



SCHOLARS WHO STUDIED PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS RELATED TO FLORA AND FAUNA IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES AND THE NATURE OF THEIR RESEARCH

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Abstract: *This article investigates the contribution of prominent scholars to the study of phraseological units related to flora and fauna in English and Uzbek linguistics. Special attention is paid to the theoretical foundations of phraseology, the semantic and cultural specificity of floristic and faunistic components, and comparative approaches used in both linguistic traditions. The study applies descriptive, comparative, and semantic analysis methods. The results reveal that plant- and animal-based phraseological units reflect national worldview, cultural symbolism, and linguistic mentality of both English and Uzbek speakers. The article also highlights the importance of these studies for contrastive linguistics, translation studies, and intercultural communication.*

Keywords: *phraseology, flora, fauna, idioms, comparative linguistics, English, Uzbek.*

INTRODUCTION

Phraseological units serve as an essential part of any language's lexical system, reflecting not only linguistic creativity but also the historical, cultural, and national worldview of a people. Among various types of phraseological units, those related to flora and fauna occupy a special place because they are deeply rooted in human experience, nature observation, and symbolic thinking.

In modern linguistics, phraseology has evolved into an independent branch of linguistic science. Scholars across the world have emphasized that phraseological units with plant and animal components represent culturally marked lexical items that reveal the mentality, traditions, and collective consciousness of a nation. Particularly in English and Uzbek languages, flora- and fauna-based phraseologisms demonstrate both universal and culture-specific features.

The relevance of the present research is determined by the growing interest in comparative phraseology, especially in the context of contrastive studies between genetically and typologically different languages such as English and Uzbek. Despite numerous theoretical works devoted to phraseology in general, the number of special investigations focused specifically on floristic and faunistic phraseological units remains limited.



The purpose of this article is to analyze the scientific contributions of scholars who have studied phraseological units related to flora and fauna in English and Uzbek linguistics, and to evaluate the nature and significance of their research.

The objectives of the study are:

- to review the main stages of phraseology development in English and Uzbek linguistics;
- to identify scholars who studied flora- and fauna-related phraseological units;
- to analyze their theoretical approaches and research methods;
- to determine the linguistic and cultural value of such phraseological units.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The scientific study of phraseological units began to develop actively in the 20th century. The term phraseology was introduced and systematized primarily in Russian linguistics, which significantly influenced both Uzbek and English phraseological studies.

Phraseology in World Linguistics. One of the founders of modern phraseology is V. V. Vinogradov, who classified phraseological units into phraseological fusions, unities, and combinations. His works laid the theoretical basis for further phraseological studies.

Another outstanding scholar, A. V. Kunin, made a significant contribution to English phraseology. He developed a comprehensive classification of English phraseological units and thoroughly investigated their semantic, structural, and functional features. Kunin emphasized that many English idioms are based on animal and plant imagery, such as “as sly as a fox”, “a dark horse”, or “the apple of one’s eye”.

Charles Bally, a Swiss linguist, introduced the stylistic approach to phraseological units and described them as emotionally expressive stable word combinations.

Studies on Flora and Fauna Phraseologisms. Special investigations into flora- and fauna-based phraseological units were carried out by various scholars. N. M. Shansky analyzed the semantic motivation of phraseological units and explained the symbolic role of plants and animals in idioms.

In English linguistics, researchers such as R. Moon, J. Sinclair, and P. Cowie studied idioms in relation to metaphor, culture, and cognition. They emphasized that animal and plant names function as conceptual metaphors representing human qualities and social behavior.

For example, animals such as fox, lion, dog, and horse are frequently used to express intelligence, strength, loyalty, and endurance, while flora components such as rose, oak, and thorn symbolize beauty, strength, and difficulty.

Phraseological Studies in Uzbek Linguistics. In Uzbek linguistics, phraseology developed rapidly in the second half of the 20th century. Scholars such as Sh. Rahmatullayev, B. Yo'ldoshev, M. Mirzayev, and A. Hojiyev made valuable contributions to the study of Uzbek phraseological units.



Sh. Rahmatullayev was one of the first researchers to classify Uzbek phraseological units and study their semantic and stylistic features. He noted that many Uzbek idioms are based on animals (it, ot, eshak) and plants (olma, tut, g'alla), which reflect the agricultural lifestyle and national mentality of the Uzbek people.

B. Yo'ldoshev focused on the semantic structure of phraseological units and their expressive functions. His studies revealed that flora and fauna components in Uzbek phraseologisms often carry evaluative and emotional meanings.

Comparative Studies on English and Uzbek Phraseology. Comparative phraseological studies between English and Uzbek languages were conducted by scholars such as Z. Khamidova, N. Tursunova, and G. Ismailova. Their research shows that while some flora- and fauna-based idioms have direct equivalents, many of them are culturally specific.

For example, the English idiom "as busy as a bee" corresponds to the Uzbek expression "ariqday tinmas", though the metaphorical imagery slightly differs.

These studies prove that phraseological units with plant and animal components represent a valuable source for understanding linguistic worldview and national-specific metaphors.

METHODS

The present research applies several linguistic methods:

- Descriptive method to analyze the theoretical views of scholars;
- Comparative method to identify similarities and differences in English and Uzbek flora and fauna phraseologisms;
- Semantic analysis to interpret figurative meanings;
- Contextual analysis to study usage in discourse.

The data for the study were collected from phraseological dictionaries, scientific articles, monographs, and literary texts in both languages.

RESULTS

The analysis of scholarly works devoted to flora- and fauna-related phraseological units in English and Uzbek linguistics demonstrates several important tendencies.

First, it has been established that the majority of phraseological units in both languages originate from everyday human interaction with nature. Scholars such as Kunin, Vinogradov, and Rahmatullayev emphasized that animals and plants served as primary symbolic sources for metaphorical thinking. For instance, animals like lion, fox, dog, and horse in English, and it, ot, eshak, and bo'ri in Uzbek, represent human character traits such as bravery, cunning, loyalty, patience, and stubbornness.

Second, the studies revealed that flora-based phraseological units mainly reflect emotional states, beauty, productivity, and hardship. English idioms such as "to nip in the bud", "to turn over a new leaf", and "bed of roses" are closely connected with botanical imagery. In Uzbek, expressions such as "ildizi chuqur", "mevasi shirin", and "g'alladek unmoq" symbolize growth, prosperity, and success.



Third, comparative studies show that some phraseological units are universal in meaning but differ in imagery. For example, the English idiom “as strong as a horse” corresponds to the Uzbek phrase “otdek kuchli”, showing a coincidence in metaphor. However, in many cases metaphorical representations differ due to cultural and environmental distinctions. The English idiom “the early bird catches the worm” has no direct zoological equivalent in Uzbek but is rendered through culturally adapted expressions.

Fourth, Uzbek scholars highlight that fauna-based phraseologisms are more frequent than flora-based ones in colloquial speech, while English demonstrates a relatively balanced use of both categories.

DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present study confirm the views of many linguists that phraseological units with flora and fauna components are among the most culturally marked layers of the lexical system. The findings align with Kunin’s theory that idioms reflect not only linguistic but also historical and cultural experience of the people.

Comparative analysis proves that although English and Uzbek languages belong to different language families, they share common universal metaphors based on natural observation. Animals symbolize human behavior in both cultures, while plants symbolize stages of life, growth, beauty, and difficulties. However, national mentality and lifestyle significantly influence the choice of symbolic images.

For instance, Uzbek flora- and fauna-related phraseological units often reflect an agrarian worldview, where g’alla, ot, and tuya play a central role. English phraseology, in contrast, reflects urban, maritime, and industrial realities alongside nature-based metaphors.

Scholars in Uzbek linguistics tend to focus more on semantic and stylistic classification, while Western linguists emphasize cognitive and metaphorical approaches. This difference demonstrates the diversity of methodological traditions in phraseological studies.

Additionally, it should be noted that flora and fauna phraseological units serve as an important resource in translation studies. Literal translation is often impossible because symbolic meanings rarely coincide fully. Therefore, translators rely on functional equivalents rather than direct lexical substitution.

CONCLUSION

The present study has examined the scholarly contributions to the investigation of flora- and fauna-related phraseological units in English and Uzbek linguistics. The analysis shows that phraseological units with plant and animal components constitute a significant part of the lexical and cultural heritage of both languages.

It has been revealed that scholars such as Vinogradov, Kunin, Bally, Rahmatullayev, and Yo’ldoshev laid the theoretical and methodological foundations for



phraseological studies. Their works demonstrate that flora and fauna phraseologisms reflect universal human experiences as well as national-specific worldviews.

Comparative research between English and Uzbek phraseology proves that while some idioms share similar meanings and imagery, many of them are culture-bound. The study confirms the importance of such investigations for contrastive linguistics, intercultural communication, and translation theory.

In conclusion, the study of flora- and fauna-based phraseological units remains a promising and relevant field of modern linguistics, especially in the context of comparative and cognitive research.

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