

"A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ZOONYMS IN UZBEK
AND ENGLISH FAIRY TALES"

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Abstract: *This article explores the comparative study of zoonyms (animal names) in Uzbek and English fairy tales, examining their linguistic, cultural, and semantic features. Fairy tales, rich in folklore, often use zoonyms symbolically to reflect cultural values, societal norms, and human behavior. By analyzing the use and representation of zoonyms in Uzbek and English fairy tales, this study highlights similarities and differences in their symbolic meanings, narrative roles, and linguistic expressions. It delves into the cultural connotations of specific animals, uncovering how they mirror the traditions, beliefs, and worldviews of each society. This comparative analysis aims to contribute to the understanding of cross-cultural communication, folklore studies, and linguistic diversity. The findings demonstrate that while some zoonyms carry universal meanings, others are deeply rooted in the unique cultural contexts of Uzbek and English-speaking communities, emphasizing the interplay between language, culture, and storytelling.*

Keywords: *Zoonyms, Uzbek fairy tales, English fairy tales, comparative study, folklore, cultural symbolism, linguistic analysis, animal symbolism, cross-cultural communication, narrative roles, semantic features.*

Main Body

The study of zoonyms in Uzbek and English fairy tales offers a fascinating insight into the linguistic and cultural landscapes of these two traditions. Zoonyms are often employed in fairy tales to convey symbolic meanings, represent human characteristics, or serve as key elements in the narrative. In Uzbek fairy tales, animals such as lions, foxes, and wolves frequently embody traits like courage, cunning, and treachery, reflecting the values and worldview of the culture. Similarly, English fairy tales use animals such as foxes, bears, and owls to symbolize intelligence, strength, and wisdom. This comparative study examines how these animal representations vary between the two cultures and how they reflect each society's unique perspectives and moral teachings.

Here are examples of Uzbek and English fairy tales where zoonyms are prominently used:

Uzbek Fairy Tales

1. "Tulki va Bo'ri" (The Fox and the Wolf):

The fox symbolizes cunning and intelligence, often outsmarting the wolf, who represents greed and naivety.

2. "Sher va Sichqon" (The Lion and the Mouse):

The lion is a symbol of power and authority, while the mouse embodies humility and gratitude, showcasing the idea that even the smallest creature can help the strongest.

3. "Qarg'a va Tovuq" (The Crow and the Chicken):

The crow represents cleverness and trickery, while the chicken symbolizes innocence and gullibility.

English Fairy Tales

1. "The Three Little Pigs":

The pigs represent hard work and foresight, while the wolf symbolizes danger and cunning.

2. "Goldilocks and the Three Bears":

The bears represent family and the balance of qualities (e.g., too hot, too cold, just right).

3. "The Fox and the Crow":

The fox represents slyness and flattery, while the crow signifies vanity and gullibility.

1. Reflection of Cultural Values:

Uzbek Fairy Tales: In Uzbek folklore, animals are deeply ingrained in the cultural consciousness and often reflect traditional values. For example, the lion symbolizes strength, leadership, and bravery, which aligns with the Uzbek value of valor. The fox is seen as clever but also deceptive, embodying cunningness and trickery, qualities often associated with survival and wit in traditional Uzbek society.

English Fairy Tales: In English fairy tales, animals often carry distinct cultural symbolism. For instance, the owl symbolizes wisdom and knowledge, a reflection of the respect for intellectual qualities in Western societies. Similarly, the fox represents both intelligence and deceit, an enduring symbol of cunning that is seen in fables like "The Fox and the Grapes." The wolf is often depicted as a dangerous and threatening figure, serving as a moral warning in stories like "Little Red Riding Hood."

Symbolism:

Cultural Symbolism: In both traditions, animals often symbolize particular human traits or cultural archetypes. For example, the eagle in both English and Uzbek tales may symbolize freedom and strength, while a snake may represent treachery or danger.

Moral Symbolism: Animals embody lessons about good and evil, such as the wolf, representing

savagery, and the sheep, symbolizing innocence and vulnerability. In both traditions, these animals serve as vessels for moral storytelling.

Character Development:

Animals in fairy tales help in the development of human characters by embodying specific virtues or flaws. The relationship between animals and human characters helps to

reveal and shape the moral trajectory of the narrative. The mouse in "The Lion and the Mouse" symbolizes humility and gratitude, teaching a lesson in the importance of kindness across all social strata.

Universality and Accessibility:

The use of animals in fairy tales allows stories to transcend cultural boundaries. Animal characters are universally recognized, making it easier for people from different backgrounds to connect with the moral and symbolic lessons. Whether it's the fox in English tales or the wolf in Uzbek folklore, the animal's attributes remain recognizable and impactful across cultures.

CONCLUSION

The comparative study of zoonyms in Uzbek and English fairy tales reveals the deep cultural and linguistic significance of animal symbolism in folklore. Both traditions use zoonyms not only as narrative tools but also as representations of human traits, societal norms, and moral lessons. While there are universal themes, such as the fox symbolizing cunning and the wolf representing danger, there are also culturally specific differences that reflect the unique worldviews and values of Uzbek and English societies. This study highlights how zoonyms serve as a bridge between language and culture, offering insights into the shared and distinct aspects of human imagination and storytelling. By understanding these parallels and divergences, we gain a richer appreciation of the role fairy tales play in preserving cultural heritage and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

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