

# The Phenomenon of Polysemy in French Phraseologisms and their Meaning Etymology

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## ABSTRACT

This article presents a number of information about the methods of emergence of French phraseological compounds, their history and etymology. At the same time, the ways of the emergence of phraseological combinations are quite problematic, and the existence of its undiscovered aspects requires a lot of research.

**KEYWORDS:** monosemic phraseological units, polysemic phraseological units, etymology, semantics, semasiology

## Introduction

Studying the lexical meaning and its development in a polysemantic phraseological unit with the method of semantic analysis allows to visualize these phenomena more clearly.

Phraseological meanings appear in a specific context. The meanings of a polysemantic phraseological unit may differ from each other, in addition to their lexical meaning, in their lexical context, and in their grammatical nature.

## Materials

Phraseological polysemy means that the phraseological unit itself has two or more lexical meanings. It is known that the phenomenon of phraseological polysemy has been determined by studying the semantic properties of phraseological units. In phraseological polysemy, as in lexical polysemy, there is a primary meaning and a derived meaning. However, the main meaning in phraseological polysemy is also figurative (figurative), because any phraseological expression is formed on the basis of a figurative meaning.

## Discutions

In this article, we will show different manifestations of polysemy in French phraseological units. In any language, most of the phraseologisms have two or three meanings, as well as four-meaning speech types. In a polysemous phrase, its meanings are mostly derived from one another. That is, despite the fact that the phrase consists of several meanings, the connection and commonality between the meanings is felt.

For example:

### Avoir le coeur sur la main

In turn, this phrase has three meanings: to be generous, to be sick, to give one's heart, to present. Here we can see that the meanings of being generous and giving one's heart are connected. Such polysemous phrases can become synonyms with each other phrase

1. Etre généreux-to be generous
2. Etre malade-to be sick
3. Faire don de son coeur-dedicate one's heart

Originally, this expression goes back to the 18th century, it goes back to the heart, which is the place where all the emotions are stirred, when a person's feelings and emotions are overflowing from his heart and he is ready to share them with others, then it is his generous heart towards these people that is pure. was used in the sense of, besides, taking into account that such people are always busy with work, it meant that a busy person can express kindness and solidarity to others in a strong way, and later two more separate meanings of this phrase appeared. , one of them is Faire don de son coeur, which is synonymous with the first original meaning, generous heart, which means to offer one's heart to someone, to be pure-hearted. In the exact opposite sense, this phrase is rarely used in some cases in the form of Etre malade-to be ill. That is why the hand and heart are depicted together in this phrase.

### Un froid de Canard

This phrase also has two meanings: strong wind, morning breeze wind. However, the meaning of morning shabad is not widely used in consumption. In both meanings, it is used synonymously with the expressions 1) Froid intense, 2) Froid de petit matin.

The appearance of this expression dates back to the end of the XIX century. Perhaps its meaning is a strong strong wind, and the main reason for this is that it is related to duck hunting. According to another interpretation, the ducks with their stiff feet pierce the flat surface of the ice on the water and there will be a cold wind, that is, according to this meaning, the ducks will bring a stiff wind and freezing with their feet. the tariff is given.

### battre la campagne has three main meanings.

1. **Occupy and reconnaissance of enemy lands among the military.**  
Parcourir la campagne pour reconnaître la position et les mouvements de l'ennemi
2. Hunting means hunting animals and birds  
Parcourir le terrain de chasse des gibiers
3. In oral speech, it is also used in the sense of talking a lot.  
To talk a lot, to get away from the topic by saying trivial things.

This expression appeared in the 19th century and began to be used in its original meaning, in the military context, in the form of reconnaissance and occupation of enemy lands. Later, the second meaning of this expression, meaning hunting wild animals, appeared, and it is not clear why it got such a meaning. Until now, this phrase has been fully formed, and this phrase is used in its figurative sense, that is, to get away from the topic. In turn, this phrase has a polysemic status, and depending on the context, it can be used in all three meanings.

**Avoir, Donner l'eau à la bouche-**

1. make one's mouth water, whet one's appetite;
2. to arouse desire.

This expression has been widely used since the 15th century. Both meanings in it are actually synonymous and slightly different from each other. If we talk about the history of the phrase, in ancient times, while eating at the family table, when women brought sweet and delicious food, the smell hit the nostrils of the men and their mouths watered, i.e. their saliva flowed. It is not necessary to look far for another reason where this meaning came from, the experiment of salivary glands in dogs studied by Professor Pavlov is also very suitable for the meaning of this expression. It turns out that the second meaning of this phrase, to arouse desire, has actually changed as a result of the expansion of the first meaning

**Donner un coup de canif dans le contrat.**

1. Betraying one's husband or wife
2. Failure to comply with the terms of the agreed contract or agreement.

This expression traces its origin definition to the end of the 18th century. Two couples sign a marriage contract by mutual agreement and they have a marriage contract. This expression can be used when one of the spouses is unfaithful to the other. On the basis of the expansion of this first meaning, another second meaning of this expression arises, that is, the meaning of not following the rules of the agreed contract.

**Arriver comme un chien dans un jeu de quilles**

1. untimely, frivolous;
2. in a very bad situation.

This French phrase appears in the 16th century as *jouer aux quilles*, that is, when two parties are playing a game, a dog suddenly comes and licks its tail and breaks the game up. The phrase "Un chien dans un jeu de quilles" became popular in the second half of the 20th century as a title at the beginning of movies.

**Mettre la gomme**

1. increase speed (in cars);
2. to hurry.

When an eraser turns something off, it leaves a trail like a driveway. The origin of this expression is related to fuel. When gasoline is poured into cars, the gasoline is obtained from black petroleum tar, and when it is put into the engine, it has a strong and different smell. Computer scientist N. Gomez (University of Montpellier) caused a slight change in the original meaning of this phrase today. That is, this phrase gave rise to the meaning of speeding up, and now it has a second meaning of hurrying.

**Un éléphant dans un magasin porcelaine**

1. very carefree
2. without any beauty or taste.

This phrase originates from the humorous jokes of an American amateur and dates back to the 19th century. Magasin de porcelaine here means thin, that is, a porcelain dish is thin, and we know that an elephant is clumsy and heavy. This means that this phrase has two meanings and views, that is, the first one is used for very careless people, and the second one means carelessly and without any taste.

**Parler aux murs**

1. to speak into space
2. to be kept alone
3. to be mad, to talk to oneself.

There is no information on the history of this phrase.

For example:

In the sense of talking in vain into space: a) "J'aurais pu parler aux murs, ils n'en ont rien à faire de mes arguments". (Albert Samain, "Adieu à Giraudux", 1904).

In the sense of being kept alone: b) "J'ai vu personne de la journée Marre de parler aux murs". (Jean-Luc Rader, "Désération par beau temps", 2006).

the sense of going crazy: c) "La peur de devenir folle, de se mettre à parler aux murs". (Christine L'Heureux, "Le dernier recours", 1984).

In the next phrase, there is actually a logical connection between the 1st and 3rd meanings, which are actually different literary forms of the same meaning, but the 2nd meaning is quite different from the others. it has nothing to do with the rest.

**L'habit ne fait pas le moine**

1. false appearance
2. a person does not agree with himself and his words.

This phrase was first used by Pope Gregory IX in the 13th century, and this phrase meant the behavior and behavior of monks in his time. In other words, the character of monks in the Middle Ages was different in reality, not in appearance. used in relation to those who have different behavior, we use the phrase "shiny on the surface and trembling on the inside" as a synonym for this phrase. Therefore, today this phrase has two meanings that are similar to each other, and they are used depending on the content of a separate sentence.

**Trouver chaussure à son pied.**

1. find what you are looking for
2. to find a suitable partner (to get married).

This phrase appeared in the 16th century and is now used mainly in the sense of "finding what you are looking for". used a lot in the past, that is, it was used in the sense of "meeting the right person".

But the meanings of some phrases do not serve as a basis for one another, each of them is formed independently and has a separate meaning. For example:

**Tourner autour du pot** It is used in the meanings of 1) to hesitate to say something and 2) to be cunning.

This phrase originated in France in the 15th century as a metaphorical phrase, meaning that a person is trying to get something that does not belong to him by trickery. If we proceed from a different style, a second free meaning of this phrase appeared in the 19th century as a means of indirect use. The meaning of hesitance and discouragement has arisen regarding a topic or before starting work.

Both meanings of this phrase are used in a separate context, and one is completely independent of the other. The meanings of this phrase are different from each other even when expressed in the structure of a sentence or in ordinary conversation.

**Avoir le coeur sur les lèvres**

1. nausea or vomiting;
2. to be sincere and open-minded.

The history of the appearance of this French phrase goes back to the 17th century, that is, the word le coeur here was once used as an expression for nausea when it comes to the stomach. Not only this, this phrase, in addition to nausea and restlessness, also appears in the second meaning of feeling sadness, grief. This phrase has 2 other meanings - it is more commonly used in the sense of nausea with other meanings.

**Avoir l'haleine courte**

1. to be short of breath
2. a person far from spiritual

*The exact etymology of the phrase Avoir l'haleine courte has not been found, there is only information that the word haleine in the phrase means to breathe in medieval Latin, and this phrase is based on this word. there is a view that*

**Casser les pieds**

1. To be boring;
2. To make angry, to cause bitterness.

Since the 12th century, the verb casser has been used together with a human organ, but this combination acquired the meaning of harassing someone after the middle of the 15th century. appeared at the end of the century.

**Donner du grain à moudre**

1. providing a convenient opportunity to act;
2. providing a topic for consideration.

The above phrase originates from the miller's jargon and means grinding wheat into flour. But this phrase has its own portable polysemic meanings, two of which are synonymous. The phrase donner du grain à moudre refers to serving to thresh the grain when the mill is full, and means to provide an opportunity for work and reflection. Later, this phrase spread again and became common.

**Avoir la chaire de poule**

1. to be afraid;
2. to shiver from the cold.

This expression is one of the most frequently used expressions in spoken French. Due to its multiple meanings, this expression can be used in both cases, i.e. to be afraid and to be cold.

If we look at the history of the phrase, it was first used in French medicine in the 17th century. Later, this expression entered the common colloquial language in the sense of being afraid or shivering from the cold. This phrase is used in

speech when a person is excited, shivers from the cold, or when he is afraid, the hairs on the body and hands stand up and the human body resembles the body of a chicken, so this phrase is used as a metaphor.

**N'avoir rien à se mettre sous le dent**

1. not to eat anything
2. respond to demand

We can know that this phrase appeared at the end of the French Revolution (July 14, 1789), which translates as "to put nothing on one's teeth". Its first original meaning is "to eat nothing", but sometimes this phrase can be used in another figurative sense, to meet a demand.

**Conclusion**

Polysemy, that is, more than one meaning, implies a distinctly different meaning, but some French expressions have been so widely used in the past that their some of its meanings do not correspond to the present time, or the scope of use is limited. We can say that the expansion of meaning in phraseological units, the emergence of new meanings is inextricably linked to historical events, their use in literature, and their widespread use by speakers.

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