

DISCURSIVE ANALYSIS OF UZBEK AND ENGLISH PAREMIC UNITS

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Annotation: *Cambridge University Press, 1994. This article presents a comparative discursive analysis of Uzbek and English proverbs, focusing on their semantic, pragmatic, and cultural characteristics. The study examines how these proverbs function in discourse to instruct, persuade, and evaluate human behavior. It highlights the role of proverbs in encoding ethical, social, and cultural values, illustrating how universal human experiences such as responsibility, perseverance, and resilience are transmitted through language. The research also investigates the interplay between culture-specific metaphors and universal moral lessons, providing insight into cross-cultural communication.*

Keywords: *proverb, paremiology, discourse, pragmatics, Uzbek, English, ethics, labor.*

Annotatsiya: *Maqolada o'zbek va ingliz tillaridagi paremiya birliklari diskursiv tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot, maqollar nutqda qanday ishlatilishini, ularning axloqiy, madaniy va pragmatik ahamiyatini ko'rsatadi. Maqolalarda universal insoniy qadriyatlar, mas'uliyat, sabr-toqat va mehnatning ahamiyati qanday ifodalanishi o'rganiladi. Shuningdek, maqollar madaniy kontekst bilan bog'liq holda axloqiy va ijtimoiy darslar berishdagi roli tahlil qilinadi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *paremiya, diskurs, pragmatika, axloq, mehnat, o'zbek, ingliz.*

Аннотация: *Статья посвящена сравнительному дискурсивному анализу паремических единиц узбекского и английского языков. В работе анализируется, как пословицы используются в дискурсе для передачи этических, социальных и культурных ценностей. Рассматриваются универсальные человеческие ценности, такие как ответственность, терпение и труд, а также то, как они выражаются через язык и метафоры, специфические для культуры.*

Ключевые слова: *паремия, дискурс, прагматика, труд, культура, Узбекистан, этика.*

Proverbs are widely acknowledged as “the wisdom of the people, the spirit of the nation and its culture” [1:12]. They are the pearls of folk art, expressing accumulated knowledge and moral values passed down through generations. As researchers note, “A proverb is a short, generally known sentence of the folk which contains wisdom, truth, morals, and traditional views” (Mieder) [1:15]. Because of their multifunctionality, proverbs attract not only linguists but also ethnographers, folklorists, psychologists, philosophers, cultural scholars, and literary critics [2:33]. Each field studies proverbs from a different angle: their cognitive structure, cultural symbolism, moral content, or aesthetic form. Paremiology — from Greek *paroimia* (parable) and *logos* (science) — is the discipline that studies proverbs, their structure, meaning, origin, and usage.

Paremiological units are compact, fixed phrases that convey logical, ethical, and cultural generalizations [3:20].

Proverbs guide social behavior, provide moral instruction, and strengthen arguments. They remind individuals of shared norms, encourage perseverance, and convey ethical lessons across generations. Proverbs also reinforce cultural identity and provide a means of reflecting on personal actions and community responsibilities. Although Uzbek and English proverbs use different imagery, their ethical messages are remarkably consistent. Uzbek proverbs often rely on concrete experiences and labor-based metaphors, while English proverbs may use broader social or abstract contexts. Both transmit universal values such as responsibility, resilience, and effort, offering insights into cross-cultural communication and understanding.

1. Social Warning

“Bitta tiroqi buzoq butun podani bulg’aydi” warns that one bad individual can negatively affect the entire group.

In English: “The rotten apple injures its neighbors” [3:20]. This proverb is used in discourse to caution communities about vigilance and responsibility.

2. Ethical and Moral Regulation

“Qarg’a qarg’aning ko’zini ch’oqimaydi” teaches respect among peers and avoidance of harming those similar to oneself.

In English: “Dog does not eat dog” [4:44]. Its function is primarily normative, guiding social behavior.

3. Perseverance and Continuity

“It hurar, karvon o’tar” (The dogs bark, but the caravan goes on) expresses resilience and progress despite criticism or obstacles. This proverb is used in discourse to reassure and maintain focus on goals [5:28]

4. Labor and Consequences

“Ishlagan tishlaydi” (He who works bites) emphasizes that active effort yields tangible results, sometimes harshly.

In English: “No pain, no gain” conveys a similar meaning. This proverb illustrates the ethical principle of responsibility for one’s labor and perseverance.

Although the imagery differs, both English and Uzbek proverbs communicate universal human values: responsibility, resilience, fairness, and social awareness [7:52].

Wierzbicka and Taylor argue that proverbs preserve ethical lessons adapted to cultural contexts, facilitating cross-cultural understanding [5:29]; [6:48].

Uzbek and English proverbs play a key role in conveying ethical, social, and cultural values. They guide behavior, remind communities of shared norms, and make arguments more persuasive.

Despite differences in imagery, both languages emphasize responsibility, resilience, and effort, highlighting universal human values.

Proverbs also intersect with disciplines such as linguistics, psychology, and folklore, preserving collective wisdom for future generations.

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