

CULTURAL METAPHORS OF TOLERANCE: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, AND UZBEK PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

*J. Nasrullaev*¹

Abstract:

This article presents a comparative analysis of phraseological units reflecting the concept of “tolerance” in English, Russian, and Uzbek languages. Phraseological units, as a crucial part of the linguistic worldview, convey cultural characteristics, historical experiences, and social values of a society. The study identifies key differences in the conceptualization of tolerance: in English, tolerance is associated with patience and restraint; in Russian, it is linked to endurance and perseverance; and in Uzbek, it emphasizes harmony and mutual respect within the community.

Key words: tolerance, phraseological units, linguistic worldview, English, Russian, Uzbek, cultural metaphors, comparative analysis

doi: <https://doi.org/10.2024/kggjyy43>

Phraseological units are an integral part of any language, carrying culturally embedded meanings that often go beyond literal interpretation. They reflect how societies view and conceptualize abstract ideas, such as “tolerance”, within their specific cultural and historical contexts. In this paper, we explore how the concept of “tolerance” is represented in the phraseological units of English, Russian, and Uzbek languages. Through a comparative analysis, we aim to identify how these linguistic forms reveal the cultural underpinnings of tolerance and contribute to broader social norms regarding coexistence and mutual respect [1].

The study of phraseological units not only helps to uncover linguistic peculiarities but also allows for a deeper understanding of how different cultures prioritize tolerance, patience, and harmony in their worldviews. This paper examines key phraseological units related to tolerance in the three languages and discusses the underlying cultural values these units reflect.

In English, phraseological units often convey tolerance through metaphors of patience and non-interference. For example, the expression “to hold one's tongue” means to refrain from speaking out, especially in situations where disagreement could lead to conflict. This reflects the English-speaking world's view of tolerance as a form of self-restraint, where individuals exercise patience to maintain social harmony [2].

Another example is the phrase “turn a deaf ear”, which indicates ignoring offensive or provocative behavior to avoid confrontation. This highlights the cultural norm of tolerance as a passive quality—choosing not to react to minor transgressions

¹ *Nasrullaev Javokhirkhon Ravshankhonovich, Independent Researcher at Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages, Uzbekistan*

in favor of preserving peace [3]. These phraseological units depict tolerance as an individual responsibility, closely tied to personal restraint and the avoidance of unnecessary conflict.

In Russian, phraseological units connected to tolerance often emphasize endurance and stoic acceptance of difficult situations. The phrase “закрывать глаза на что-то” (literally “to close one’s eyes to something”) illustrates a willingness to overlook or tolerate imperfections or wrongdoing for the sake of avoiding conflict. This suggests that tolerance, in the Russian linguistic context, is more about enduring discomfort than promoting inclusivity or diversity [4].

The unit “терпеть” (to tolerate/endure) and its derivatives, such as “терпение” (patience), are frequently used in Russian to describe tolerance. These expressions are closely related to enduring hardship without protest, reflecting a cultural perspective that values fortitude in the face of adversity. In this context, tolerance is linked to the ability to endure challenges and difficult circumstances, rather than actively engaging with or understanding differences [5].

In Uzbek, phraseological units related to tolerance emphasize community harmony and mutual respect. One example is the expression “yurak kengligi” (broad-heartedness), which refers to a person’s ability to be generous, understanding, and tolerant of others. In this cultural context, tolerance is viewed as an active and positive force that strengthens community ties.

Another common phraseological unit in Uzbek is “sabrlik qilish” (to act with patience), which signifies enduring difficulties without complaint while maintaining respect for others. This reflects the cultural priority placed on patience and hospitality as essential components of social harmony. In Uzbek culture, tolerance is often tied to the idea of welcoming others and fostering a supportive environment, where differences are not only tolerated but embraced.

The comparative analysis of English, Russian, and Uzbek phraseological units related to tolerance reveals significant cultural differences in how this concept is understood and practiced. In English, tolerance is often framed as an individual trait, where patience and restraint play key roles in maintaining social order. Russian phraseological units, on the other hand, highlight endurance and the ability to bear discomfort without complaint, reflecting the historical emphasis on fortitude in the face of hardship. Uzbek phraseological units focus on collective well-being and harmony, where tolerance is seen as an active process of fostering unity and mutual respect.

These differences illustrate how each culture’s historical, social, and linguistic development has shaped its understanding of tolerance. While all three cultures value tolerance, they do so in distinct ways that reflect their respective social priorities and cultural traditions.

Phraseological units serve as a powerful tool for understanding how abstract concepts like tolerance are embedded in the linguistic and cultural frameworks of different societies. The analysis of English, Russian, and Uzbek phraseological units demonstrates that while tolerance is a universally recognized value, it is conceptualized differently across cultures. English-speaking cultures tend to view tolerance as an individual’s responsibility to maintain patience and avoid conflict. In contrast, Russian culture places a greater emphasis on endurance, while Uzbek culture prioritizes community harmony and mutual respect. These linguistic

distinctions provide valuable insights into the ways in which different societies approach the challenges of coexistence and social harmony.

References:

[1]. Кунин, А.В. (1970). *Англо-русский фразеологический словарь*. Москва: Русский язык.

[2]. Зыкова, И.В. (2004). *Современная русская фразеология: лингвокультурологический подход*. Москва: Флинта.

[3]. Добровольский, Д., Пицрайнен, Э. (2005). Культурные знания и идиомы в русском и английском языках. *Международный журнал лексикографии*, 18(3), 253-273.

[4]. Moon, R. (1998). *Fixed Expressions and Idioms in English: A Corpus-Based Approach*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

[5]. Cowie, A.P. (1998). *Phraseology: Theory, Analysis, and Applications*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.