



# Linguoculturological Study of Phraseological Units with the Lexeme “Weapon”

Maripova Khurshidakhon Muzafarjonovna

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Philology, Uzbekistan

## OPEN ACCESS

SUBMITTED 13 July 2025

ACCEPTED 15 August 2025

PUBLISHED 13 September 2025

VOLUME Vol.05 Issue 09 2025

## COPYRIGHT

© 2025 Original content from this work may be used under the terms of the creative commons attributes 4.0 License.

**Abstract:** This article analyzes the linguoculturological features of phraseological units with the lexeme “weapon.” Semantic, grammatical, and translational aspects of phraseological expressions with the “weapon” component in German and Uzbek are compared. The role of historical events, national-cultural experience, and technical thinking in their formation is highlighted. Furthermore, the metaphorical meanings, usage domains, and the place of these units in spoken language are discussed. The study provides a comparative analysis of German phraseological units containing the “weapon” component and their equivalents in Uzbek.

**Keywords:** weapon, phraseological unit, linguoculturology, German language, Uzbek language, semantics, grammatical analysis, translation, phraseologism

**Introduction:** In the linguistic image of a representative of the military subculture, firearms play a significant role. One such expression is reflected in the explosive powder component: Das Pulver trockhalten - to be ready to defend, to be alert, to be on guard. The origin of this expression dates back to the Civil War in Great Britain. The leader of the English Revolution, General Oliver Cromwell, first used the phrase to his troops before the Battle of Edgehill in 1642 [1].

The participation of the gunpowder component in the main part of the phrase can be found in the following phraseological units:

- er hat das Pulver nicht erfunden – a person who has no understanding; a person who is not smart enough to understand anything;
- Pulver gerochen haben – to be at war, to fight;
- kein Pulver riechen können – to act cowardly (in

- relation to a military serviceman);
- (all) sein Pulver verschossen haben – to have all the evidence; to have said all the words; to have fired all one's powder, literally;
- kein Schuß Pulver wert sein – worth a penny;
- jn zu Pulver und Blei verurteilen – to sentence someone to shoot;
- die Lunte aus Pulverfaß legen / den Funken ins Pulverfaß schleudern – literally, to throw a spark into a powder keg; cause a heated argument
- (wie) auf dem Pulverfaß sitzen – literally, like sitting in a powder keg; as if sitting in great danger.

The above phrases are actively used in colloquial speech.

In modern German, the phrase die Kanonen sprechen lassen literally means "let the guns speak" and is used to start a war.

Many phraseological units in the German language have a weapon component. Their figurative basis is the high rate of fire of a weapon. The following phraseological unit will serve as the basis for our idea:

- wie aus der Pistole geschossen – instantly, quickly, very quickly, immediately. For example, Die Antwort kam wie aus der Pistole geschossen.

Some phraseological units express the concept of a weapon through analogy. For example, Blaue Bohne(n) - a rifle bullet; Marie auf der Socken - a silent shell; die dicke Bertha - a 42-centimeter gun. These slang expressions are often found in military speech.

The main function of a weapon is to exert a threatening and aggressive influence on a person, either physically or morally. This phenomenon is reflected in phraseological units with the component rifle (die Flinte) :

- die Flinte ins Korn werfen – to throw down one's weapon, to surrender; to stop the war;
- (etw.) kommt (jm) vor die Flinte – hit the target;
- der soll mir nur vor die Flinte – If you fall into my hands, you will die!

In Uzbek, this phrase conveys a threat along the lines of "(If) I catch you/you fall into my hands, I will kill you!"

The names of ammunition and explosive weapons also served as the basis for the emergence of numerous phraseological units. Such stable expressions were formed on the basis of the word bomb.

- die Bombe ist geplänzt – literally, the bomb

exploded; in conversation, an explosion occurred;

- die Bombe kommt zum Platzen – literally, an explosion occurred, a bomb fell; in conversation, it exploded.
- wie eine Bombe einschlagen – colloquially, exploded like a bomb. For example, Dieser Artikel schlug wie eine Bombe ein – literally, this article exploded like a bomb;
- eine Bombe platzen lassen – in conversation, to cause a stir, i.e. to create a sensation;
- bombenfest schlafen – to sleep like the dead;
- das steht (schon heute) bombenfest – that's for sure; and in conversation it is true;
- Einen Bombenerfolg haben - to achieve great success.

Each of these phraseological units has a semantic meaning of the impact caused by the explosion of an artillery shell. As mentioned, in German, phrases containing the word "bomb " are much more active than in Uzbek. For example, the expression "to sleep hard" or " to sleep hard as a stone " is formed in the Uzbek language as "even if you hit a bomb under your ear, you will still sleep ," but the concept of "great success" is not formed with the participation of the word "bomb" in the Uzbek language.

We can cite the following as examples of phraseological units with an arrow component:

- Einen Pfeil umsonst verschießen – not being able to hit the target/not being able to hit the target;
- Jd verschießt seine Pfeile – to make fun of;
- (alle) seine Pfeile verschossen haben / (alle) seine Pulver verschossen haben – in speech, to be able to present all the evidence; literally, to be able to shoot all the arrows;
- Sich (D) eine Kugel durch (or in) den Kopf jagen – colloquially, to shoot oneself; to shoot in the forehead. For this semantic line, the meaning of "to mock" is characteristic, and in the Uzbek language such cases are not expressed using the word "oq ". In this case, the words "rifle" and "gun" are used in the Uzbek language. For example, the phrase "to put a rifle on your forehead" is one of these sentences.

We believe that for the empirical study of phraseological units with a weapon component, it is necessary to divide them into separate groups: technical (the scope of perception within the possibilities of this word - general extralinguistic information), grammatical (the features of the use of nominal units of the language, general intralinguistic information) and

translational (the usual translation models used to convert a nominal unit from one language to another - special intralinguistic information).

It is known that weapons appeared in primitive society before our era (sticks, spears, bows, etc.). Later, bronze and iron swords, spears, shields (these are called edged weapons) were created. After the invention of gunpowder (in China in the 9th century BC, in Europe in the 14th century AD), firearms appeared and spread throughout the world. The colonial era (16th-20th centuries) saw the development of mobile weapons, portable rifles, and later automatic weapons (machine guns). By the mid-20th century, tanks, military aircraft, anti-aircraft guns, aviation, chemical weapons, self-propelled guns, missiles, and nuclear weapons became widespread. By the 21st century, bacteriological, chemical, and psychological weapons had also been discovered[2].

The creation and appearance of the above weapons has its own unique history, and the reflection of the national and cultural experience of the people has led to many phraseological turns in everyday life.

It should be emphasized that the dimensions or parameters of a military device, the firing range depend on the methods of using the military weapon and the maximum technical capabilities of the device. Such information, figuratively reflected in our examples of phraseological units given above, is directly related to the meaning of the phrase: *bombenfest schlafen; wie eine Bombe einschlagen*.

The field of use of a weapon is the knowledge of how accurately a military weapon hits a target, how likely it is to hit, and how appropriate it is to use it to harm people, as well as the benefits and harms that the use of this weapon in the environment can cause. This type of information, obtained on the basis of figurative meaning in phraseological units formed on the basis of the weapon component, is directly related to the content-plan of our imagination, that is, the semantic sign of a stable structure is reconstructed due to existing associative connections. For example: *etw. Kommt vor die Flinte* (something hit the target); *P8 Pistole, Eagle IV*.

This type of information, derived from the figurative basis of a stable compound with a weapon component, is, in a conditional sense, associated with the denotation circle (Latin *denotatum* - "marked"; "sign") and is explained on the basis of some traditions associated with the development of this expression. For example, *das Schwert in die Scheide stecken* - to sheathe one's sword; to stop the war.

Thus, some phraseological units that participate in the weapon component are associated with the content of

technical information in them. The grammatical information in phraseological units with a weapon component is expressed through the memory of the language community, which stores general intralinguistic knowledge of the morphological and syntactic structure of language units.

## References

1. Лупанова Е.В. Фразеологическая картина мира представителя Англо-американской военной субкультуры, «Артефакты»: Дис. ... канд. филол. наук. – Москва, 2018. – 159 с.
2. Скачкова Л.В. Фразеологизмы с компонентом «военное оружие» (эмпирический и аксиологический уровни информации), «Артефакты»: Дис. ... канд. филол. наук. – Майкоп, 2019. – 127 с.