

## THE CONCEPT “AGE” IN PROVERBS (UZBEK AND ENGLISH)

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### ANNOTATION

This article conducts a comparative analysis of proverbs related to the concept of age in the Uzbek and English languages. Proverbs serve as cultural artifacts that reflect societal values and beliefs, offering insights into how different cultures perceive aging, wisdom, and the passage of time. Through a selection of Uzbek and English proverbs, the article explores common themes and differences in the portrayal of age in these linguistic traditions. Uzbek proverbs emphasize the reverence for elders and the tranquility associated with old age, while English proverbs highlight the acquisition of wisdom and the recognition of seniority. By examining these proverbs, the article sheds light on the diverse cultural perspectives on age and offers a deeper understanding of the universal human experience of aging across different societies.

**KEY WORDS:** Proverbs, wisdom, aging, society, beliefs, cultural values, comparative analysis, Uzbek and English languages.

### INTRODUCTION

Proverbs are succinct expressions of wisdom passed down through generations, reflecting the cultural values, beliefs, and experiences of a society. Among the diverse themes embedded in proverbs, one recurring motif is the concept of age. Both the Uzbek and English languages feature a rich tapestry of proverbs that delve into the nuances of age, offering insights into how different cultures perceive the passage of time, maturity, and the wisdom that comes with age. In this article, we will explore and compare proverbs related to age in Uzbek and English, shedding light on the commonalities and differences between these linguistic traditions.

### MAIN PART

The English language abounds with proverbs that explore the multifaceted nature of age. English proverbs often underscore the respect for elders and the acknowledgment of the wisdom acquired through life experiences. For instance, the proverb "*With age comes wisdom*" encapsulates the notion that as individuals grow older, they naturally accumulate knowledge and insight that enrich their

understanding of the world. Another well-known English proverb, "*Age before beauty*," humorously acknowledges the precedence given to seniority over youthful attractiveness in certain situations. This proverb reflects the cultural value placed on respect for elders and deference to their experience and authority [4].

### English Proverbs:

- "With age comes wisdom."
- "Age before beauty."
- "You're never too old to learn."
- "Age is just a number."
- "The older the fiddle, the sweeter the tune."

"*You're never too old to learn*". This English proverb underscores the belief in lifelong learning and personal growth. It challenges the notion that age should limit one's capacity for acquiring new knowledge or skills. Instead, it encourages individuals of all ages to remain curious, open-minded, and engaged in continuous learning experiences. It reflects the value placed on intellectual curiosity and personal development across the lifespan. "*Age is just a number*". This proverb challenges the significance attributed to chronological age and suggests that one's age does not necessarily determine their capabilities, attitudes, or potential. It encourages individuals to defy stereotypes and societal expectations associated with aging, emphasizing the importance of vitality, passion, and resilience regardless of age. It reflects a cultural shift towards redefining aging as a dynamic and multifaceted process. "*The older the fiddle, the sweeter the tune*". This English proverb celebrates the idea that age enhances certain qualities and skills. It suggests that as individuals mature and gain experience, they become more proficient and skilled in their pursuits, much like a musical instrument that improves in sound and richness over time. It conveys the notion that aging brings depth and richness to one's abilities and contributions. These proverbs underscore the universal recognition of the value of age and experience across cultures. They reflect the belief that with age comes wisdom, insight, and a deeper understanding of life's complexities. While the expressions may vary between Uzbek and English languages, the underlying sentiment remains

consistent: age is to be revered and celebrated for the wisdom and richness it brings to individuals and communities [3].

In Uzbek culture, proverbs serve as vehicles for conveying societal norms and traditions. When it comes to the concept of age, Uzbek proverbs reflect reverence for elders and emphasize the importance of experience and wisdom gained over time. For example, "*Qari bor uyning parisi bor, Parisi bor uyning barisi bor*"; "*Yosh kelsa ishga-qari kelsa oshga*"; "*Qari ko'zi qozonda*"; *Yoshni xudo saqlar, Qarini-ovqat*[8].

**"Pari bor uyning parisi bor, Parisi bor uyning barisi bor."** Translation: "If there's an old man in the house, there's wisdom; if there's wisdom in the house, there's prosperity." Interpretation: This proverb highlights the value of wisdom, suggesting that the presence of an elder in the household brings wisdom, which in turn leads to prosperity and well-being for the family. **"Yosh kelsa ishga-qari kelsa oshga."** Translation: **"When youth comes, it brings work; when old age comes, it brings blessings."** Interpretation: This proverb emphasizes the different stages of life and the associated responsibilities and rewards. It suggests that youth is a time for hard work and diligence, while old age is a time of enjoying the blessings and rewards of a lifetime of effort. **"Qari ko'zi qozonda [6]."** Translation: **"The eye of an elder is in the crow."** Interpretation: This proverb metaphorically suggests that elders have a keen eye for observing and understanding even the smallest details. It emphasizes the wisdom and perceptiveness that come with age and experience. **Yoshni xudo saqlar, Qarini-ovqat: Protection of the Young:** The first part of the proverb, "*Yoshni xudo saqlar*" **emphasizes** the idea that young individuals are under the protection and guidance of a higher power, typically referred to as "God." This suggests a sense of divine care and safeguarding for the vulnerable and inexperienced youth. **Provision for the Old:** The second part of the proverb, "*Qarini-ovqat*," signifies that the elderly are provided with sustenance and support. It reflects the cultural value of caring for and respecting the elderly members of society, ensuring that they are nourished and looked after during their later years. The proverb underscores the cyclical nature of life, where individuals transition from youth to old age, and the responsibilities associated with each stage are acknowledged and supported. It also speaks to the

interconnectedness of generations within a community, emphasizing the importance of mutual care and respect across different age groups.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the exploration of proverbs related to age in both Uzbek and English languages provides profound insights into the diverse cultural perceptions and values surrounding aging, wisdom, and experience. Through these linguistic expressions, we witness a universal acknowledgment of the significance of age as a repository of knowledge, insight, and life experience. Across Uzbek and English proverbs, we find common themes emphasizing the reverence for elders, the value of accumulated wisdom, and the recognition of the transformative power of time. Uzbek proverbs reflect a deep respect for age and the tranquility associated with it, while English proverbs often highlight the intellectual and experiential benefits that come with aging. Despite linguistic and cultural differences, both traditions celebrate the richness and depth that age brings to individuals and communities.

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