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## Lexical features of numerical component phraseological units in English and Uzbek

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**Annotation** *Investigating the distinct lexical characteristics of phraseological units that incorporate numerical components represents one of the most vital and foundational areas of modern linguistic research. This exploration fundamentally clarifies how numerical symbols bridge the gap between abstract mathematical concepts and culturally specific linguistic expressions. The aim of the study is to analyze the lexical features of phraseological units with numerical components in English and Uzbek. In this study the research methods include comparative, semantic and cognitive, qualitative analysis methods. Drawing from lexicographical sources and literary corpora in English and Uzbek languages, the study examines how numbers transcend their literal quantitative meanings to take on symbolic, cultural, and emotional connotations. The findings of this study reveal that while both languages share universal conceptualizations of numbers, they diverge significantly in cultures. This study enhances the fields of comparative linguistics, phraseology, and intercultural communication by providing insight into the cognitive and cultural factors that influence idiomatic expressions in both English and Uzbek languages.*

**Keywords** *Numerical components, lexical features, culture, phraseological units, numbers, meaning*

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## Ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi numerativ komponentli turg'un birikmalarning leksik xususiyatlari

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**Annotatsiya** *Numerativ komponentli frazeologik birikmalarning o'ziga xos leksik xususiyatlarini o'rganish zamonaviy lingvistik tadqiqotlarning eng muhim va asosiy yo'nalishlaridan biri hisoblanadi. Ushbu tadqiqot raqamlarning mavhum matematik tushunchalar va madaniy jihatdan o'ziga xos lingvistik ifodalar o'rtasidagi tafovutni qanday qilib bartaraf etishini tahlil qiladi. Mazkur ilmiy tadqiqotning asosiy maqsadi ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi numerativ komponentli turg'un birikmalarning leksik xususiyatlarini tahlil qilish hisoblanadi. Ushbu ilmiy tadqiqotda izlanish davomida qo'llanilgan tadqiqot usullari qiyosiy, semantik va kognitiv tahlil usullarini o'z ichiga oladi. Ushbu tadqiqot Ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi leksikografik manbalar va adabiy korpuslardan foydalangan holda, raqamlarning qanday qilib so'zma-so'z miqdoriy ma'nolaridan tashqari, ramziy, madaniy va hissiy ma'nolarni ifodalashini chuqur lingvistik jihatdan o'rganadi. Olib borilgan ilmiy tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, ikkala til ham raqamlarning universal kontseptualizatsiyasiga ega bo'lsa-da, ular madaniyatlarda sezilarli darajada farq qiladi. Ushbu tadqiqot ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi idiomatik iboralarga ta'sir qiluvchi kognitiv va madaniy omillarni o'rganish orqali qiyosiy tilshunoslik, frazeologiya va madaniyatlararo muloqot sohasini rivojlantiradi.*

**Kalit so'zlar** *Numerativ komponentlar, leksik xususiyatlar, madaniyat, frazeologik birliklar, raqamlar, ma'no*

## **Лексические особенности фраzeологических единиц числового компонента в английском и узбекском языках**

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**Аннотация** *Исследование отличительных лексических характеристик фраzeологических единиц, которые включение числовых компонентов представляет собой одну из важнейших и фундаментальных областей современных лингвистических исследований. Данное исследование принципиально проясняет, как числовые символы преодолевают разрыв между абстрактными математическими понятиями и специфическими для каждой культуры языковыми выражениями. Основная цель данного научного исследования - анализ лексических особенностей фраzeологических единиц с числовыми компонентами в английском и узбекском языках. В исследовании используются методы сравнительного, семантического и когнитивного анализа, а также качественные методы анализа. Опираясь на лексикографические источники и литературные корпуса на английском и узбекском языках, исследование изучает, как числа выходят за рамки своего буквального количественного значения, приобретая символические, культурные и эмоциональные коннотации. Результаты данного научного исследования показывают, что, хотя оба языка разделяют универсальные представления о числах, они значительно различаются в разных культурах. Это исследование расширяет области сравнительной лингвистики, фраzeологии и межкультурной коммуникации, предоставляя информацию о когнитивных и культурных факторах, влияющих на идиоматические выражения как в английском, так и в узбекском языках.*

**Ключевые слова** *Числовые компоненты, лексические особенности, культура, фраzeологические единицы, числа, значение*

Phraseological units are one of the most significant parts of the vocabulary of the languages and they manifest cultural values, cultural nuances, and historical development of languages, how people use the language and others. The study of phraseological units is one of the most important tasks in linguistics. Learning phraseological units helps us to understand more about languages, as they are

the fundamental part of the languages. "Phraseology, the study of set expressions such as idioms, proverbs, and other fixed phrases, is influenced by various cultural, social and technological factors" (Nykyropets et al. 2024; 22). The study of the lexical features of phraseological units has significant contribution in linguistics, particularly in phraseology. Number component

phraseological units are the expressions that incorporate numerical elements and carry particular importance beyond their literal meanings. Lexical feature of number component phraseological units include fixedness and idiomaticity, cultural significance, semantic fields, morphological variability, pragmatic use, collocational patterns, cross-linguistic variations. Even phraseological units consist of a number of words, it functions as a single lexical unit. Number component phraseological units and their lexical features highlight the interplay between culture, language, cognition and etc.

Analyzing lexical features of numerical component phraseological units can help us to know more about the functions of numerical set expressions and the ways of making the meaning in communication. Studying and understanding these phraseological units facilitates to enrich our appreciation of language and sociolinguistic factors.

The study of lexical features of numerical component phraseological units is plays one of the most significant roles in linguistics and phraseology. According to Z. Alimkulova, "phraseological units fill gaps in the lexical system of the language, which cannot fully provide the name of the (new) sides of reality known by man, and in many cases are the only designations of objects, properties, processes, states, situations, etc. The formation of phraseological units weakens the contradiction between the needs of thinking and the limited lexical resources of the language. In the same cases when phraseology has a lexical synonym, they usually differ stylistically. Phraseology is a treasure trove of language. The English phraseological fund is a complex conglomerate of native and borrowed phraseological units with a clear predominance of the former. Some phraseological units retain archaic elements representatives of previous epochs" (Alimkulova, 2022; 53).

Z. Alimkulova claims that phraseological units can act as a mirror for the nation's culture, history, cultural uniqueness, and traditional

lifestyle and etc (Alimkulova, 2022). While many of these expressions are deeply rooted in a specific national identity, the English language also contains a significant number of phraseological units that transcend cultural boundaries. Idioms and fixed phrases serve as linguistic records of the nation's heritage. Numerical component phraseological units are the expressions that contain numerical elements and carry specific meanings beyond the literal interpretation of their components. Numerical component phraseological units often demonstrate contextual, idiomatic, cultural significance. Lexical features of numerical component phraseological units reflect the role of set expressions with numerical components in the context.

There are several lexical features of numerical component phraseological units. Having a fixed form is one of the lexical features of numerical component phraseological units. Various phraseological units with numerical components have a fixed structure and the variation in wording is not allowed. For example, English set expression – "*a dime a dozen*" means something very common, not special, ordinary, or inexpensive. This phraseological unit is used to describe things, people, ideas and etc. that are not unique and special. The fixed structure of this expression emphasizes the quantity (a dime) as a measure of worth. The phrase has the fixed form and without losing the idiomatic meaning the components of the phrase cannot be substituted with synonyms. "Dime a group", or "a nickel a dozen" and etc. cannot be used to retain the meaning "very common, ordinary, or inexpensive". The lexical feature of set expression "*a dime a dozen*" can contain quantifier-based imagery. This expression relies on a specific numerical relationship that ten cents stands for twelve items and demonstrates low value. "Dime" serves as a lexical constant and it cannot be replaced with "penny" or "nickel".

In Uzbek several phraseological units with numerical components have a fixed

structure. For example, the phrase: *"bir kam dunyo"* which means the world is not perfect has fixed structure. In this context the number "one" represents not only number "one" in a counting sense, but also it illustrates "single missing piece" or "fractional deficiency". The set expression: *"bir kam dunyo"* has fixed lexical feature. The number "one" cannot be changed in this phraseological unit. For example, it cannot be used as *"besh kam dunyo"* or *"yeti kam dunyo"*. Changing the number in this expression destroys the idiom. Several numerical component phraseological units have fixed structure, such as *"ikki yamlab bir yutmoq"* can also be the best example for this lexical feature of phraseological units. The set expression: *"ikki yamlab bir yutmoq"* is used to describe someone who is capable of finishing the task in a single, swift motion. For example, in A. Qodiriy's story called *"Uloqda"* the set expression: *"ikki yamlab bir yutmoq"* is used. For instance,

*"Ulaming orqasidan Shokir ham baytalini yugurtirdi. Chidab turib bo'lmas ekan, ular orqasidan toychamga bir qamchi berib yuborgan edim, jonivor ikki yamlab bir yutub, o'n odimda ularni yo'lda qoldirib ketdi. Anchagina uzoqlashganimdan so'ng orqamdagilarga qaragan edim, hammaning ko'zida men ekanman."* (Qodiriy, 2004; 8).

In this phraseological unit numbers "two" and "one" are not just quantities. They cannot be changed in this phraseological unit. For instance, it cannot be used as *"sakkiz yamlab bir yutmoq"* or *"ikki yamlab uch yutmoq"* and etc. Changing the numbers in this expression destroys the idiom and its meaning.

Another lexical feature of numerical component phraseological units is having idiomatic meaning. The idiomatic meaning of phraseological units refers to the meaning that the phrase often cannot be understood by individual words of the phrase. For instance: *"six feet under"* which means to be dead and buried has idiomatic meaning. The literal interpretation of this expression does not convey the idiomatic meaning associated with

death. The use of number "six" in this set expression illustrates cultural standard rather than a mathematical measurement. There are several Uzbek phraseological units with numerical components and their meanings are often idiomatic. For instance, *"ishlari besh bo'lmoq"* refers to success, perfection, particularly in the context of achievements. In this phrase the number "five" functions as a qualitative adverb and it signifies that everything is going perfectly or according to the plan. The number "five" cannot be substituted with other numbers, such as two, seven, eight and etc. and the status of being fixed idiom is lost, if the number "five" is substituted in this set expression.

Numerical component phraseological units often carry deep cultural weight, serving as vessels for a society's traditions, ethics, and social expectations. These idioms do more than just count and they can reflect the underlying values and collective mindset of a community. For instance, the English expression *"two's company, three's a crowd"* illustrates how a specific number can be used to define social boundaries and the preferred dynamics of human interaction and it also represents cultural significance. According to Cambridge online dictionary, the set expression *"two's company, three's a crowd"* means "when two people are relaxed and enjoying each other's company but another person would make them feel less comfortable" (Cambridge online dictionary). The idiom *"two's company, three's a crowd"* suggests that the third person can make a situation uncomfortable or unwelcome and it is often used in social contexts. The Uzbek proverb *"Yettining biri-ayyor, yettining biri-Xizr"* has also cultural significance. Utilization of number "seven" with several set expression can illustrate the connections with nation and family.

Numbers such as three, seven, six, forty, nine, thirteen, hundred, thousand, million and others carry symbolic meanings and it represents phraseological units' significance. For example, *"Third time's the charm"*. This

expression is used to say that two efforts at something have already failed, but perhaps the third will be successful. In Uzbek, there is a proverb with the number "seven": "*Yetti o'lchab, bir kes*" – this proverb means to think carefully and attentively before doing something. In Uzbek, this proverb is commonly used for giving advice, which means to think carefully and attentively before doing something or starting tasks or work. For instance, in Tog'ay Murod's story called "Yulduzlar mangu yonadi" the Uzbek proverb "*Yetti o'lchab, bir kes*" is used and it represents cultural values and symbolic use of numbers in Uzbek. For example,

*"U davradan chiqdi. Oqsoqollardan Amir polvonni tirsasidan gidan chetga tortdi.*

*– Polvonlarning har yerda o'tlab yuribdi, bu nima o'ti-rish? – dedi. – Menga qara, zo'r-zo'rlarini bir yerga yig'. Sho'rchiliklar kepti... Tushundingmi? O'zing bosh bo'l. Qurga tartib bilan chiqar. Shoshma, yetti o'lchab, bir kes. Sho'rchiliklarning o'ngi-chapiga e'tibor qil. Qaytarib aytaman, faqat sho'rchiliklarga ko'z tikinglar"* (Murod,; 2020; 21).

In this part of the story the proverb: "*Yetti o'lchab, bir kes*" is used to demonstrate the meaning that the person should think carefully and attentively before doing something or starting tasks or work and here the number "seven" is utilized symbolically. In Uzbek, this proverb is commonly used for giving advice, and it means to think carefully and attentively before doing something or starting tasks or work. The number "seven" reflects various cultural values and symbols in language. Each number has its significant role in phraseological units. Numbers can carry symbolic meanings and in each culture they have their own significant cultural, symbolic connotations, such as across several languages number "seven" symbolizes perfection, completeness, spiritual wisdom and it often denotes good fortune, safety, or intellectual curiosity.

Numerical component phraseological units are connected with cultural beliefs, cultural values, social life and others. Numbers can evoke several specific connotations based

on culture and cultural context. For instance, the English proverb: "*Two heads are better than one*" the use one number "two" represents partnership helps to find better solutions and to get better results. According to Merriam-Webster online dictionary, "this phrase is used to say that it is easier for two people who help each other to solve the problem than it is for one person to solve a problem alone. For example, "*We need to work together to figure this out. Two heads are better than one*".

In this English proverb the number "two" has a crucial role and it reflects partnership, problem solving and collaboration. The core meaning of this proverb is that working together with others helps to achieve better results. In Uzbek, the proverb "*bir kalla kalla, ikki kalla tilla*" can be the equivalent of this proverb and the number "two" has a positive connotation and in this proverb number "two" is connected with partnership, teamwork and problem solving. Besides that "the two heads" in this proverb symbolizes a combination of two individual's intellectual abilities.

Lexical features of phraseological units with numerical components also include variability and adaptation. Although numerous phraseological units with number components are fixed, some of them adapt based on the context without losing the core meaning. For instance, the idiom "*take five*" can be the best example. According to Cambridge online dictionary, "this set expression means that it is used to tell someone to stop working and relax for a short period of time". For instance, in this context which is taken from Merriam-Webster (n.d) the idiom "*take five*" is used to represent the meaning to take a short break:

*"They're locked in a fierce debate over the last scene of their film ... when camp director and Hollywood veteran Sam Dalton finally orders them to take five. – Megan Myers".*

In this context the idiom "*take five*" is used to represent the meaning to take a short break. Although this idiom generally means to take a short break, it can be adapted to the context and can be adapted to "*take ten*"

depending on the desired duration of the break. For example, in this context which is taken from Merriam-Webster (n.d) this expression is used:

*"I could see his anger had nearly boiled over. ... Coach Colby, who ran the defense, was the brave soul who stepped in. "Take ten," he said, placing a hand on Orlando's chest. "Cool off. Then suit up and meet at the fifty-yard line. Got it?" – Brandon Terrell".*

In this context the idiom generally means to take a short break and in this text this idiom is adapted to *"take ten"* that represents the desired duration of the break.

In several Uzbek phraseological units with numerical components can vary based on the context and it shows variability which is the lexical feature of phraseological units. For instance, the expression: *"besh daqiqa"* literary means five minutes. The use of number *"five"* in this expression is crucial and this expression can be adapted in different contexts to suggest quick tasks and short breaks.

Numerical component phraseological units carry several lexical features such as fixed forms, idiomatic meaning, cultural significance, symbolic use of numbers, quantitative implications, connotative associations, variability and etc. These lexical features contribute to the richness and complexity of numerical component phraseological units in language use and they help to convey the meaning in various contexts. Both English and Uzbek numerical component phraseological units have fixed structures.

Both English and Uzbek set expressions that contain numbers often possess figurative meanings that cannot be understood by simply looking at their individual parts and this represents a shared linguistic phenomenon where the numerical element serves a symbolic rather than a literal purpose, creating a unified concept that transcends basic arithmetic. Although both languages incorporate cultural references, the specific cultural contexts are different and they reflect cultural beliefs, cultural values, social values, social norms and

etc. in each language. In both English and Uzbek languages numbers are used symbolically. However, the specific associations may differ based on cultural context and significance. Numerical component phraseological units both in English and Uzbek have several lexical features which include idiomatic meaning, fixed structures, cultural significance and other numerous important features. They can also reflect different cultural contexts and connotations unique to each language.

The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek phraseological units with numerical components represents the similarities and differences of lexical features, the structure, idiomatic meaning, cultural significance, their variability and other several features between English and Uzbek phraseological units with number components.

Both English and Uzbek numerical component phraseological units possess idiomatic meanings that are not directly derived from their components. This highlights a common linguistic feature that cultural context is considered as a crucial part in the interpretation of the phraseological units. Cultural context of English and Uzbek numerical component phraseological units illustrate that although both English and Uzbek phraseological units reflect cultural significance through their components such as numerical components, the specific cultural references are not the same. According to symbolic meanings of numerical component phraseological units in both English and Uzbek, numbers are used symbolically but the associations may differ.

In conclusion, the lexical analysis of numerical component set expressions in the English and Uzbek languages highlight a complex interplay of shared traits and distinct variations regarding their semantic depth, and cultural heritage. Both languages utilize specific numerical frameworks to understand phraseological units. While both languages utilize numerical components to convey rich

meanings with phraseological units, such as idioms, proverbs, others, the cultural contexts shape how these set expressions are used and understood. Understanding these nuances

enhances our appreciation of how language encapsulates cultural values and social dynamics through numerical component phraseological units.

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