

**IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS RELATED TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP
IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: A COMPARATIVE LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS**

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Abstract

This article provides a comparative analysis of business-related idiomatic expressions in English and Uzbek, focusing on their semantic, structural, stylistic, and cultural features. The study examines the role of idioms in business discourse as a means of expressing professional attitudes and pragmatic meanings. It is shown that English business idioms are largely metaphorical and abstract, frequently based on imagery from sports, war, and everyday activities, while Uzbek business-related expressions tend to be more descriptive and semantically transparent, reflecting ethical norms and collective cultural values. The article also addresses the main challenges in translating business idioms between English and Uzbek, emphasizing the necessity of functional and cultural equivalence. The results of the study contribute to comparative linguistics, phraseology, and translation studies and may be useful for linguists, translators, and professionals involved in international business communication.

Key words: business idioms, phraseological units, business discourse, English and Uzbek languages, comparative linguistics, translation studies, cultural semantics

Introduction. In modern linguistics, phraseological units occupy a significant place due to their semantic complexity and cultural specificity. With the rapid development of global business relations, the study of business-related idiomatic



expressions has gained particular importance. Business communication is not limited to terminological vocabulary; it also actively employs idioms that convey pragmatic meanings, professional attitudes, and culturally conditioned worldviews. According to Crystal (2003), idiomatic expressions function as a bridge between language and culture, making them especially relevant in cross-cultural business discourse.

This article aims to provide a comparative analysis of business-related idiomatic expressions in English and Uzbek, examining their semantic, structural, stylistic, and translational features.

Idioms are defined as stable combinations of words whose overall meaning is not deducible from the meanings of individual components (Fernando, 1996). In business discourse, idioms perform evaluative, expressive, and pragmatic functions. Baker (2018) emphasizes that idiomatic language is particularly challenging in professional communication due to its metaphorical nature and cultural embeddedness.

In both English and Uzbek, business idioms reflect economic activities, professional ethics, financial success or failure, and interpersonal relations within the business environment.

English business idioms have developed under the influence of long-standing market economies and corporate culture. Many idioms are metaphorical and originate from sports, war, and everyday life (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2017).

Examples include:

To break even – to reach a financial balance without profit or loss.

To climb the corporate ladder – to advance professionally within an organization.

To cut corners – to reduce costs, often by ignoring rules or standards.

A win-win situation – a mutually beneficial outcome.



To stay afloat – to survive financially.

These expressions are widely used in business journalism, corporate communication, and managerial discourse. Stylistically, they range from neutral to semi-formal and enhance clarity and persuasion in professional texts.

Uzbek business-related idioms are closely connected with traditional trade relations, social values, and collective responsibility. As noted by Rahmatullayev (2006), Uzbek phraseology often emphasizes ethical behavior and social harmony.

Examples include:

Foyda ortidan quvmoq – to pursue profit.

Savdosi yurishmoq – to have successful trade or business.

Pul tikmoq – to invest capital.

Bozorni egallamoq – to capture or dominate the market.

Kelishuvga kelmoq – to reach an agreement.

Unlike English idioms, many Uzbek expressions are semantically transparent but still function as fixed phraseological units within business communication. They are commonly used in oral negotiations and informal professional settings.

From a structural point of view, English business idioms are often highly metaphorical and abstract, while Uzbek expressions tend to be more descriptive and explicit. Semantically, both languages focus on core business concepts such as profit, competition, risk, and stability.

Culturally, English idioms frequently rely on competitive metaphors (*to beat the competition, to gain ground*), reflecting individualism and market rivalry. In contrast, Uzbek idioms highlight cooperation, trust, and balance, which aligns with collectivist cultural values (Hofstede, 2011).

Stylistically, English idioms are widely accepted in written business texts, whereas Uzbek idioms are more dominant in spoken business discourse.



The translation of business idioms poses serious difficulties due to the lack of direct equivalents. As Newmark (1988) states, literal translation of idioms often results in semantic loss. For instance, the English idiom “**cash cow**” cannot be translated word-for-word into Uzbek; instead, descriptive equivalents such as “**barqaror daromad manbai**” are more appropriate.

Effective translation strategies include functional equivalence, paraphrasing, and cultural adaptation. These approaches ensure pragmatic accuracy and communicative effectiveness in bilingual business contexts.

Conclusion. Business-related idiomatic expressions in English and Uzbek constitute an essential layer of professional language. Despite differences in metaphorical imagery, structure, and stylistic usage, both languages employ idioms to convey key economic concepts and professional attitudes. A comparative study of these expressions contributes to a deeper understanding of cross-cultural business communication and enhances translation quality. The findings of this study may be useful for linguists, translators, and business professionals engaged in international cooperation.

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