

PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS AS CARRIERS OF CULTURAL VALUES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: The article studies how phraseological units show cultural values in English and Uzbek languages. Phraseological units, such as idioms, proverbs, and fixed expressions, are an important part of language and reflect the history, society, and culture of a nation. The paper compares English and Uzbek phraseological units and finds similarities and differences in their meaning, structure, and cultural background. The research shows that phraseological units not only make language more expressive but also help to keep and pass cultural identity.

Keywords: phraseological units, idioms, cultural values, English language, Uzbek language, comparative linguistics, national identity, meaning

Language is not only used for communication but also shows culture, traditions, and the way people think. One of the clearest examples of this connection is phraseology. Phraseological units, also called idioms or fixed expressions, have meanings that are different from the literal meanings of their words. In both English and Uzbek, phraseological units are important for expressing cultural values, beliefs, and social rules. They include the experience of many generations and are closely connected to everyday life. That is why studying them helps us better understand the culture and thinking of different people.

Phraseology has been widely studied in linguistics. Researchers like V.V.Vinogradov grouped phraseological units based on how closely their meanings are connected. A.V.Kunin made an important contribution to English phraseology. In Uzbek linguistics, scholars such as Sh. Rahmatullayev and B. Yo‘ldoshev studied the structure and meaning of phraseological units. Modern approaches, especially cognitive and cultural linguistics, focus on the link between language and culture. Phraseological units are seen as cultural signs that show traditions, values, and ways of thinking.

This study uses comparative and descriptive methods. Phraseological units from English and Uzbek were selected and analyzed based on: meaning, structure, cultural meaning. Examples were taken from dictionaries, books, and everyday speech. The comparison helps to find both common and different features.

Phraseological units act as cultural symbols that show: national traditions, social rules, historical background, moral values.

Many of them are based on daily life, nature, and human relationships, which makes them culturally important. English examples:

- "Time is money" - shows the importance of efficiency and productivity
- "Break the ice" - means starting communication and reducing tension
- "A piece of cake" - means something very easy

Uzbek examples:

- "Mehnat qilgan to'yadi" - shows the value of hard work
- "Yetti o'lchab, bir kes" - means thinking carefully before acting
- "Ko'ngil ko'zgusi" - shows emotional understanding

These examples show how phraseological units reflect cultural values and thinking.

Similarities: English and Uzbek phraseological units share many common features.

They show common human experiences, use figurative language and express moral values, are often used in daily communication. These similarities demonstrate that, despite cultural differences, people around the world think in comparable ways and use language creatively to express ideas.

For example: English: "Actions speak louder than words"- Uzbek: "Amal so'zdan ustun"

Both expressions emphasize that real actions are more important than promises or spoken words. Such parallels prove that phraseological units often reflect universal truths and shared human wisdom.

Differences: there are also several important differences between English and Uzbek phraseological units.

English phraseological units often reflect urban lifestyle and individualism, while Uzbek ones are closely connected with rural life, traditions, and collective values. This difference is influenced by historical development, social structure, and ways of living in each culture.

Imagery: Uzbek phraseology frequently includes images related to: nature, family, hospitality.

These elements reflect the importance of close relationships and harmony with nature in Uzbek culture. In contrast, English idioms often include: business, technology, sea life. This reflects the historical role of trade, industry, and maritime activity in English-speaking countries.

Structure: Uzbek phraseological units are often longer and may resemble complete sentences, expressing full ideas clearly. On the other hand, English idioms

are usually shorter, more compact, and sometimes metaphorically dense, requiring interpretation.

Phraseological units play a significant role in representing national identity. They preserve cultural heritage and transmit traditional values from one generation to another.

In Uzbek culture, phraseological units often emphasize: respect for elders, hospitality and community values. They reflect a society where social harmony and mutual respect are highly valued. In English-speaking cultures, phraseological units tend to highlight: independence, practical thinking, time awareness. These features reflect a culture that values efficiency, individuality, and personal responsibility.

Therefore, phraseology serves as a mirror of cultural identity and social norms in different societies. They:

- make speech more expressive
- help explain ideas clearly
- add emotional and stylistic meaning

They also make language more vivid and engaging, especially in both spoken and written communication. However, phraseological units can be challenging for language learners because their meanings are often non-literal. Understanding them requires not only linguistic knowledge but also cultural awareness and contextual understanding. As a result, mastering phraseological units is an important step in achieving fluency and deeper intercultural competence.

Phraseological units are an important part of language that reflect culture, traditions, and ways of thinking. The comparison of English and Uzbek shows both similarities and differences. Both languages use phraseological units to express human experiences and values. However, English focuses more on individualism and efficiency, while Uzbek highlights tradition, community, and moral values. Studying phraseological units helps us better understand language, culture, and communication between different cultures.

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