



TRANSLATING IDIOMS BETWEEN ENGLISH AND UZBEK FROM A CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

The given article deals with idiomatic expressions in English and Uzbek highlights both the similarities and differences that arise from cultural, historical, and linguistic backgrounds. In addition to this it investigates on Specific words used in idioms may differ due to the phonetic and grammatical structures of each language and the historical events, cultural practices, religious beliefs and customs unique to each culture shape how idioms are formed and understood.

KEYWORDS: Idiomatic expressions, linguistic variations, grammatical structure, cognitive base, religious beliefs, cross-cultural communication, phonetic structures.

INTRODUCTION

Phraseology, which is the branch of linguistics that studies idiomatic expressions or phraseological units, always deals with national-cultural content of a language system. It is connected with history of the nation and reveals national mentality of native language speakers. Phraseological units are considered as rich sources of social-historical information. That's why their formation closely deals with extra-linguistic factors. Such units are able to reflect nature of any place, economic and social conditions and culture of a definite nation, history, way of living, folk art, literature, art, science, traditions, customs which are passed from generation to generation. The semantic or meaningful essence of idioms is a huge store of knowledge, which turns to be topical and is disclosed in the process of communication thus giving a chance to a reader/listener to comprehend the meaning of this or that phraseological unit. For example, let's analyze the English idiom Damon and Pythias, which means "very close friends", "good friends". When we call two friends by this expression we mean that they are very close and faithful to each other. In the Uzbek language such friends are called by a similar expression: "ikkalasi bir teshikka tupuradi". But this idiom belongs to a colloquial style and can't be used in literary or official style. In the meaning of idiomatic expressions different aspects of language can be disclosed: religious-moral, social, mythological, historical, etc. Such language units convey significant knowledge about the world picture and people. Awareness of the special national and cultural identity of phraseological units, initially intuitive and a priori, accompanied phraseology from the very beginning of this linguistic discipline at all stages of its development. Thus, the development of various approaches to the identification of national-cultural feature in phraseology corresponded to the stages of development of the language image in linguistics.

Idiomatic expressions in English and Uzbek highlights both the similarities and differences that arise from cultural, historical, and linguistic backgrounds. Both English and Uzbek languages reflect universal human emotions and experiences. The use of body parts (eyes, ears, nose) in idioms signifies shared physical and mental states across cultures. For example: 'All eyes are on'. The first example, 'All eyes are on,' reflects a sense of anticipation or focus, which is similarly expressed in the Uzbek idiom with a slight variation in wording but maintaining the same meaning. 'Keep an eye on' – 'Ko'z qo'yish' - to watch or monitor something closely. The second example, "Keep an eye on," directly translates to watching something closely, reflecting a common understanding of vigilance across cultures. 'Get cold feet' – 'Qorong'i qo'llar' to feel nervous or hesitant about something, particularly before a significant event. The third example illustrates hesitation or fear before an important event; while the idiomatic expressions differ in structure and wording, they share similar emotional connotations. The comparative analysis of body part idioms between English and Uzbek showcases not only linguistic parallels but also cultural insights that enrich our understanding of human experiences. For instance, both languages utilize body parts as metaphors for emotions, advice, and actions, indicating universal human experiences despite linguistic differences. Moreover, examining these idioms through the lens of cognitive linguistics reveals how language shapes thought and perception. The use of bodily metaphors often emphasizes physical sensations associated with emotions—such as "cold feet" representing fear or anxiety—and these metaphors resonate across cultures. There are some differences between Uzbek and English in idiomatic expressions.

1. Cultural Context: The historical events, cultural practices, religious beliefs, and customs unique to each culture shape how idioms are formed and understood.
2. Linguistic Variations: Specific words used in idioms may differ due to the phonetic and grammatical structures of each language. For instance, the role of certain body parts may be emphasized differently (e.g., "eye" vs. "ear").
3. Historical Influences: The evolution of English idioms is tied to significant historical events (e.g., Roman conquest, Viking invasions), while Uzbek idioms reflect a rich history spanning thousands of years with influences from various Turkic dynasties. With over three thousand years of history, Uzbek idioms are deeply rooted in its long-standing civilization, reflecting its social changes through different eras like the Karakhanid period. The comparatively shorter history (around one thousand years) has still produced a wealth of idiomatic expressions shaped by significant events such as conquests and societal shifts.

Similarities stem from a common cognitive framework through which humans interpret their experiences, leading to analogous expressions despite linguistic differences. Intercultural communication fosters exchanges that can influence language use, introducing new idioms or modifying existing ones.

To sum up, the study of idioms provides valuable insights into how language reflects culture and society. While similarities exist due to shared human experiences, differences arising from cultural contexts highlight the unique histories that shape each language. Understanding these aspects can enhance cross-cultural communication and appreciation for diverse linguistic expressions. If you'd like to delve deeper into any specific area or need assistance with another topic related to linguistics or cultural studies, feel free to ask. English and Uzbek as reflections of cultural values and shared human experiences. They serve as a bridge between language and emotion, advice, and action while highlighting the richness of each language's expressive

capabilities. By delving into these idioms, we gain insight into how different cultures articulate similar sentiments through unique linguistic structures. As globalization continues to influence intercultural communication, such comparative studies remain vital in appreciating the nuances that define our languages and shared humanity.

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