

THE LEXICAL-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF PHRASEOLOGISMS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH**Nazarova Dilafruz Ilkhomboy qizi**Student of Berdakh Karakalpak State University
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Abstract; This article provides a detailed description of the functional-stylistic structure of phraseological expressions in Uzbek and English, their linguistic features, and their general interrelations. Phraseological expressions are considered an important tool for creating imagery and expressiveness. The paper also presents the views and scientific works of scholars in both Uzbek and English linguistics regarding phraseology.

Keywords: phraseology, phraseological unit, idioms, semantic analysis, comparison.

Introduction; In modern linguistics, phraseology occupies a special and increasingly significant place. This field has been rapidly developing in recent years, resulting in numerous scholarly studies. Phraseology is the study of idiomatic expressions. Phraseological units—word combinations, free and fixed collocations—are analyzed structurally and semantically.

Phraseological expressions are widely used not only in Uzbek but also in English. Recently, the use of idioms in English and their theoretical study have developed even further.

The term *ibora* (from Arabic: *‘ibāra*) means “to speak,” “to express,” or “to explain.” In linguistics, an *ibora* is a combination of words that expresses a particular idea or concept. When used together, these words acquire a meaning different from their individual meanings. Phraseological units serve as rich expressive means of the language and are closely connected with cultural, social, and historical contexts.

In both languages, idioms play an important role. English phraseological units are closely linked with the nation’s ancient traditions, historical realities, and cultural values. Many English idioms originated from literary works, folklore, children’s poetry, fairy tales, and even caricatures.

Phraseological units form a valuable layer of artistic language that reflects linguistic, cultural, and historical characteristics of the nation.

Phraseological Units in Uzbek and English

Phraseological units consist of two or more independent lexical items that form a figurative semantic whole. For example:

In Uzbek:

Tepa sochi tikka bo‘ldi

Boshi osmonga yetdi

In English:

To show the right feather

To play the first fiddle

Phraseological units in every language reflect the national wisdom and worldview of the people. Scholars classify English idioms into three main groups according to their origin:

1. Ancient English phraseological units
2. Borrowed phraseological units
3. Phraseological units originating from American English

Phraseological expressions cannot be translated word for word; instead, their equivalents must be used. This is because each nation has its own traditions, customs, and worldview. Even if the forms differ, the meanings of equivalent idioms in Uzbek and English often match.

Examples of Uzbek–English Equivalents

a) Uzbek: “Baliq boshidan sasiydi”
English: “A fish stinks from the head.”
Meaning: Problems in an organization begin with its leader.

b) English: “Have one foot in the grave”
Uzbek: “Bir oyog‘i yerda, bir oyog‘i go‘rda.”
Meaning: Someone is close to death.

c) English: “It’s on the tip of my tongue”
Uzbek: “Tilining uchida turmoq.”
Meaning: Knowing something but momentarily unable to recall it.

d) English: “Have one’s heart stand still”
Uzbek: “Yuragi qoq yorildi.”
Meaning: Experiencing sudden fear or strong emotion.

e) English: “Cat got your tongue?”
Uzbek: “Tilingni yutvordingmi?”
Meaning: Asking someone why they are silent.

Phraseological units create new meanings that differ from their literal components. They enrich speech and convey deeper semantic and emotional nuances.

Scholarly Approaches to Phraseology

Both English and Uzbek linguistics have produced many valuable studies on phraseology. Some well-known scholars include:

World linguists:

B. Fraser, N. Chomsky, A. Kunin, V. Vinogradov, A. Nazaryan

Uzbek linguists:

Sh. Rahmatullaev, B. Yuldoshev, A. Mamatov, A. Bushuy, M. Sodiqova

According to American scholar B. Fraser:

“Phraseological units hold an important place in linguoculture. Unlike free combinations, they are fixed expressions whose form and meaning cannot be altered.”

Reformatsky defined phraseological units as:

“Expressions characteristic of certain social groups, showing their class or profession.”

Discussion

Idioms are essential for enriching oral and written speech. They help express thoughts vividly, naturally, and culturally appropriately. A speaker who knows idioms can communicate more fluently in English.

The English writer William Shakespeare contributed greatly to the development of English phraseology; many idioms used today originated from his works. These expressions have preserved their value and are now kept as part of national heritage.

In many countries, proverbs, idioms, and riddles are considered cultural treasures and are preserved as ancient heritage.

Conclusion

In conclusion, idioms are among the most delicate and expressive tools of a language. They enrich speech, provide deeper meaning, and reflect cultural characteristics. Proper use of idioms is important not only in everyday communication but also in academic and literary contexts.

In recent years, Comparative Phraseology has emerged as an independent field of linguistics. The phraseological units of English and Uzbek are compared through the lens of culture and national mentality. Every idiom is tied to national thinking.

Today, idioms are analyzed not only grammatically but also through cultural, historical, and psychological perspectives.

For example:

English: “Let the cat out of the bag”

Uzbek: “Sirni aytib qo‘ymoq / tiliga erk bermoq”

The English idiom originates from trade history, while the Uzbek equivalent comes from colloquial speech.

Due to globalization and the influence of the internet, the usage of English idioms in Uzbek speech has increased. This indicates the growing interaction between the two languages and the productive integration of phraseological expressions.

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