

**PRECEDENT PHENOMENA AS NATIONAL VALUES AND A SPIRITUAL-  
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**Annotation:**The article is devoted to the study of the precedent phenomenon in modern linguistics, particularly examining the scholarly perspectives of various linguists on precedent phenomena in English linguistics. In global linguistics, the study of thought and the formation, preservation, and functions of speech from different angles has become a distinct tradition, with cognitive-conceptual and linguocultural approaches holding particular significance. In this regard, the concept of precedents and their application in discourse, reflecting the national aspects of an individual's worldview, occupies a specific place.

**Keywords:**precedent phenomenon, precedent text, precedent situation, precedent utterance, precedent name.

**INTRODUCTION**

Today, research focused on studying the aspects of linguistic worldviews related to national mentality has become one of the most pressing areas in modern linguistics. The existence of national peculiarities in the representation of the linguistic worldview was shaped by the ideas of Wilhelm von Humboldt, the founder of comparative linguistics, who stated in his scholarly works: "Different languages, due to their distinct existence, manifestation in thought and consciousness, and variations in perception, reflect reality in different ways."<sup>1</sup> This perspective remains relevant to this day, and many linguists continue to direct their research toward analyzing the relationship between language and thought.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The term "precedent" was introduced into linguistics in the second half of the 20th century by the Russian linguist Yu. N. Karaulov. Specifically, the term "precedent" initially entered the Russian language from other European languages, namely English and French. This term was borrowed into English during the Middle Ages from French, which, in turn, had adopted it from the Latin forms "praecedent," "praecedens," and "praecedere."<sup>2</sup>

**RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS**

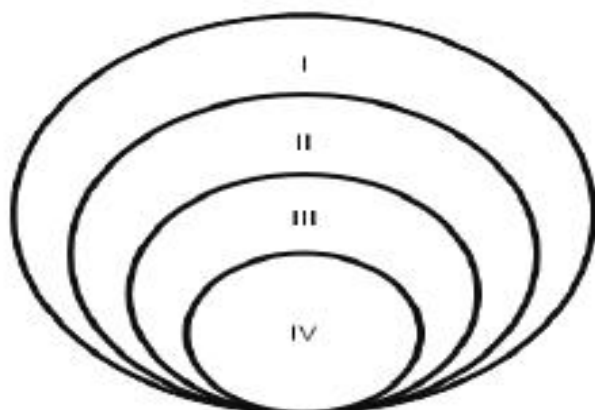
The presence of national values and spiritual-material sources in precedent phenomena has been extensively studied in numerous scholarly works. In this regard, the research of Russian scholars such as G.G. Slyshkin, L.Yu. Fedorova, and E.A. Nakhimova holds particular significance.

Precedent phenomena occupy a distinct place in the linguistic personality, reflecting in various discourses not only individual perspectives of particular persons but also collective views related to concepts and values within a worldview. This, in turn, enables us to understand

<sup>1</sup> Гумбольдт В. фон. О различии строения человеческих языков и его влиянии на духовное развитие человечества // Избранные труды по языкознанию. М.: Прогресс, 1984. – С 134.

<sup>2</sup> Жалилов Б.Т. «Прецедент» термини ва унинг турли луғатлардаги изоҳи. Ўзбекистонда хорижий тиллар, 2021, № 3(38), 31-40.

the formation of concepts and perspectives shaped by culture and values, revealing not only their social nature but also how they manifest in individual lives, thereby influencing people's personalities and worldviews. Such 'hierarchies' in the development of precedent phenomena have been analyzed in the theoretical works of S.N. Dolets, who describes them as follows:<sup>3</sup>



I - Scheme. Hierarchy of Precedent Events

I - Precedent event used within a linguistic-cultural context.

II - Precedent event known to a broad social group.

III - Precedent event used within a narrow group/circle.

IV - Precedent event related to specific individuals.

According to this "hierarchy," the first group includes precedent events that are equally familiar to all representatives of a given linguo-cultural community. Yu.N. Karaulov once characterized these as having a "simple" (хрестоматийные) nature.

In turn, the conceptual content of these precedent phenomena possesses a diachronic quality—they must convey meaning not only to representatives of a specific era but also remain intelligible across all historical periods.

The precedent events categorized in subsequent groups, however, are considered peripheral units. Those in the second group are limited by era, social group, or gender perspective, meaning their conceptual representations are relevant only to a specific historical period or community.

For instance, the English proper name "**Samson**" historically served as a precedent concept denoting "**a mighty, strong man.**" However, due to shifting religious literacy and perspectives, it has now largely become a historism (a term fading from active use). The symbolic meanings it once conveyed have begun to be expressed through other linguistic units, influenced by evolving culture, social attitudes, and ideologies. The same ways can be observed in concepts "**Mary-wisdom, smart**", "**Goliath- great, huge**".

Matilda was a tall, thin, graceful fair girl, with a rather large nose. She was the **Mary** to Emmie's **Martha**: that is, Matilda loved painting and music, and read a good many.<sup>4</sup>

"The precedent names "**Martha**" and "**Mary**" mentioned in the example represent religious precedents connected to Biblical narratives, specifically referencing the sisters of Lazarus who hosted Jesus Christ in this context. In Christian culture, "**Mary**" serves as an embodiment of the contemplative, observant, and spiritually perceptive (созерцание) concept, while "**Martha**" represents the archetype of a diligent, caring homemaker.

However, contemporary observations reveal significant shifts in these conceptual associations and symbolic representations. Notably, in modern American culture, the name

<sup>3</sup> Долевец С. Об иерархии прецедентных феноменов в сознании языковой личности // Политическая лингвистика. 2005. № 16. – С. 51.

<sup>4</sup> Lawrence D. H. England, my England and other stories: You Touched Me. Cambridge University Press. 1990. – P.65

“**Mary**” has acquired new connotations, particularly referring to “drug addiction” or “marijuana”.

He pulled a little package of **Mary** out of his pocket.<sup>5</sup>

I can't live another day without **Mary**.<sup>6</sup>

We can observe a similar phenomenon in the symbolic representation of “**Goliath**” as “**gigantic**” or “**colossal**”. In modern English, this term has largely lost its original impact, with its symbolic associations now being conveyed through the word “Titan” instead.

The precedent concepts classified in the third group of the aforementioned hierarchy are confined to small social circles - such as families, professional teams, or friendship groups - and are comprehensible only to members within these limited communities. Such precedent units often exhibit characteristics of slang or jargon. What distinguishes them is not their causal semantics, but rather the presence of uniquely encoded symbolic representations within their precedent meaning.

The phrase “**Old Bill**”<sup>7</sup> is defined in the Collins Dictionary as slang denoting “a police officer.” Two **Old Bill's** came up to me and told me they had a warrant for my arrest.<sup>8</sup> However, as a precedent unit, it represents the symbolic image of the Old Bill “**mustachioed soldier**” from World War I, where the distinctive attribute in its meaning is precisely the Old Bill “**mustache**.”

Here comes **Old Bill** himself.<sup>9</sup>

The fourth category comprises precedent phenomena that reflect concepts formed exclusively within individual consciousness, being strictly confined to that person's worldview, linguistic identity, and personal interests. It should be emphasized that the migration of precedent phenomena between these categories - both from core to periphery and vice versa - constitutes a frequently observed dynamic. During the transition from periphery to core, we observe a gradual erosion of the expression's precedential status, which consequently leads to modifications in its distinctive characteristic features. This transformation occurs when the referenced attributes undergo semantic shifts during the process of broader cultural assimilation. When communicators lack familiarity with the referenced characteristic, the precedent fails to achieve its intended effect. Typically, precedent phenomena originate as individual conceptual references that gradually gain wider circulation, eventually becoming embedded in the periphery - or more precisely, imprinted in the collective consciousness of linguocultural communities or even entire civilizations. This process is recognized by scholars as the most prevalent mechanism of precedent unit formation. However, this process is mediated by several crucial factors including: (1) the contemporary relevance of the referenced values, (2) their degree of dissemination, and (3) the social standing of the originator. Consequently, research confirms that precedent formation mechanisms vary significantly across historical periods. In

<sup>5</sup> <https://1735.slovaronline.com/11221-mary>

<sup>6</sup> <https://1735.slovaronline.com/11221-mary>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/old-bill>

<sup>8</sup> Frank Norman. *Bang to rights: an Account of Prison Life*. Chatto & Windus. London: 1987. – P. 138

<sup>9</sup> Herbert Hodge. *Cab, Sir?* M. Joseph, ltd. London. 1939. – P. 54



our current era of advanced communication technologies and proliferating print/digital media, we observe particularly robust dynamics in the emergence, development, and evolution of precedent phenomena.

In conclusion, based on the collected and analyzed data regarding the subject, precedent phenomena can be defined as communicative units that reference or are associated with concepts reflecting cultural values specific to either individual persons or entire linguocultural communities.

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