

# "RESEARCH-BASED TRANSFORMATION OF TEACHER EDUCATION: TRADITION AS A BASIS FOR INNOVATION"

## International Conference on Teacher Education

### THE NOTION OF LABOR IN THE UZBEK AND ENGLISH IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS AND PROVERBS

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**Abstract.** Recent research has predominantly examined various linguistic concepts in different languages, but there has been limited exploration into how the concept of "Labor" is articulated when comparing English to Uzbek. This study aims to delve into the representation of the concept of "Labor" in Uzbek and English languages, specifically through proverbs. It compares how these expressions reflect the importance of hard work, determination, and the belief that effort leads to success. By studying these common expressions in the two languages, the article highlights the shared value placed on working hard and persisting to achieve goals in different cultural settings.

**Key words:** proverbs, culture, labor, work, lexical units, religion, wealth, time.

Labor is a universal concept that transcends cultural boundaries, yet its interpretation and significance can vary greatly from one society to another. Exploring the notion of labor through the lens of idiomatic expressions and proverbs in different languages provides a unique insight into how work ethic, perseverance, and productivity are valued and understood within a specific cultural context. In this article, we delve into the rich tapestry of Uzbek and English idiomatic expressions and proverbs related to labor, unraveling the nuances and underlying meanings that shed light on the attitudes towards work and diligence in these two distinct linguistic traditions. By examining the similarities and differences in how labor is portrayed and celebrated in these idiomatic expressions and proverbs, we aim to uncover the deeper cultural values and beliefs that shape our understanding of the role of work in society.

In recent years, several studies have focused on exploring various linguistic concepts across different languages. An example of such research is the study on the concept of "word" conducted by Uzbek scholar D.Sc. Galieva M.R. However, the current discussion centers around the concept of "Labor." Labor is primarily defined as physical activity but can also encompass mental or social efforts in producing profitable goods and services for the economy. It is categorized into positive, negative, mental, physical, and creative types. Russian scholars like O.E. Chernova, N.A. Kosenko, and G. V. Tokarev have made significant contributions to the study of this concept. Numerous articles have been dedicated to defining labor in various languages, and "Work and Labour as Metonymy and Metaphor" by Olivier Frayssé from Université Paris-Sorbonne is one of a few examples. However, there remains a lack of comparative analysis between the concept of labor in Uzbek and English

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languages. A pivotal focus lies in the examination of proverbs that serve as cultural repositories, encapsulating the collective wisdom of Uzbek and English-speaking communities. The linguistic comparison between the Uzbek term 'Mehnat' and its English counterpart 'Labour' provides a foundational understanding, wherein synonymous lexical units such as job, work, and toil underscore the profound connection these languages maintain with the concept. Noteworthy is the linguistic anomaly found in English, where 'labor' extends its meaning to 'giving birth,' a dimension absent in the Uzbek lexical landscape. This linguistic peculiarity enriches the comparative analysis, showcasing the unique cultural imprints embedded within idiomatic expressions. Categorizing proverbs based on their thematic relations unveils compelling insights into the multifaceted nature of labor. For instance, the relationship between labor and religion is eloquently portrayed in the English proverb "God sells knowledge for labour," paralleled by its Uzbek counterpart "Izlaganga tole yor." These expressions underscore the spiritual dimensions interwoven with industrious pursuits. The correlation between labor and time finds poignant expression in the English proverb "Early sow, early mow," aligning with the Uzbek equivalent "Ish bilan vaqt tez o'tar." These idioms shed light on the temporal intricacies associated with industrious endeavors.

A rich tapestry emerges as labor intertwines with wealth, pleasure, and risk, epitomized by proverbs like "He who takes the profit ought also to take the labour" (English) and its Uzbek counterpart "Mashaqatsiz baxt kelmas, mehnatsiz taxt." These expressions encapsulate the inherent connection between effort and reward. Furthermore, the study delves into the relationship between laborers and their tools, as exemplified by the English proverb "What is workman without his tool" and its Uzbek counterpart "Usta lop-lop qiladi, ishni asbob qiladi." These idioms elucidate the symbiotic connection between the artisan and their implements. The juxtaposition of labor with attitudes towards laziness and diligence is eloquently captured in the English proverb :

*"The harder you work the luckier you get,"* mirrored by the Uzbek expression *"Ish desa, ayyor, Osh desa, tayyor."*

These proverbs underscore cultural perspectives on industriousness and its correlation with success. Lastly, the gastronomical terms intertwined with labor, such as "No sweet without sweat" (English) and its Uzbek counterpart "Mehnat qilib topilgan ovqat shirin bo'ladi," provide a sensory dimension to the discourse, emphasizing the sweetness that accompanies diligent effort.

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In conclusion, the investigation of proverbs related to labor in Uzbek and English reveals different categories, such as the relationship between labor and religion, labor and animals/insects, labor and time, as well as the contrast between diligence and laziness. These proverbs provide insights into the cultural values and beliefs surrounding labor in both linguistic traditions the idiomatic expressions and proverbs related to labor in Uzbek and English not only reflect linguistic intricacies but also offer a cultural mirror reflecting the values, beliefs, and wisdom of the respective societies. Through the lens of language, the notion of labor emerges as a universal thread weaving through the fabric of human experience, connecting diverse cultures in their understanding and expression of this fundamental concept.

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