and the rules of English grammar .

Instead, one has to learn the expressions as whole units and store them in the lexicon as lexemes. Because idioms are fixed expressions, the idiomatic meaning is typically not preserved if any of the component words are replaced with a (near) synonym, as in *spill the pulses*. The grammatical form of an idiom is also usually restricted. For example, *Peter kicked the bucket* cannot be put into passive voice while still retaining the idiomatic meaning: *The bucket was kicked by Peter* does not mean 'Peter died'.

Some idioms are metaphorically motivated – for example, *let off steam* 'release pent-up emotions' can be seen as involving a metaphorical conceptualization of a person as a pressurized steam cooker. Idioms are exceptions. An expression is an idiom if its meaning is not compositional, that is to say it cannot be worked out from knowledge of the meanings of its parts and the way they have been put together. *Come a cropper* means 'fall heavily' but we cannot derive this meaning from the meanings of *come*, *a*, *crop* and *-er*. *Browned off* (meaning 'disgruntled'), and *see eye to eye* (meaning 'agree') are other examples. Idioms simply have to be learned as wholes.

According to Philip (2011, p. 15), the conception idiom consists of two or a lot of writing words whose meaning, taken together, cannot be predicted from the meaning of the constituent components. In other words, there is a discrepancy between what the phrase as a full suggests that and what its constituents would refer if read compositionally. This, however, is one of the features of idiomaticity. For an idiom to express the meaning that it does, it should even be institutionalized. Institutionalization of lexis indicates that there is a received meaning which is understood by all.

the concept of **collocation** is certainly one of the most controversial notions in linguistics, even though it is thought of as certain words have tendency to occur near each other in natural language for example *blond* and *hair*. On the other hand, the special meaning of **idioms** is sometimes referred to as a non-compositional interpretation, meaning that the phrase as a whole has an interpretation that does not follow from the composition of its parts.

Ding (2018) adds the similarities between these two concepts:

- 1- Idioms can occur as part of collocations (e.g., [the nose in your face] in as plain as [the nose in your face]) or mix to make a collocation.

- 2- Both idioms and collocations typically correspond to a cognitively similar single type which can replace them either optionally or compulsorily in certain (stylistic) contexts: idioms, make up=compose, make it up=(be) reconcile(d), make up to=flatter; collocations, put down (the book)=deposit, come down=descend.
- 3- Collocations and idioms like the extent that both are usually related to grammatical generalizations and that both cut across syntactic categories, e.g., verb + object complement: play tricks (collocation), kick the bucket (idiom), verb + adverbial complement, put on (the coat) (collocation), put off (the meeting) (idiom).

#### b) Collocation and Phrasal Verbs

A collocation is an expression consisting of two or more words that correspond to some conventional way of saying things. Or in the words of Firth (1957): "Collocations of a given word are statements of the habitual or customary places of that word."

Collocations include noun phrases like strong tea and weapons of mass destruction, phrasal verbs like to make up, and other stock phrases like the rich and powerful . collocation means a relation within a syntactic unit between specific lexical parts; e.g. drunk with lord in as drunk as a lord; run with riot in run riot. Further in this regard . collocation as words that generally happen along. For instance, the sentence I strongly agree composes two words, strongly and agree, that commonly co-occur in this context.

Phrasal verb is a type of verb consisting of a sequence of a lexical element plus one or more particles e.g. come in, get up, look out for. Subtypes may be distinguished on syntactic grounds (for instance, the particles may be classified into prepositional or adverbial types), and the definition of 'phrasal' varies somewhat within different descriptions. But the overall syntactic and semantic unity of these sequences is readily demonstrable, using transformational and substitution criteria (cf. She got up at six/She rose at six/What time did she get up?, etc.).

By definition, phrasal verbs are collocations (two or more words that "go together"), but not all collocations are phrasal verbs.

A collocation is a general term referring to words that usually or always go together. A collocation can perform various functions in a sentence (i.e. act as different parts of speech). Some examples are "bunch of flowers" or "commit a crime."

A phrasal verb is usually a combination of a verb + a preposition which usually changes the meaning from that of the original verb. For example, “put + up with” means to tolerate, while “put + up” means to return something to its original/proper position (especially when cleaning), and “put + off” means to delay doing something until a later time.

The preposition part of the phrasal verb changes the entire meaning, so it’s good to memorize certain phrasal verbs in chunks of verb+prep instead of just learning the definition of the verb, and then the preposition separately.

A phrase is “a small group of words standing together as a conceptual unit”, while an idiom is “a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words”. So, the difference is that an idiom has an established meaning not directly linked to the individual words. It is also important to note that most phrasal verbs also form idioms since they have a figurative language. Whereas a Phrasal Verb is a phrase which consists of a verb in combination with either an adverb or preposition or both preceding or succeeding it. ... Idioms are groups of words in a specific order that form an expression whose meaning is different from that of the usual meanings of its constituent parts/words. but not all collocations are phrasal verbs. ... A collocation can perform various functions in a sentence (i.e. act as different parts of speech). Some examples are “bunch of flowers” or “commit a crime.”

### c) Collocation and Compounding.

compound noun is a noun made up of two or more nouns that form a word with a meaning of its own. The first noun acts as an adjective.

Examples: business intelligence, product manager, delivery date.

A collocation is two or more words that tend to be used together by native speakers of a language. The best way to understand a collocation is to see the below example-

This is strong coffee.

The collocation here is ‘strong’ and ‘coffee’. But what happens if we replace ‘strong’ with a synonym like ‘powerful’? Can we say ‘powerful coffee’?

To a native speaker 'powerful coffee' sounds strange and incorrect. So we need to know which words will work together to make word combinations that sound correct.

This is, of course, what makes collocations difficult for non-native speakers. You have to know which words go together, and the best way to do that is to learn them together.

There are a number of different word combinations that can make up a collocation. For example, there are verb + adverb collocations (agree completely) and adverb + adjective (fully aware). Strong coffee is an example of an adjective + noun collocation.

Collocation is the regular use of some words and phrases (verbs, nouns, adjectives or adverbs) with others, especially in a way that sounds correct to people who have spoken the language all their lives.

Examples: great pleasure, make money, rough guess, raise an issue.

Compound nouns are usually two or more words put together to create a new noun. examples sunflower, blackboard etc. Whereas collocations are words or phrases which are commonly used together. examples heavy rainfall, deep sleep, to make bed etc.

Like collocations, compound words are two words put together. The difference between them is that compound words are usually two or more nouns put together to create a new noun, whereas collocations are phrases created with two or more words that are associated together.

Here's an example: note and book are both nouns and when put together they make a third noun.

Example:

Notebook is a compound word.

Take notes or leave a note is collocation.

## **2- Lexical and Grammatical Collocations.**

Collocations are usually described as "sequences of lexical items which habitually co-occur [i.e. occur together]". The term collocation was first introduced by Firth, who considered that meaning by collocation is lexical meaning at the syntagmatic level. The syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations of lexical items can be schematically represented by two axes: a horizontal and a vertical one. The paradigmatic axis is the vertical axis and comprises sets of words that belong to the same class and can be substituted for one another in a specific grammatical and lexical context.

Some words have no specific collocational restrictions – grammatical words such as the, of, after, in. By contrast, there are many totally predictable restrictions, as in eke + out, spick + span, and these are usually analysed as idioms, clichés, etc. Another important feature of collocations is that they are formal (not semantic) statements of co-occurrence; e.g. green collocates with jealousy (as opposed to, say, blue or red), even though there is no referential basis for the link. Lexical items which are 'collocated' are said to be collocates of each other; the potential of items to collocate is known as their collocability or collocational range. A related notion is 'semantic prosody'. Collocational restrictions are analogous to the notion of selectional restrictions in generative grammar. Collocations should not be confused with the notion of word association in psychology, which refers to any kind of mental relationship between words – for example, car might produce the association New Zealand or Uncle Joe. Word associations of this kind are being increasingly studied as part of psycholinguistics, especially for the light they throw on cultural differences (e.g. in relation to bilingualism)

In a collocation one partner determines, another is determined. In other words, collocations have a basis and a co-occurring collocate. Lexical criterion (the lexical choice of the collocate depends on the basis). All word combinations are classified into two basic groups, i.e., fixed and nonfixed combinations, with further subdivisions, and in this classification, collocations belong to the category of non-fixed affine combinations. Collocation is a group of words that occurs repeatedly, i.e., recurs, in a language. Recurrent phrases can be divided into grammatical collocations and lexical collocations. Grammatical collocations consist of a dominant element and a preposition or a grammatical construction: fond of, (we reached) an agreement that... Lexical collocations do not have a dominant word; their components are "equal":

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