



CULTURAL IDENTITY THROUGH PROVERBS: A COMPARATIVE LINGUACULTURAL STUDY OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK PROVERBS

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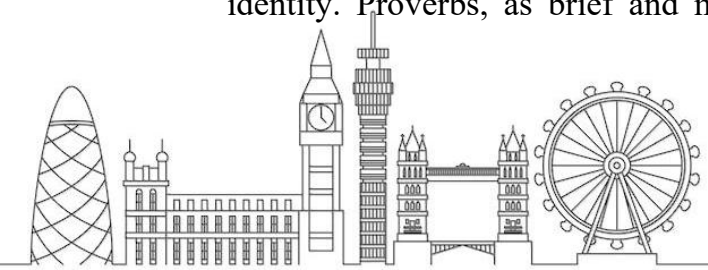
Abstract: *Proverbs are concise linguistic expressions that encapsulate cultural knowledge, traditional wisdom, and value systems shared by speech communities. This paper examines how English and Uzbek proverbs reflect cultural identity through linguistic structure and thematic content. Drawing on the theoretical framework of linguaculture, the study compares selected English and Uzbek proverbs according to thematic categories such as individualism, collectivism, work ethic, social hierarchy, hospitality, and interpersonal relationships. The findings indicate that English proverbs tend to emphasize personal responsibility, autonomy, and pragmatic reasoning, whereas Uzbek proverbs highlight collectivism, honor, communal cooperation, and the sacredness of hospitality. The comparative analysis demonstrates that proverbs serve as communicative tools through which cultural identity is transmitted and reinforced across generations.*

Keywords: *proverbs, linguaculture, English, Uzbek, collectivism, individualism, cultural identity*

Аннотация: *Пословицы – это лаконичные языковые выражения, воплощающие культурные знания, традиционную мудрость и системы ценностей, разделяемые языковыми сообществами. В данной статье рассматривается, как английские и узбекские пословицы отражают культурную идентичность посредством языковой структуры и тематического содержания. Опираясь на теоретические основы лингвокультуры, исследование сравнивает отдельные английские и узбекские пословицы по таким тематическим категориям, как индивидуализм, коллективизм, трудовая этика, социальная иерархия, гостеприимство и межличностные отношения. Результаты показывают, что английские пословицы, как правило, подчёркивают личную ответственность, автономность и прагматическое мышление, тогда как узбекские пословицы подчёркивают коллективизм, честь, общественное сотрудничество и святость гостеприимства. Сравнительный анализ показывает, что пословицы служат коммуникативными инструментами, посредством которых культурная идентичность передаётся и укрепляется из поколения в поколение.*

Ключевые слова: *пословицы, лингвокультура, английский язык, узбекский язык, коллективизм, индивидуализм, культурная идентичность*

Language does not simply describe reality; it also constructs and reflects cultural identity. Proverbs, as brief and memorable expressions of shared cultural knowledge,





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play a vital role in transmitting social norms, ethical beliefs, and communal values (Mieder, 2004). Because proverbs are rooted in collective experience, they serve as linguistic mirrors that reveal how different cultures perceive the world. This relationship between language and culture has been conceptualized as linguaculture, a term that highlights the inseparability of linguistic form and cultural meaning (Agar, 1994).

The English and Uzbek languages differ not only in linguistic structure but also in cultural worldview. English-speaking societies are historically shaped by individualism, industrial modernity, and rational pragmatism, whereas Uzbek society is shaped by collectivism, traditional kinship structures, Islamic ethics, and strong communal relationships. These cultural values are deeply embedded in the proverb systems of each language.

The aim of this study is to compare English and Uzbek proverbs to demonstrate how cultural identity is encoded linguistically. Thesis: English proverbs generally promote individualism, practicality, and personal responsibility, while Uzbek proverbs emphasize collectivism, hospitality, social hierarchy, and honor.

Agar (1994) defines linguaculture as the interwoven relationship between language and culture, noting that meanings cannot be detached from cultural context. Proverbs, therefore, must be interpreted not only linguistically but culturally. Proverbs are a type of traditional folklore genre that expresses general truths based on collective experience (Mieder, 2004). They act as cultural memory and moral guidance, regulating social behavior (Norrick, 2014).

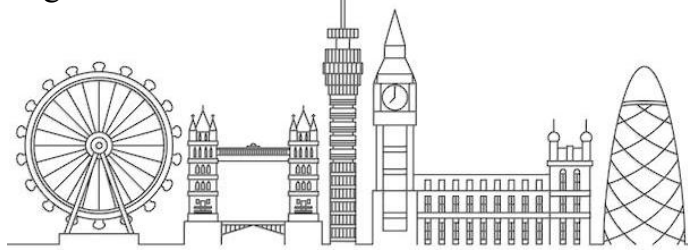
This study uses comparative thematic analysis. Proverbs were selected from English and Uzbek proverb dictionaries and categorized according to recurring cultural themes. Semantic interpretation focused on cultural values implicit in proverb usage and meaning.

English Proverb Cultural Value "Every man for himself." Personal independence and self-reliance. "Stand on your own two feet." Responsibility for one's own success. These reflect individualism (Hofstede, 2011).

Uzbek Proverb Translation Cultural Value "Birlikda baraka bor." There is blessing in unity. Cooperation brings success. "Yolg'iz daraxtdan bog' bo'lmas." One tree does not make a garden. Community dependence. These reflect collectivism and shared responsibility.

English Proverb Message "No pain, no gain." Effort is necessary for success. "God helps those who help themselves." Initiative is morally valued. Uzbek Proverb Translation Message "Mehnat qilsang, to'yasan." If you work, you will prosper. Hard work is ethically rewarding. "Mehnat — sharaf." Labor is honor. Work has moral dignity.

Uzbek proverbs tie the work ethic to honor and virtue, not productivity alone. English Cultural Meaning "Respect is earned, not given." Status is based on achievement.





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UzbekTranslationCultural Meaning“Kattaga hurmat, kichikka izzat.”Respect the elder, be kind to the younger.Hierarchy is age-based and socially mandated. Uzbek culture places moral obligation on social roles. EnglishCultural Attitude“A guest is a blessing, but not for long.”Hospitality balanced with boundaries. UzbekTranslationCultural Attitude“Mehmon otangdan ulug‘.”The guest is greater than your father.Hospitality is sacred and unconditional. Uzbek hospitality reflects nomadic and Islamic cultural values. This study demonstrates that English and Uzbek proverbs encode fundamentally different cultural worldviews. English proverbs emphasize self-reliance, pragmatic agency, and personal responsibility. Uzbek proverbs highlight communal interdependence, moral respect for elders, and the sacredness of hospitality. As linguacultural artifacts, proverbs preserve and transmit cultural identity, sustaining shared values across generations. Understanding these cultural values is essential for intercultural communication, translation studies, and comparative linguistics.

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