

COMPARATIVE LINGUOCULTURAL ANALYSIS OF PROVERBS EXPRESSING
HUMAN CHARACTER IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: This article presents a comparative linguocultural analysis of proverbs expressing human character in English and Uzbek. The study examines proverbs reflecting positive and negative personality traits and identifies their similarities and differences. The findings reveal that proverbs are important linguistic units reflecting national mentality, culture, and moral values. Although many English and Uzbek proverbs share similar meanings, their figurative representations and cultural foundations differ significantly.

Keywords: proverb, comparative linguistics, human character, linguoculturology, semantics, English language, Uzbek language.

Annotatsiya: Mazkur maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi insonxarakterini ifodalovchi maqollarning semantik valingvokulturologik xususiyatlari qiyosiy jihatdan tahlilqilinadi. Tadqiqot davomida insonning ijobiy va salbiyxarakter belgilarini aks ettiruvchi maqollar o'rganilib, ularning o'xshash va farqli jihatlari aniqlanadi. Tahlil natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, maqollar xalqning milliytafakkuri, madaniyati va axloqiy qadriyatlarini aksettiruvchi muhim til birliklari hisoblanadi. Ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi ko'plab maqollar mazmun jihatidano'xshash bo'lsa-da, ularning obrazlilik darajasi vama'daniy asoslari turlicha ekanligi aniqlandi.

Kalit so'zlar: maqol, qiyosiy tilshunoslik, insonxakteri, lingvokulturologiya, semantika, ingliz tili, o'zbek tili.

Аннотация: В данной статье проводится сравнительно-лингвокультурологический анализ пословицанглийского и узбекского языков, выражающиххарактер человека. В ходе исследования изучаютсяпословицы, отражающие положительные и отрицательные черты личности, а такжевыявляются их сходства и различия. Результатыанализа показывают, что пословицы являютсяважными языковыми единицами, отражающиминациональное мышление, культуру и нравственныеценности народа. Несмотря на смысловое сходствомногих английских и узбекских пословиц, ихобразность и культурная основа существенноразличаются.

Ключевые слова: пословица, сравнительноеязыкознание, характер человека, лингвокультурология, семантика, английский язык, узбекский язык.

Introduction

Proverbs are among the most significant examples of folklore, embodying the life experience, worldview, and moral values accumulated by a nation over centuries. In the proverbs of every people, important ideas about human character, behavior, and social roles are expressed. Therefore, proverbs constitute an important object of study not only in linguistics but also in cultural studies and ethnolinguistics.

Today, comparative studies of proverbs in different languages play a crucial role in identifying the national mentality and cultural characteristics of various peoples. A comparative analysis of proverbs expressing human character in English and Uzbek makes it possible to draw important conclusions regarding the moral principles and cultural values of both nations.

The purpose of this article is to identify the semantic and linguocultural features of proverbs expressing human character in English and Uzbek and to highlight their similarities and differences.

Literature Review

Paremiology, the field devoted to the study of proverbs, has been investigated by numerous linguists and scholars. The works of Wolfgang Mieder occupy a prominent place in the development of English paremiology. The scholar regards proverbs as expressions of folk wisdom and collective experience.

In Russian linguistics, G.L. Permyakov conducted extensive research on the semantic and structural characteristics of proverbs. In Uzbek linguistics, M. Sodiqova, B. Sarimsoqov, and other scholars have examined the linguistic and cultural features of Uzbek proverbs.

In recent years, linguocultural studies have increasingly considered proverbs as important units reflecting national culture. Proverbs expressing human character, in particular, serve as valuable sources for investigating the moral norms and social attitudes of a people.

Analysis and Results

During the study, proverbs expressing human character in English and Uzbek were comparatively analyzed. The results demonstrated that proverbs play a significant role in evaluating both positive and negative personality traits in the two languages.

For example, the English proverb "*Honesty is the best policy*" praises honesty and integrity, while the Uzbek proverb "*To'g'rilik tog'dan baland*" ("Truthfulness is higher than a mountain") conveys the same idea. Likewise, the English proverb "*A good name is better than riches*" and the Uzbek proverb "*Yaxshi otga bir qamchi, yomon otga ming qamchi*" emphasize the importance of reputation and good character.

Similar parallels can be observed in proverbs expressing negative character traits. For instance, the English proverb "*Pride goes before a fall*" and the Uzbek proverb "*Kibrning oxiri xorlik*" both warn against the destructive consequences of arrogance and excessive pride.

The findings revealed that honesty, diligence, modesty, and truthfulness are highly valued in the proverbs of both nations, whereas lying, arrogance, and laziness are strongly condemned.

Proverbs represent a mirror of human nature, morality, and social behavior refined through generations of experience. A person's true character is reflected in everyday actions, attitudes toward work, and relationships with others. In every society, unity and honesty serve as foundations for progress. As the Uzbek proverb states, "*Birlashgan — o'zar, birlashmagan — to'zar*" ("United we stand, divided we fall").

For example, when a team works together harmoniously on a complex project, success is usually achieved; however, internal conflicts often lead to failure.

At the same time, not everyone within a group possesses sincere intentions. This idea is reflected in the proverb "*Yettovdan birov — shayton*" ("There is a black sheep in every flock"). Even within a respected family or community, the behavior of one problematic individual may negatively affect the entire environment.

Human worth is closely connected with diligence and honesty. Laziness is traditionally viewed as a flaw leading to regret, as expressed in the Uzbek proverb "*Erinchoq ikki ishlar, oxiri barmog'ini tishlar*" ("Lazy people take the most pains"). A student who postpones preparation until the last moment often experiences greater stress and difficulty than those who prepare consistently.

True success cannot be achieved through deception because, as the proverb states, "*O'g'irlik molning tagi qilday, to'g'rilik molning boshi tog'day*" ("Honesty is the best policy"). A businessperson who avoids corruption and dishonest practices may progress slowly, but a reputation built on integrity remains strong and enduring.

People should also be cautious of hypocrisy and insincerity. The expression “*Mug‘ombirning yig‘isidan qo‘rq*” (“Beware of crocodile tears”) warns against individuals who display false emotions for personal gain. Some people may publicly express sympathy and concern while secretly pursuing selfish interests.

The most evident reflection of character appears in a person’s speech. The Uzbek proverb “*Dili qora — til qora*” (“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”) suggests that malicious thoughts inevitably reveal themselves through words. A person who constantly gossips and criticizes others often exposes inner jealousy and ill will.

Similarly, harmful words can wound more deeply than physical actions. This idea is expressed in the proverb “*Ilon zahri — tishida, yomon zahri — tilida*” (“The tongue is not steel, yet it cuts”). A single offensive remark may damage relationships more seriously than physical harm.

In contrast, kind words possess tremendous value. The proverb “*Achchiq til — zahri ilon, chuchuk tilga — jon qurbon*” (“Good words cost nothing and are worth much”) highlights the positive influence of polite and encouraging speech. Even a few supportive words can inspire a discouraged person to achieve significant goals.

People naturally associate with those who share similar values and attitudes. This idea is reflected in the proverb “*Ikki yaxshi erikmas, ikki yomon birikmas*” (“Birds of a feather flock together”). Honest and virtuous individuals tend to form strong and lasting relationships, whereas immoral people rarely establish genuine friendships.

A noble and dignified person usually avoids petty conflicts and gossip. This notion is expressed through the proverb “*It tumshug‘ini tiqqan yerga suv ichgali sher kelmas*” (“A lion does not catch flies”). Individuals who recognize their own worth do not waste time on insignificant disputes.

Finally, a good reputation protects a person from false accusations and public distrust. As the proverb states, “*Yaxshiga qora yuqmas, yomonga el boqmas*” (“Truth fears no trial”). Integrity and honorable conduct remain among the most highly respected qualities in both English and Uzbek cultures.

The comparative analysis confirms that proverbs in both languages serve not only as linguistic units but also as carriers of cultural values, moral principles, and collective wisdom. They reflect the ideals and social expectations that shape human character and behavior.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The findings of the study demonstrate that proverbs expressing human character in English and Uzbek share numerous semantic similarities. In both cultures, positive moral qualities such as honesty, diligence, modesty, and truthfulness are highly praised, whereas negative traits such as deceitfulness, arrogance, and laziness are strongly criticized.

At the same time, the imagery and expressive means reflected in proverbs are closely connected with the national culture and worldview of each people. English proverbs tend to emphasize individual responsibility, self-reliance, and personal achievement, while Uzbek proverbs place greater value on collectivism, respect, kindness, and mutual support.

The analysis further revealed that proverbs are not merely linguistic expressions but also important carriers of cultural memory and social values. Through proverbs, generations transmit their life experience, ethical norms, and perceptions of ideal human behavior. As a result, proverbs play a significant role in shaping individual character and preserving cultural identity.

The linguocultural significance of proverbs is particularly evident in their ability to reflect social attitudes toward human behavior. The comparative study showed that despite differences in cultural background, both English and Uzbek proverbs

promote universal human values such as honesty, kindness, hard work, and justice. This confirms that proverbs serve as an important bridge between language, culture, and human cognition.

Furthermore, the study indicates that many proverbs expressing character traits are based on metaphorical and symbolic imagery. Such imagery reflects the historical experience, traditions, and worldview of a particular nation. Therefore, the interpretation and translation of proverbs require not only linguistic knowledge but also an understanding of cultural context.

The results of this research may be applied in comparative linguistics, translation studies, linguoculturology, and foreign language teaching. Future studies may focus on the cognitive, pragmatic, and cultural dimensions of proverbs expressing human character, as well as on the challenges of their translation and intercultural interpretation.

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