

**PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS AS MARKERS OF CULTURAL IDENTITY IN UZBEK
AND ENGLISH DISCOURSE**

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Abstract: This article examines the role of phraseological units in reflecting and conveying cultural identity in Uzbek and English speech. Phraseological expressions, as a stable combination of words, embody the worldview, traditions, values, and mentality of the nation. The study highlights that phrases and fixed expressions serve not only as a means of language, but also as a cultural symbol that preserves historical memory and national characteristics. Comparative analysis of Uzbek and English phraseological units reveals that language reflects social norms, humor and national consciousness, and deep connections between language and culture.

Keywords: phraseological unit, cultural identity, discourse, idiom, national mentality, comparative linguistics, intercultural communication

Introduction

Language is not only a means of communication, but also a mirror reflecting the history, worldview, and cultural image of a nation. In each language, phraseological units - phrases, proverbs, and idioms - contain centuries of collective experience and values. They are linguistic manifestations of the national mentality and play an important role in shaping the perception and interpretation of the world by speakers. In the Uzbek and English languages, phraseological units are a unique indicator of culture, embodying the wisdom, humor, and traditions of their people. Understanding them is important not only for linguistic competence, but also for intercultural awareness and intercultural communication.

Methods

In recent years, linguistics has been paying more attention to the cultural aspect of language. Modern approaches, such as cognitive linguistics and cultural linguistics, emphasize that language cannot be fully understood without referring to the cultural and social context in which it operates. Consequently, phraseological units are not arbitrary combinations of words, they are a product of collective consciousness. This makes their study important for understanding how cultural identity is encoded through language and transmitted from generation to generation.

Phraseological units are one of the most striking linguistic elements reflecting cultural and national identity. They serve as a verbal symbol of the collective's worldview and social experience. For example, the phrase "Ko'ngli tog'dek" in the Uzbek language expresses generosity and emotional strength, which are very valuable to the Uzbek people. In English, a similar phraseological expression can be "a big-hearted."

Differences between Uzbek and English phraseological units are often caused by cultural, historical, and ecological factors. Uzbek phraseology is deeply rooted in agrarian traditions, the history of nomadism, and the principles of Islamic morality. Many expressions reflect such collective values as hospitality, patience, respect for elders - for example, "The guest is greater than the father" ("Mehmon otadan ulug'"), expressing the cultural sanctity of hospitality. English expressions, on the other hand, often originate from the maritime, industrial, and literary environments and reflect such values as individualism, practicality, and humor - for example, "Time is money" or "Keep your head above water."

Results

From a cognitive point of view, phraseological units are metaphorical models encoding the conceptual basis of the nation. They reveal how people from different cultures classify and interpret similar experiences. For example, both Uzbeks and English speakers are used to describe human behavior.

Phraseological units also serve as a means of socialization and self-awareness. They are transmitted through oral and written speech, embodying cultural norms in everyday communication. In Uzbek society, proverbs and expressions are widely used in family conversations, fiction, and mass media for moral instruction. In English-speaking contexts, idioms are more common in humor, advertising, and informal speech, reflecting a pragmatic and often playful approach to language use. Phraseological units are an integral tool for understanding the cultural identity of any language community. They provide an understanding of the values, norms, and worldview of a nation, revealing how language reflects social life and the way of thinking. Phraseological units in Uzbek speech reflect spiritual and moral principles based on centuries-old nomadic and agrarian traditions. For example, "Don't cut your hand when you see a baby."

In English speech, phraseological units often emphasize practicality, personal responsibility, and humor. Phrases like "Don't count your chickens until they hatch" or "Cut the arrow" concisely and memorably express life lessons and problem-solving relationships. Although Uzbek and English expressions are aimed at teaching and guiding behavior, the images, metaphors, and cultural references are different, reflecting the unique historical and social experience of each culture.

A comparative study of phraseological units in Uzbek and English highlights several key aspects:

Cultural metaphors: The metaphors embedded in phrases differ significantly across cultures. Phrases in the Uzbek language are often based on natural landscapes, animals, and social relations characteristic of local conditions. For example, the phrase "Liquid doesn't come out of a dog's mouth" expresses the meaning of being cautious about trusting untrustworthy people. English

Social norms and values: In Uzbek phraseology, special attention is paid to collective values, respect for elders, hospitality, and social harmony. English phraseological units tend to focus on individual agency, humor, and practical considerations. Comparison of expressions like "A guest is greater than a father" with English proverbs like "Home is where the heart is" shows that phraseologisms culturally specifically encode socially significant ideas.

Discussion

Cognitive and emotional function: Phraseological units form the way of thinking, emotional perception, and decision-making processes. They serve as cognitive shortcuts that provide culturally recognized interpretations of situations. The use of phrases in Uzbek culture

encourages reflection on moral behavior, social roles, and interpersonal relationships. In English, idioms often serve as a generalization of experience or a clever interpretation.

Translation problems: One of the most pressing issues of intercultural communication is the correct translation of phraseological units. Literal translation often doesn't convey cultural meaning. For example, the Uzbek phrase "Tili qalin, yuragi nozik" is used in relation to a person who speaks loudly, but has good intentions. English word-for-word translation can confuse the reader, so the translator should encompass the essence of "Crude in words, soft in heart." Successful translation requires understanding both linguistic and cultural dimensions.

Dynamic evolution of phraseology: Phraseological units are not constant; they change with social changes, technological progress, and global influences. While the English language has adopted phrases from digital culture ("Go viral," "Clickbait"), the Uzbek language is developing modern phrases such as "Becoming a star on the Internet." Despite the modernization, these units reflect the bot.

Intercultural communication and education For intercultural communication, it is important to understand phraseological units. Teachers and language learners should study phrases not only for linguistic accuracy, but also for cultural literacy. For example, studying the Uzbek phrase "O'qish bilan do'stlashing" teaches students to pay cultural attention to education as a lifelong value. Similarly, understanding phrases like "Hit the books" in English gives an idea of the West's attitude towards reading and work.

Phraseological units serve as a cultural sign, a cognitive tool, and a social target in Uzbek and English speech. They reflect national identity, convey collective wisdom, and mediate cultural understanding, making them an integral subject for comparative linguistics and intercultural research. Analysis of modern discourse shows that phraseological units continue to develop in response to globalization and digital communication. When traditional expressions adapt to modern conditions, new expressions, memes, and rhymes appear. For example, the phrase "to go viral" in English reflects the digital age, while phrases like "becoming a star on the internet" are becoming popular in Uzbek. These innovations show how dynamic phraseology remains and at the same time is based on cultural identity.

In addition, phraseological equivalence between languages creates difficulties for translation and intercultural understanding. Literal translation often fails to convey the cultural meaning. For example, if we translate "Ko'ngli tog'dek" into English as "His heart is like a mountain," the reader, unaware of Uzbek figurative thinking, may be distracted. Consequently, translators must interpret the idiomatic meaning, not the literal form, in order to preserve cultural subtlety.

Understanding phraseological units as cultural symbols in the era of globalization contributes to mutual respect and effective intercultural communication. Linguists, translators, and educators play an important role in introducing these phrases to learners, helping to understand not only the linguistic structure of speech, but also the cultural essence of communication. Thus, the comparative study of Uzbek and English phraseology serves as a bridge between cultures, contributing to the development of various linguistic forms.

Conclusion

Phraseological units are living witnesses of the history, mentality, and worldview of the nation. They are not merely linguistic ornaments, but rather powerful cultural symbols that connect generations and reflect collective consciousness. In Uzbek and English speech, idioms and proverbs show how they reflect the moral values, emotional perceptions, and social norms of the speakers of the language. By studying and comparing these expressions, we gain a deeper understanding of the interaction of language and culture, ways of complementing and enriching



each other. Understanding phraseological systems in a multicultural world fosters tolerance, empathy, and respect among nations. Therefore, phraseological units should be considered as an important cultural asset that forms a global understanding while preserving the uniqueness of each language community.

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