

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: LINGUOCULTURAL ASPECT

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Abstract:

Phraseological units are an essential element of language, representing the cultural and linguistic identity of people. They reflect not only the linguistic structures but also the worldview and cultural values of native speakers. This article aims to compare English and Uzbek phraseological units, exploring how they depict the "colorful picture of the world" and examining their cultural and linguistic significance. By analyzing specific examples from both languages, this article sheds light on how phraseological units are linked to the cultural identity and collective mentality of the English-speaking and Uzbek-speaking people.

Key words: English, Uzbek, phraseology, linguoculturology, linguocultural aspect

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Phraseological units are not just words; they are like little windows into a culture's consciousness, showing us what people really think and feel. According to linguocultural theory, language embodies the worldview of its speakers, and phraseological units, in particular, represents cultural knowledge and historical experience. [1, 31-32]. In both English and Uzbek, phraseological units (PUs) offer a window into how people understand the world, express emotions, and navigate social relationships.

In English phraseological picture of the world, many PUs have developed over centuries, reflecting the societies and the ways they used to be with different social classes, and how one country used to have power over others. For example, the phraseological unit "black sheep" means someone who is considered a bad or embarrassing member of a group, like a family. It's an old saying from the 18th century when black sheep were unusual and not as valuable as white sheep. So, calling someone this way meant they were considered bad or unwanted [7, 76].

In Uzbek, phraseological units often have deep connections to Uzbek culture, nature, religion, and family life. According to Schneider, "culture is a system of symbols, whereas a symbol is something that stands for something else where there is no relationship between a symbol and what it symbolizes" [2, 20].

In Uzbek, people often use the metaphor "Ko'kdan tushgan," to describe someone who is very surprised or shocked, like they've suddenly appeared out of nowhere [3, 313]. The word "ko'k" (blue) refers to the sky, and it emphasizes how sudden and unexpected the situation is.

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Phraseological units can also tell us how people in a culture think about relationships and feelings. These units often have special meanings that show what people value, like family, friends, and how they interact with each other. English PU “Tied by the red thread” implies to people who are destined to meet or be together are connected by an invisible red thread [3, 26]. This can apply to family bonds, indicating that family members are connected by fate.

A similar sentiment with color is found in the Uzbek PU “Oq yuvib, oq taragan” literally translated to “Washed white, combed white” and deeply rooted in Uzbek culture and reflects significant values related to family bonds and respect [4, 19]. This phrase metaphorically represents the care and nurturing provided within a family.

While both PUs emphasize the primacy of family, the Uzbek version places greater emphasis on parental care, reflecting the admiration towards children in Central Asian societies.

In both English and Uzbek, patience is a virtue often expressed in phraseological units, though the imagery used to represent time and endurance differs.

The phrase “Every cloud has a silver lining” is a metaphorical expression which means that even the worst things can have a good side or a potential benefit. This encourages us to be hopeful and patient [3, 49]. It reminds us that within every problem, there is a chance to learn or grow, or a hidden opportunity, even if we can't see it right away. Today, this idea is used in many different cultures and languages, reminding us to find the positive in every situation and to stay hopeful during difficult times.

The Uzbek proverb “Sabrning tagi sariq oltin” translates to “Patience is golden” or more literally, “Patience, money and time bring all things to pass” emphasizes the value of patience, suggesting that enduring difficult times with patience will eventually lead to valuable rewards, much like finding gold [3, 270]. It closely matches the idea that being persistent and patient during tough times can lead to good results, reminding us that good things happen to those who wait.

We can see that both PUs emphasize the value of patience and a positive outlook during tough times. They also remind us to stay strong and hopeful, even when things don't seem to be as we expected like in many other phraseological units.

Nature and the environment often play a big part in how we understand the meaning of phraseological units in both English and Uzbek cultures. Colors, places, and natural things are often used to express feelings, conditions, or cultural beliefs in PUs.

The English expression “Feeling blue” is deeply rooted in cultural and historical contexts, often symbolizing sadness and melancholy [5, 11]. Culturally, blue is associated with cold and darkness, evoking loneliness or depression.

The metaphor “Qora bulut” (literally “Black cloud”) in Uzbek culture often symbolizes difficulties and sorrow [6, 151]. Similar to metaphors involving dark clouds in many cultures, a “Qora bulut” conveys a sense of gloom or hardship.

Life is full of colors, the colors represent different aspects of people's lifestyle and cultural approach. Phraseological picture of the world helps people to see all the colors of the universe and identify unique features of different cultures. It serves as a mirror of cultural identity specific nations, their national origin providing valuable information for researchers.

The way we use phraseological units can tell us a lot about our culture. They are not just tools for talking, they are like windows into how we see the world, feel things and get along with others. Studying these phrases, we can see how nature, society, and daily life have influenced our language since they are a big part of understanding the unique character and beauty of any language.

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