

LINGUOCOGNITIVE REPRESENTATION OF THE CONCEPT OF
FRIENDSHIP IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract. This study examines the linguocognitive representation of the concept of friendship in English and Uzbek languages. Friendship is considered a universal cultural and social phenomenon reflecting interpersonal relations and moral values within linguistic communities. The research aims to identify the cognitive and linguistic mechanisms through which the concept of friendship is expressed in both languages and to reveal similarities and differences in their conceptual structures. The study applies comparative, conceptual, and linguocognitive analysis methods. Linguistic units such as proverbs, phraseological expressions, and lexical items are analyzed. The findings show that in both languages friendship is associated with loyalty, trust, emotional support, and mutual assistance.

Keywords: friendship concept, linguocognitive analysis, conceptual metaphor, linguistic worldview, Uzbek language, English language.

Annotatsiya. Mazkur tadqiqot ingliz va o'zbek tillarida do'stlik konseptining lingvokognitiv ifodalanishini o'rganishga bag'ishlangan. Do'stlik konsepti til jamoalarida shaxslararo munosabatlar va axloqiy qadriyatlarni aks ettiruvchi universal ijtimoiy-madaniy hodisa sifatida qaraladi. Tadqiqotning maqsadi ingliz va o'zbek tillarida do'stlik konsepti qanday kognitiv va lingvistik vositalar orqali ifodalanishini aniqlash hamda ularning konseptual tuzilishidagi o'xshash va farqli jihatlarni aniqlashdan iborat. Tadqiqotda qiyosiy, konseptual va lingvokognitiv tahlil usullaridan foydalanildi. Do'stlikni ifodalovchi maqollar, frazeologik birliklar va leksik birliklar tahlil qilindi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatdiki, har ikki tilda do'stlik sadoqat, ishonch, hissiy qo'llab-quvvatlash va o'zaro yordam bilan bog'liq.

Kalit so'zlar: do'stlik konsepti, lingvokognitiv tahlil, konseptual metafora, lingvistik dunyoqarash, o'zbek tili, ingliz tili.

Аннотация. Данное исследование посвящено изучению лингвокогнитивной репрезентации концепта дружбы в английском и узбекском языках. Концепт дружбы рассматривается как универсальное социально-культурное явление, отражающее межличностные отношения и моральные ценности языковых сообществ. Цель исследования – определить когнитивные и языковые механизмы выражения концепта дружбы в английском и узбекском языках, а также выявить сходства и различия в их концептуальной структуре. В работе применяются сравнительный, концептуальный и лингвокогнитивный методы анализа. Анализируются языковые единицы, отражающие концепт дружбы, включая пословицы, фразеологизмы и лексические единицы.

Ключевые слова: концепт дружбы, лингвокогнитивный анализ, концептуальная метафора, языковая картина мира, узбекский язык, английский язык.

Introduction. Language is not only a means of communication but also a reflection of the cognitive processes and cultural values of a society. In modern linguistics, the study of concepts has become one of the central directions within cognitive linguistics and linguoculturology. Concepts represent mental structures that store culturally significant knowledge and experiences in human consciousness. Among various social concepts, the concept of friendship occupies a special place in human relations and linguistic expression. Friendship reflects interpersonal trust, emotional closeness, social solidarity,

and moral support. The representation of this concept in language allows researchers to understand how different cultures perceive and interpret social relationships. The concept of friendship has been widely studied in cognitive linguistics, cultural linguistics, and sociolinguistics. Scholars emphasize that concepts are structured through linguistic units such as metaphors, idioms, proverbs, and lexical expressions. These linguistic forms reveal the cultural and cognitive characteristics of a particular linguistic community. [1.29]

In Uzbek linguistic culture, friendship is traditionally associated with loyalty, sincerity, and mutual assistance. Expressions such as *“Do‘st boshdan bilinadi”* and *“Do‘st kulfatda bilinadi”* demonstrate the moral dimension of friendship in Uzbek culture. In English linguistic culture, friendship is frequently conceptualized through expressions such as *“A friend in need is a friend indeed”* and *“True friendship never ends.”* Despite belonging to different language families and cultural traditions, English and Uzbek languages share certain universal elements in the conceptualization of friendship. However, each linguistic culture also possesses unique features that reflect national values and social norms. [2.201]

Methods. The research is based on a linguocognitive and comparative approach to the analysis of conceptual structures in language. Several methodological principles were applied to achieve the objectives of the study. First, the conceptual analysis method was used to identify the semantic components that constitute the concept of friendship in both languages. This method allows the researcher to reveal the internal structure of the concept and determine its core and peripheral elements. Second, the comparative method was employed to examine similarities and differences in the linguistic representation of friendship in English and Uzbek languages. Through comparative analysis, linguistic units such as proverbs, idioms, and lexical items were studied. Third, the linguocognitive approach was applied to analyze how linguistic expressions reflect mental representations and cultural values related to friendship. The material of the study consists of lexical units, phraseological expressions, and proverbs collected from English and Uzbek dictionaries, literary texts, and linguistic sources. These linguistic units were selected because they reflect cultural and cognitive aspects of friendship.

Results. The linguocognitive analysis of linguistic units related to the concept of friendship in English and Uzbek languages revealed several semantic layers that constitute the conceptual structure of friendship. These layers include trust, loyalty, emotional closeness, support, and moral responsibility. The first and most central component of the concept is **trust and loyalty**. In Uzbek linguistic culture, loyalty is considered a fundamental characteristic of friendship. Numerous proverbs and phraseological expressions emphasize this aspect. For instance, the Uzbek proverb *“Do‘st kulfatda bilinadi”* (A friend is known in trouble) reflects the belief that true friendship reveals itself during difficult circumstances. Similarly, the expression *“Do‘st boshdan bilinadi”* implies that a true friend can be recognized through sincerity and loyalty in interpersonal relations.

A similar conceptual meaning exists in English linguistic culture. The proverb “*A friend in need is a friend indeed*” expresses the same cognitive structure, emphasizing that genuine friendship becomes evident when assistance is needed [1.22]. Another example is the phrase “*Stand by someone through thick and thin,*” which represents loyalty and unwavering support in friendship. The second semantic component is **mutual support and cooperation**. Uzbek linguistic expressions frequently represent friendship as a source of moral and practical support. For example, the phrase “*Do‘st yelkadosh bo‘ladi*” (A friend stands shoulder to shoulder) metaphorically conceptualizes friendship as solidarity and cooperation. In English language, this conceptualization appears in expressions such as “*Friends stick together*” and “*A shoulder to lean on,*” which metaphorically represent emotional support and assistance between friends [4.291]. Another significant component is **emotional closeness and sincerity**. English linguistic culture often conceptualizes friendship through expressions that highlight emotional intimacy and personal connection. For example, phrases such as “*close friend,*” “*best friend,*” and “*lifelong friend*” indicate the psychological and emotional dimension of friendship.

Uzbek linguistic culture also reflects emotional closeness, though it is often linked with moral values and social obligations. The proverb “*Do‘st achitib gapiradi, dushman kuldirib*” (A friend speaks bitter truth, an enemy makes you laugh) demonstrates that friendship involves honesty and sincerity, even when it may be uncomfortable. The analysis also revealed several **conceptual metaphors** through which friendship is cognitively structured in both languages. One common metaphor is **FRIENDSHIP IS SUPPORT**. This metaphor is reflected in expressions such as “*A shoulder to lean on*” in English and “*yelkadosh bo‘lish*” in Uzbek. Another metaphor is **FRIENDSHIP IS UNITY OR TOGETHERNESS**. Expressions like “*Friends stick together*” in English and “*bir yoqadan bosh chiqarish*” in Uzbek demonstrate the idea of collective effort and unity. A third metaphorical representation is **FRIENDSHIP IS A PATH OR JOURNEY**. In English, phrases such as “*walk through life together*” represent friendship as a shared journey. Similarly, Uzbek linguistic culture reflects this metaphor in expressions that describe friendship as a long-lasting relationship formed over time. Thus, the results indicate that the conceptual core of friendship in both languages includes loyalty, emotional closeness, and support, although the cultural interpretations and linguistic representations may differ.

Discussion. The findings of the research confirm that the concept of friendship possesses both universal and culturally specific characteristics. Universal elements of friendship include trust, loyalty, emotional support, and interpersonal closeness. These features appear consistently in both English and Uzbek linguistic expressions, suggesting that friendship represents a universal social value across cultures. However, the linguocognitive representation of friendship also reflects cultural differences between the two linguistic communities. In Uzbek linguistic culture, friendship is strongly associated

with moral responsibility and social solidarity. Uzbek proverbs and expressions often emphasize loyalty, sincerity, and the ethical obligations that friends have toward one another. This reflects the collectivist orientation of Uzbek society, where interpersonal relationships are closely connected with social harmony and mutual support [3.120].

For instance, the proverb “*Do ‘st bilan yo ‘l qisqa*” (The road is shorter with a friend) indicates that friendship makes life easier and more meaningful. Another proverb, “*Do ‘st ko ‘p bo ‘lsa, yo ‘l topiladi*” (When there are many friends, solutions can be found), highlights the social importance of friendship as a network of support. In contrast, English linguistic culture often conceptualizes friendship in terms of personal choice and emotional comfort. Expressions such as “*Make friends easily*” or “*Keep good friends close*” emphasize individual relationships and personal emotional bonds. The English conceptualization of friendship frequently focuses on companionship and psychological support rather than social obligation. Another difference lies in the metaphorical representation of friendship. In English linguistic culture, friendship is frequently associated with emotional and psychological metaphors such as *support*, *closeness*, and *connection*. In Uzbek linguistic culture, friendship metaphors often include elements of solidarity, loyalty, and shared responsibility. These differences can be explained through broader cultural and social frameworks. Western cultures generally emphasize individual autonomy and voluntary relationships, whereas Central Asian cultures traditionally emphasize community values and collective social ties. Nevertheless, the core semantic features of the friendship concept remain similar in both linguistic cultures. This confirms that friendship is a universal concept that transcends linguistic and cultural boundaries while simultaneously reflecting specific cultural values.

Conclusion. The study investigated the linguocognitive representation of the concept of friendship in English and Uzbek languages. The analysis demonstrated that the concept of friendship is structured through a complex system of lexical units, phraseological expressions, and proverbs that reflect cultural and cognitive aspects of interpersonal relations. The findings revealed that the conceptual core of friendship in both languages includes trust, loyalty, emotional closeness, and mutual support. These elements represent universal characteristics of friendship that appear across different linguistic and cultural communities. At the same time, the research identified several culture-specific features in the conceptualization of friendship. In Uzbek linguistic culture, friendship is closely connected with moral responsibility, sincerity, and social solidarity. In English linguistic culture, friendship is more frequently associated with emotional intimacy, companionship, and personal relationships. The study confirms that linguistic expressions serve as important cognitive tools that reveal how social concepts are structured in human consciousness. The analysis of conceptual metaphors and phraseological expressions allows researchers to understand the cultural worldview embedded in language. Future research may focus on expanding the analysis of the friendship concept through

associative experiments, corpus analysis, and discourse studies in order to obtain a deeper understanding of cultural representations of friendship.

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