

## A COMPARATIVE LINGUO-COGNITIVE STUDY OF IDIOMATIC COMPOUNDS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

Amanova Baxtiniso Hamroevna,

Master's Degree student at Asian International University

[bakhtinissoamanova@gmail.com](mailto:bakhtinissoamanova@gmail.com)

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**Annotatsiya.** Mazkur maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi idiomatik qo'shma birliklar qiyosiy lingvokognitiv tahlil qilinib, ularning konseptual motivatsiyasi, semantik tuzilishi va madaniy xususiyatlari aniqlanadi. Idiomatik qo'shma birliklar ma'nosi tarkibiy qismlaridan to'liq kelib chiqmaydigan, shu sababli kognitiv va qiyosiy tilshunoslik uchun muhim bo'lgan leksik birliklarning alohida guruhini tashkil etadi. Tadqiqot kognitiv semantika, konseptual metafora nazariyasi hamda konstruksion morfologiya nazariy asoslariga tayangan holda olib borildi. Tadqiqot korpusi zamonaviy ingliz va o'zbek tilidagi lug'aviy hamda matn manbalaridan tanlab olingan idiomatik qo'shma birliklardan iborat. Yetakchi kognitiv mexanizmlar – metafora, metonimiya va madaniy modellashuvni aniqlash maqsadida sifat jihatidan qiyosiy metod qo'llanildi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, har ikkala til idiomatik qo'shma birliklarni shakllantirishda universal kognitiv strategiyalardan foydalansa-da, obrazlilik, baholovchi komponentlar va madaniy motivatsiyada sezilarli farqlar mavjud. Olingan xulosalar idiomatik qo'shma birliklarning jamoaviy tajriba va madaniy konseptualizatsiyaning lingvistik ifodasi sifatida faoliyat yuritishini tasdiqlaydi hamda qiyosiy tadqiqotlarda lingvokognitiv yondashuvning ahamiyatini ta'kidlaydi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** idiomatik qo'shma birliklar, kognitiv semantika, konseptual metafora, qiyosiy tilshunoslik, madaniy model, frazeologiya, leksik motivatsiya.

**Аннотация.** В статье представлен сравнительный лингвокогнитивный анализ идиоматических композитов английского и узбекского языков с целью выявления их концептуальной мотивации, семантической структуры и культурной специфики. Идиоматические композиты представляют собой особую группу лексических единиц, значение которых не выводится полностью из значений их компонентов и потому представляет особый интерес для когнитивной и сопоставительной лингвистики. Теоретической основой исследования послужили положения когнитивной семантики, теории концептуальной метафоры и конструкционной морфологии. Корпус исследования включает идиоматические композиты, отобранные из современных английских и узбекских лексикографических и текстовых источников. В работе применена качественная сравнительная методология, направленная на выявление доминирующих когнитивных механизмов, таких как метафора, метонимия и культурное моделирование. Полученные результаты показывают, что, несмотря на использование универсальных когнитивных стратегий в формировании идиоматических композитов в обоих языках, наблюдаются существенные различия в образности, оценочных компонентах и культурной мотивации. Сделанные выводы подтверждают, что идиоматические композиты функционируют как языковое отражение коллективного опыта и культурной концептуализации, что подчеркивает значимость лингвокогнитивного подхода в сопоставительных исследованиях.

**Ключевые слова:** идиоматические композиты, когнитивная семантика, концептуальная метафора, сопоставительная лингвистика, культурная модель, фразеология, лексическая мотивация

**Annotation.** The present article offers a comparative linguo-cognitive analysis of idiomatic compounds in English and Uzbek with the aim of revealing their conceptual motivation, semantic structure, and cultural specificity. Idiomatic compounds represent a special group of lexical units whose meanings cannot be fully deduced from their components and are therefore highly relevant for cognitive

*and contrastive linguistics. The study is grounded in the theoretical framework of cognitive semantics, conceptual metaphor theory, and construction morphology. The research corpus consists of idiomatic compounds selected from contemporary English and Uzbek lexicographic and textual sources. A qualitative comparative methodology is employed to identify dominant cognitive mechanisms such as metaphor, metonymy, and cultural modeling. The results demonstrate that while both languages employ universal cognitive strategies in the formation of idiomatic compounds, significant differences emerge in imagery, evaluative components, and cultural motivation. The findings confirm that idiomatic compounds function as linguistic reflections of collective experience and cultural conceptualization, thereby highlighting the importance of a linguo-cognitive approach in contrastive studies.*

**Key words:** *idiomatic compounds, cognitive semantics, conceptual metaphor, contrastive linguistics, cultural model, phraseology, lexical motivation.*

**Introduction.** In contemporary linguistics, the study of idiomatic expressions and compound formations has gained particular relevance due to the growing interest in cognitive and functional approaches to language. Idiomatic compounds constitute a specific class of lexical units characterized by semantic opacity and figurative motivation. Unlike free compounds, idiomatic compounds encode culturally embedded meanings that reflect collective experience and conceptual organization.

Within the cognitive paradigm, language is viewed as a reflection of human cognition and conceptualization. According to Kövecses and Szabó, idioms are motivated by conceptual metaphors and metonymies that structure human experience [7]. Similarly, Booij emphasizes that compounds are not merely formal constructions but represent schematic patterns associated with conceptual meaning [8]. In this respect, idiomatic compounds serve as an interface between lexical structure and cognitive representation.

Despite considerable research on idioms and compounds in individual languages, comparative linguo-cognitive studies remain limited, particularly with regard to English and Uzbek. Existing works primarily focus on phraseological units [2; 3; 5] or stylistic aspects of compounding [4], while the cognitive mechanisms underlying idiomatic compounds across languages have not been systematically examined.

The present study seeks to fill this gap by conducting a comparative linguo-cognitive analysis of idiomatic compounds in English and Uzbek. The main objectives are:

1. to identify dominant conceptual mechanisms in the formation of idiomatic compounds;
2. to compare their semantic motivation in the two languages;
3. to reveal universal and culture-specific patterns of conceptualization.

**Materials and methods.** The theoretical foundations of the study are rooted in cognitive semantics and construction morphology. Kövecses and Szabó [7] argue that idiomatic meaning is motivated by conceptual metaphor and metonymy rather than arbitrary convention. This view is supported by Lakoff and Johnson's theory of conceptual metaphor, which explains figurative meaning as a projection between conceptual domains. Booij [8] proposes that compounding involves schematic constructions that integrate form and meaning, thus allowing for the emergence of idiomatic interpretations. From a

contrastive perspective, Kholbaeva [2] and Khamidova [3] demonstrate that phraseological units encode culturally specific conceptual models in English and Uzbek. Umarova [4] highlights stylistic variation in compound nouns, while Jumanazarov [5] analyses somatic imagery in phraseological units. Amanova and Mukhammedova [1] provide one of the few linguo-cognitive studies directly addressing idiomatic compounds in English and Uzbek, emphasizing the role of conceptual motivation and cultural symbolism. However, their work remains limited in scope and does not offer a systematic comparative framework.

The study employs a qualitative comparative methodology combining:

- componential analysis for identifying semantic structure;
- conceptual analysis for revealing metaphorical and metonymic motivation;
- contrastive analysis for detecting similarities and differences between languages.

The corpus comprises 120 idiomatic compounds from English and 110 from Uzbek, extracted from dictionaries, literary texts, and academic sources. Each unit was analyzed with respect to its lexical composition, figurative meaning, and conceptual basis.

**Results and discussion.** The analysis revealed that idiomatic compounds in both languages are formed through three dominant cognitive mechanisms: metaphor, metonymy, and cultural modeling. Metaphor constitutes the primary mechanism underlying idiomatic compounds. In English, units such as *cold-blooded*, *brainstorm*, and *hard-headed* are based on conceptual metaphors mapping physical properties onto psychological traits. For instance, *cold-blooded* reflects the metaphor EMOTION IS TEMPERATURE, where emotional detachment is conceptualized as low temperature. In Uzbek, similar metaphoric patterns are observed in compounds such as *ko'ngilchan* (kind-hearted) and *bag'ri keng* (generous), which rely on the metaphor EMOTION IS SPACE. Although the source domains differ, both languages employ bodily and spatial imagery to conceptualize abstract qualities.

Metonymy plays a crucial role in semantic condensation. In English, *red-handed* exemplifies the PART FOR ACTION pattern, where the hand symbolizes guilt. In Uzbek, *qo'li uzun* (powerful, influential) reflects the metaphor POWER IS REACH, combined with metonymic extension from body part to social capability. These patterns indicate that idiomatic compounds frequently compress complex meanings into compact lexical structures through conceptual contiguity. The most salient differences emerge at the level of cultural models. English idiomatic compounds frequently employ animal imagery (*dark horse*, *lame duck*), reflecting cultural narratives associated with competition and social hierarchy. Uzbek compounds, by contrast, tend to encode ethical and social values (*yuragi pok* – pure-hearted, *ko'zi ochiq* – enlightened), emphasizing moral evaluation. This contrast demonstrates that while cognitive mechanisms are universal, their semantic realizations are shaped by culturally dominant values.

The findings confirm the hypothesis that idiomatic compounds are cognitively motivated constructions reflecting both universal conceptual patterns and language-

specific cultural models. Metaphor and metonymy function as fundamental mechanisms in both languages, supporting Kövecses and Szabó's claim regarding the motivated nature of idiomatic meaning [7]. However, the contrastive analysis reveals significant variation in source domains and evaluative orientation. English idiomatic compounds display a tendency toward pragmatic and socially competitive imagery, whereas Uzbek compounds foreground ethical and interpersonal dimensions. This difference can be attributed to divergent cultural conceptualizations of personality, power, and morality. From a construction-morphological perspective, the data support Booij's view that idiomatic compounds represent schematic pairings of form and meaning rather than random lexicalizations [8]. The emergence of idiomatic meaning results from the interaction between morphological structure and conceptual mapping. The study thus contributes to contrastive linguistics by demonstrating that idiomatic compounding serves as a sensitive indicator of cultural cognition embedded in lexical structure.

**Conclusion.** The comparative linguo-cognitive analysis of idiomatic compounds in English and Uzbek reveals that these units are systematically motivated by conceptual mechanisms rather than arbitrary convention. Both languages employ metaphor and metonymy as universal strategies for structuring idiomatic meaning. At the same time, cultural models significantly influence imagery, evaluative orientation, and semantic emphasis.

The results confirm that idiomatic compounds function as linguistic representations of collective experience and cultural values. A linguo-cognitive approach therefore provides an effective framework for uncovering the interaction between morphology, semantics, and cognition in contrastive studies.

Future research may expand the corpus, include quantitative methods, and explore pedagogical implications for second language acquisition and translation studies.

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