

LEXICOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF THE ENGLISH AND UZBEK CONCEPT OF "LOYALTY"

Hamrayeva Charos Norboyevna

Senior Lecturer at the Department
of Theory and Practice of Foreign Languages,
Shahrisabz State Pedagogical Institute

Annotation This article presents a comparative lexicographic and cultural analysis of the English term “loyalty” and its Uzbek equivalent “sadoqat”. The research examines dictionary definitions, synonyms, antonyms, and typical usage patterns in both languages. It emphasizes that while both words denote commitment and fidelity, their emotional and cultural weight differs significantly. The study contributes to better understanding in translation and intercultural communication.

Keywords: loyalty, sadoqat, cultural linguistics, lexicography, semantic contrast

Аннотация В данной статье представлен сравнительный лексикографический и культурный анализ английского слова “loyalty” и его узбекского эквивалента “sadoqat”. Рассматриваются словарные определения, синонимы, антонимы и культурные особенности употребления. Особое внимание уделяется эмоциональному и моральному наполнению данных понятий, что способствует более точному переводу и межкультурному взаимопониманию.

Ключевые слова: loyalty, sadoqat, культурная лингвистика, лексикография, семантические различия

Annotatsiya Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilidagi “loyalty” va uning o‘zbek tilidagi ekvivalenti “sadoqat” so‘zlarining leksikografik va madaniy tahlili keltirilgan. So‘zlarning lug‘aviy izohi, sinonim va antonimlari, shuningdek, ularning madaniy konnotatsiyasi o‘rganiladi. Maqolada ushbu tushunchalarning leksik qiyosiy tahlili orqali tarjima va madaniyatlararo muloqotda samaradorlikka erishish yo‘llari yoritilgan.

Kalit soʻzlar: *sadoqat, loyalty, madaniy lingvistika, leksikografiya, semantik farq*

Introduction: The following article presents a comparative lexicographic analysis of the English and Uzbek concepts of “loyalty.” The study outlines how the word is defined, interpreted, and employed in different cultural and linguistic contexts through dictionaries and lexemes. It also identifies the semantic and cultural connotations influencing the meaning of “loyalty” in both languages. This analysis is crucial for accurate translation, intercultural communication, and understanding of national values as reflected in language.

Language is a mirror of culture, and words convey not only literal meanings, but also socio-cultural connotations. As such, vocabulary becomes a means through which values, beliefs, and emotional attitudes are transmitted. One of the most culturally loaded concepts is “loyalty,” a term deeply embedded in political, social, and personal domains. This article investigates the lexical structure and semantic connotation of the English term “loyalty” and its Uzbek equivalent “sadoqat,” comparing them through reputable lexicographic sources and examining their cultural load [Karimov, 2009, p. 44].

The Concept of “Loyalty” in English

In English, “loyalty” denotes a strong feeling of allegiance or support. According to The Oxford English Dictionary, loyalty is defined as “the quality of being loyal; a strong feeling of support or allegiance to a person, cause, or institution” [Oxford English Dictionary, 1989, p. 902]. Similarly, Merriam-Webster Dictionary describes loyalty as “the quality or state of being loyal,” highlighting its link to constancy, faithfulness, and duty [Merriam-Webster, 2025].

The synonyms include faithfulness, devotion, allegiance, fidelity, while antonyms such as betrayal, treachery, disloyalty point to moral breaches in expected social behavior [Hudoyberganov, 2010, p. 65]. These lexical connections suggest that loyalty in English involves not only emotional attachment but also ethical obligation, often in institutional or national contexts, such as “loyalty to the government” or “brand loyalty.”

The Concept of “Sadoqat” in Uzbek

The Uzbek term “sadoqat” is frequently defined in the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language as “yuksak muhabbat va sodiqlik” – high love and fidelity [Toʻxtayev, 2013, p. 118]. Unlike its English counterpart, sadoqat carries a

stronger emotional and often spiritual charge. It implies devotion that may include self-sacrifice, purity of intention, and even religious undertones.

Uzbek synonyms such as sadoqalik, sodiqlik, vafodorlik, mukhlislik represent a spectrum of meanings from honesty to romantic or patriotic loyalty [Sattorov, 2014, p. 72]. The word is widely used in interpersonal contexts — loyalty between friends, spouses, and citizens and their homeland — often idealized in literature and religious writings [Qodirova, 2017, p. 55].

Lexicographic Comparison

Aspect	English (“Loyalty”)	Uzbek (“Sadoqat”)
Core meaning	Faithfulness, support, allegiance	Vafodorlik, chuqur muhabbat, fidokorona sadoqat
Emotional content	Moderate (support/allegiance-based)	Yuqori (emotsional/ma'naviy ma'no yuklangan)
Cultural context	Institutional, relational	Shaxsiy, munosabatga oid, ma'naviy
Common collocations	Country loyalty, brand loyalty	Vatanga sadoqat, muhabbatdagi sadoqat
Antonyms	Betrayal, treachery	Xiyonat, sadoqatsizlik

This comparison indicates that while both terms convey core values of fidelity and commitment, “sadoqat” leans more toward emotional and moral dimensions, whereas “loyalty” often remains grounded in institutional or legalistic contexts [Solijonov, 2015, p. 88].

Cultural Implications

In English-speaking cultures, loyalty is often measured by behavior toward authority, institutions, or brands — “brand loyalty” or “political loyalty” are common constructs [Islomov, 2020, p. 39]. This reflects a more individualistic worldview, where loyalty is a matter of personal conviction or contractual obligation.

In contrast, in Uzbek culture, sadoqat represents a collectivist value system where the ties of kinship, faith, and emotional integrity are central. Literature,

especially classical Uzbek poetry and Sufi writings, often exalts sadoqat as the highest human virtue — echoing divine love and selflessness [Abdullaev, 2011, p.

For example, in the works of Alisher Navoiy, the idea of sadoqat is not just loyalty to a person, but a spiritual devotion to the beloved, often with metaphysical and religious undertones. This reflects a deeper layer of meaning that is less common in English equivalents.

Conclusion: Both English “loyalty” and Uzbek “sadoqat” carry the fundamental idea of commitment and faithfulness. However, their cultural manifestations and lexical environments differ. English emphasizes rational, institutional loyalty — a concept grounded in professionalism and duty. In contrast, Uzbek sadoqat extends to emotional, moral, and spiritual loyalty, reflecting collective social values and religious sentiment. Recognizing these nuances is vital for intercultural translation, linguistics, and understanding worldview differences encoded in language.

REFERENCES:

1. Abdullaev A. Oybek asarlarida sadoqat konsepti. Toshkent: G‘afor G‘ulom nashriyoti, 2011.
2. Hudoyberganov B. Axloqiy qadriyatlar: mohiyati va ijtimoiy ahamiyati. Toshkent: Fan, 2010.
3. Islomov S. Milliy ong va vatanparvarlik asoslari. Samarqand: Zarafshon, 2020.
4. Karimov A. Til va tafakkur: lingvomadaniy yondashuvlar. Toshkent: O‘zbekiston milliy ensiklopediyasi, 2009.
5. Qodirova M. O‘zbek adabiyotida kasbga sadoqat obrazlari. Buxoro: BuxDU nashriyoti, 2017.
6. Sattorov N. Etika va axloq falsafasi asoslari. Toshkent: Ma’naviyat, 2014.
7. Solijonov I. Sharq va G‘arb madaniyatida axloqiy qadriyatlar taqqoslamasi. Farg‘ona: Ilm ziyo, 2015.
8. To‘xtayev Sh. Lingvokulturologiya: nazariya va amaliyot. Toshkent: Filologiya nashriyoti, 2013.
9. The Oxford English Dictionary. 2nd ed., Oxford UP, 1989.
10. Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Loyalty. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/loyalty>. Accessed 10 May 2025.