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**Development of variability in phraseology
of biblical etymology**

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Received 28 March 2020; accepted 20 June 2020; published 30 June 2020

Abstract

The paper focuses on a comparative analysis of phraseological units of biblical etymology (BPU) with their prototypes in order to identify new variants of the studied phraseologisms that are widely used in different types of discourse presented in the British National Corpus (BNC), namely: in media texts, in texts of historical, political and cultural fields and also in texts of fiction. The prior attention is paid to the problem of identity and variability of biblical phraseological units as well as to the problem of co-relation of modern phraseological units with their biblical prototypes. The object of the research comprises above 400 phraseological units of biblical origin that are actively employed in modern English. The theoretical background of the research is the phraseological concept of Alexander V. Kunin and the method of phraseological identification and phraseological analysis introduced by the linguist and successfully tested in a number of studies of English as well as of German, Swedish, Holland, Norwegian and Russian phraseology. Variability of biblical PUs is studied by means of the contextual analysis. The study reveals different types of variants in biblical phraseology: lexical variants and their subtypes (substantive, prepositive-substantive, adjectival, verbal ones), morphological, syntactical and complex variants. The research shows that variability and identity of biblical phraseology do not contradict each another, since the variability of biblical phraseological units is relevant within the frames of their own, keeping their structural and semantic identity. This paper starts a series of articles on the problem of comparative variability and identity of biblical phraseology in a number of languages of the German and Slavic group.

Key words: phraseology; biblical phraseological unit; etymology; types of variability; structural-semantic invariant

How to cite: Fedulenkova T.N. (2020). Development of variability in phraseology of biblical etymology. *Research Result. Theoretical and Applied Linguistics*, V.6 (2), 83-96, DOI: [10.18413/2313-8912-2020-6-2-0-7](https://doi.org/10.18413/2313-8912-2020-6-2-0-7)

Alpha and Omega / *das A und das O* / *A och O* / *the apple of one's eye* / *der Augapfel im Auge* /
the forbidden fruit / *die verbotene Frucht* / *fOrbjuden frukt* /
the curse of Cain / *die Verdammnis von Kain* / *Kains verbannelse* /
Bileams Eselin / *Bileams asna* / *din ogonsten* / *Balaam's ass* /

(, 2019: 112). (King James Bible, 1769/2017), (BNC). (, 1996: 38-43), (, 2018: 2018: 74-97). (, 2016: 53; Mieder, 564-589). 1. 1: (, 1962) , 11, 12, (, 1980), : “And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Juda from the four corners of the earth” (King James Bible, 1769/2017, Isaiah 11:12) (, 1964: 443-519), (, 2010: 45-54; , 2011). (). from the four corners of the earth. (Cserep, 2018: 66), (), (Cavar, Vidovic-Bolt, 2018: 67), from the four corners of the world (), earth (Cserep, 2009: 27; Glaser, 2009: 86). world. : () When, in 1987, the British Army sold off their surplus Beaver fleet, a few optimistic Brits submitted tenders in the hopes of getting the odd bargain airshow and fun-flying machine. They got a nasty shock: real bush pilots had been attracted to the UK from the four corners of the earth to get these well-maintained examples, and the high prices they fetched reflected the great demand that still exists for these superb workhorses. (BNC). () I know what you’ve heard. You’ve heard about this symbol of the brotherhood of man set in welcoming Perugia with its ancient

traditions of hospitality, where every year bright-eyed, bushy-tailed youngsters come from the four corners of the world to study Italian culture and promote peace and international understanding. ' He looked intently at Zen. 'You 're not from round here, are you? ' Zen shook his head. 'In that case I can tell you that in my humble opinion this place is the meanest, tightest little arsehole in the entire fucking country. International understanding my bum! Christ, the people in this dump are so small-minded they treat the folk from the village down the hill as a bunch of <^> (BNC).

four

far all:

() With her experience in social service in Britain fresh in her mind the new Territorial Commander took a particular interest in that sphere and was soon rallying support from the far corners of the earth. There were plans to re-develop headquarters. Phase one would mean moving senior citizens to another part and developing a worship centre, hostel for business women and community centre with day care for children, and a feeding programme for the poor. Phase two would concentrate on headquarters and the development of the building for commercial purposes. (BNC).

() Such examples of foreign respect and admiration for the Comrade and his wife were displayed throughout Romania in every museum and library. The National History Museum on the Calea Victoriei in Bucharest had a floor devoted to 'homage ' to the Comrade and his wife. The salons were filled with honours, medals, awards, degrees from all corners of the earth, set out in cabinets according to the continent of origin. They were displayed with an almost subversive indifference to the impression made upon the spectator. (BNC).

globe,

four

various,

(),

from/

to ():

() Now I am quite prepared to believe that other countries can offer more obviously spectacular scenery. Indeed, I have seen in encyclopedias and the National Geographic Magazine breathtaking photographs of sights from various corners of the globe; magnificent canyons and waterfalls, raggedly beautiful mountains. It has never, of course, been my privilege to have seen such things at first hand, but I will nevertheless hazard this with some confidence: the English landscape at its finest—such as I saw it this morning—possesses a quality that the landscapes of other nations, however more superficially dramatic, inevitably fail to possess. (BNC).

() Lamborghinis, Porsche 911s and the sought-after 1952 Speedsters, and D and E-type Jaguars available. Replicas use the suspension, engines and gearboxes from wrecks. The most popular 'donor car ' is the Ford Cortina, with Jaguar parts favoured for more powerful vehicles. Kit car replicas arrive as a confusing jigsaw of pieces which have to be bolted together, often in the family garage. Turning out a well-finished car can take 400 hours of painstaking work. Britain's kit car industry is the largest in the world, with manufacturers exporting to all corners of the globe.' (BNC).

from the four
 corners of the earth the
 four corners of the earth () :

() It's another telling of *Beauty And The Beast*. An innovation has been to introduce four kings, representing the four corners of the earth, who come to woo Epine and win the kingdom she has seized, are entranced by Rose but rejected by her because the North is uncouth, the East too vain, the West too cynical and the South too violent. This gives MacMillan the opportunity in the first act, which is brilliant, to introduce his characters in solos of vivid personality while Rose's vision of her lost Prince provides a poetic *pas de deux*. (BNC).

2: - -
 -
 -
 , 40,

c 15, : "Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing" (King James Bible, 1769/2017, Isaiah 40:15).

drop of a bucket a
 , -
 ,
 of, .
 ,

a drop in the bucket
 ()
 (in the) -
 a drop in the ocean ()
 (in the ocean), :

(a) <^> but the Children Act in total (pause) we are going to spend something like another four hundred thousand in nineteen ninety one, in the new financial year, which is good news. <M> But, forgive me, that just

seems like it's a drop in the bucket. <^> Well it's a drop in the bucket in one sense, but it's on top of what we're already doing with our Children's Services, which are very good quality services now in the County. And it's a step. The following year that doubles up, and so on and so on. (BNC).

() It is sponsored by *Crosville Cymru* and is one of six in a scheme initiated by the Engineering Council and the Equal Opportunities Commission in 1984. It will show the girls that the image of an engineer as a man in dirty overalls tinkering with engines is completely misleading. One wonders what viewers of BBC2 will make of *Pobol y Cwm* when it is shown with sub-titles on that channel from January. Though the most successful Welsh language programme on S4C, its daily audience of an average 200,000 (almost half Wales's Welsh-speaking population) is a drop in the ocean compared with what it can attract on BBC2. (BNC).

just: just
 a drop in the bucket () just a drop in the ocean ():

() <M> a special *Neighbours* video based on Kylie's screen romance with Jason. *Neighbours: The Scott and Charlene Love Story*, in which Kylie would once more be seen in oilstained overalls as the tomboy mechanic from Ramsay Street, would damage her new sophisticated image, they claimed. Judge Beach disagreed and refused to grant an injunction. He ruled that Kylie, who had refused permission for the video when approached by Grundy, had a weak case because she owed much of her success to *Neighbours*. And he said that the video was 'just a drop in the bucket of *Neighbours* memorabilia'. (BNC).

() And we can think of other people like Mother Theresa too, in the face of <^ > so much er you know what people have said to her is, you know, don't you think that er <^ > what you're doing is just a drop in the ocean? You know you've got a million people

and you're just looking after a thousand, maybe more. And she has got the courage to look at that million people, which takes courage, and look at the thousand which she is helping and saying, no <^ > love is never wasted. You know it's er it's <^ > it's a mystery force, and what I do for one in some way affects the million. That takes courage, to actually think in those terms. (BNC).

but:

() <^ > while the Countryside Council for Wales provides additional grant-aid for activities in Wales. But after 23 years of inspiration and support, what has the Campaign really achieved? Well, over the last decade alone over 6,000 project grants have been awarded across the UK and there is an ever-increasing demand for information, currently running at 20,000 requests a year. However, I believe this is but a drop in the ocean compared to the vast number of communities that could play some form of active role, however modest. (BNC).

(a), (), (), (),

()

a drop in the bucket a drop in the ocean,

'a very small amount that will not have much effect' (Rundell, 2002: 428).

(important, small, mere, etc.), an important drop in the ocean, a mere drop in the ocean, a small drop in the ocean, etc.,

∴

() <^ > taken off their mothers hands while they're out at work and given a meal each day. The older ones are given perhaps the only education they'll ever receive. The project is managed in Bolivia by local officer Juan Vargas, but back home in Oxford it's the job of the Latin America desk to decide which

communities should receive funding. Female speaker: We get a lot more requests for funding than we can fund, <^ > we are a drop in the ocean but an important drop in the ocean. <_ > This region has just suffered a smallpox epidemic, and Serapia works to teach the women about the risks of disease, and to teach them basic health care. (BNC).

() <^ > buy the stuff. In addition, all that is required is a chemical room-temperature mechanism which involves nothing more complicated than an experiment in a high school science lab. Fusion in a beaker of water at room temperature: cold fusion or 'test-tube fusion' as it has become known. The details remain secret until all the patents are sewn up. Teams of security staff police the laboratory, guarding the precious property, protecting what potentially could lead to the greatest fortune ever; the combined wealth of Rockefeller, Vanderbilt and Onassis is a mere drop in the ocean compared to the promise of test-tube fusion. (BNC).

() <^ > are two rules which apply - one for the South African sportsman, the other for the South African businessman. All the countries we are talking about do an enormous amount of trade with South Africa. <^ > Yet we cannot get visas and we are such a small drop in the ocean compared with the businessman. No-one ever approaches them and says: "Stop this". We are the ones who are the front line troops, taking the knocks. We are quite happy to play with any sportsmen from any nation. Where does it stop? Who knows. What more can South Africa do as a country? I can't talk for other sports but I can stress again that we've got the highest ratio of black members of any golf body in the world. (BNC).

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important, small, mere—an important drop in the ocean, a small drop in the ocean, a mere drop in the ocean—

3:

a leading light

4:

: “He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light” (King James Bible, 1769/2017, John 5:35).

play the fool

1, 26,

21: “Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and I have erred exceedingly” (King James Bible, 1769/2017, 1 Samuel 26:21).

shining light ()

leading: leading light (). ∴

() And what happens from district to district, region to region, is sometimes as far apart as John Major and the British people. We know the reason local bargaining is being encouraged, it's to lower wages and conditions and give rich financial benefits to the few. There is a rule for a central research point but again colleagues, more is needed in the regions. Our union has been, without doubt, the shining light in terms of what we offer to members. And we must continue to improve and better the information that is provided. The easiest way is to channel resources into the regions. (BNC).

() Sir Jeffrey, who has acted as unpaid and part-time special adviser to six trade and industry secretaries, yesterday added a seventh to his belt. Nicholas Ridley, the latest incumbent, is retaining his silken skills to advise on 'industrial and financial affairs' and the Airbus programme. Of course Mr Ridley already has Katharine Ramsay, his special adviser at both environment and transport. The third member of the team is Michael Simmonds, a leading light in right-wing think tank the Adam Smith Institute. The City continues to treat the Royal Yacht, Britannia, as its own. (BNC).

- act the fool (). ∴

() He gave me such a look, as if I was being really disgusting. Then I had an inspiration. I acted a little charade. His oriental slave. He likes me to play the fool. The stupidest things I do he calls witty. He has even got in the habit of joining in, stumbling after me (not that I'm very dazzling) like a giraffe. So I got him to let me write another letter. He looked in the envelope again. Then I talked him into going to London, as my plan requires. I gave him a ridiculous list of things (most of them I don't want, but it'll keep him busy) to buy. (BNC).

() <^ > so you can see how much I regret my rudeness! 'A comparable version of this is the face made by someone who barges into a room unannounced expecting to speak to a friend, only to find that this friend is engaged in an intimate professional consultation with another colleague. Although a verbal apology would probably fit the bill, the offender may feel constrained to act the fool he expects to be accused of being. Hence an otherwise unintelligible grimace. (BNC).

play the fool

dead and buried dead and gone.

« »
dead and buried

: “Men and brethren,

let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both **dead and buried**, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day” (King James Bible, 1769/2017, Acts 2:29).

prized trophy overseas for the third year in a row by defeating Kelso 19-12 in the final. # Rugby Union: Mapletoft turns the screw on Harlequins # By Nick Cain # Rugby29pts Harlequins20 RUGBY’S League One ambitions looked dead and buried. (BNC).

(6) <^> or when we don’t get a commission we keep a copy of it with the documents for a reasonable period of time. <^>. Exactly. <_>. That’s divisional enquiry records, that’s just the enquiry form. <^> I’m just thinking you have written proposing you’ve got the file in front of the client, the job is dead and gone and never going to come back, do you have to file that lot away somewhere? (BNC).

2.

« »

(. . . , 1967)

() These charities were originally administered by the Church or trustees appointed by the old vestry meetings, but with the Local Government Act of 1894, they passed into the hands of the new parish councils, or such as still existed, for in 1893, we find the local vicar complaining that most of the charities were dead and buried, and that Thomas Towers promised to give twenty shillings each Christmas Day, very kind of him no doubt, but unfortunately he left no provision for anybody to give it after he was dead, so that in his case he and benefaction are both dead and buried. (BNC).

in deep waters
« », 69,

2: “I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come **into deep waters**, where the floods overflow me” (King James Bible, 1769/2017, Psalms 69:2),

in deep waters () in deep water ():

(a) But suppose we don’t know of any particular instances. Suppose we begin with an existential hypothesis, without being able to point to any confirming evidence. <^ > We are here already in deep waters, for what needs to be decided is just what sort of existential claims can be significantly made. If the proposition we start out with is simply that men exist - which, we are told, should be

more appropriately expressed as (Ex) x is a man - then no doubt sooner or later we shall run into Jones and will be able to proclaim the happy discovery. (BNC).

() Suter, whose interests span car parts to haircare products, was heavily in demand after the group more than tripled profits in the first half. The higher profits and improved interim dividend payout lifted it 4p to 184p. The sale by Whitbread of 15 of its hotels boosted the brewing group 11p to 552p. # Shell sails into fare bias row # SHELL forecourts have sailed into a 'discrimination' row over ferry crossings. The oil company is in deep water for not taking part in a half-price fare offer - because they say people in Northern Ireland aren't interested. (BNC).

in deep waters in deep water,

'in trouble or difficulty' (Ayto, 2010: 91)

murky

() <^> get blown to smithereens while she's in bed with a high-ranking Army Officer, no doubt. Bound to be high-ranking. My Bella's very exclusive; except when she's slumming. It gives her an extra edge to things, you see... in bed with the working classes... all those rough, calloused hands and dropped aitches, don't y' know?' Cassie listened in amazement to the languid, aristocratic voice speaking so casually of his acknowledged inferiors. Things seemed to have changed quite a bit since Johnny's time. She could envisage stormy waters if their relationship were ever able to develop beyond the 'Hello, Goodbye' stage. (BNC).

() In effect, they argue that the governmental agenda can not be taken as a

given. We are challenged to recognise, first, that power is involved in non-decision-making, in inaction, and in non-participation, and, second, that interests are advantaged and disadvantaged by the fact that certain issues are not on the governmental agenda for complicated reasons that take us behind the scenes of the public face of policy-making and into the murky waters of the constraining role of ideas in society. Pluralists fail to see the inherent "bias" of the state. (BNC).

() murky waters 'a mysterious or frightening situation' (Rundell, 2002: 1616),

'danger', 'mystery', 'fright'

3.

» (Kunin, 1972: 183-184), strengthen somebody's hand / strengthen the hand of somebody.

() strengthen somebody's hand: "And Jonathan Saul's son arose and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God" (King James Bible, 1769/2017, 1 Samuel 23:16).

() strengthen the hand of somebody,

—'give you

more power to do sth or act against sb/ sth' (Warren, 1997: 277)— ,

() By offering to use their influence with the FMLN, which maintains offices and a radio station in Nicaragua, the Sandinistas may also point to Mr Cristiani that a summit meeting which supported negotiations would strengthen his hand with his own, powerful army commanders. 'It is a poker game ', one senior western diplomat commented. 'But Ortega is cleverer than the other and he works harder.' (BNC).

() The Coal-Steel Community survived of course, and in December 1954 Britain became an 'associate ' member of it. But even in the ECSC Mends-France tried to strengthen the hand of member states in the Council of Ministers, against the supranational power of the High Authority. In view of all these problems Jean Monnet decided to quit his position as ECSC President, and in 1955 left to found an 'Action Committee for the United States of Europe ', a pressure group of leading pro-Europeans.

() strengthen the hands of / - () strengthen hand of . :

() <^> including the authorities which the Dutch had inspired in the 'outer islands'. The whole conglomerate would be part of a Netherlands - Indonesia Union with Queen Wilhelmina as head (the model of the British Commonwealth is obvious). This compromise was hard to swallow and the final signature was not appended till March 1947. Linggajati enabled the British to leave with a good grace, and the last units were withdrawn by 30 November 1946. They had pleased nobody. Sjahrir complained to President Truman that they had reimposed Dutch rule. The Dutch complained that they

had strengthen the hands of the Indonesians: they were presented with a bill by the Dutch for the use of barracks, railroads, and other facilities during their occupation (which was not paid). (BNC).

() CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES Journalists have a professional obligation to protect confidential sources of information. # Patten promises to strengthen hand of pollution agency. # By Paul Brown Environment Correspondent. # HER Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution will receive the necessary resources to police the controls in the forthcoming green bill, the Environment Secretary, Mr Chris Patten, said yesterday. Speaking at an Association of Water Officers conference in London, he said he realised the credibility of the agency rested on the resources at its disposal. Central to the green bill is the introduction of integrated pollution control. (BNC).

4.

in the flesh, thorn

«2 », 12, 7: "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me thorn in the flesh, the messenger <_>" (King James Bible, 1769/2017, 2 Corinthians 12:7).

- , - : () thorn in the flesh > () thorn in the flesh of somebody, :

() <^> my advice to you would be that in the past, before the coffee rooms was run by this particular person firm we had very great difficulty with them and I'm sure John will bear me out on this. <^ > the coffee rooms <^ > I think at one time were even subsidized by the directors ' own pocket, which just show how balmy some people can be. Erm that was in Sheila's day. But it never was profitable. Indeed was <^ > a thorn in the flesh <^>. (BNC).

() Selborne had resigned from Asquith's government in 1916 and was not offered a post by Lloyd George. From the House of Lords and the National Union he became a thorn in the flesh of the party leaders, where in a party government it would have been inconceivable that such a man, at the height of his powers and with powerful connections should be left out. (BNC).

- ,
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(a thorn in the flesh of somebody)

, ()
()
: a
thorn in the flesh of somebody > (), () a
thorn in somebody's flesh, ∴

() He smiled cynically. 'Don't pretend not to understand. He's a man and I'm a man, and you are a distractingly beautiful girl. It's a classic situation. Don't be stupid!' Tense with anger at first, she suddenly burst into scornful laughter. 'Well, yes, perhaps it is a classic situation. One of you tries to lure me with promises of future riches and the other is only interested in what I possess - namely a practice that is a thorn in his flesh. Well, I'm not fooled that easily. I can see right through you both. ' Her mocking laughter stopped suddenly as she saw his face go deathly white. Without another word, he turned and went out of the room. (BNC).

() <^> could not say so to Elizabeth. As his mother-in-law had come to know him better, she seemed to have accepted that he

was the man for her daughter and even to have become quite fond of him, but he appreciated this new freedom. Elizabeth sighed. 'Yes it is, my love, but I wonder how long it 'll last? Mother won't be able to decide who needs her interference most, us or Sarah. ' George laughed. Elizabeth understood, though neither would have put it into words, that her mother was a thorn in George's flesh. (BNC).

- , ,
flesh
side: (a) a thorn
in the flesh > () a thorn in the side.

, -
flesh, :
()

() (). ∴
() <^> pointing out that the public right of way as marked on maps actually crosses part of the base. John Bugg died in January and peace campaigners have now named the path in his memory. She says its a fitting tribute. But this may prove to be one of the final fence cutting protests at Upper Heyford. The base is winding down as part of the defence cuts. By Christmas all the bombers are due to have left. And that could mean the end for the peace camp which dates back eleven years. He says they've been a thorn in the side of the authorities. (BNC).

(^) <..> did Michael speak again. 'Why on earth did you do that, Christina? The man has been a thorn in our side since the day he arrived three weeks ago. He's a professional complainer - I've encountered hundreds of them in my time. They deliberately pick fault with everything in order to get a reduction on their bill. I've had Banville thoroughly checked out, and I know he's stayed at two other hotels on the island and done the same thing. 'Michael sank into his chair, scowling. (BNC).

() As one former Scottish team manager put it, 'Picking a team is easy,

getting them to bed is heartbreaking. ' <^> In the great partnerships of Scottish football some names stand out more than others. Tommy Gemmell and Bertie Auld were a thorn in Jock Stein's side. Soon after Celtic's European Cup success he was forced to send them home from a pre-season American tour when their behaviour failed to meet his standards. (BNC).

thorn in the side

flesh.

/ () (),

() After the game Swindon boss Glenn Hoddle said he was disappointed by his team 's first half performance. 'You can't give three goals away like that and expect to win the match, ' he said. # Leeds suffer Thorn in side # Des Kelly # C Palace 1, Leeds Utd 0 # ANDY THORN'S match winner ensured Crystal Palace's revival continued to gather pace - but it meant a sixth defeat in eight games for Leeds, the crumbling champions. (BNC).

() Opposing the application, Anna Blower, for the boy, said he would be very upset if placed so far from home in a strange environment. The boy, subject of national publicity since being described last week by the local police chief 'a very persistent offender who is a thorn in the sides of me and my officers', was led into court handcuffed to a policeman. (BNC).

a thorn in somebody's flesh / side(s) // a thorn in the flesh / side of somebody,

' a

person or thing that causes a lot of problems for someone' (Rundell, 2002: 1495),

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Conflicts of Interest: the author has no conflict of interest to declare.

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