PROVERBS AND SAYINGS IN THE MODERN ENGLISH AND UKRAINIAN LANGUAGES

It is well-known that wisdom and spirit of people are expressed in its proverbs and sayings, and the knowledge of proverbs and sayings of this or that nation promotes not only a better knowledge of the language, but also helps understand views and characters of its people.

Our work is devoted to English and Ukrainian proverbs and sayings. The folklore of the Ukrainian and English languages is the object of the work.

The objectives of the work are:
- to learn to distinguish proverbs from sayings and idioms;
- to prove the relevance of proverbs;
- to consider the opportunity of using proverbs for training the language;
- to compare English and Ukrainian proverbs.

Working at our topic we used methods of theoretical research such as analysis, synthesis, comparison, generalization and also some methods of empirical knowledge such as study of literature and analysis of information.

The purpose of the work is to ascertain the origin of English proverbs and sayings, and to prove the relevance of using proverbs in daily speech.

During our research we studied the opinions of linguists and historians from different countries.

At various times different people gave explanations of the word "proverb" in their own way. We have studied some of them:
- Proverb is an old and common saying. (*Socrates*)
- Proverb is a brief saying that presents a truth or some bit of useful wisdom. (*William Shakespeare*)
- Прислів'я – влучний образний вислів, часто ритмічний за будовою, який у стислій формі узагальнює, типізує різні явища життя. (*Г.С. Сковорода*)

Proverbs and sayings, being an integral part of the national folklore, and in its turn, being an attribute of culture of the nation, comprise the reflection of the
people’s life; they reflect people’s views and characters. Proverbs: warn, sum up national experience, critically deride people’s instincts, maliciously make comments on appearance, give bright and remembered advice, teach wisdom of life, provide humor in a sarcastic way, philosophize and sum up thoughts.

“Proverbs are the wisdom of peoples” goes an Italian saying.

Analyzing materials on this theme we have sorted out a few sources of origin proverbs: national (ordinary people’s statements), literary (intelligent people’s statements), adoption (the Bible, proverbs and sayings from other languages).

But are proverbs actual nowadays? There are opinions that they are a relic of the past. We claim that proverbs remain actual up to present day.

English proverbs and sayings are an inexhaustible source of developing English learners’ communication skills and enriching their language as well as social and cultural competences. Using proverbs and sayings makes the process of training the language easier, more interesting and effective.

Proverbs can be used for training phonetic skills either while introducing a new phonetic phenomenon or while practising it.

Proverbs and sayings can be used for training grammar. It is possible to use proverbs while presenting and practising Passive Voice, Imperative Mood degrees of comparison, modal verbs, articles, irregular verbs, prepositions and so on.

The lexical and grammatical richness of proverbs allows us to use them not only while presenting and practising grammar but also for the enrichment of learners’ vocabulary. For example, proverbs and sayings can appear of great help to remember colours, numbers, names of animals etc.

Functioning as incentive motivation proverbs and sayings may be used for developing communicative skills, especially speaking and writing, The same proverb can be interpreted differently by different people so basing on the same proverb students learn to express their own ideas, feelings, emotions as well as to use it appropriately.
We have processed more over 500 English and Ukrainian proverbs, have compiled a chart “Comparison of Ukrainian and English proverbs” and have sorted out the basic similarities and differences between English and Ukrainian proverbs. The poetic style of proverbs and sayings has certain similar features in the English and Ukrainian languages.

Proverbs with such stylistic elements as metaphors, comparisons, metonymy, frequent address to antithesis, contrasting comparison of ideas, objects, features and actions, symmetric construction of proverbs on the principle of the syntactical parallelism is typical for both languages.

Most of the proverbs and sayings in both languages concern friendship and animosity, love and hatred, wisdom and stupidity, wealth and misery, home, marriage, family.

The most distinctive feature of Ukrainian proverbs is rhymes; however, English proverbs acquired special brightness due to their alliterative repetitions along with rhymes.

A specific dominant in the list of English and American proverbs and sayings is themes of medicine, health and success. Dealing with Ukrainian proverbs and sayings we concluded that the main topics include nature, natural phenomena, animals and vegetables, labour activity of people, especially farming, gardening and housekeeping.

Although many proverbs have been forgotten there still some that will forever be used. With a new generation, new technologies and a new lingo there will be more proverbs to come and more to be forgotten. People will continue to use old and new proverbs, therefore they will never die. They are an important part of learning and life in general.

So, results of our work might be used at English lessons and as incipient material for continuation of research on that subject.