

## THE CONCEPT OF WEALTH IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH SAYINGS

*Yo'ichiyeva Zilolaxon Dilshod qizi*

*2nd-year Master's student, Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages*

**Abstract:** This article discusses how the concept of wealth is reflected in English and Uzbek sayings.

**Keywords:** folklore, saying, concept, culture

Folklore is one of the main factors that reveal a nation's linguistic worldview. It includes tales, riddles, wise sayings, and epics. In this article, we will examine how the concept of wealth is depicted in Uzbek and English cultures through sayings, which are bright examples of such oral folklore.

First of all, a saying is an expressive phrase or expression that clearly and accurately defines a certain life phenomenon. Sayings employ literary devices such as simile, comparison, irony, and allusion. There should be a semantic and logical link between the literal and figurative meanings of the metaphorical expression. A saying may consist of one or several sentences, and rhyme is not always preserved. For example: "If there is no wind, the branches of the tree won't move", "Daughter, I'm telling you; daughter-in-law, you listen", and others.

The word "matal" [Arabic مثل] primarily denotes an expressive phrase or wise saying that does not convey a complete meaning (e.g. "when red snow falls", "when the camel's tail touches the ground"). Secondly, it can also mean a story or fable.

Proverbs are considered a genre close to sayings in terms of form and content. Sayings are similar to proverbs as they also have a concise text. Sayings usually form part of an orator's speech but do not convey a complete meaning when used independently. For example, in the proverb "With kind words you can get a snake out of its hole, with harsh words you can draw a sword", if we use only half of it like "He spoke words that could draw a snake out of its hole", it would mean "He spoke kindly", and here it functions as a saying. Because the phrase "draw a snake out of its hole" does not convey a complete meaning on its own. Thus, sayings serve to beautify speech, whereas proverbs differ by expressing a complete meaning independently.

Examples of Uzbek sayings related to wealth include:

1. "This world belongs to the rich, the hereafter to the poor"
2. "Calling a beg a princess breaks your back"
3. "A beg's wealth is unblessed"
4. "A rich man gives"
5. "A single coin less makes two"
6. "Worth a bucket"
7. "Wealth is the dirt of the hand"
8. "Let it be as it is, let the poor stay poor"

9. "Selling to butterflies"
10. "Even his dog's droppings turn into gold"
11. "Buys quarrels with money"
12. "I wouldn't take him for three coins, nor would he take me for one"
13. "The chief's coin"
14. "Touchstone"
15. "Ringing like a mullah's coin"
16. "Even a cat does not bask in the sun for free"
17. "Cash allowance"
18. "He lost both the food in his mouth and the stone in his bag"
19. "With blessings"
20. "The pain of money is like a kebab"
21. "Setting traps for money"
22. "Coining money"
23. "He cursed endlessly, not leaving a place unoffended"
24. "Not worth a copper"
25. "Whether it fits or not, you pay five coins anyway"
26. "His prayers and worship became worthless"
27. "Milk goes to the fire, water to water, and yoghurt's money remains"
28. "Debt binds both your neck and your legs"
29. "Razor fee"
30. "Water destroys land, money destroys man"
31. "Either you have gold, or you have power"

When analyzing these sayings, we observe that wealth is depicted as transient ("Wealth is the dirt of the hand"). In them, money is referred to by words such as **mir**, **coin**, **bucket**, **mullah's ring**, **cash allowance**, **copper**, **coin**, **fee**, etc. The topic of money and wealth in Uzbek is expressed through multifaceted, deep, and life-experience-rich phraseological units. These expressions reveal the nation's economic, moral, and spiritual views as well as the historical and social context.

Some expressions ("This world belongs to the rich, the hereafter to the poor", "Wealth is the dirt of the hand") evaluate wealth as temporary and fleeting. These views, rooted in Islamic spiritual values, criticize excessive attachment to material possessions. Moreover, sayings like "His prayers and worship became worthless" imply that even good deeds and worship can lose their value due to materialistic pursuits.

Another group of sayings depicts the corrupting power of money. For example, "Water destroys land, money destroys man" or "The pain of money is like a kebab" express spiritual decay, greed, and moral crises. "Either you have gold, or you have power" refers to social injustice and domination based on wealth or force.

Some expressions critically illustrate the role of money in social and personal relationships. For instance, "I wouldn't take him for three coins, nor would he take me for one" equates mutual respect or disrespect to monetary value, while "Not worth a copper" implies utter worthlessness.

Sayings also reflect social injustice, compulsory payments, and taxes. For example, “Whether it fits or not, you pay five coins anyway” and “The chief’s coin” highlight historical experiences of taxation, injustice, and forced labor.

Some sayings use irony and sarcasm to expose materialism. “Even his dog’s droppings turn into gold” criticizes the extreme extravagance or unjustly acquired wealth of the rich. “Selling to butterflies” humorously expresses the foolishness of spending money on useless things.

Moreover, sayings reflect cultural norms, family, and social structure. For example, “Calling a beg a princess breaks your back” satirizes hierarchical social interactions. “He lost both the food in his mouth and the stone in his bag” describes a person forced to lose even his essentials.

### Examples of English sayings related to wealth include:

1. Cash is king
2. A penny for the guy
3. Better give a shilling than lend a half-crown
4. Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves
5. Never spend your money before you have it
6. Waste not, want not
7. No money, no Swiss
8. One man’s trash is another man’s treasure
9. Don’t go broke trying to seem rich
10. Spending is quick; earning is slow
11. A bargain isn’t a bargain unless it’s something you need
12. A penny saved is a penny earned
13. A small leak will sink a big ship
14. If you buy what you don’t need, you steal from yourself
15. A fool and his money are soon parted
16. He that has money in his purse cannot want a head for his shoulders
17. Money is power
18. All that glitters is not gold
19. Where there's muck there's money
20. A good payer is master of another's purse
21. A good paymaster never wants workmen
22. Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise
23. He who pays the piper calls the tune
24. Health is better than wealth
25. If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys
26. Money doesn't grow on trees
27. Money makes money
28. Neither a borrower nor a lender be
29. Pay beforehand was never well served
30. Riches have wings
31. The rich knows not who is his friend
32. You can't take it with you when you die

33. If wealth is lost, nothing is lost. If health is lost, something is lost. If character is lost, everything is lost
34. The best things in life are free
35. Money earned by deceit, goes by deceit
36. Money is not everything
37. Money demands care; you abuse it and it disappears
38. Money makes many things, but also makes the devil dance
39. Put your money where your mouth is
40. No bees, no honey; no work, no money
41. Penny-wise and pound-foolish
42. Spent money like water
43. Bad money drives out good
44. A bad penny always turns up

These sayings cover various topics:

Many acknowledge wealth as an important tool. For example, “Cash is king”, “Money is power”, and “Money makes money” highlight economic dominance and expanded opportunities through wealth. However, sayings like “A fool and his money are soon parted”, “Money doesn’t grow on trees”, and “Riches have wings” warn of the risks, urging careful saving and spending.

Some criticize viewing money as life’s main goal, despite acknowledging its utility. “You can’t take it with you when you die”, “The best things in life are free”, and “Money is not everything” emphasize moral, spiritual, and human values above material wealth. These ideas align with Christian virtues such as humility and generosity.

Other sayings depict money’s influence on human relationships. “He who pays the piper calls the tune” shows that the payer gains control, while “If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys” and “Put your money where your mouth is” tie salary, trust, loyalty, and responsibility to money.

Some express social injustice. For example, “One law for the rich, and another for the poor”, “Don’t go broke trying to seem rich”, and “If wealth is lost, nothing is lost. If health is lost, something is lost. If character is lost, everything is lost” emphasize inequality and moral degradation that wealth can cause.

Certain sayings carry humor and sarcasm while expressing deep truths: “A bad penny always turns up”, “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure”, and “A penny saved is a penny earned” elevate common experiences into universal truths. English proverbs are formed from simple yet profound observations, often containing humor, irony, or satire.

### References:

1. Madayev O. Uzbek Folklore. Mumtoz So‘z, Tashkent, 2010, p. 76
2. Uzbekistan National Encyclopedia. Tashkent: Uzbekistan National Encyclopedia, 2000
3. Y. Dolgoplov. A Dictionary of Confusable Phrases: More Than 10,000 Idioms and Collocations. McFarland & Company, Jefferson, North Carolina, and London, 2010

4. Begmatov E. et al. Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language. Tashkent, p. 555
5. Shomaqsudov Sh., Dolimov S., Dolimov U. The Bride of a Spacious House or the Encyclopedia of Uzbek Sayings and Expressions. Sharq, Tashkent, 2020, p. 640