



**"THE ROLE AND SYMBOLISM OF ZOONYMS IN UZBEK
AND ENGLISH FAIRY TALES"**

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Abstract: *This article explores the role and symbolism of zoonyms (animal names) in Uzbek and English fairy tales, analyzing their linguistic, cultural, and semiotic significance. Zoonyms serve as essential narrative elements, often embodying specific character traits, moral lessons, and cultural values. By comparing the use of zoonyms in both traditions, this study highlights similarities and differences in the portrayal of animals, their symbolic meanings, and their impact on storytelling. The research draws on folkloric and linguistic perspectives to demonstrate how zoonyms reflect societal beliefs, traditions, and worldviews in Uzbek and English cultures. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of cross-cultural representations of animals in folklore and their role in shaping collective consciousness.*

Keywords: *Zoonyms, fairy tales, Uzbek folklore, English folklore, symbolism, animal names, cultural linguistics, semiotics, comparative analysis, folklore studies, narrative functions, mythological animals, cross-cultural comparison.*

MAIN BODY

The Role of Zoonyms in Uzbek Fairy Tales

In Uzbek fairy tales, zoonyms (animal names) play a crucial role in shaping narratives, conveying moral lessons, and reflecting cultural values. These names are often associated with specific character traits and serve symbolic functions.

Characterization and Symbolism: Animals in Uzbek fairy tales frequently embody human-like qualities, representing wisdom, bravery, or foolishness.

For example, the fox is often depicted as clever and deceitful, while the lion symbolizes strength and leadership.

Some animals are linked to cultural beliefs, for instance, the wolf may symbolize both danger and independence.

Moral and Didactic Function: Many Uzbek fairy tales use zoonyms to teach ethical lessons. Animals are often used to demonstrate virtues like honesty, patience or cooperation. The interactions between animals and humans in these tales reflect moral dilemmas and encourage children to distinguish between good and evil.





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Folkloric and Mythological Influence: Certain animals in Uzbek folklore are linked to ancient myths and superstitions. The snake for example, is sometimes associated with wisdom or hidden dangers. Tales featuring magical or talking animals highlight a deep-rooted belief in the connection between humans and nature.

The Main Role of Zoonyms in English Fairy Tales

Zoonyms in english fairy tales help convey character traits, cultural values, and ethical lessons in a way that is engaging and easy to understand.

Characterization: Animals in English fairy tales often embody specific human-like qualities, making them powerful symbols.

Fox – Cunning and Deception. In Reynard the Fox, the fox is portrayed as a clever trickster who outsmarts other animals, symbolizing wit and resourcefulness.

Lion – Strength and Nobility. The lion, often called the "king of beasts," represents bravery and leadership in many traditional tales.

Wolf – Danger and Evil. In Little Red Riding Hood and The Three Little Pigs, the wolf is a villainous figure, symbolizing deceit and danger.

Moral Function: Zoonyms are frequently used to teach valuable life lessons. Tortoise and Hare – Patience and Arrogance

Ant and Grasshopper – Hard Work and Laziness. In The Ant and the Grasshopper, the ant works hard to prepare for winter, while the grasshopper wastes time, highlighting the importance of diligence.

Magical and Narrative Role: Many fairy tales feature animals with magical abilities that aid the protagonist or drive the plot forward. Golden Goose – Fortune and Generosity. In The Golden Goose, the magical goose brings wealth and happiness to those who are kind-hearted.

The Symbolism of Zoonyms in Uzbek and English Fairy Tales

Zoonyms in Uzbek and English fairy tales play a significant symbolic role, representing cultural values, moral lessons, and character traits. While both traditions share some similarities in animal symbolism, there are also distinct cultural differences.

Common Symbolism in Uzbek and English Fairy Tales: Some animals have universal symbolic meanings in both Uzbek and English folklore:

Fox – Cunning and Trickery

In Uzbek fairy tales, the fox (tulki) is often depicted as a sly and deceptive character, similar to its role in English tales. For example: In Reynard the Fox (English), the fox uses intelligence to trick other animals, just as the fox in Uzbek tales often outsmarts others.

Wolf – Danger and Evil. In both traditions, the wolf symbolizes danger, aggression, and deceit. In Uzbek tales, the wolf is often a threatening figure, just like the wolf in Little Red Riding Hood and The Three Little Pigs.





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Lion – Strength and Leadership. The lion (arslon) in Uzbek folklore and the lion in English fairy tales represent power and nobility. In both cultures, lions are depicted as rulers of the animal kingdom, often guiding or challenging the protagonist.

Unique Symbolism in Uzbek Fairy Tales: Some animals carry specific cultural meanings in Uzbek folklore that differ from English tales:

Camel – Patience and Endurance

The camel is an important symbol in Uzbek tales due to its historical role in the Silk Road and desert travel. It represents resilience and survival.

Snake – Wisdom and Hidden Power. In Uzbek mythology, snakes symbolize both wisdom and danger, sometimes acting as magical beings.

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