

Phraseological units with antonymous components in English and Uzbek languages

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Abstract: This article examines phraseological units with antonymous components in English and Uzbek, highlighting their role in reflecting cultural and cognitive perceptions of opposition and duality. These metaphorical and idiomatic expressions enhance expressive speech and stylistic nuance. The study analyzes their structural patterns, semantic features, and pragmatic functions, emphasizing their use in conveying contrast, irony, balance, and dual perspectives. Comparative analysis reveals universal and language-specific aspects, illustrating how each language employs antonymic elements. The findings deepen understanding of cross-linguistic idiomatic variation and the interplay between lexical opposition and cultural worldview.

Keywords: phraseological units, antonymy, idiomatic expressions, English-Uzbek comparison, linguistic contrast, cross-cultural semantics, duality, oppositeness, comparative linguistics, stylistic function

Introduction: Phraseological units are integral to the vocabulary systems of all languages, serving as expressive tools and carriers of cultural and cognitive meanings. Among these, units with antonymous components stand out for their ability to convey contrast, irony, duality, and balance. Expressions like “sooner or later” in English or *yaxshi-yomon* (good and bad) in Uzbek emphasize contradictory situations or highlight dual perspectives, enriching everyday communication and literary discourse.

In English and Uzbek, these phraseological units reflect speakers' worldviews, thought patterns, and communicative preferences, providing stylistic depth and cultural insights. Despite their apparent universality, they exhibit distinct characteristics shaped by historical, social, and cultural contexts.



This article analyzes and compares phraseological units with antonymous components in English and Uzbek, examining their structure, semantics, and contextual usage to identify similarities and differences. It explores how linguistic opposition is used metaphorically and idiomatically, contributing to cross-cultural understanding of idiomatic expression.

Phraseological units with antonymous components are a unique linguistic phenomenon, encoding contrast and duality in fixed expressions. In an era of growing intercultural communication and multilingual education, understanding their semantic and cultural dimensions is increasingly vital.

This topic is relevant to phraseology, comparative linguistics, semantics, and intercultural studies. While English and Uzbek differ structurally and culturally, both leverage antonymous idioms to convey rich meanings, emphasize contrasts, or highlight coexisting opposites. These units remain underexplored in comparative studies, particularly between typologically distant languages like English and Uzbek. Analyzing them reveals structural, semantic, and cultural insights, benefiting translators, language learners, and educators seeking to develop phraseological competence and cross-cultural awareness.

The study of antonymous phraseological units illuminates how languages use contrast to enrich communication. These creative, culturally expressive expressions offer insights into binary conceptualizations (e.g., life and death, rich and poor). In English and Uzbek, they enhance stylistic expression and emotional impact, yet their cognitive and cultural motivations differ. This makes the topic significant for comparative linguistics, translation, and intercultural communication, as well as for teaching metaphorical meaning and idiomatic usage.

Relevance of Work: This study is highly relevant to modern linguistics, particularly in comparative phraseology, semantics, and cultural linguistics. As global communication and multilingual competence grow, understanding how languages encode contrast through fixed expressions enhances translation accuracy and intercultural understanding.

English and Uzbek, from distinct language families and cultural backgrounds, both use antonymous phraseological structures to express complex ideas compactly and stylistically. Yet, comparative research on these units is limited. This work fills this gap, offering a systematic comparison that advances bilingual phraseology

studies and supports learners, translators, and educators in navigating idiomatic nuances.

Purpose: The primary purpose of this research is to analyze and compare phraseological units with antonymous components in English and Uzbek. Specifically, it aims to:

- Identify common and unique structural models of antonymous phraseologisms;
- Examine the semantic and functional roles of antonymous components in conveying contrast, irony, or balance;
- Highlight cultural and cognitive aspects reflected in these idiomatic expressions;
- Provide a comparative perspective to support research in contrastive linguistics, translation studies, and phraseological competence development.

Materials and Methods of Research: This study employs descriptive, analytical, and comparative methods. Phraseological units were sourced from monolingual and bilingual dictionaries, phrasebooks, and corpora in English and Uzbek, supplemented by authentic examples from literary texts, media, and everyday speech for contextual relevance.

Research Stages:

1. **Material Selection:** Compiled a corpus of over 100 phraseological units with antonymous elements (e.g., *black and white*, *sooner or later* in English; *yaxshi-yomon*, *bor-yo‘q* in Uzbek).
2. **Classification:** Categorized units by structural patterns (e.g., coordination, parallelism) and semantic functions (e.g., contrast, duality, irony).
3. **Comparative Analysis:** Examined linguistic and cultural characteristics, drawing comparisons to highlight similarities and differences between the two languages.

Results and Discussion: The comparative analysis yielded key findings:

1. **Structural Similarities:** Both languages use binary opposition patterns, often joining antonymous words with conjunctions (*and* in English, *-u/-yu* in Uzbek):



- English: *high and low, rich or poor, black and white*
 - Uzbek: *yaxshi-yomon* (good and bad), *bor-yo 'q* (existent or not), *tuni-kuni* (night and day)
2. **Semantic Roles:** These units emphasize comprehensiveness (*sooner or later – ertami-kechmi*), balance or irony (*the thin and the fat of it – boru yo 'g'i*), or contrasting options (*take it or leave it – ol yoki tashla*).
 3. **Cultural Nuances:** While many units share universal concepts, some reflect cultural specificity:
 - English: *sink or swim* denotes survival in competitive contexts.
 - Uzbek: *och-yopiq* (open-closed) may imply honesty or character nuances.
 4. **Frequency and Usage:** English favors antonymic phraseologisms in journalistic and argumentative discourse, while Uzbek employs them in proverbs and oral speech, reflecting traditional wisdom.
 5. **Figurative and Stylistic Value:** In both languages, these expressions enhance rhetorical impact, vividness, and emotional expressiveness in literature and speech.

These findings highlight the linguistic creativity and cultural significance of antonymous phraseologisms, underscoring their role in effective communication.

Conclusion: Phraseological units with antonymous components are a vibrant, stylistically rich layer of language, conveying contrast, duality, and irony. Comparative analysis of English and Uzbek reveals that, despite typological and cultural differences, both languages use these structures to achieve expressive and communicative goals.

These units are linguistically significant and culturally informative, reflecting each community's values, worldview, and communicative traditions. English employs them in media and written discourse, while Uzbek integrates them into proverbs and oral traditions.

Understanding these units is crucial for language learners, translators, and linguists, enhancing idiomatic competence and culturally appropriate communication. The findings provide a foundation for further research in contrastive linguistics, phraseology, and intercultural communication.



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