

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF METAPHORS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH PROVERBS

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Abstract. *This article examines metaphorical expressions found in English and Uzbek proverbs and presents a comparative semantic analysis of their figurative structures. Proverbs represent condensed forms of folk wisdom and frequently employ metaphorical imagery to communicate moral principles and social experience. The research focuses on less frequently analyzed metaphors in order to increase originality and highlight unique linguistic features of proverb discourse. The study compares metaphorical models used in the two languages and analyzes their semantic meanings, cultural symbolism, and conceptual domains. The findings demonstrate that English and Uzbek proverbs share universal metaphorical patterns derived from nature, animals, and everyday human activities while simultaneously reflecting unique cultural perspectives. Understanding metaphorical structures in proverbs contributes to the study of cognitive linguistics, comparative linguistics, and intercultural communication.*

Keywords: *metaphor, proverb, figurative language, semantic analysis, comparative linguistics, cultural symbolism.*

Аннотация. *В данной статье исследуются метафорические выражения в английских и узбекских пословицах на основе сравнительно-семантического анализа. Пословицы представляют собой концентрированную форму народной мудрости и часто используют метафорические образы для передачи социального опыта и нравственных принципов. В исследовании особое внимание уделяется менее изученным метафорам с целью повышения научной новизны и выявления уникальных лингвистических особенностей пословичного дискурса. В работе применяются сравнительный и семантический методы анализа для выявления метафорических моделей, концептуальных доменов и культурной символики, содержащихся в пословицах. Результаты исследования показывают, что английские и узбекские пословицы имеют общие универсальные метафорические модели, связанные с природой, животными и повседневной жизнью, одновременно отражая культурно-специфические особенности. Данное исследование вносит вклад в развитие когнитивной лингвистики, сравнительного языкознания и межкультурной коммуникации.*

Ключевые слова: *метафора, пословица, семантический анализ, образный язык, сравнительная лингвистика.*

Annotatsiya. *Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o'zbek maqollarida uchraydigan metaforik ifodalar qiyosiy-semantik tahlil asosida o'rganiladi. Maqollar xalq donishmandligining ixcham shakli bo'lib, ijtimoiy tajriba va axloqiy tamoyillarni ifodalashda metaforik obrazlardan keng foydalanadi. Tadqiqotda ilmiy yangilikni oshirish va maqol diskursining o'ziga xos lingvistik xususiyatlarini aniqlash maqsadida kamroq o'rganilgan metaforalarga alohida e'tibor qaratiladi. Tadqiqot jarayonida maqollardagi metaforik modellar, konseptual sohalar hamda madaniy ramzlarni aniqlash uchun qiyosiy va semantik tahlil metodlaridan foydalanildi. Tadqiqot natijalari ingliz va o'zbek maqollarida tabiat, hayvonot dunyosi va kundalik hayot bilan bog'liq umumiy metaforik modellar mavjudligini ko'rsatadi, shu bilan birga ular har bir xalqning o'ziga xos madaniy xususiyatlarini ham aks ettiradi. Mazkur tadqiqot kognitiv tilshunoslik, qiyosiy tilshunoslik hamda madaniyatlararo kommunikatsiya sohalarining rivojlanishiga hissa qo'shadi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *metafora, maqol, semantik tahlil, obrazli til, qiyosiy tilshunoslik.*

Introduction. Language reflects the worldview and cultural experience of a society. Figurative language plays an essential role in shaping expressive communication, and metaphor is considered one of the most powerful stylistic and cognitive tools in language. Through metaphor, abstract ideas become understandable through concrete experiences and familiar imagery. Proverbs preserve the wisdom and observations of previous generations and transmit social norms and ethical values. Because proverbs are short and memorable, they are widely used in everyday speech and educational discourse. Many proverbs rely on metaphorical images derived from natural phenomena, animals, plants, and human activities. These images help express complex ideas in simple and vivid forms. Comparative analysis of metaphorical expressions in proverbs allows researchers to explore universal cognitive mechanisms and culture-specific linguistic features.

Methods. Metaphor has been widely studied in linguistics and philosophy. In traditional rhetoric it was considered a stylistic ornament, but modern cognitive linguistics interprets metaphor as a fundamental mechanism of human thought. According to this perspective, metaphor involves conceptual mapping between two domains: a source domain and a target domain. The source domain usually represents a concrete experience such as physical objects or natural events, while the target domain refers to an abstract concept like social behavior or emotional states. Proverbs frequently employ this mechanism because they aim to communicate general truths through recognizable images.

Results. English proverbs contain numerous metaphors that reflect everyday experiences and observations of nature. These metaphors often use animals, natural phenomena, and human activities as symbolic representations.

For example: “The early bird catches the worm.”

Here, the metaphor of a bird catching a worm represents the idea that people who act quickly and diligently are more likely to succeed.

“Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.”

This metaphor suggests that relying on a single opportunity or resource can be risky.

“A barking dog never bites.”

In this proverb, the barking dog symbolizes a person who talks aggressively but does not take action.

These examples demonstrate that English proverbs frequently employ metaphors derived from agriculture, animal behavior, and everyday activities.

Still waters run deep – quiet individuals may possess deep knowledge.

Empty vessels make the most noise – people with little knowledge often talk the most.

A tree is known by its fruit – a person's actions reveal their character.

The pitcher goes so often to the well that it is broken at last – repeated risk leads to failure.

A hedge between keeps friendship green – boundaries preserve relationships.

The rotten apple spoils the barrel – one bad person can influence others negatively.

Every cloud has a silver lining – hope can exist even in difficult situations.

A drowning man catches at a straw – desperate people cling to weak solutions.

The wolf may lose his teeth but never his nature – character is difficult to change.

The early worm gets eaten – being too eager can be dangerous.

The cat hides its claws – dangerous intentions may be hidden.

A rolling stone gathers no moss – constant change prevents stability.

The fox knows many tricks – clever individuals use different strategies.

Metaphors in Uzbek Proverbs

Uzbek proverbs also contain rich metaphorical imagery. They often draw on elements from nature, agriculture, and traditional lifestyle.

For instance: “Jo‘jani kuzda sanaydilar.”

This proverb metaphorically expresses the idea that results should be evaluated only after the process is completed.

“Yaxshi gap jon ozig‘i.”

Here, kind words are metaphorically compared to nourishment for the soul.

“Til – qilichdan o‘tkir.”

This proverb compares language with a sword, highlighting the powerful influence of words.

“Baliq boshidan sasiydi.”

The metaphor indicates that problems within an organization usually start from leadership.

These metaphors illustrate how Uzbek proverbs reflect traditional values, social hierarchy, and moral principles.

Otning yaxshisi maydonda bilinadi – true ability appears in real situations.

Tuproq tortmagan gul ochmaydi – success requires effort.

Ko‘r ko‘rni yetaklasa chuqurga tushadi – unqualified leadership leads to problems.

Shamol bo‘lmasa daraxtning uchi qimirlamaydi – every rumor has a cause.

Suv kelgan joyga baraka keladi – prosperity follows opportunity.

Baliq boshidan sasiydi – problems begin from leadership.

Chumchuq so‘yib qassob bo‘lmas – small actions cannot prove mastery.

Arslon izidan qaytmaydi – brave people do not retreat.

Ko‘p qarg‘a bir toshni ko‘tarmaydi – too many people spoil work.

Til qilichdan o‘tkir – words can be more powerful than weapons.

Yaxshi gap jon ozig‘i – kind words nourish the soul.

Discussion. The comparison of English and Uzbek proverbs reveals several interesting patterns. First, both languages use metaphors derived from nature and everyday life. Animals, plants, and natural phenomena frequently appear in proverbs from both

cultures. Second, many metaphorical concepts are universal. For example, both languages use metaphors related to time, work, wisdom, and morality. However, there are also differences. English metaphors often emphasize individual responsibility and practical thinking, while Uzbek metaphors tend to highlight social relationships and collective values. For example, English proverbs frequently encourage independence and personal initiative, while Uzbek proverbs often stress respect, patience, and community harmony. Another reason is that they may have different metaphorical meanings in the two cultures. These differences reflect the historical and cultural backgrounds of each society.

The findings of this study indicate that metaphorical expressions in proverbs are deeply connected with cultural experience. Proverbs function as linguistic tools that transmit cultural knowledge from one generation to another.

The similarities between English and Uzbek metaphors demonstrate universal aspects of human cognition. People from different cultures often use similar conceptual frameworks to interpret reality. At the same time, cultural differences influence the specific imagery used in metaphors. Agricultural traditions, social structures, and historical conditions shape the symbolic meanings found in proverbs. Therefore, comparative analysis of proverbs can provide valuable insights into intercultural communication and linguistic diversity.

Conclusion. Metaphors in proverbs represent an important linguistic mechanism that allows societies to express wisdom and social values through vivid imagery. The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek proverb metaphors reveals both universal patterns of metaphorical thinking and culturally specific symbolic systems. Studying these metaphors contributes to understanding the relationship between language, culture, and cognition.

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