



LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY: CULTURAL METAPHORS IN UZBEK
AND ENGLISH PROVERBS

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ANNOTATION:

This article investigates how cultural metaphors embedded in proverbs reflect the interplay between language and identity in Uzbek and English societies. Proverbs serve not only as linguistic expressions but also as carriers of cultural norms, values, and worldviews. Through comparative analysis, the paper highlights similarities and differences in metaphorical conceptualizations related to family, honor, wisdom, and fate. Findings suggest that while some metaphorical patterns are universal, many are deeply rooted in each culture's unique historical and social experience.

Keywords: language and identity, cultural metaphors, Uzbek proverbs, English proverbs, linguistic worldview

ANNOTATSIYA:

Ushbu maqolada maqollarda mujassam bo'lgan madaniy metaforalar orqali til va identitet o'zaro qanday bog'liqligi tahlil qilinadi. Maqollar nafaqat tilda ifoda topgan hikmatli iboralar, balki madaniyat, qadriyat va dunyoqarashni ham o'zida aks ettiruvchi vositadir. O'zbek va ingliz tilidagi maqollarni tematik jihatdan taqqoslab, oila, shon-sharaf, donishmandlik va taqdirga oid metaforalar o'rganiladi. Tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, ba'zi metaforalar universallikka ega bo'lsa-da, ko'pchilik metaforik tasavvurlar har bir millatning tarixiy va ijtimoiy tajribasiga chuqur bog'liqdir.

Kalit so'zlar: til va identitet, madaniy metaforalar, o'zbek maqollari, ingliz maqollari, lingvistik dunyoqarash

АННОТАЦИЯ:

В данной статье рассматривается, как культурные метафоры, содержащиеся в пословицах, отражают взаимосвязь между языком и идентичностью. Пословицы выступают не только как языковые выражения, но и как носители культурных норм, ценностей и мировоззрения. Путём тематического



сопоставления узбекских и английских пословиц анализируются метафоры, связанные с семьёй, честью, мудростью и судьбой. Результаты исследования показывают, что, несмотря на наличие универсальных метафор, большинство из них глубоко укоренены в уникальном историческом и социальном опыте каждой культуры.

Ключевые слова: язык и идентичность, культурные метафоры, узбекские пословицы, английские пословицы, языковая картина мира

INTRODUCTION

Language is not merely a tool for communication; it is a repository of culture and identity. One of the richest sources of cultural expression in language is the proverb—a succinct, metaphorical unit that encapsulates communal wisdom. This study aims to examine how cultural metaphors in proverbs reflect the underlying identity and worldview of the speakers in Uzbek and English linguistic contexts.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

This research draws on Lakoff and Johnson’s Conceptual Metaphor Theory (1980), which posits that metaphor is central to human thought. It also considers the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis, suggesting that language influences perception and cognition. By applying these frameworks, we explore how metaphorical language in proverbs contributes to cultural identity construction.

METHODOLOGY

A qualitative comparative method was employed, analyzing 30 proverbs from each language. The proverbs were categorized by theme—family, wisdom, fate, and social behavior. The cultural connotations of metaphors were then interpreted based on their semantic structure and historical context.

ANALYSIS OF CULTURAL METAPHORS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH PROVERBS

Uzbek proverbs often reflect collectivist values, such as respect for elders and communal responsibility. For instance, “Otangga qarab o‘g‘lingni o‘tla” (Judge a son by his father) highlights generational continuity. English proverbs like “The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree” convey a similar metaphor but with an individualistic undertone. Other comparisons show distinct metaphors: Uzbek proverbs associate wisdom with age and silence, while English proverbs may value critical thinking and directness.





**DISCUSSION: LANGUAGE, IDENTITY AND CULTURAL
WORLDVIEW**

The findings support the idea that proverbs encode deep-seated cultural identities. The metaphors chosen and perpetuated within a culture reveal what that culture values. Language thus becomes both a mirror and a mold of societal identity.

CONCLUSION

Proverbs as metaphorical expressions provide unique insight into the cultural and linguistic identity of a people. By analyzing Uzbek and English proverbs, this study illustrates how metaphor serves as a bridge between language and cultural worldview. Recognizing these metaphors enhances cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.

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