
A Contrastive Study Of Culture-Specific Concepts In English and Uzbek Proverbs

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Annotation *This research is concerned with the contrastive analysis of English and Uzbek proverbs as a linguistic and cultural phenomenon, aiming to identify their universal and nationally specific features. This study focuses on the interaction between language, culture and human cognition, conducted within the framework of Linguistics, Modern linguistics and Cognitive linguistics. The research is based on qualitative methods and comparative analysis of English and Uzbek proverbs. A contrastive analysis of Uzbek and English proverbs shows that although proverbs have general cognitive basis, they represent different national worldview. The results show that proverbs are one of the notions that represent culture and human experience which are shaped by social and historical development. The finding plays crucial role in conceptualization which is significant in Linguistics, Modern linguistics and Comparative linguistics providing both theoretical and practical examples for further researches. This study also contributes to intercultural communication and helps to understand different ways of thinking between cultures.*

Keywords *Proverb, culture-specific analysis, comparative linguistics, linguoculturology, linguocultureme, English, Uzbek*

Ingliz va o'zbek maqollarida madaniy jihatdan xos tushunchalarning qiyosiy tahlili

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Annotatsiya *Ushbu tadqiqot ingliz va o'zbek maqollarini lingvistik va madaniy hodisa sifatida qiyosiy tahlil qilishga bag'ishlangan bo'lib, ularning universal va milliy xos xususiyatlarini aniqlashni maqsad qiladi. Tadqiqot til, madaniyat va inson tafakkurining o'zaro aloqasini lingvistika, zamonaviy tilshunoslik va kognitiv lingvistika doirasida ko'rib chiqadi. Ish sifat va qiyosiy tahlil metodlariga asoslangan bo'lib, ingliz va o'zbek maqollari tahlil qilingan. Qiyosiy tahlil natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, maqollar umumiy kognitiv asosga ega bo'lsa-da, ular turli milliy dunyoqarashlarni ifodalaydi. Natijalar maqollarning ijtimoiy va tarixiy rivojlanish*

jarayonida shakllangan madaniyat va inson tajribasini ifodalovchi til birliklaridan biri ekanligini ko'rsatadi. Tadqiqot xulosalari konseptuallashtirish jarayonida muhim rol o'ynaydi va lingvistika, zamonaviy tilshunoslik hamda qiyosiy tilshunoslik uchun nazariy va amaliy ahamiyatga ega. Ushbu tadqiqot shuningdek madaniyatlararo muloqotga hissa qo'shadi va madaniyatlar o'rtasidagi turli fikrlash usullarini tushunishga yordam beradi. Shuningdek, tadqiqot natijalari bir nechta millat (ingliz va o'zbek) madaniyatlarining, o'zaro aloqasini chuqurroq tahlil qilish va ularning lingvistik xususiyatlarini yanada kengroq yoritib berishga xizmat qiladi.

Kalit so'zlar *Maqol, madaniy xos tahlil, qiyosiy tilshunoslik, lingvomadaniyatsunoslik, lingvokulturema, ingliz tili, o'zbek tili*

Сопоставительное исследование культурно-специфических концептов в английских и узбекских пословицах

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Аннотация

Данное исследование посвящено сопоставительному анализу английских и узбекских пословиц как лингвистического и культурного феномена с целью выявления их универсальных и национально-специфических особенностей. Работа рассматривает взаимодействие языка, культуры и человеческого мышления в рамках лингвистики, современной лингвистики и когнитивной лингвистики. Исследование основано на качественных методах и сравнительном анализе английских и узбекских пословиц. Результаты сопоставительного анализа показывают, что, несмотря на общий когнитивный базис пословиц, они отражают различные национальные картины мира. Полученные результаты свидетельствуют о том, что пословицы являются одним из языковых средств, отражающих культуру и человеческий опыт, формируемый под влиянием социального и исторического развития. Выводы исследования играют важную роль в процессе концептуализации и имеют значение для лингвистики, современной лингвистики и сравнительного языкознания, предоставляя как теоретические, так и практические материалы для дальнейших исследований. Это исследование также способствует межкультурной коммуникации и помогает понять различные способы мышления между культурами. Также исследование способствует более глубокому пониманию культурных различий. Оно помогает выявить общие черты мировоззрения разных народов мира.

Ключевые слова *Пословица, культурно-специфический анализ, сравнительное языкознание, лингвокультурология, лингвокультурема, английский язык, узбекский язык*

Introduction

Proverbs clearly represent the relationship between language and culture. They are considered national values of all languages. A proverb is a short, simple, and commonly known traditional saying that expresses a perceived truth based on common sense, and cultural and historical experience of people. They always reflect customs and traditions, morals and the outlook of people, however there are certain proverbs that only represent one specific culture. Linguoculturology is a relatively new discipline which studies linguocultures which help to easily find the specific concepts. Proverbs are used for many purposes, such as to advise, inspire, teach, persuade, and convince, etc.

Therefore, proverbs require much deeper analysis in order to understand their linguistic and cultural importance. This article aims to analyze proverbs as linguistic and cultural phenomena.

Literature review

Proverbs, as a part of paremiology, are considered national property. Their cultural significance is emphasized in the works of many scholars who approach them from linguistic and cognitive perspectives. Proverbs are regarded as culturally relevant units, as they reflect cultural values which are the results of historical development. Contrastive and linguocultural study of proverbs in different languages has been widely addressed by linguists, including V.I. Dal, G.L. Permyakov, M.I. Dubrovina, E.V. Ivanova, W. Mieder, A. Dundes, E.V. Kunin, M. Dzhushupov, N.B. Saparova, and P.U. Bakirov (Dal, 1996; Permyakov, 1988; Dubrovina, 1995; Ivanova, 2003; Mieder, 2004; Dundes, 2007; Kunin, 1996; Dzhushupov, 2022; Dzhushupov & Saparova, 2000; Bakirov, 2018), and others.

From a linguistic point of view, Irina Galperin defines proverbs as "brief statements showing in condensed form the accumulated life experience of the community and serving as conventional practical symbols for abstract ideas" (Galperin, 1977; 181). Similarly, Wolfgang Mieder emphasizes that a proverb is a short, widely known folk expression containing wisdom, truth, morals, and traditional views in a fixed and metaphorical form transmitted across generations (Mieder, 2004; 3). Both scholars highlight the linguistics factors and moral functions of proverbs which carry collective knowledge as they do not have authors.

In addition, scholars also emphasize the cultural significance of proverbs. C.B. Palmer regards proverbs as cultural texts that preserve knowledge, experience, and conceptual associations of generations, reflecting how different communities perceive the world (Palmer, 1996; 25). In the same way Yuanpeng Deng and Ran Liu argue that proverbs provide insights into geography, history, social structure, and cultural attitudes, as they are closely connected to the daily lives of the society.

Furthermore, the role of cultural mentality in proverb formation is emphasized by V.N. Telia, states that culture significantly impacts on the development of linguistic mentality.

The historical experience of a people in all languages is expressed by proverbs and they represent a universal cultural value. The culture, way of life and traditions of a nation are reflected by proverbs, therefore they contain both universal and nationally specific features in languages. The universal aspect lies in the fact that proverbs in all languages convey historical, linguistic, and cultural values that are

shared by all peoples, regardless of their linguistic, cultural, or historical characteristics (Kambarova, 2025).

Finally, the notion of linguocultures is important for explaining culture-specific elements in proverbs. These are often represented through realia, which include culturally bound elements such as food, clothing, personal names, geographical terms, and traditions that may not have direct equivalents in other languages.

Methodology

This study is based on qualitative methods and comparative analysis. The analyzed proverbs are classified into thematic groups according to their cultural concepts: mentality, traditions, lifestyle, social values and historical experience. In this research, most of the proverbs are taken from the book "Cultural linguistics" by D. Ashurova and M. Galiyeva. A set of representative proverbs from both languages was selected, collected and classified into thematic groups according to their cultural concepts.

Results

The analysis of Uzbek and English proverbs shows both universal and culture-specific features. In general, proverbs in both languages represent shared human experiences, and history, such as work, wisdom, family relations and morality. However, these ideas are expressed in different ways according to national world picture, and how the world is perceived culturally.

English proverbs mostly focus on self-development, individual development, practicality. For example, sayings such as "Time is money" and "Where there is a will, there is a way" represent goal-oriented mentality. In contrast, Uzbek proverbs mostly reflect collectivism, hospitality, and highlight respect for elders. Proverbs such as "Mehmon otangdan ulug" and "Kattaga hurmat, kichikka izzat" demonstrate the importance of social values.

Another important feature is the difference between the way of conveying

meaning. English proverbs often use direct metaphors, while Uzbek proverbs mostly rely on nature, animals and experiences to symbolize. For instance, "Qush uyasida ko'rganini qiladi".

The contrastive study shows that although proverbs in both languages have similar functions, they present different ways of thinking and encode different cultural values. This confirms that proverbs do not only serve as linguistic units but carry cultural identities

Discussion and Analysis

There is a huge difference between English and Uzbek proverbs, the former represents individualism, self-development and self-focus, however it is opposite in Uzbek proverbs which emphasizes group work.

1. National mentality

Where there is a will, there is a way – reflects an individualistic worldview, emphasizing determination, self-reliance and personal effort, meaning everything depends on human himself, people are the ones who can lead to success.

What will be, will be – represents the idea of fatalistic attitude, where everything comes from fate rather than individual focus.

Sabrning tagi sariq oltin – has the meaning of if one stays patient, can reach for more than what he wanted. It represents the idea of to achieve something is not easy, something that comes with difficulty and one is patient, can achieve gold (gold here represents success)

Taqdiringdagi bo'lsa toparsan – represents the idea of fatalistic attitude, which everything that comes to one is from fate.

2. Traditions and customs

An Englishman's home is his castle – reflects British cultural value of privacy and individual space. Home is a private place where man have control, freedom and independence. Just like the castle protects a king, home is seen as a protected personal place where others should not interfere.

Good wine needs no bush – reflects practical British thinking, appreciation of

quality over appearance and also historical aspects of British everyday life and trade traditions, which means that high quality things do not require advertisement or praise.

Mehmon otangdan ulug' – shows the hospitality of Uzbek people and how guests are highly respected like father. In Uzbek culture guests should be treated the same as fathers.

Kattaga hurmat, kichikka izzat – reflects respect for every age and shows hierarchy, meaning that if one respects one despite the age, gets the same respect. It represents a key cultural norm in Uzbekistan

English culture values personal space, individuality and etiquette, while Uzbek culture emphasizes hospitality.

3. **Lifestyle and everyday life**

Time is money – time is compared to money, as money comes and can be wasted so easily, time is precious as money, and should be spent effectively. It shows the importance of efficiency, discipline punctuality and productivity in everyday life.

Vaqt – oqar daryo – shows the same meaning but compared to river since in Uzbekistan water is considered valuable because of the far location from sea and water sources, proverb highlights the value of time as water and explains that time never stops or returns, just like a flowing river.

In both cultures, time is considered valuable, however in English culture it is bound to economy, while in Uzbek it is more nature focused.

4. **Historical experience**

Don't count your chickens before they are hatched – reflects practical wisdom based on experience, meaning the result can be different as one expected. Recommends not to judge so early, before making decisions everything should be taken into account.

Every dog has its day – shows that in English culture dog is viewed positively and belief in justice or opportunity and often associated with loyal companionship.

Jo'jani kuzda sanaydilar – emphasizes waiting for results before judgment, meaning is

same with English proverb, the difference is in word choice which reflects culture which shows rural experience where not all chickens survive until the season ends. The proverbs express practical wisdom and everyday life experience. Autumn is important in agriculture of Uzbek people, it is the time when people collect the crops.

It hurar, karvon o'tar – reflects historical experience of Central Asian caravan life which had a significant role in trade, meaning is ignoring criticism and continuing progress. However, dog is viewed negatively in Uzbek culture and is mostly used to symbol criticism and opposition. Both cultures value experience-based wisdom and caution. This proverb reflects endurance and resilience which are important cultural values in Uzbek society.

5. **Family and kinship**

Like father, like son – shows family influence on personality formation, the importance of family influence in English culture. It emphasizes continuity between generations.

Qush uyasida ko'rganini qiladi – reflects upbringing and inherited behavior from parents. While bringing children up, parents are the main examples how to behave, habits and values of the family. This proverb is more metaphorical, symbolizing the nest as a home and bird as growing child, meaning that parents and atmosphere play crucial role in child's personality formation.

6. **Communication and social interaction**

A friend in need is a friend indeed – emphasizes the English cultural value of loyalty and reliability in friendship. It highlights that the friend stood by one in difficult times is real friend where actions are more important than words.

Do'st kulfatda bilinadi – reflects testing friendship in difficulties that true friend can be recognized only in challenging moments, not in times of success. It presents cultural values of loyalty and emotional support in friendship. It also reflects a realistic worldview, where real

emotions and actions are clearly seen in difficult situations.

Both proverbs express the same universal idea of friendship, however Uzbek proverb is more emotional and experience-based, while English is more structured.

Conclusion

Contrastive study of proverbs in English and Uzbek languages from the perspective of comparative linguistics and culture shows that although proverbs share a common basis and have similar features and functions, they represent different cultural values and national worldviews. English proverbs often highlight

personal space, individualism and practicality, while Uzbek proverbs tend to emphasize collective work, hospitality and respect for elders.

The findings show that proverbs are not just linguistic units, however serve to represent cultural identity. They carry the mentality, traditions and lifestyle of different societies. Proverbs play a crucial role in Linguoculturology and Cognitive linguistics which contributes to a better understanding of the relationship between language and culture, as language serves as a bridge to present one's culture.

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