



# **COMPARISON OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH ZOONYMS IN ENGLISH, GERMAN AND RUSSIAN**

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# The Origin of Phraseological Units

- Phraseological units have many peculiarities.
- They are considered anomalies of language.
- Their meanings cannot be predicted from the meaning of their constituents, and they have either partially or fully transferred meanings.
- The origin of PU is different. Some are related to memorable events, some are political, others are religious.
- Scientists identify native and borrowed phraseological units.

# The Origin of Phraseological Units

## Native Phraseological Units

- The origin of the majority of phraseological units is unknown, but they may reflect traditions, memorable events, customs, and beliefs of native speakers.
  - **English:** a black sheep.
  - **German:** die Katze aus dem Sack lassen.
  - **Russian:** медвежья услуга.

## Borrowed Phraseological Units

- These phraseologisms came from other languages.
  - **English:** every dog is a lion at home (from Italian).
  - **German:** Eulen nach Athen tragen (from Ancient Greek).
  - **Russian:** гадкий утенок (from English).

- **Phraseological units with zoonyms can describe:**
  - Place
  - Amount
  - Time
  - Person
    - Appearance
    - Intelligence
    - Personality traits
    - Physical condition
    - Emotional condition
    - Behavior
    - Relationships
    - Attitude to work
    - Social status

# Full equivalents

**German**

**English**

**Russian**

Die Katze aus dem Sack lassen

To let the cat out of the bag

Выпустить кота из мешка

Wie Hund und Katze leben

Cat and dog life

Жить как кошка с собакой

Ein Wolf im Schlafpelz

Wolf in sheep's clothing

Волк в овечьей шкуре

Plump wie ein Bär

Play the bear

Неуклюжий как медведь

Schlau wie ein Fuchs

Sly as a fox

Хитрый как лиса

# Full equivalents

German

English

Russian

\_\_\_\_\_

A dark horse

Темная лошадка

\_\_\_\_\_

To hold one's horses

Придержаться коней

\_\_\_\_\_

To work like a horse

Пахать как лошадь

\_\_\_\_\_

To take the bull by the horns

Брать быка за рога

\_\_\_\_\_

The black sheep

Черная овечка

\_\_\_\_\_

Lion's share

Львиная доля

# Full equivalents

German

English

Russian

\_\_\_\_\_

Butterflies in one's stomach

Бабочки в животе

\_\_\_\_\_

Crocodile tears

Крокодиловы слезы

\_\_\_\_\_

Dog's life

Собачья жизнь

\_\_\_\_\_

Play cat and mouse

Играть в кошки-мышки

# Full equivalents

## German

## English

## Russian

Ganz und Schwein sind keine  
Freunde

Wie ein Elefant im Porzellanladen

Eine Schwalbe macht noch  
keinen Sommer

Wer unter Wölfen ist, muss heulen

Das Ei will klüger sein als die  
Henne

Geschenktem Gaul sieht man  
nicht ins Maul

Matt wie eine Fliege

Гусь свинье не товарищ.

Как слон в посудной лавке

Одна ласточка весны не делает

С волками жить – по-волчьи выть

Яйца курицу не учат

Дареному коню в зубы не  
смотрят

Как сонная муха



# Partial equivalents

**German**

**English**

**Russian**

Zwei Fliegen mit einer Klappe schlagen

\_\_\_\_\_

Убить двух зайцев одним выстрелом

Die Arbeit ist kein Hase, läuft nicht in den Wald

\_\_\_\_\_

Работа не волк: в лес не убежит

Hungrig wie ein Bär

\_\_\_\_\_

Голодный как волк (собака)

Böse wie ein Wolf

\_\_\_\_\_

Злой как собака

Das trägt die Katze auf dem Schwanz weg

\_\_\_\_\_

Кот наплакал

# Partial equivalents

**German**

**English**

**Russian**

Wie ein Dachs arbeiten

Work like a horse

\_\_\_\_\_

Wie die Katze um den heißen Brei herumgehen

Like a cat round hot milk

\_\_\_\_\_

Essen wie ein Spatz

Eat like a bird

\_\_\_\_\_

Wie ein Elefant im Porzellanladen

Like a bull in a china shop

Как слон в посудной лавке

Gesund wie ein Bär

As strong as a horse

Здоров как бык

# Partial equivalents

German

English

Russian

\_\_\_\_\_

As stubborn as a goat

Упрямый как осел

\_\_\_\_\_

Dog in the manger

Собака на сене

\_\_\_\_\_

A cash cow

Дойная корова

\_\_\_\_\_

Little bird told me

Сорока на хвосте принесла

# Units that share the same meaning but are translated differently

**German**

**English**

**Russian**

Hier liegt der Hase im Pfeffer

\_\_\_\_\_

Вот где собака зарыта

Mit altem Hunde sicherste Jagd

\_\_\_\_\_

Старый конь борозды не испортит

Alter Hase

\_\_\_\_\_

Стреляный воробей

Besser der Sperling in der Hand  
als die Taube auf dem Dach

\_\_\_\_\_

Лучше синица в руках , чем журавль в небе

ein Kuckucksei ins Nest legen

\_\_\_\_\_

Подложить свинью кому-либо

Den Hund nach Bratwurst  
schicken

\_\_\_\_\_

Пустить козла в огород

# Units that share the same meaning but are translated differently

German

English

Russian

Das müsste ja eine Kuh lachen

\_\_\_\_\_

Курам на смех

Gebrühte Katze scheut auch kaltes Wasser

\_\_\_\_\_

Пуганая ворона и куста боится

Adler fangen nicht Fliegen

\_\_\_\_\_

Лев мышей не давит

Er schüttelt es ab, wie der Hund die Flöhe

\_\_\_\_\_

С него как с гуся вода

da stehen wie die Kuh vom neuen Tor

Stare like a stuck pig

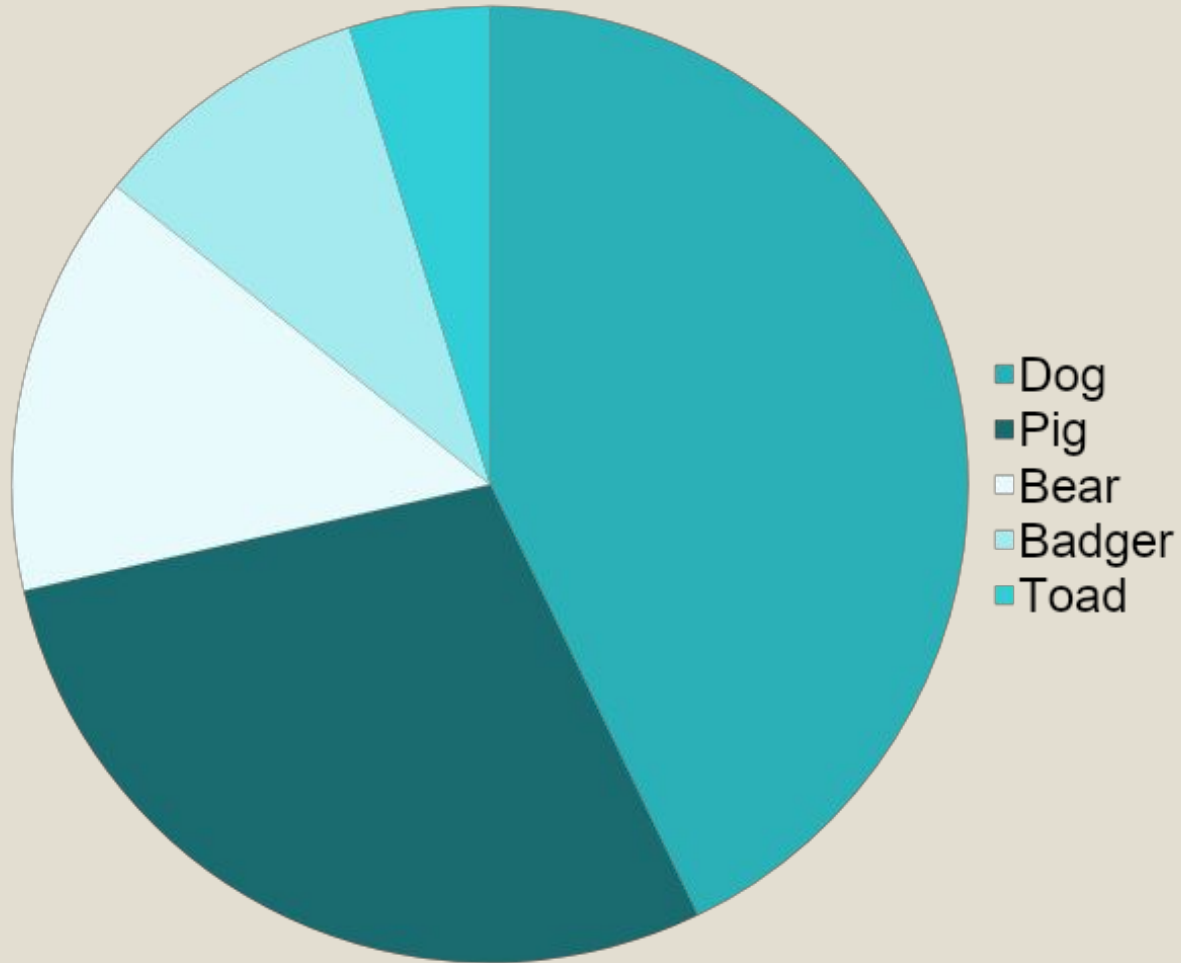
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

till the cows come home

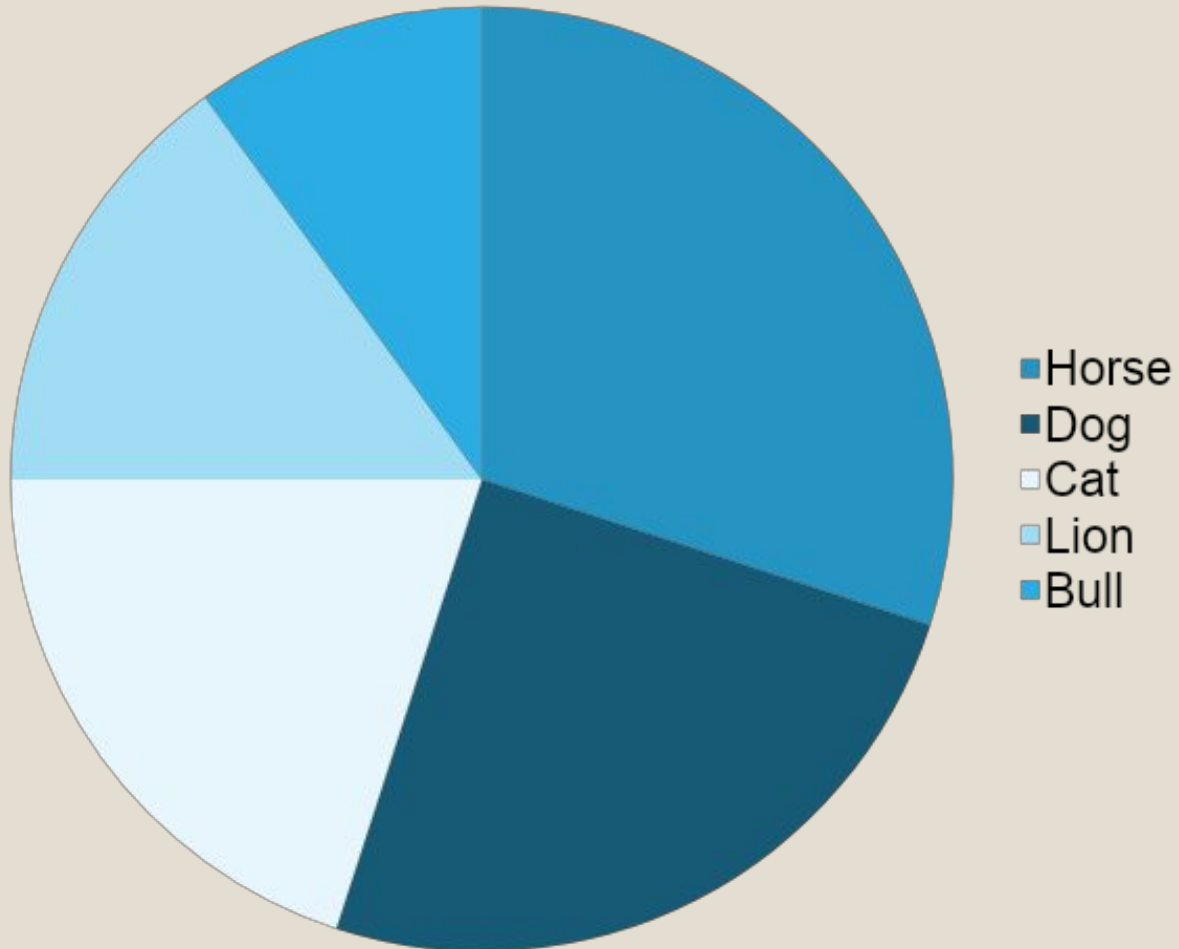
когда рак на горе свистнет

# Most popular zoonyms in German



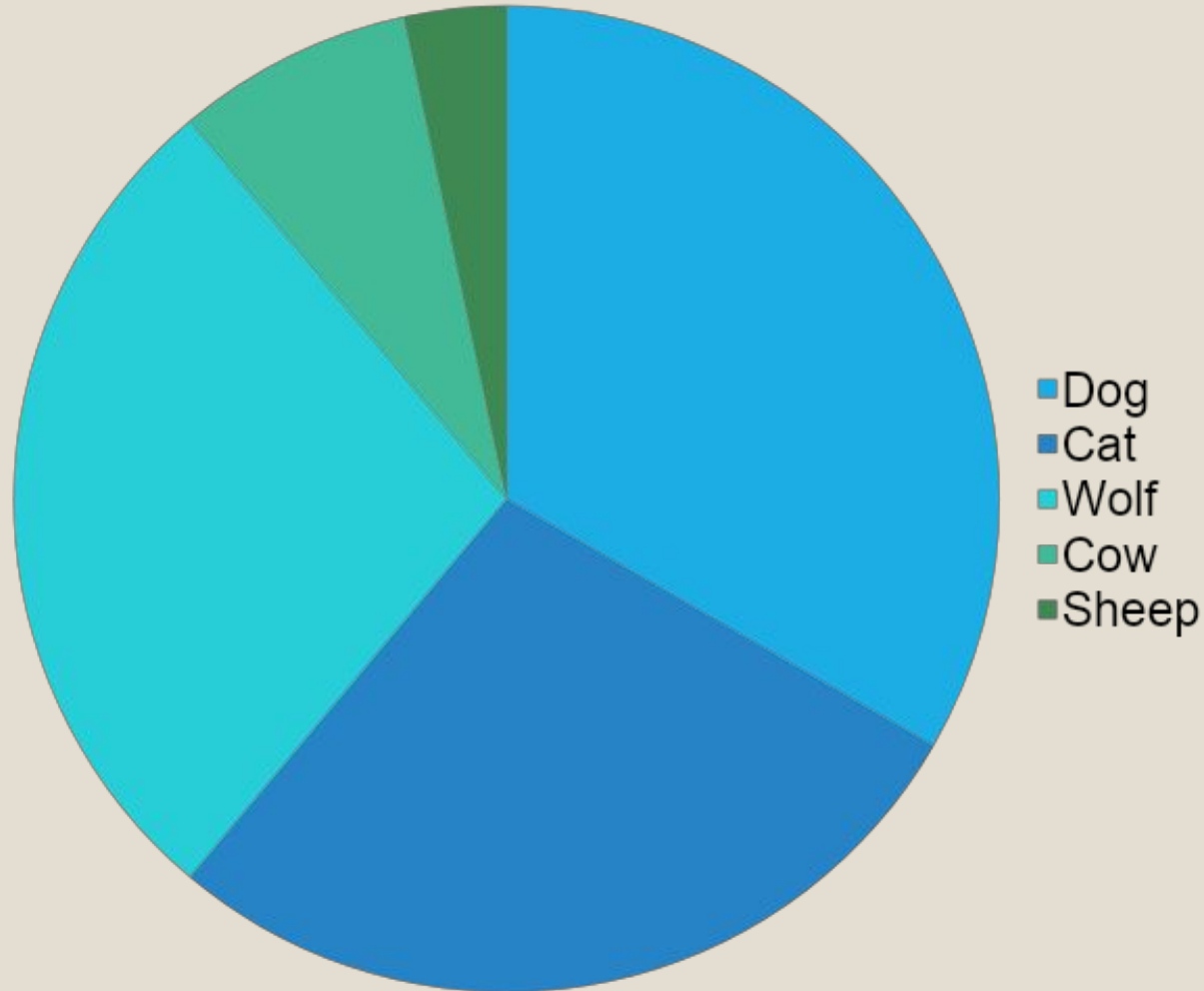
- The most popular animal in German phraseological units is a dog, because it was considered as a reliable human companion and was an important part of human's life.
- The use of zoonym "Pig" can be explained by the fact that pig breeding was one of the oldest types of animal husbandry in Germany.
- Bears and Badgers were common in Europe, that is why they were used not only in phraseologisms but also in fairy tales and fables.

# Most popular zoonyms in English



- Horses since olden times were one of the favorite animals among English people. England is also deemed as home of horse races. It is second popular sport in England after football.
- Dogs and cats as the most popular pets were frequently used in English phraseological units too.
- Lion in English culture was an embodiment of strength, power, bravery and honor.

# Most popular zoonyms in Russian



- Russians mostly use domestic animals or pets in their phraseological units.
- The zoonym “Wolf” is used to represent “evil” and has a negative connotation. It is because wolf was always an enemy of peasants and villagers.



# Conclusion

- The zoonym “Dog” is popular in phraseological units of all languages under consideration.
- German and Russian phraseological units have a lot in common.
- German and English units have little in common.
- The same animals can personify different traits (good or bad) in different languages, what proves that word perception in different cultures can vary.

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