



LINGUA-CULTURAL DIFFERENCES OF THE CONCEPT 'TIME' IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract: *Time is a universal concept, yet its interpretation, usage, and significance vary significantly across cultures. This article explores the linguistic and cultural differences of the concept "time" in the Uzbek and English languages. By analyzing idioms, proverbs, and common expressions, this study highlights how each culture's worldview is embedded in their perception of time.*

Keywords: *time, culture, linguistics, Uzbek, English, idioms, perception.*

Introduction

Time, as a linguistic and cultural construct, reflects the worldview of a society. While every language has a way to express time, its interpretation, usage, and value may differ significantly. English, as a representative of Western individualistic culture, often emphasizes time as a finite, valuable resource. In contrast, the Uzbek culture, influenced by Eastern collectivist traditions, perceives time more flexibly and holistically.¹ The aim of this study is to examine and compare how the concept of time is perceived and linguistically expressed in Uzbek and English, and how cultural values influence this perception.

Methodology

This research utilizes qualitative comparative analysis. The primary data sources include:

- Common idioms and proverbs in Uzbek and English.
- Cultural observations from literature and social communication.
- Secondary sources: linguistic and anthropological studies.

The data were categorized under key themes: time as a resource, time as a cycle, time and punctuality, and time in social communication.²

Results

1. Time as a Resource

In English-speaking cultures, time is often viewed as money. Common expressions such as:

- Time is money.





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- Don't waste time.
- Every second counts.

These expressions show a capitalistic, productivity-driven mindset. Punctuality and scheduling are prioritized.

In Uzbek, while modern influences have introduced similar views, traditional expressions are more relaxed:

- Vaqt yetadi, shoshma.
- Hamma narsaning vaqti bor.

These idioms reflect a belief in natural timing and patience.³

2. Time as a Cycle vs. Linearity

Western cultures tend to view time linearly — past, present, future. This reflects in planning and long-term goals.

Uzbek culture, influenced by Islamic and Turkic philosophies, often sees time as cyclical and tied to fate:

- Nima bo'lsa bo'ladi.
- Allohdan vaqt so'ra.

3. Punctuality and Social Time

In English, being on time is a sign of respect and professionalism.

In Uzbek culture, exact punctuality may be secondary to human relationships. A guest may be "late" by clock time but still be warmly welcomed. This is a reflection of event-time orientation rather than clock-time orientation.

4. Expressions Reflecting Time Value

English: Better late than never, In the nick of time, Behind schedule.

Uzbek: Erta chiqqan erkakning rizqi keng bo'ladi, Tongda turib ish boshlasang, baraka bo'ladi.

Discussion

These differences highlight the interplay between language and cultural values. English, shaped by industrialization and capitalism, treats time as a quantifiable and scarce asset. Uzbek, rooted in agrarian and communal traditions, regards time as flowing with life's rhythm and less bound by strict measurement. This disparity affects communication styles, work ethics, and social interactions. For instance, a direct translation of idioms may cause misunderstanding in intercultural contexts. Therefore, understanding such linguistic-cultural nuances is vital in translation, teaching, and diplomacy.

Conclusion

The concept of "time" is deeply embedded in the cultural and linguistic frameworks of societies. English and Uzbek languages showcase distinct perspectives that align with their socio-cultural identities. Recognizing these differences enhances cross-cultural understanding and improves intercultural communication.





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