

## EXPRESSION OF ETHNIC AND CULTURAL IDENTITY IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK PROVERBS

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### ABSTRACT

*This article is devoted to the expression of ethnic and cultural identity in English and Uzbek proverbs and sayings. We studied several folklore examples on different topics and analyzed the expression of nationality, ethnicity in two languages. We tried to find proper equivalents of proverbs from one language into another.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Proverbs, Folklore, Nationality, Paremeology, Mentality, Cultural Identity, Linguaculturology.*

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### INTRODUCTION

Each nation's proverbs and sayings are inextricably linked. They express a person's nationality, culture, customs and way of life. It's also worth noting that the proverbs were written over a lengthy period of time in the history of a certain culture. They demonstrate people's linguistic ingenuity. "The typicality of the imagery underlying the meaning of phraseological units, as well as the incorporation of symbols or world standards in them, is the fruit of the collective representation of... a linguistic and cultural community regarding some group experience," says famed phraseologist V.N. Telia [1, p.203]. Proverbs are made up of particular and recognizable imagery that become deeply generalized via usage and thought. There are concepts about a man, his life, experiences, connections — everything that shapes the ethno-cultural existence of the people, his mind — in ethno-cultural metaphors.

Several societies' proverbs express national cultural knowledge in different ways. A comparison of the structure and semantics of these proverbs reveals the similarities and differences in their conceptual proverbial fields, demonstrating the similarities and differences in their conceptual proverbial fields. Furthermore, national values, which are at the heart of culture, are vividly expressed in the proverbs. 'Values are sensations with an extra arrow denoting a plus and negative side,' says well-known Dutch academic Geert Hofstede.

People's global outlooks, stereotyped views, and national and cultural identities are all influenced by national and ethnic proverbs. "Proverbs are brief, memorable sentences that reflect a culture's folk wisdom on dealing with life's challenges."

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**Literature review:** In the parameological perspective of the world, the constants of national consciousness and culture are fixed. According to Wolfgang Mieder, proverbs, like any folk genre, "have for a long time been part of a spoken folk art lending consistency to our perspective of the universe." They've helped to preserve a core framework for generations of people who have utilized them as common philosophical guides from birth to old age as part of the larger domain of folklore." As antecedent texts, proverbs and sayings shape ethnic images of the world, revealing national perceptions and thinking. Furthermore, national values, which are at the heart of culture, are vividly expressed in the proverbs. As the well-known Dutch scholar Geert Hofstede claims, 'Values are feelings with an added arrow indicating a plus and a minus side'.

People from various cultures have varying values. Identifying cultural values through proverbial language aids in understanding cultural differences and, as a result, understanding one another [2, p.41]. The subconscious of values is shown through the language of proverbs. 'Proverbs are found all around the world, and their prevalence has prompted scientists from many fields to analyze them from antiquity to the current era. For modern researchers, a comparative study of languages and cultures is a vital undertaking. "The language of a country reflects its culture, mentality, and patterns of thought." The structural-semantic comparison of proverbs is crucial in this aspect since proverbs reflect people's centuries-old wisdom like a mirror. As one of the scholars mentioned, "language expresses cultural reality". The issue of analysis of proverbs was studied by a number of other foreign researchers.

Proverbs are an invaluable example of folk art, expressing the national and cultural characteristics of the people, their worldview and the spirit of the nation. As the famous linguist Dahl put it, "a collection of proverbs is a collection of proverbs from the vernacular, from experience, from common sense, from the truth that people have learned in life." [3]

When we look at the proverbs of different languages, we see that they are a reflection of the historical, spiritual and material culture of the people who speak that language. Therefore, a comparative study of different language proverbs helps to reveal the specific cultural and national aspects of a nation, in other words, it reflects the mentality of that nation.

Although the concept of "mentality" has recently introduced into the linguistic paradigm, it is now widely used. In the narrow sense, mentality is used in the sense of "scope of thought, worldview", and in the broadest sense, "the morals, upbringing and imagination of the people". Accordingly, mentality is "a character of a nation that is reflected not only in language, but also in literature, religion and other spiritual aspects." Therefore, as mentioned above, this "national character" closely related to the religion, politics, customs, social strata, lifestyle, history and even geographical location of the people.

**Analysis:** When we talk about nationalism in English proverbs, we can't skip talking about the character of the English people. Among the nations of the world, these people are distinguished by their pride and respect. This aspect is also reflected in the articles:

*In English:* *Blood is thicker than water* [4, p.234].

*The translation into Uzbek:* *Qon suvdan ko'ra quyugroq*

*Uzbek equivalent:* *O'z uyimning xushligi,*

*Oyoq qo'limning bo'shligi* [5, p378].

*In English:* Don't bite off more than you can chew.

*The translation into Uzbek:* Chaynay oladiganingdan ko'ra kata tishlama.

*Uzbek equivalent:* Narvonga chiqsang, shoshmay chiq,  
Oz haddingdan oshmay chiq [6, p137].

*In English:* Don't bite the hand that feeds you .

*The translation into Uzbek:* Seni boqib turgan qo'lni tishlama.

*Uzbek equivalent:* Ichib turgan suvingga tupurma [6, p258].

As you can see, the Uzbek translation of this English proverb condemns giving back goodness for people who has helped you. That is, it is described with the word "HAND", while in the Uzbek version the word "water" is used to give the equivalent meaning. In the general sense of the Uzbek version of the proverb is a little bit different from the English one, but the usage is nearly identical.

This means that the proverbs show that the British people have more qualities of pride and respect than the Uzbek people.

We can see this in a slightly different way in Uzbek folk proverbs. In other words, the Uzbek people express in their articles that respect for others is a noble virtue.

- *Elda er atansang, El senga oltin tovoqda osh berar.*
- *Hurmat qilsang, hurmat topasan* [5, p343].

Another characteristic of the British is that they prefer pets to children, as evidenced by the use of the image of "dog", especially "cat", rather than the image of "child".

For example,

- *Dog does not eat dog. - Qarg'a qarg'aning ko'zini cho'qimaydi* [6, p.365].
- *Don't kill the goose that lays the golden eggs - Ishlab yegan zog'orang, Tanangga yog'dek yoqar*
- *When the cat is away, the mice will play - Mushuk yo'q bo'lsa sichqon bayram qiladi.*
- *Early bird catches the worm – Avval kelgan ho'kiz suvning tozasini ichar* [5, p.370].

## DISCUSSION:

In the process of analyzing the linguocultural aspects of Uzbek and English proverbs, it is important that the languages and cultures of both peoples are interrelated. Some of the articles analyzed from a linguoculturological point of view reveal their features, sometimes by the same people, sometimes by a completely different expression [7, p.225]. In this regard, English and Uzbek proverbs describe the traditions of all Uzbek and English peoples from the past to the present, and proverbs as examples of folklore are a leader in this task. In studying the peculiarities of the mentality of both nations, Uzbek and English proverbs can show the similarities and differences between the two nations.

Analyzing Uzbek and English folk proverbs thematically, we concluded that all the topics in the Uzbek proverbs can also be found in English. Similar equivalents of proverbs in both languages can be found. As a result, nearly all proverb on any topic has its alternatives in both languages [8, p123]. So, the subject matter of English and Uzbek articles is diverse and has almost the same themes in both languages. However, articles on some topics may be more common in one language than in another. This is the fact that the topics included in many articles are a key part of people's lives. [9]

The mentality and national character of the people are the main leaders in the process of comparative analysis of articles in both languages. Here, based on the unique mentality and traditions of the English and Uzbek nations, proverbs in the language can express the national identity of peoples in a concise and expressive way. While the importance of family and kinship is evident in Uzbek proverbs, the strength of love for pets is more emphasized in English proverbs. Additionally, national cuisine and national costumes are also found in folk proverbs. Based on these characteristics, we can study the similarities and differences between the two cultures [10, p.125].

## CONCLUSION

To sum up, English and Uzbek proverbs are the cultural heritage of these nationalities. They reflect all the thoughts, worldviews, lifestyles, attitudes and beliefs of the English and Uzbek peoples. As each nation has its own characteristics, this will inevitably affect their articles. Even though the themes in some English and Uzbek proverbs are similar, the images in them are unique. And these images provide the national color in the articles. [11,12]

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