

NATIONAL AND CULTURAL FEATURES OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Annotation: This article examines the national and cultural features of phraseological units in English and Uzbek. It analyzes how idioms reflect each nation's worldview, lifestyle, and historical experience. The study identifies the main sources of imagery in both languages and compares their symbolic, structural, and semantic characteristics. Special attention is given to translation difficulties caused by cultural differences and non-equivalent idioms. The research demonstrates that effective translation requires cultural competence and contextual understanding. Overall, the findings contribute to a deeper comprehension of linguocultural interaction and highlight the importance of idioms in enriching communication and cultural awareness.

Keywords: phraseology, idiom, culture, English, Uzbek, comparison, metaphor, worldview, translation, mentality, intercultural communication, translation difficulties.

Anotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi frazeologik birliklarning milliy va madaniy xususiyatlari o'rganiladi. Unda iboralar har bir millatning dunyoqarashi, turmush tarzi va tarixiy tajribasini qanday aks ettirishi tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda ikkala tildagi tasvirlarning asosiy manbalari aniqlanadi va ularning ramziy, strukturaviy va semantik xususiyatlari taqqoslanadi. Madaniy farqlar va ekvivalent bo'lmagan iboralar tufayli yuzaga keladigan tarjima qiyinchiliklariga alohida e'tibor qaratilgan. Tadqiqot shuni ko'rsatadiki, samarali tarjima madaniy kompetensiya va kontekstual tushunishni talab qiladi. Umuman olganda, topilmalar lingvomadaniy o'zaro ta'sirni chuqurroq tushunishga hissa qo'shadi va iboralarning muloqot va madaniy ongini boyitishdagi ahamiyatini ta'kidlaydi.

Kalit so'zlar: frazeologiya, ibora, madaniyat, ingliz tili, o'zbek tili, taqqoslash, metafora, dunyoqarash, tarjima, mentalitet, madaniyatlararo muloqot.

Аннотация: В данной статье рассматриваются национально-культурные особенности фразеологических единиц английского и узбекского языков. Анализируется, как идиомы отражают мировоззрение, образ жизни и исторический опыт каждого народа. В исследовании выявляются основные источники образов в обоих языках и сравниваются их символические, структурные и семантические характеристики. Особое внимание уделяется переводческим трудностям, обусловленным культурными различиями и безэквивалентными идиомами. Исследование показывает, что для эффективного перевода необходимы культурная компетентность и понимание контекста. В целом, полученные результаты способствуют более глубокому пониманию лингвокультурного взаимодействия и подчеркивают важность идиом в обогащении коммуникации и культурного самосознания.

Ключевые слова: фразеология, идиома, культура, английский, узбекский языки, сравнение, метафора, мировоззрение, перевод, менталитет, межкультурная коммуникация, трудности перевода.

Phraseological units represent an important layer of any language, reflecting a nation's worldview, mentality, lifestyle, and cultural values. They enrich the language with imagery and convey collective experiences preserved through centuries. In the era of globalization, comparing phraseological units in English and Uzbek and identifying their cultural foundations is essential for improving translation, enhancing intercultural communication, and developing linguistic competence. Therefore, the relevance of this topic is determined by the need to understand national identity and cultural worldview through phraseology. Phraseological units are stable word combinations that possess figurative meaning and cannot be interpreted through their literal components. They include idioms, proverbs, set expressions, and collocations. The meaning of a phraseological unit is often metaphorical and rooted in cultural associations, historical traditions, and shared experience of the speech community. Because of this, phraseological units rarely allow word-for-word translation, making them one of the most culturally loaded and complex elements of language. English phraseology has developed under the influence of British history, maritime traditions, climate, and social structure. Many idioms are connected with nature and weather, such as "It's raining cats and dogs," which reflects the frequent heavy rains characteristic of the region. Animal metaphors are widespread: "a dark horse," "the lion's share," "as busy as a bee." English culture values time, discipline, and punctuality, which is evident from expressions like "once in a blue moon," "time is money," and "in the nick of time." Historical factors such as aristocracy, trade, and seafaring have also left their imprint on idioms like "learn the ropes" or "sink or swim." Uzbek phraseology reflects the worldview, lifestyle, and cultural traditions of the people of Central Asia. Many Uzbek idioms originate from nomadic and agricultural life, depicting rural settings, land cultivation, and traditional occupations. For instance, "hosili mo'l bo'lsin," and "aravani quruq olib qochmoq" contain culturally meaningful images common in agrarian societies. Uzbek culture places great value on relationships, respect, and community, and this is reflected in idioms related to hospitality, kindness, and morality. Phrases such as "ko'nglini ko'tarmoq", "suyanchiq bo'lmoq", "elga yaramoq", demonstrate an emphasis on social harmony and humility. Another characteristic feature is the extensive use of *tana a'zolari va hissiyotlar* to describe emotional and psychological states. Such idioms include "eti uvishmoq" (to feel fear), "boshi osmonga yetmoq" (to be extremely happy), or "ko'ngli yorishmoq" (to feel relief or joy). These expressions show how Uzbek speakers conceptualize inner emotional experience through physical metaphors. Uzbek idioms are also rich in animals and nature symbolism, originating from traditional village life. Furthermore, moral lessons, ethics, and life philosophy play a significant role. Many idioms carry didactic meaning, encouraging honesty, patience, generosity, and wisdom. This gives Uzbek phraseology a culturally educational function alongside its linguistic role. Although English and Uzbek phraseological units often express similar concepts, their imagery and metaphors differ due to cultural factors. English idioms frequently include animal metaphors, maritime associations, and time-related images. In contrast, Uzbek idioms are based on nature, agriculture, everyday life, and human relationships. For example, "When pigs fly" in English expresses impossibility, whereas Uzbek conveys the same idea through expressions like "osmonga qarab yulduz sanamoq" (to count stars in the sky) or "bo'lmaydigan gap" (an impossible thing). The main difficulty in translating phraseological units is that literal translation does not convey the intended meaning. For instance, "break a leg" cannot be translated literally into Uzbek; its functional equivalent is "Omad!" Idioms with deep cultural associations may not have direct equivalents in the target language. Therefore, translators often use methods such as equivalent idioms, descriptive translation, cultural adaptation, or functional substitution. Mastery of phraseology is essential for producing accurate and culturally appropriate translations. The main

difficulty in translating phraseological units is that literal translation does not convey the intended meaning. For instance, “break a leg” cannot be translated literally into Uzbek; its functional equivalent is “Omad!” Idioms with deep cultural associations may not have direct equivalents in the target language. Therefore, translators often use methods such as equivalent idioms, descriptive translation, cultural adaptation, or functional substitution. Mastery of phraseology is essential for producing accurate and culturally appropriate translations. Another essential characteristic of English phraseology is the strong influence of British humour and irony, which often appear in idioms. Expressions such as “to have a screw loose” or “not playing with a full deck” represent humorous ways of commenting on someone’s behavior. The British tendency toward ironic understatement shapes idioms like “not bad” meaning “very good,” an example of how cultural communication styles influence figurative language. English phraseological units are also deeply influenced by sports culture, especially football, cricket, and boxing. Idioms such as “throw in the towel,” “the ball is in your court,” and “hit below the belt” originate from sports and are used widely in everyday speech. This reflects the strong role sports play in British national life. Another source of English idioms is economic and commercial life, as England was historically a major trading nation. This explains idioms such as “to pay the price,” “to strike a bargain,” and “to go bankrupt.” Many of these expressions later became metaphorical, expanding from economic contexts to general everyday communication. Uzbek phraseological units are strongly influenced by oral storytelling traditions, such as *dostonlar*, *maqollar*, *ertaklar*, and *xalq og‘zaki ijodi*. Many idioms originated from folk tales or centuries-old wisdom passed down through generations. Uzbek idioms often use vivid imagery, exaggeration (*mubolag‘a*), and rhythmic structures reminiscent of poetry. For example: “*ko‘kka ko‘tarmoq*” (to praise highly), “*tosh bag‘ir*” (cold-hearted person), “*yuragi og‘zi bilan chiqdi*” (very frightened). These expressions show the aesthetic and emotional richness typical of Eastern poetic culture. Uzbek idioms also reflect Islamic and spiritual values, which influence moral and ethical expressions. Idioms like “*halol mehnat*,” “*bosh egmoq*,” “*ko‘z yummoq*” are culturally tied to concepts of humility, respect, and righteousness.

Conclusion

The study of English and Uzbek phraseological units shows that idioms reflect each nation’s worldview, cultural identity, and historical experience. English phraseology is shaped by maritime traditions, social hierarchy, rational thinking, and a unique sense of humour, whereas Uzbek phraseology is rooted in agriculture, oral folklore, emotional expressiveness, and strong moral and communal values. Although both languages use idioms to enrich communication, their imagery, symbolism, and structure differ significantly, revealing distinct cultural perspectives. These differences make phraseological translation challenging, as literal rendering often distorts meaning. Successful translation therefore requires cultural knowledge, contextual understanding, and appropriate strategies such as equivalent idioms or descriptive translation. Overall, analyzing idioms in both languages deepens linguistic competence and enhances intercultural communication. Phraseological units serve as cultural bridges, helping speakers understand not only language but also the cultural mindset behind it.

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