

**ENGLISH PROVERBS: A PHRASEOLOGICAL AND SEMANTIC STUDY OF  
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**Annotation:** This article explores the role of proper nouns in English proverbs, examining their phraseological and semantic significance. By analyzing a selection of proverbs that incorporate proper nouns, we aim to uncover the cultural, historical, and linguistic dimensions these elements bring to the proverbial expressions. The study reveals how proper nouns enrich the meanings of proverbs and contribute to their communicative functions.

**Keywords:** English proverbs, proper nouns, phraseology, semantics, cultural significance

Proverbs are succinct expressions that encapsulate cultural wisdom and social norms. They often reflect the values, beliefs, and experiences of a community. Within the realm of proverbs, proper nouns play a crucial role in shaping meaning, context, and cultural resonance. The word proverb derived from the language of Rome. It comes from the Latin word *proverbium*, a combination of the prefix *pro-*, meaning "put forth," and the word *verbum*, for "word." The recording of proverbial wisdom was not exclusive to the cultures of the Mediterranean [1].

A Semantic Structure Analysis (SSA) System is a Linguistic Analysis System that examines possible semantic relationship between syntactic sequences and their meanings.

Proper nouns in proverbs can refer to individuals, places, historical events, or cultural artifacts. Their inclusion often serves to anchor the proverb in a specific context or narrative, thereby providing deeper layers of meaning. A proper noun is a noun that identifies a single entity and is used to refer to that entity (Africa; Jupiter; Sarah; Walmart) as distinguished from a common noun, which is a noun that refers to a class of entities (continent, planet, person, corporation) and may be used when referring to instances of a specific class (a continent, another planet, these persons, our corporation). Some proper nouns occur in plural form (optionally or exclusively), and then they refer to groups of entities considered as unique (the Hendersons, the Everglades, the Azores, the Pleiades). Proper nouns can also occur in secondary applications, for example modifying nouns (the Mozart experience; his Azores adventure), or in the role of common nouns (he's no Pavarotti; a few would-be Napoleons). The detailed definition of the term is problematic and, to an extent, governed by convention [2].

Phraseology is a separate branch of linguistics that studies stable combinations and expressions based on a mobile meaning. The term "phraseology" comes from the Greek "pharsis" - phrase, and "logos" - teaching, and its scope of study includes only stable combinations based on a mobile meaning.

Although the phraseological unit or phraseme is very ancient in origin, the history of the science of phraseology (phraseology) covers several hundred years. In Russian linguistics,

researchers have been studying phraseological units since the 18th century. By the 60s-80s of the 20th century, phraseology was developing rapidly in Uzbek linguistics, as well as in foreign linguistics.

The picture of the world displayed by the phraseological means of the language and regarded as a linguistic phenomenon of the national and cultural heritage, is a phraseological picture of the world. In the phraseological picture of the world, the national uniqueness and uniqueness of the language is most clearly reflected, since phraseological units often include components of meaning that contain information about the nationally specific features of the people. Phraseological units are special units of the language, in which people's wisdom is displayed, the value-based picture of the world of ethnos, as well as representations and knowledge, both about the outer and inner world of the individual.

Phraseology was first analyzed as a separate independent branch of linguistics by the Russian linguist Polivanov, who justified the fact that phraseology is not a component of lexicology or stylistics, but an independent branch of linguistics as follows: "Lexicology studies the lexical meanings of words, morphology studies the grammatical meanings of words, and syntax studies the grammatical meanings of word combinations. However, there is a need for a branch of linguistics that studies the individual meanings of word combinations taken separately, with a mobile meaning" [3]. He is one of the linguists who emphasized that phraseology is a branch of linguistics that is as important as phonetics or morphology. After E.D. Polivanov, the scientist who addressed this issue was B.A. Larin. B.A. Larin states that phraseology as an object of research is still at the stage of its "latent development" and that no serious research has been conducted in this area, and that it needs to be studied separately from the materials of lexicography, stylistics and syntax [4]. Also, the research of another Russian linguist V.V. Vinogradov played a leading role in the formation of phraseology as a branch of linguistics.

Wolfgang Mieder is a famous phraseologist and paremiologist who has studied phraseological units and proverbs in many languages. He is well-known for his contributions to the study of proverbs, idioms, and other fixed expressions. Julia Kristeva is a Bulgarian-French linguist and literary critic who has studied the use of phraseological units in language and literature [5]. Her work frequently explores the relationship between language and culture. Anatoly Liberman is a linguist who specialises in etymology and folklore. He has studied phraseological units, word origins, and idioms, helping to understand these expressions in different languages. Max Black is a prominent philosopher and linguist who has made important contributions to the study of figurative language, including metaphor and idiom analysis. An American linguist known for his work on frame semantics, Charles Fillmore explored the structure and meaning of phraseological units, particularly within the context of cognitive linguistics.

The toponym in the following phraseological units is created from the product name: A long hunting knife and a toothpick (slang) from Arkansas (California): Bombay duck: "Bombay duck" is a curry created from the Indian Ocean's bun mallow fish. The British called this dish "Bombay duck" because it tastes like duck and was frequently offered in India during the British Empire. Bring coals to Newcastle to supply something to a location or individual who already has a lot of that specific item, not for all of China's tea (slang) Never, ever go for a Burton (slang) 1) pass away, 2) vanish, or 3) become bankrupt. Burton is a town in

Staffordshire County, famous for its production of beer. British pilots first used this expression during World War II remembering their fallen comrades in the army.

Phraseology refers to the study of fixed expressions and idiomatic phrases within a language. In the context of proverbs, proper nouns serve as pivotal components that can alter the structure and meaning of the expression.

Proverbs function as fixed expressions with high idiomaticity and a strong cultural load. As phraseological units, they:

- Exhibit stability in form and meaning.
- Have figurative or metaphorical meaning.
- Are widely recognized within a linguistic community.

Example of Proverbs with Proper Nouns

**"When in Rome, do as the Romans do."** This proverb uses "Rome" as a proper noun, which signifies not only a geographical location but also a cultural context. The phrase suggests that one should adapt to the customs of a particular place or society.

Proper nouns in proverbs often follow specific structural patterns that contribute to their effectiveness. They may appear at the beginning or end of a proverb for emphasis or serve as a central figure that embodies the moral lesson being conveyed. The semantic dimension of proper nouns in proverbs reveals their capacity to evoke particular images, associations, and emotional responses.

Many English proverbs derive their potency from historical or cultural references embedded in proper nouns. For instance:

**"The early bird catches the worm."** This proverb implies that proactive individuals (represented metaphorically by "the early bird") are rewarded. The use of "bird" invokes natural imagery familiar to many cultures.

**"Jack of all trades, master of none."** Here, "Jack" serves as an archetype representing versatility but also implies a lack of depth in skill. The name has become synonymous with mediocrity across various fields.

Some proverbs are rooted in historical events or figures, lending them a layer of meaning tied to specific narratives:

**"Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater."** This proverb warns against discarding something valuable while removing the undesirable. The imagery evokes historical practices related to bathing and household management.

To illustrate these concepts further, we will analyze three specific proverbs containing proper nouns:

**"As wise as Solomon"**. This proverb refers to King Solomon, renowned for his wisdom. The use of his name elevates the statement's authority and connects it to a broader narrative about wisdom throughout history.

**"The grass is always greener on the other side"**. While not featuring a specific proper noun, variations such as "The grass is always greener at John's house" personalize the saying and imply a judgment about another individual's situation.

**"Every dog has its day"**. This proverb implies that everyone will have a moment of success or recognition. In variations featuring specific dogs (e.g., "Every dog named Rex has its day"), it adds specificity and personal relevance.

### Conclusion

The analysis of proper nouns within English proverbs reveals their significant role in enriching both phraseological structure and semantic depth. Proper nouns not only provide cultural context but also evoke historical narratives that enhance the proverbial message. By examining these elements, we gain insights into how language reflects societal values and experiences through fixed expressions.

In summary, this study underscores the importance of proper nouns in proverbs as vehicles for conveying wisdom, moral lessons, and cultural identity. Future research could expand on this foundation by exploring similar phenomena in other languages and cultures, contributing to our understanding of global proverbial traditions.

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