



NATIONAL CHARACTER IN PROVERBS AND SAYINGS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES: A LINGUOCULTURAL STUDY

Tog‘ayev Orzimurod Ziyodullo o‘g‘li

Master student of ISFT

Abstract: This article explores the national character reflected in proverbs and sayings of the English and Uzbek languages from a linguocultural perspective. Proverbs are viewed as culturally marked units that preserve a nation’s worldview, values, traditions, and behavioral norms. The study compares English and Uzbek paremias to reveal similarities and differences in the expression of concepts such as work, honesty, family, time, and social relations. The research is based on the principles of linguoculturology and ethnolinguistics, emphasizing the close interrelation between language, culture, and national mentality.

Key words: proverbs, sayings, national character, linguoculturology, worldview, English and Uzbek.

Language is not only a means of communication but also a mirror of a nation’s culture, mentality, traditions, and values. One of the most vivid ways in which national character is reflected in language is through proverbs and sayings. Proverbs are short, stable expressions that contain the collective wisdom of a people and transmit moral norms, social experience, and cultural values from generation to generation. The study of proverbs in a comparative perspective allows us to understand how different nations perceive the world, human behavior, work, family, time, honor, and social relations. This paper aims to analyze how national character is expressed in English and Uzbek proverbs and sayings from a linguocultural point of view.

Proverbs are part of the paremiological system of a language. They reflect:

- a)
the historical experience of a nation,
- b)
ts worldview and beliefs,
- c)
ts ethical and moral principles.

According to many linguists (e.g. W. Mieder, V.A. Maslova, Yu.S. Stepanov), proverbs serve as a bridge between language and culture, because they encode national values in a condensed, metaphorical form. For example:



English: *Actions speak louder than words.*

Uzbek: *Ish – so ‘zdan ustun.*

Both proverbs show the importance of deeds, but each is rooted in its own cultural tradition. National character can be defined as a set of stable psychological, moral, and behavioral features typical of a particular people. These features are shaped by:

- d)
history,
- e)
climate and geography,
- f)
social structure,
- g)
religion and traditions.

In language, national character is reflected through vocabulary, metaphors, idioms, and especially proverbs. Through them, we see what a nation ценит (values), осуждает (condemns), and поощряет (encourages). One of the key elements of national character is attitude toward work. In English proverbs, work is associated with discipline, punctuality, and efficiency:

No pain, no gain.

Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.

A stitch in time saves nine.

These proverbs show that English culture values planning, effort, and responsibility. In Uzbek proverbs, work is connected with patience, endurance, and collective effort:

Mehnat qilgan to ‘yadi. (“He who works will be fed.”)

Mehnatning tagi – rohat. (“The end of labor is comfort.”)

Birlik bo ‘lsa – tiriklik bo ‘lar. (“If there is unity, there will be life.”)

Thus, both cultures respect hard work, but the Uzbek view often emphasizes endurance and social harmony. Family is a central value in both cultures, but it is conceptualized differently. English proverbs often stress independence and personal responsibility:

Charity begins at home.

Like father, like son.

Every man is the architect of his own fortune.

Uzbek proverbs emphasize respect for elders and collective identity:

Ota-ona rozi – Xudo rozi. (“If parents are pleased, God is pleased.”)

Kattani hurmat qil, kichikni izzat qil. (“Respect the elder, honor the younger.”)



Oila – muqaddas maskan. (“The family is a sacred place.”)

Here, Uzbek national character is marked by hierarchy, obedience, and moral duty to family. Time is another important cultural indicator. English proverbs:

Time is money.

Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.

Lost time is never found again.

They reflect the English focus on efficiency and punctuality.

Uzbek proverbs: *Har narsaning o‘z vaqti bor.* (“Everything has its own time.”)

Shoshma-shosharlik – shayton ishi. (“Haste is the devil’s work.”)

Sabr qilgan – maqsadiga yetar. (“He who is patient will reach his goal.”)

Uzbek culture values patience and natural rhythm rather than strict scheduling.

Moral values are clearly reflected in proverbs.

English: *Honesty is the best policy.*

A good name is better than riches.

Practice what you preach.

Uzbek: *Nomus – insonning ziynati.* (“Honor is a person’s ornament.”)

Yaxshi nom – yarmidan ko‘p boylik. (“A good name is more than half of wealth.”)

Odam bolasi – odobi bilan odam. (“A person is human because of manners.”)

Uzbek proverbs place special emphasis on inner morality and social reputation.--

Hospitality is one of the strongest features of Uzbek national character.

Mehmon – Xudo mehmoni. (“A guest is God’s guest.”)

Mehmon kelsa – baraka keladi. (“When a guest comes, blessing comes.”)

Make yourself at home.

Good fences make good neighbors.

The English proverbs stress privacy and boundaries, while Uzbek ones stress openness and generosity.

Knowledge is power.

Experience is the best teacher.

Ilm – nur, jaholat – zulmat. (“Knowledge is light, ignorance is darkness.”)

Bilim – boylikdan afzal. (“Knowledge is better than wealth.”)

Both cultures highly value education, but Uzbek proverbs often use metaphor and imagery. A comparison shows: English proverbs reflect



individualism, rationality, and pragmatism. Uzbek proverbs reflect collectivism, morality, respect, and hospitality. Both systems show universal human values but express them through national lenses. Proverbs and sayings in English and Uzbek languages vividly represent national character. They encode centuries of experience, moral norms, and cultural values. The comparative study of English and Uzbek proverbs shows that: English national character is marked by independence, efficiency, and practicality. Uzbek national character is characterized by collectivism, respect, hospitality, and moral responsibility. Understanding these differences is essential for intercultural communication, translation, and language teaching.

LIST OF USED LITERATURE

1. Vygotsky L. S. (1978). *Mind in Society: The Development of Higher Psychological Processes*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. 1978.
2. Wierzbicka A. *Understanding Cultures through Their Key Words*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1997.
3. Maslova V. A. *Lingvokul'turologiya*. Moskva: Akademiya. 2001.
4. Stepanov Yu. *Konstanty: Slovar' russkoy kul'tury*. Moskva: Akademicheskii proyekt. 2004.
5. Sapir E. *Language: An Introduction to the Study of Speech*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company. 1921.
6. Karimova S. *O'zbek tilida lingvomadaniy birliklar*. Toshkent: Fan. 2015.
7. Normurodova D. *Diskurs va milliy madaniyat*. Toshkent: Innovatsiya. 2020.
8. Щерба Л.Б. О тroyаком аспекте языковых явлений и об эксперименте в языкознании / Л.В.Щерба // Языковая система и речевая деятельность - Л., 1974.
9. ШЖ Шомуродова, НБ Назарова, К Акрамова. Barriers of teaching foreign languages in junior classes// Евразийский научный, 2020.
(<https://scholar.google.com/scholar?oi=bibs&cluster=6559959912894190163&btnI=1&hl=ru>)
10. Shahobiddinova Z. A., Bahodirova N. N. Applying Advanced Experiences in English Learning to the Learning Process //International Journal of Innovations in Engineering Research and Technology. – C. 1-4.