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**Clipped proverbial phraseology VS reproducibility: Functional aspect**

Long proverbs are observed to have ceased to be used in speech in their full form and to give birth to numerous elliptical derivatives. Thus, the proverb *You cannot make a silk purse out of a* ***sow's ear***has reduced to *sow's ear* or *The pitcher goes* ***once too often*** *to the well but is broken at last* has reduced to *once too often*, or ***Early to bed*** *and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise* has reduced to *early to bed*, etc.

Lots of such clippings—evidently acquiring a certain linguistic status—have entered modern dictionaries of idioms enriching the lexical-phraseological paradigm with few-component phraseological units of high communicative value: *a new broom*, *second nature*, *safety in numbers*, *forbidden fruit*, *the last straw*, *pay the piper*, *call the tune*, *cry over spilt milk*, etc.

The quantitative change of proverbial phraseology is accompanied by occasional changes in its lexical and grammatical structure (*have second thoughts*, *on second thoughts*, and in pragmatic function as well.

The theoretical background of the paper is the phraseological concept initiated by A.V. Kunin and the linguist’s method of phraseological identification.

The paper focuses its attention on the types of elliptical derivatives in modern English phraseology and suggests their classification. Functional approach to different structural-semantic types of clipped proverbial phraseology—initial, terminal, medial, bilateral ones—reveals a set of details in their pragmatic effect.