



LINGUOCULTURAL STUDY OF GASTRONOMIC PHRASEOLOGY IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the linguocultural aspects of gastronomic phraseology in the Uzbek language, highlighting how food-related idioms reflect cultural traditions, social norms, and historical contexts. By analyzing commonly used gastronomic expressions, the study explores the interplay between language and culture, demonstrating the role of phraseology as a vehicle for transmitting cultural values and collective experiences. The research also discusses the methods and principles of interpreting gastronomic phraseology within the frameworks of cultural linguistics and ethnolinguistics. Practical implications for language teaching, cultural studies, and intercultural communication are presented.

KEYWORDS: Uzbek language, gastronomic phraseology, linguoculture, cultural linguistics, idiomatic expressions, ethnolinguistics.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a mirror of culture, encapsulating the values, beliefs, and worldviews of a society. Gastronomic phraseology, a subset of idiomatic expressions centered around food and eating, offers a unique perspective on the cultural identity of a linguistic community. The study of gastronomic phraseology is especially significant in the context of the Uzbek language, where food-related expressions reveal deep connections to the nation's rich history, lifestyle, and traditions. These idioms are not merely linguistic constructs; they are cultural symbols that reflect societal values such as respect for hospitality, communal living, and the sacredness of sustenance.

Uzbekistan's location at the crossroads of the Silk Road has significantly influenced its gastronomic culture, integrating diverse culinary elements from neighboring regions while preserving its unique identity. As a result, the Uzbek language features a wealth of idiomatic expressions tied to food and eating practices, which are deeply rooted in the everyday lives of its people. For instance, idioms related to bread and tea, such as *non ko'rmoq* (to see bread) and *choyni ichmoq* (to drink tea), encapsulate the cultural importance of these staples in Uzbek hospitality and spirituality.

Understanding these idioms requires more than linguistic analysis; it necessitates a cultural and historical perspective that accounts for the societal norms and values embedded within the language. This study aims to explore the linguocultural aspects of gastronomic phraseology in Uzbek, highlighting how these idioms serve as carriers of cultural knowledge, shaping and reflecting the collective consciousness of the Uzbek-speaking community. By doing so, it contributes to a broader understanding of the intricate relationship between language and culture.

Gastronomic phraseology refers to idiomatic expressions involving food, beverages, or eating practices. In the Uzbek language, these expressions are deeply rooted in the agrarian lifestyle and rich culinary heritage of the Uzbek people. For example, phrases such as "yog'dek yurish" (to walk as smoothly as oil) and "choyni ichmoq" (to drink tea) highlight the cultural significance of oil and tea, essential elements of Uzbek cuisine and hospitality. The study of such idioms provides insights into the worldview and cultural priorities of the Uzbek-speaking population.

Cultural linguistics provides a theoretical framework for analyzing the interconnection between language and culture. Gastronomic idioms, as cultural artifacts, embody shared knowledge, historical experiences, and traditional practices. For example, the expression "non ko'rmq" (to see bread) conveys respect for bread, which holds a sacred status in Uzbek culture. By studying the cultural meanings embedded in these idioms, researchers can uncover the social and historical contexts that shaped them.

Gastronomic phraseology in the Uzbek language can be systematically categorized into thematic groups that reflect the deep cultural and social underpinnings of Uzbek society. Each group not only embodies linguistic creativity but also serves as a lens through which the nation's traditions, values, and worldview can be understood.

1. Food Preparation

This group includes idioms that draw inspiration from cooking methods, ingredients, and the art of culinary expertise. These expressions often serve as metaphors for processes, achievements, or the culmination of efforts. For instance:

Osh bo'lmoq (to become pilaf) symbolizes the completion or successful resolution of a task. Pilaf (osh) is a cornerstone of Uzbek cuisine, often requiring patience and skill to prepare. By using this phrase, speakers evoke the imagery of a well-prepared dish to signify success.

Such idioms illustrate the centrality of food preparation in Uzbek life, highlighting both its practical and symbolic significance.

2. Hospitality and Generosity

Uzbek culture places a strong emphasis on hospitality, considering it a moral duty to treat guests with warmth and generosity. Gastronomic idioms in this category underscore the importance of sharing and abundance. For example:

Mehmon kelgan uyga rizq tushar (a guest brings blessings) reflects the belief that guests are a source of divine favor and prosperity. This expression embodies the societal value of treating visitors as a blessing, with food serving as a primary medium of hospitality.

Such idioms reinforce cultural norms surrounding social bonds and the collective joy of sharing meals, which are central to Uzbek traditions.

In Uzbek phraseology, food-related idioms frequently serve as metaphors for ethical and moral judgments. These expressions often critique or praise behaviors through references to food. For instance:

Non ko'rmagan (one who disrespects bread) describes an ungrateful or disrespectful person. Bread (non) holds a sacred status in Uzbek culture, symbolizing life and sustenance. Disrespect towards bread is considered a serious moral failing, making this phrase a powerful condemnation.

These idioms provide moral lessons, embedding ethical values within everyday speech, and reflecting the collective conscience of the community.

The research utilized a qualitative approach, analyzing a corpus of Uzbek gastronomic idioms collected from dictionaries, folklore, and literary texts. Ethnolinguistic analysis was applied to interpret the cultural connotations of each idiom, while comparative methods were used to identify similarities and differences with other languages.

The analysis revealed that gastronomic idioms in Uzbek are deeply intertwined with the nation's identity, reflecting values such as hospitality, respect for elders, and the sanctity of food. These idioms often serve as metaphors for human behavior and societal norms. Additionally, they illustrate the influence of historical trade routes, such as the Silk Road, which introduced diverse culinary elements into Uzbek

CONCLUSION

The study of gastronomic phraseology in the Uzbek language underscores the importance of idiomatic expressions as repositories of cultural knowledge. These expressions not only enrich the language but also preserve the intangible cultural heritage of the Uzbek people. Further research could explore the role of gastronomic phraseology in intercultural communication and its implications for language education.

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