

THE LINGUACULTURAL REPRESENTATION OF WATER IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK PHRASEOLOGY

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Abstract. This thesis provides a comparative linguacultural and cognitive analysis of the phraseological units containing the water component (hydronyms, idioms, and proverbs) in the English and Uzbek languages. The findings demonstrate that while both languages share cognitive universalities regarding water as a symbol of movement, impermanence, and hidden depth, their phraseological manifestations reflect distinct cultural models: English phraseology heavily projects water onto personal hardship, psychological state, and pragmatic risk management, whereas Uzbek phraseology highlights water as a life-giving, agrarian necessity essential for survival, environmental harmony, and social cohesion.

Keywords: *Linguaculturology, phraseology, water component, hydronyms, English and Uzbek proverbs, cognitive metaphor.*

Introduction

Language is a profound reflection of national culture, embodying a society's history, geographical environment, and collective mentality. Within the framework of modern cognitive linguistics and linguoculturology, phraseological units — including idioms, proverbs, and hydronymic expressions — serve as condensed cultural codes transmitting moral values, philosophical wisdom, and social norms across generations. According to Conceptual Metaphor Theory metaphor is a fundamental cognitive mechanism through which human beings structure intangible, abstract experiences using concrete physical domains.

Uzbek linguists such as A. Mamatov, Sh. Rahmatullayev, N. S. Odilova, and G. A. Eshquvvatova have emphasized that phraseological units containing natural and elemental components preserve unique national-cultural worldviews. While English phraseology frequently maps water onto personal autonomy, financial stability, and internal emotional states, Uzbek phraseology reflects a historical dependency on riverine irrigation, agricultural fertility, and communal solidarity.

Research Methodology and Results

This research utilizes a multi-methodological approach incorporating contrastive-cognitive analysis, componential analysis, linguocultural classification, and comparative-typological methods. The primary corpus of data was extracted from lexicographical sources, including A. V. Kunin's Anglo-Russian Phraseological Dictionary, the Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs, Sh. Rahmatullayev's Uzbek

Phraseological Dictionary, and recent empirical dissertations. Over 70 water-related phraseological units were categorized into key semantic domains to examine their structural and metaphorical mappings.

The Symbolic Mappings of Water and Hydronyms in English Phraseology

- 1) **Water as the Passage of Time and Impermanence:** Expressions such as 'A river never looks back' and 'water under the bridge' conceptualize time as a flowing river, emphasizing the irreversible nature of past events and the necessity of moving forward. Similarly, 'written in water' signifies temporary existence and quick oblivion.
- 2) **Water as Personal Hardship and Financial Status:** A prominent feature of English culture is the conceptualization of life obstacles as aquatic environments. To experience severe difficulty or risk is to 'be in deep water' or 'be in hot water'. Conversely, maintaining financial stability and resisting hardship is expressed as keeping one's head 'above water', while financial distress is rendered as 'be in low water'.
- 3) **Water as Hidden Character and Emotional Depth:** The famous proverb 'Still waters run deep' leverages water clarity and tranquility to describe individuals who appear quiet on the surface but possess deep intellect, passion, or hidden emotions.

The Cultural and Agrarian Mappings of Water in Uzbek Phraseology

- 4) **Water as Life-Giving Sustenance and Survival:** Reflecting an agrarian environment, water is conceptualized as the foundation of existence itself: 'Suvsiz yer o'ladi' ('A land without water dies') and ('A garden and tree dried from lack of water cannot survive'). Water here represents indispensable vitality.
- 5) **Water as Environmental Comfort and Harmony:** The proverb ('A fish in water feels at ease') and describe an individual positioned in their proper, natural element, symbolizing peace, contentment, and natural competence.
- 6) **Water as Irreversibility and Philosophical Patience:** Paralleling English river metaphors, the Uzbek proverb ('Do not stare long at flowing water') counsels against useless regret over past occurrences, encouraging focus on present duties.

English Unit	Phraseological	Uzbek Translation	Equivalent / Linguacultural Function & Meaning
<i>Two peas in a pod</i>		Ikki tomchi suvdek (like two drops of water)	Identical appearance/character; English uses botanical imagery (peas), Uzbek uses hydronymic imagery (water drops).

English Unit	Phraseological	Uzbek Translation	Equivalent / Linguacultural Function & Meaning
<i>Pour cold water on something</i>		Ishning beliga tepmoq / Qo'ltig'iga suv purkamoq	Ruin or discourage a plan; both languages
<i>Like a fish out of water</i>		Suvdan chiqqan baliq / Suvga tushgan mushukdek	Uncomfortable or out of place in a foreign environment; direct structural and semantic parallel.

Conclusion

The comparative linguacultural analysis of water representations in English and Uzbek phraseology reveals important cognitive insights:

1. Universal Foundation: In both English and Uzbek, water serves as a primordial source domain symbolizing movement, the flow of time, hidden character, and impermanence.
2. Cultural Divergence: English water phraseology exhibits a strong anthropocentric and pragmatic focus, projecting water imagery onto personal financial survival ('keep head above water'), social risk ('be in deep water'), and individual emotional restraint ('still waters run deep').
3. Academic Significance: Understanding these metaphorical nuances enhances paremiology, contrastive phraseology, and translation theory, ensuring accurate cross-cultural interpretation between English and Uzbek speakers.

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