

**SYMBOLIC MEANINGS OF FLOWERS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK
LITERATURE: A PHYTONYMIC APPROACH**

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Abstract. *This article explores the symbolic meanings of floral phytonyms in English and Uzbek literary texts. Drawing on examples from poetry, folklore, and classic prose, the study reveals how flowers convey deeper cultural, emotional, and metaphorical significance in each language. While English literature frequently associates flowers with romantic and aesthetic ideals, Uzbek literature often connects them with spirituality, national identity, and everyday values. The research emphasizes the role of linguistic and cultural factors in shaping floral symbolism, and highlights cross-cultural differences and parallels between the two traditions.*

Keywords. *Phytonyms, symbolism, flowers, English literature, Uzbek literature, metaphor, cultural linguistics, comparative analysis.*

Аннотация. *В статье исследуются символические значения фитонимов, обозначающих цветы, в английской и узбекской литературе. На основе анализа поэзии, фольклора и художественной прозы выявляется, как цветочные названия приобретают культурную, эмоциональную и метафорическую нагрузку. В английской литературе цветы часто символизируют романтические и эстетические идеалы, тогда как в узбекской — духовность, национальную идентичность и бытовые ценности. Работа подчёркивает влияние лингвокультурных факторов на формирование символики растений и выявляет сходства и различия между двумя традициями.*

Ключевые слова. *Фитонимы, символика, цветы, английская литература, узбекская литература, метафора, лингвокультурология, сравнительный анализ.*



Floral imagery plays a significant role in literature around the world. In both English and Uzbek literary traditions, flowers serve as more than botanical references—they convey beauty, purity, love, mortality, and identity. This paper investigates the symbolic functions of floral phytonyms in the literary texts of these two cultures to understand how language and culture interact in assigning meaning to flowers.

Literature Review. Previous studies (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Sharifov, 2019) have explored metaphorical uses of natural elements, including flowers, in different languages. In English, works like Shakespeare's sonnets and Romantic poetry use flowers such as roses, lilies, and violets to symbolize love and transience. Uzbek literature and folklore, as discussed by Qodirova (2014) and Ismoilova (2022), reflect deeper spiritual and ethnocultural meanings through flowers like lolagul (tulip), atirgul (rose), and rayhon (basil).

Methodology. A comparative qualitative analysis was conducted on selected literary texts from English and Uzbek sources. Textual examples were gathered from canonical poetry and folk narratives, and analyzed through the lens of cultural linguistics and semantic symbolism.

Results and Discussion. English Literature

Rose: Universally a symbol of love, passion, and beauty (e.g., Shakespeare, Blake).

Lily: Purity and innocence, especially in Christian symbolism.

Daisy: Simplicity and loyal love.

Poppy: Death and remembrance (WWI poetry).

These flowers are heavily metaphorical, often idealizing emotional states or referencing classical traditions (e.g., Greek mythology).

Uzbek Literature. Atirgul (Rose): Associated with divine love (ishq), especially in Sufi poetry (e.g., Alisher Navoi).

Rayhon (Basil): Symbol of chastity and respect; often placed on windows to honor guests.



Lolagul (Tulip): Symbol of youth, patriotism, and martyrdom (e.g., in independence-era poetry).

Chinnigul (Carnation): Symbol of loyalty and strength in Uzbek folk songs.

These flowers often carry social and religious symbolism, rooted in local tradition and daily customs.

Comparative Insights. Both cultures use roses for love, but the Western concept leans toward romantic love, while in Uzbek literature it often signifies spiritual devotion.

The tulip, rarely symbolic in English texts, carries national identity in Uzbek literature.

Flowers in English literature are often individualized and aesthetic, while in Uzbek literature, they are communal and ethical in symbolism.

Conclusion

Floral phytonyms reveal rich cultural layers in both English and Uzbek literature. While some symbolic parallels exist, each tradition embeds flowers with meanings that reflect distinct worldviews. Understanding these symbolic dimensions enriches literary analysis and supports cross-cultural studies in linguistics and translation.

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