

Abstract:

The aim of this BA thesis is to describe and analyze multi-word combinations of the word *fuck*, including such compounds as *fuck it up*, *fuck me off*, *fuck around*, etc. The thesis seeks to describe its collocations, types of complementation, and meaning with regards to semantic and syntactic restrictions. While most dictionaries describe *fuck* in terms of abstract semantic structures, this thesis will analyze examples from the British National Corpus of spoken English. The theoretical part will discuss briefly the recent development observed in the uses of the word as well as socio-linguistic aspects of its use, as described in secondary literature. This part will also provide a list of possible combinations of *fuck* and their meaning (according to the Oxford English Dictionary) and discuss the possible terminological approaches to the phraseological description of the word and its combinations. In the methodological part, the procedure of working with the data and the British National Corpus is described. The analytical part describes the combinations discovered in the BNC from the point of view of their meaning and the degree of their grammatical variability.

Key words: swearing, bad language, phrasal verbs, formulaic language, idiomaticity