



A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Abstract: *Phraseological units are fixed expressions that carry cultural and linguistic significance, often reflecting the history, traditions, and worldview of a nation. This paper presents a comparative analysis of phraseological units in Uzbek and English, focusing on their structural, semantic, and cultural aspects. The study identifies similarities and differences in their formation, meaning, and usage, highlighting how cultural context influences idiomatic expressions. The research is based on examples from both languages, demonstrating how phraseological units function in communication and what challenges they may pose in translation.*

Keywords: *phraseological units, idioms, Uzbek language, English language, comparative analysis, cultural linguistics, translation.*

Introduction

Phraseological units (PUs), also known as idioms or fixed expressions, play a crucial role in language, enriching communication with vivid imagery and cultural connotations. Unlike free word combinations, PUs have meanings that cannot be deduced from their individual components. Their study is essential for understanding linguistic peculiarities and cultural nuances.

Uzbek and English belong to different language families (Turkic and Germanic, respectively), leading to significant differences in their phraseology.



However, some universal human experiences result in similar expressions. This paper compares PUs in both languages, analyzing their structural patterns, semantic features, and cultural roots.

Analysis and Discussion

Phraseological units (PUs) in Uzbek and English languages exhibit fascinating similarities and differences due to their distinct linguistic roots and cultural backgrounds. This section provides an in-depth comparative analysis, focusing on structural patterns, semantic features, cultural influences, and challenges in translation.

Structural Classification of Phraseological Units

Phraseological units can be categorized based on their grammatical structure, which helps in understanding how they function within sentences.

Nominal Phraseological Units

These are expressions where a noun serves as the central component. In English, examples include *"a piece of cake"* (meaning something very easy) and *"the apple of one's eye"* (someone dearly loved). Similarly, Uzbek has nominal PUs such as *"bir dona non"* (a piece of bread, symbolizing simplicity) and *"ko'z qorachig'i"* (the apple of one's eye, identical in meaning to the English version). These examples show that some concepts are universally expressed through similar imagery.

Verbal Phraseological Units

These involve verbs as their core elements and often describe actions or states metaphorically. English examples include *"hit the nail on the head"* (to describe precise accuracy) and *"let the cat out of the bag"* (to reveal a secret). In Uzbek, comparable expressions are *"mozni urmoq"* (to hit the target, meaning to guess correctly) and *"sirni ochmoq"* (to open a secret, equivalent to revealing hidden information). While the literal translations differ, the underlying meanings align closely.



Adjectival and Adverbial Phraseological Units

These describe qualities or manners of action. English idioms like *"as cool as a cucumber"* (extremely calm) and *"in the blink of an eye"* (very quickly) have Uzbek counterparts such as *"muzdek sokin"* (as quiet as ice) and *"bir zumda"* (in a moment). Interestingly, both languages use natural elements (cucumber/ice, eye/moment) to convey abstract concepts, demonstrating a shared cognitive approach to figurative language.

Semantic Features and Meaning Construction

The meanings of phraseological units are often non-compositional, meaning they cannot be deduced from individual words. Instead, they rely on cultural and contextual knowledge.

Equivalent Phraseological Units

Some idioms have direct equivalents in both languages, suggesting shared human experiences. For instance:

4. English: *"Burn bridges"* → Uzbek: *"Ko 'prikni yoqmoq"* (both mean to cut off relationships irreversibly).
5. English: *"Time is money"* → Uzbek: *"Vaqt — pul"* (both emphasize the value of time).

These similarities arise from universal concepts such as time management and social relationships.

Non-Equivalent (Culture-Specific) Phraseological Units

Many idioms, however, are deeply rooted in cultural practices and lack direct translations. For example:

- English: *"Spill the beans"* (to reveal a secret) has no Uzbek equivalent; instead, Uzbek speakers might say *"gapni ochmoq"* (to open the talk).
- Uzbek: *"Qo 'lidan kelmay qolmoq"* (literally, "it doesn't come from one's hands," meaning incompetence) has no direct English counterpart.



Such differences highlight how cultural context shapes language. English idioms often derive from historical events ("*Bite the bullet*" from battlefield surgery) or literature ("*Achilles' heel*" from Greek mythology), while Uzbek idioms frequently reference agriculture ("*Yomg'ir yog'ayotganda quyoshga ishonma*" – Don't trust the sun when it's raining) and craftsmanship ("*Temirchi qo'lida temir yumshoq*" – Iron is soft in a blacksmith's hands).

Cultural and Historical Influences

Phraseological units serve as linguistic mirrors of a society's values, history, and environment.

Nature-Based Idioms

Uzbek, being historically agrarian, has many idioms related to farming and weather:

- "*Bug'doyni po'stida bil*" (Know wheat by its husk) – Similar to "*Don't judge a book by its cover.*"
- "*Qor yog'masa, qish bo'lmas*" (If snow doesn't fall, it's not winter) – Emphasizing inevitability.

English, influenced by maritime culture, includes idioms like:

- "*Weather the storm*" (to endure difficulties).
- "*On the same boat*" (facing the same challenges).

Religious and Mythological References

English idioms often borrow from Christianity ("*The writing on the wall*") and classical mythology ("*Pandora's box*"). Uzbek idioms, influenced by Islamic culture, include expressions like:

- "*Haromning oqibati yomon*" (The end of forbidden things is bad).
- "*Qazo kelib qolsa, dev ham yig'laydi*" (Even a demon cries when fate arrives).

Translation Challenges and Strategies



Translating phraseological units requires more than linguistic skill—it demands cultural insight. Common strategies include:

Literal Translation (When Possible)

Some idioms retain meaning when translated directly:

1. English: *"Break the ice"* → Uzbek: *"Muzni sindirmoq."*
2. Uzbek: *"O'likni ko'tarib yurmoq"* (Carrying a dead body) → English: *"Beating a dead horse."*

Substitution with Culturally Appropriate Idioms

When direct equivalents don't exist, a similar idiom from the target language can be used:

- English: *"Kick the bucket"* (to die) → Uzbek: *"O'lamoq"* (neutral term) or *"Dunyo o'zgarib qolmoq"* (The world has changed, a euphemism).

Paraphrasing or Explanatory Translation

For highly culture-specific idioms, a descriptive translation may be necessary:

- Uzbek: *"Qo'lida tutqich yo'q"* (No handle in hand) → English: *"Lack control over a situation."*

Conclusion

This comparative analysis reveals that while Uzbek and English phraseological units differ due to linguistic and cultural backgrounds, some universal concepts lead to similar expressions. Understanding these PUs enhances cross-cultural communication and translation accuracy. Further research could explore dialectal variations and modern idiomatic innovations in both languages.

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