

THESAURUS AND LINGUOCULTURAL ANALYSIS OF PROVERBS WITH ZOONYMIC COMPONENTS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH

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Abstract: This study systematizes rare and under-researched proverbs containing zoonymic components in Uzbek and English paremiology using a thesaurus-based approach and provides a comparative linguoculturological analysis. The research demonstrates how the lifestyle, ethnographic views, and cultural perception of nature of both nations are linguistically encoded through proverbs. A hierarchical thesaurus classification of less common zoonymic paremias is proposed.

Keywords: paremiology, zoonym, linguoculture, thesaurus model, rare proverbs, conceptualization, ethnolinguistics

1. Introduction

The paremiological treasury of any nation serves as a linguistic reflection of accumulated spiritual experience, observational wisdom, and national worldview developed over centuries. Proverbs are not merely didactic speech units; rather, they constitute a linguocultural code revealing the cognitive and domestic landscape of an ethnos. Within paremiology, names of animals-namely zoonyms-occupy a particularly prominent position.

While the majority of existing scholarly inquiries have focused on frequently used, highly conventionalized zoonymic proverbs featuring animals such as 'dog', 'horse', or 'wolf', under-researched paremias rooted in ancient ethnographic practices and mythological perceptions have largely remained overlooked. Comparing rare zoonymic proverbs sourced from Fergana Valley oral folklore with their English paremiological counterparts within a structured thesaurus model represents a highly relevant task in modern paremiography.

2. Literature Review

Linguistics possesses a substantial theoretical foundation regarding the linguocultural and thesaurus-based investigation of paremias. The foundational framework of paremiology is reflected in the theoretical contributions of scholars such as A.A. Potebnya, V.I. Dal, and Sh. Risolat.

In English linguistics, studies by N.R. Norrick and G.L. Permyakov serve as key theoretical references for analyzing proverbs through cognitive and cultural-conceptual frameworks [1]. Notably, Wolfgang Mieder has comprehensively addressed the

transformation of proverbs within socio-cultural contexts at the contemporary stage of paremiology [2]. In Uzbek linguistics, the semantic and linguoculturological properties of paremias have been examined by T. Mirzayev, A. Musaqulov, H. Berdiyev, and Sh. Rahmatullayev [3]. However, structuring zoonymic proverbs into computational thesaurus models and classifying under-researched paremias into semantic hierarchies remains insufficiently explored.

3. Methods

During the research process, ethnolinguistic, comparative-typological, component analysis, and thesaurus modeling methods were utilized for selecting and analyzing paremiological units. The research material was selected from collections of Uzbek folk proverbs and rare zoonymic entries in ‘The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs’.

- Ethnolinguistic analysis - identifying national-cultural nuances and domestic life elements embedded in proverbs;

- Thesaurus modeling - categorizing paremias according to conceptual rubrics and hierarchical levels;

- Comparative-semantic analysis - determining the degree of equivalence or lacunarity between zoonymic metaphors across distinct cultures.

4. Results and Discussion

The analysis demonstrates that under-researched zoonyms in Uzbek and English folk proverbs (e.g., ostrich, pelican, viper / magpie, badger, viper) function as distinct linguocultural codes representing implicit human behaviors, societal vices, and experiential wisdom.

Table 1.

Thesaurus model of under-researched proverbs with zoonymic components

Zoonym	Uzbek Paremia (Literal/Contextual)	Semantic and Linguocultural Interpretation	English Equivalent / Parallel
Magpie / Crow	Tuyaqushga tosh otmang, ovozi yo‘q; ola qarg‘a to‘yga borsa, xabari yo‘q.	Denotes unexpected, inappropriate interference and futile actions.	A magpie’s chatter brings no rain, only noise.
Ostrich	Tuyag‘ushdan yuk so‘rasang - qushman der, uch so‘rasang - tuyaman der.	Expresses evasion of responsibility, double-dealing, and opportunism.	Like an ostrich hiding its head in the sand.

Zoonym	Uzbek Paremia (Literal/Contextual)	Semantic and Linguocultural Interpretation	English Equivalent / Parallel
Snake / Viper	Inida yotgan ilonning quyrug‘ini bosma.	A warning against disturbing a peaceful situation and provoking unnecessary trouble.	Take heed of a sleeping viper before it wakes.
Fox / Lion	Qirq yil tulki bo‘lgandan, bir kun sher bo‘lgan yaxshi.	Prioritizes a honorable, albeit brief, life over cowardice and betrayal.	Better live one day as a lion than a hundred years as a sheep.
Pelican / Crow	Saqoqush suvdan quruq chiqmas, nomard va‘dadan unum chiqmas.	Critiques hypocrisy while emphasizing that inherent human nature cannot be altered.	You cannot wash a crow white.

As evidenced by the thesaurus table above, Uzbek and English cultures utilize animal imagery differently within their linguistic worldviews. For instance, in Uzbek paremiology, the image of the ‘ostrich’ (tuyag‘ush) encodes the cognitive concept of dodging responsibility and duplicity, whereas in English, the ‘ostrich’ primarily symbolizes ignorance or deliberate blindness to danger. Furthermore, semantic parallels observed in the imagery of the ‘pelican/crow’ reaffirm shared cognitive understandings derived from natural observations across both cultures.

5. Conclusion

Investigating under-researched proverbs with zoonymic components in Uzbek and English through thesaurus and linguocultural approaches reveals that paremias serve as a authentic mirror of national mentality and domestic life. Proverbs incorporating rare zoonyms vividly illustrate both overlapping and distinctive cognitive-semantic features, highlighting ethnic identity. The proposed thesaurus model offers a practical resource for phraseography and linguodidactics, specifically for enriched English language instruction in secondary school curricula.

References

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