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INGLIZ VA O‘ZBEK TILLARIDAGI IDIOMALARNING STRUKTURAVIY VA SEMANTIK XUSUSIYATLARI: QIYOSIY TAHLIL

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Annotatsiya.

Mazkur maqolada ingliz va o‘zbek tillaridagi idiomalarning strukturaviy va semantik xususiyatlari qiyosiy jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda idiomalarning grammatik tuzilishi, komponent tarkibi, turg‘unlik darajasi va ko‘chma ma’nolarining shakllanish mexanizmlari o‘rganiladi. Shuningdek, ikki tildagi idiomatik birliklarning semantik muvofiqligi, strukturaviy o‘xshashliklari va farqli jihatlari aniqlanadi. Qiyosiy tahlil orqali idiomatik ma’noning shakllanishida leksik komponentlar va tilning o‘ziga xos xususiyatlari muhim o‘rin tutishi yoritiladi. Tadqiqot natijalari ingliz va o‘zbek frazeologiyasining umumiy hamda milliy xususiyatlarini chuqurroq anglashga xizmat qiladi.

Kalit so‘zlar: idioma, frazeologik birlik, strukturaviy xususiyatlar, semantik tahlil, qiyosiy tilshunoslik, ko‘chma ma’no, grammatik tuzilish, komponent tarkibi, frazeologiya.

СТРУКТУРНЫЕ И СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ ИДИОМ АНГЛИЙСКОГО И УЗБЕКСКОГО ЯЗЫКОВ: СОПОСТАВИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ

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Аннотация.

В данной статье проводится сопоставительный анализ структурных и семантических особенностей идиом английского и узбекского языков. В исследовании рассматриваются грамматическая структура идиом, их компонентный состав, степень устойчивости и механизмы формирования переносных значений. Кроме того, выявляются семантические соответствия, структурные сходства и различия идиоматических единиц двух языков. Посредством сопоставительного анализа раскрывается важная роль лексических компонентов и специфических особенностей языка в формировании идиоматического значения. Результаты исследования способствуют более глубокому пониманию общих и национально-специфических особенностей английской и узбекской фразеологии.

Ключевые слова: идиома, фразеологическая единица, структурные особенности, семантический анализ, сопоставительное языкознание, переносное значение, грамматическая структура, компонентный состав, фразеология.

STRUCTURAL AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK IDIOMS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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Abstract.

This article presents a comparative analysis of the structural and semantic features of idioms in English and Uzbek. The study examines the grammatical structure, component composition, degree of stability, and mechanisms underlying the formation of figurative meanings in idiomatic expressions. Furthermore, it identifies semantic correspondences, structural similarities, and differences between idiomatic units in the two languages. Through comparative analysis, the article highlights the significant role of lexical components and language-specific characteristics in the formation of idiomatic meaning. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of both universal and national-specific features of English and Uzbek phraseology.

Keywords: idiom, phraseological unit, structural features, semantic analysis, comparative linguistics, figurative meaning, grammatical structure, component composition, phraseology.

Introduction. Language is a complex system through which people communicate ideas, express emotions, and preserve cultural experience. Within this system, idioms occupy a distinctive position because their meanings cannot always be understood through the literal interpretation of their individual components. As relatively stable expressions with conventional figurative meanings, idioms represent an important subject in phraseology, semantics, and comparative linguistics. Investigating idioms in English and Uzbek provides an opportunity to examine how different linguistic systems organise phraseological units and convey meaning through established combinations of words.

The structural characteristics of idioms include their grammatical patterns, component composition, syntactic organisation, and degree of stability. Although idiomatic expressions often demonstrate fixed or partially fixed structures, some allow grammatical variation or limited lexical modification. These properties influence how idioms function within sentences and how speakers recognise them as conventional units. English and Uzbek differ in several grammatical features, including word order, morphological organisation, and the expression of grammatical relationships. Consequently, comparing idioms in these languages can reveal how language-specific structural patterns influence the formation and use of phraseological expressions.

The semantic characteristics of idioms are equally significant. Their meanings may involve metaphor, metonymy, exaggeration, evaluation, and other processes through which expressions acquire figurative interpretations. Some idioms in different languages convey similar concepts despite having different lexical components, while others possess meanings closely associated with particular linguistic or cultural contexts. Distinguishing literal meaning from idiomatic meaning is therefore essential for identifying semantic equivalence and explaining differences between phraseological systems. Such analysis can also clarify why apparently similar expressions do not always function as direct equivalents in translation.

Comparative research on English and Uzbek idioms is relevant to both theoretical linguistics and practical language learning. A systematic examination of their structural and semantic properties can support more accurate interpretation, translation, and teaching of idiomatic expressions. It can also contribute to the development of bilingual phraseological resources by identifying full equivalents, partial equivalents, and expressions without direct counterparts.

This study aims to investigate the structural and semantic features of English and Uzbek idioms through comparative analysis. Its objectives are to identify major structural patterns, examine the relationships between idiomatic form and meaning, classify semantic correspondences, and determine significant similarities and differences between the two languages. The research applies descriptive and comparative methods to selected idiomatic expressions from both languages. By integrating structural examination with semantic interpretation, the study seeks to provide a clearer account of how idioms are organised and understood in English and Uzbek. Its findings are expected to contribute to phraseology, comparative linguistics, and the study of cross-linguistic semantic relationships.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative comparative approach to investigate the structural and semantic features of idioms in English and Uzbek. The methodology combines descriptive analysis, comparative analysis, and semantic interpretation to identify how idiomatic expressions are organised and how their meanings are established. This approach makes it possible to examine both the formal properties of phraseological units and the relationships between their lexical components and conventional meanings.

The research material consists of selected English and Uzbek idioms obtained from authoritative phraseological dictionaries, explanatory dictionaries, and relevant linguistic publications. The expressions are selected according to three principal criteria: established idiomatic meaning, identifiable grammatical structure, and suitability for cross-linguistic comparison. Preference is given to expressions that represent common semantic fields, including emotions, human characteristics, interpersonal relationships, behaviour, and everyday activities. Idioms whose meanings cannot be reliably verified through reference materials are excluded from the analysis.

The selection process follows purposive sampling rather than statistical random sampling. English and Uzbek expressions are grouped according to their semantic meanings and structural characteristics. Where possible, idioms expressing comparable concepts are placed in corresponding groups. However, expressions are not considered equivalent simply because their literal components appear similar. Their conventional meanings, grammatical organisation, and contextual functions must also be examined. This procedure helps distinguish direct equivalents from partial equivalents and language-specific expressions without close counterparts.

The analysis is conducted in four stages. First, each idiom is recorded with its source, conventional meaning, and grammatical pattern. Second, its structural composition is examined, including the number and type of components, word classes, syntactic relationships, and degree of formal stability. Particular attention is given to recurring patterns, such as verb-based expressions, noun phrases, adjective-based constructions, and combinations containing prepositions or postpositions. These categories are applied according to the grammatical characteristics of each language.

Third, the semantic properties of the selected idioms are analysed. This stage identifies literal and figurative

meanings, semantic transparency, metaphorical motivation, and the relationship between an expression's components and its overall interpretation. Idioms are classified according to their principal meanings and the degree to which those meanings can be inferred from their constituent words. The analysis also considers whether English and Uzbek expressions demonstrate full semantic correspondence, partial correspondence, or distinct meanings.

Fourth, the findings are compared across the two languages. Structural similarities and differences are documented alongside semantic relationships to determine where comparable meanings are expressed through similar or different linguistic forms. A common analytical framework is used for both languages to maintain consistency. Dictionary definitions and linguistic descriptions are consulted whenever an expression has multiple interpretations or its grammatical classification is uncertain.

The study follows principles of transparent source documentation and careful interpretation. Each selected expression is traceable to a reference source, and conclusions are based on documented linguistic characteristics rather than assumptions about national language behaviour. Since the research is qualitative, its purpose is not to establish universal frequency patterns but to explain structural and semantic relationships within the selected material. The resulting framework provides a systematic basis for comparing English and Uzbek idioms and identifying their principal phraseological similarities and differences.

RESULTS

The comparative framework identifies structural organisation and semantic interpretation as two principal dimensions of English and Uzbek idioms. The analysis focuses on grammatical patterns, component composition, formal stability, figurative meaning, and cross-linguistic equivalence. These dimensions provide a basis for describing how idiomatic expressions are formed and how their meanings correspond across the two languages. The following results outline the principal patterns to be examined in the selected phraseological material.

The structural analysis distinguishes several types of idiomatic constructions, including verb phrases, noun phrases, adjective-based expressions, and combinations containing grammatical particles or prepositions. English idioms frequently exhibit relatively fixed word order, reflecting the language's syntactic organisation. Uzbek idioms may demonstrate different arrangements of components because Uzbek uses agglutinative morphology and generally follows a subject-object-verb pattern. These differences illustrate why structural comparison requires language-specific grammatical criteria rather than the direct application of a single syntactic model.

Component composition also provides an important basis for classification. Some idioms contain two principal lexical components, whereas others consist of longer combinations involving verbs, nouns, adjectives, or function words. Their components may preserve their ordinary grammatical forms, or they may participate in constructions whose overall meaning cannot be predicted directly from individual words. Comparing these patterns helps establish how idiomatic expressions achieve formal stability while remaining integrated into the grammatical systems of English and Uzbek.

The semantic analysis distinguishes literal meaning from conventional figurative interpretation. Idioms may express emotions, personal characteristics, interpersonal relationships, actions, and evaluations through metaphorical or otherwise non-literal language. In some expressions, the figurative meaning remains relatively transparent because the underlying image provides clues to interpretation. In others, the relationship between individual components and the overall meaning is less transparent, requiring knowledge of established usage. This distinction is important for explaining differences in semantic motivation across the two languages.

Cross-linguistic comparison reveals three principal types of semantic relationships. The first includes idioms with closely corresponding meanings and comparable communicative functions. The second comprises expressions that convey similar concepts but employ different lexical images or grammatical structures. The third includes language-specific idioms whose meanings lack direct equivalents in the other language. This classification demonstrates that semantic correspondence cannot be established solely through literal translation and must account for conventional meaning and usage.

Structural and semantic characteristics are closely related but do not necessarily correspond in identical ways. Idioms with different grammatical patterns may express comparable meanings, while expressions with similar components may convey different concepts. Therefore, the analysis treats formal resemblance and semantic equivalence as separate criteria. This distinction is particularly relevant to bilingual dictionaries, translation, and foreign language teaching, where inappropriate literal interpretation may obscure the intended meaning of an expression.

The comparative framework provides a systematic description of the principal structural and semantic dimensions of English and Uzbek idioms. However, the categories presented here should be supported by a documented dataset, authentic examples, and verified dictionary references before being reported as empirical findings. The final analysis should specify the number of idioms examined, provide representative examples from both languages, and explain how each example meets the established classification criteria. Such evidence will strengthen the reliability and explanatory value of the research conclusions.

DISCUSSION

The comparative examination of English and Uzbek idioms highlights the importance of analysing phraseological expressions from both structural and semantic perspectives. Idioms constitute relatively stable linguistic units whose

meanings frequently extend beyond the literal interpretation of their components. Their grammatical organisation, lexical composition, and conventional meanings provide valuable evidence for understanding how different languages structure figurative expressions. A comparative approach therefore makes it possible to identify shared communicative functions while recognising language-specific characteristics.

One important consideration concerns grammatical structure. English and Uzbek differ in their morphological systems and syntactic organisation, and these differences may influence the formal patterns of idiomatic expressions. English idioms commonly reflect established word order and characteristic combinations of lexical and grammatical elements. Uzbek idioms operate within an agglutinative language system, where suffixes and grammatical markers contribute to the relationships between components. Consequently, structurally comparable expressions may display different surface forms. These differences should be interpreted according to the grammatical principles of each language rather than treated as evidence of greater or lesser complexity.

Semantic interpretation presents another significant issue. Idioms may express similar concepts through different lexical images, while expressions containing apparently comparable words may have different conventional meanings. This distinction demonstrates that idiomatic equivalence depends on established usage rather than literal correspondence alone. In translation and language teaching, identifying the intended meaning is therefore more important than reproducing the individual components of an expression. A systematic comparison can help distinguish expressions with close semantic equivalents from those requiring explanation or contextual adaptation.

The relationship between formal stability and semantic transparency also deserves attention. Some idioms provide recognisable clues to their figurative meanings, whereas others require knowledge of conventional usage. Their components may retain traces of their literal meanings without determining the interpretation of the complete expression. This variation suggests that idiomaticity should be examined as a matter of degree rather than as an absolute distinction between transparent and opaque expressions. Comparing English and Uzbek examples can clarify how component meanings interact with established phraseological interpretations.

These observations have practical implications for lexicography, translation, and foreign language education. Bilingual phraseological dictionaries benefit from distinguishing full equivalents, partial equivalents, and culture-specific expressions. Language learners also need opportunities to examine idioms in meaningful contexts, since grammatical knowledge alone does not guarantee accurate interpretation. Explicit attention to component structure, figurative meaning, and contextual usage may help learners recognise why literal translation frequently produces unnatural or misleading results.

Nevertheless, comparative conclusions depend on the quality and representativeness of the selected material. Dictionary entries may differ in their definitions, labels, and treatment of grammatical variants. Moreover, a limited collection of idioms cannot represent every structural or semantic pattern in either language. Future research should therefore establish transparent selection criteria, document reliable sources, and test classifications against authentic examples. Quantitative analysis could complement qualitative interpretation by identifying the distribution of particular patterns within a larger dataset.

Structural and semantic analysis offers a productive framework for investigating English and Uzbek idioms. Its value lies in explaining how grammatical form, lexical composition, and conventional meaning interact while maintaining distinctions between linguistic similarity and genuine semantic equivalence. Careful, evidence-based comparison can deepen our understanding of phraseological systems and support more accurate cross-linguistic interpretation.

CONCLUSION

This study examines the structural and semantic features of English and Uzbek idioms through a comparative linguistic approach. Idiomatic expressions represent an important component of phraseological systems because their meanings frequently extend beyond the literal interpretation of individual words. Investigating their grammatical organisation, lexical composition, and conventional meanings provides insights into how different languages structure figurative expressions and communicate complex concepts through established combinations of linguistic elements.

The comparative framework highlights the importance of distinguishing structural similarity from semantic equivalence. English and Uzbek idioms may express comparable concepts while differing in grammatical patterns, component arrangement, and lexical composition. Such differences reflect the characteristics of the respective language systems and demonstrate why idiomatic expressions should be analysed according to language-specific grammatical principles. Direct formal correspondence is not a necessary condition for semantic similarity, just as similar lexical components do not automatically guarantee equivalent meanings.

Semantic analysis further demonstrates the importance of examining idioms as conventional units. Their figurative interpretations may be relatively transparent when component meanings provide clues to the overall concept, or less transparent when interpretation depends on established linguistic usage. Consequently, understanding idioms requires attention to both their constituent elements and their conventional meanings. This distinction is particularly important in comparative phraseology, where literal translation may obscure the intended meaning or produce an inappropriate equivalent in the target language.

The study also establishes a useful analytical basis for classifying relationships between English and Uzbek idioms.

Expressions may have closely corresponding meanings, convey similar concepts through different figurative images, or possess meanings without direct equivalents in the other language. Recognising these relationships can improve the description of phraseological systems and provide a clearer basis for comparing linguistic structures and semantic patterns. However, the reliability of such classifications depends on consistent criteria, appropriate reference materials, and the examination of expressions in relevant contexts.

The analytical framework developed in this study has practical implications for translation, lexicography, and foreign language education. Translators need to identify the intended meaning and communicative function of an idiom before selecting an equivalent. Dictionary compilers can benefit from distinguishing full equivalents, partial equivalents, and expressions requiring explanatory definitions. Language teachers can also use comparative examples to help learners understand grammatical patterns, figurative meanings, and the limitations of word-for-word translation. These applications demonstrate the relevance of phraseological research to both theoretical and practical linguistic work.

Nevertheless, the scope of the conclusions must reflect the available evidence. A reliable empirical study requires a clearly defined collection of English and Uzbek idioms, documented sources, and transparent analytical procedures. Future research should examine larger datasets, include authentic examples, and investigate grammatical variation and contextual interpretation. Quantitative methods may complement qualitative analysis by identifying recurring structural patterns and comparing the distribution of semantic categories.

In conclusion, the comparative study of English and Uzbek idioms offers a valuable framework for understanding the relationship between linguistic form and figurative meaning. By distinguishing grammatical organisation from semantic correspondence, researchers can describe similarities and differences more precisely. Further evidence-based investigation will strengthen comparative phraseology and contribute to more accurate interpretation, translation, and teaching of idiomatic expressions across the two languages.

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