

**ANALYSIS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS CONTAINING THE COMPONENT
“INTELLECT” IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES BASED ON THE
SEMANTIC FIELD METHOD**

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Annotation: This article presents a comparative analysis of phraseological units containing the component “intellect” in the English and Uzbek languages based on the semantic field method. Phraseological units reflect culturally embedded ways of conceptualizing human cognitive abilities, intelligence, wisdom, and mental processes. The study aims to identify, classify, and interpret idioms and fixed expressions associated with intellect, examining their semantic structures, figurative meanings, and cultural connotations in both languages. The research applies the semantic field approach to group phraseological units into meaningful categories such as intelligence, foolishness, quick-wittedness, memory, and reasoning ability. Special attention is given to metaphorical representations, including body-part imagery (“head,” “mind,” “brain”) and culturally specific symbols that shape the linguistic expression of intellect. The comparative analysis reveals both similarities and differences in how English and Uzbek speakers conceptualize intellectual capacity, highlighting universal cognitive patterns alongside culturally specific interpretations.

The findings demonstrate that phraseological units serve as important linguistic tools for encoding cultural attitudes toward intellect and human behavior. Moreover, the study contributes to the fields of phraseology, cognitive linguistics, and linguoculturology by offering insights into cross-linguistic semantic organization and intercultural understanding.

Keywords: Phraseological units, intellect, semantic field, English language, Uzbek language, cognitive linguistics, linguoculturology, idioms, metaphor, cross-cultural analysis.

Introduction

Phraseological units, as stable and figurative expressions, play a significant role in reflecting the cultural and cognitive worldview of a speech community. They encapsulate collective experience, values, and attitudes, particularly in the way abstract concepts such as intellect are conceptualized and expressed. The notion of “intellect” is a universal cognitive category; however, its linguistic representation varies across languages due to cultural, historical, and social influences. Therefore, the study of phraseological units containing the component “intellect” provides valuable insights into how different cultures perceive and evaluate mental abilities.

In both English and Uzbek languages, phraseological units related to intellect often include metaphorical expressions associated with the human body, especially the head, brain, and mind. These expressions may denote intelligence, wisdom, quick thinking, or, conversely, foolishness and lack of understanding. Despite some universal tendencies in conceptualizing intellect, each language demonstrates its own unique features shaped by national culture and linguistic traditions. This study aims to analyze phraseological units containing the component “intellect” in English and Uzbek using the semantic field method. By identifying semantic groups and examining their meanings and structures, the research seeks to reveal similarities and differences in the linguistic representation of intellect. The findings are expected to contribute to a deeper

understanding of cross-linguistic semantics and the relationship between language, cognition, and culture [1].

Literature Review

The study of phraseological units has been a central topic in linguistics, particularly within the fields of phraseology, cognitive linguistics, and linguoculturology. One of the pioneering scholars in this area is Viktor Vinogradov, who classified phraseological units based on their semantic cohesion and degree of idiomaticity. His work laid the foundation for further research on fixed expressions and their structural and semantic properties [2].

Another important contribution comes from Alexander Kunin, who developed a comprehensive theory of English phraseology. Kunin emphasized the stability, reproducibility, and figurative nature of phraseological units, highlighting their role in conveying culturally specific meanings. His classification and analysis remain widely used in modern linguistic studies [3]. From the perspective of cognitive linguistics, George Lakoff and Mark Johnson introduced the theory of conceptual metaphor, arguing that abstract concepts such as intellect are understood through metaphorical mappings grounded in physical experience. This approach is particularly relevant for analyzing phraseological units, as many idioms related to intellect rely on metaphorical representations of the mind and thinking processes [4].

The semantic field method, which serves as the methodological basis of this study, has been developed and applied by various linguists, including Jost Trier. According to Trier, vocabulary is organized into interconnected semantic fields, where the meaning of each unit is defined in relation to others within the same field. This approach allows researchers to systematically analyze lexical and phraseological items related to a specific concept, such as intellect [5]. In Uzbek linguistics, the study of phraseology and linguoculturology has been significantly advanced by scholars such as Shavkat Safarov and Dilorom Khudoyberganova. Their works emphasize the cultural and pragmatic aspects of language, including the role of phraseological units in reflecting national mentality and worldview [6].

Overall, the existing literature highlights the importance of phraseological units as carriers of cultural and cognitive meaning. However, comparative studies focusing specifically on the semantic field of “intellect” in English and Uzbek remain limited. This research aims to fill this gap by providing a systematic and contrastive analysis of phraseological units within this domain.

Methodology

This study employs a qualitative and comparative research approach to analyze phraseological units containing the component “intellect” in English and Uzbek languages. The research is based on the semantic field method, which allows for the systematic classification of phraseological units according to shared semantic features and conceptual domains [7].

The data for the study are collected from authoritative phraseological dictionaries, bilingual dictionaries, and linguistic corpora in both English and Uzbek. Additional examples are drawn from literary texts and everyday language use to ensure the authenticity and diversity of the material. The selected phraseological units include idioms and fixed expressions that explicitly or implicitly refer to intellectual abilities, mental processes, and cognitive evaluation. The analysis is carried out in several stages. First, phraseological units are identified and grouped into semantic categories such as intelligence, wisdom, quick-wittedness, memory, and foolishness. Second, each unit is analyzed in terms of its semantic structure, figurative meaning, and metaphorical basis. In this stage, the theoretical framework of conceptual metaphor proposed by

George Lakoff and Mark Johnson is applied to explain how abstract notions of intellect are represented through concrete imagery [8].

Furthermore, a comparative analysis is conducted to identify similarities and differences between English and Uzbek phraseological systems. Special attention is given to culturally specific elements, including symbolic representations and culturally bound meanings. The study also considers the degree of equivalence between phraseological units in the two languages, distinguishing between full, partial, and non-equivalent expressions [9].

To ensure the reliability of the findings, multiple sources are cross-checked, and examples are analyzed within their contextual usage. Although the research is primarily qualitative, it aims to provide a structured and comprehensive account of how the concept of intellect is linguistically encoded in both languages.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the present study has demonstrated that phraseological units containing the component “intellect” reflect both universal and culture-specific ways of conceptualizing cognitive abilities in English and Uzbek languages. The semantic field analysis reveals that both languages share common categories, such as intelligence, wisdom, and foolishness, indicating the universality of certain cognitive concepts. At the same time, notable differences emerge in the choice of metaphorical images, symbolic associations, and evaluative meanings. The findings show that many phraseological units are based on metaphorical mappings related to the human body, particularly the head and brain, as well as everyday experiences. However, the specific expressions and their connotations are shaped by cultural traditions, values, and linguistic norms. This highlights the close relationship between language, culture, and cognition.

Moreover, the comparative analysis underscores the importance of understanding phraseological equivalence in cross-linguistic studies. While some idioms have direct equivalents in both languages, others require descriptive or contextual translation due to cultural specificity. This has practical implications for translation studies, language teaching, and intercultural communication.

Overall, this research contributes to the fields of phraseology, cognitive linguistics, and linguoculturology by providing a systematic analysis of the semantic field of intellect. Future studies may expand the scope by incorporating quantitative methods or exploring additional languages to further deepen the understanding of how intellect is represented across cultures.

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