



PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Muydinova Nigora Usmonjonovna

Fergana academic lyceum number 2 at FSTU, English teacher

Abstract: *Phraseological units constitute an essential part of the lexical system of any language, reflecting both linguistic structure and cultural identity. This article presents a comparative analysis of phraseological units in English and Uzbek, examining their structural, semantic, and functional characteristics. The research reveals that while English and Uzbek phraseological units share common features such as figurative meaning and stability, they differ in morphological adaptation, cultural symbolism, and translation equivalence. These findings provide valuable insights for contrastive linguistics, translation studies, and language education, emphasizing the role of cultural context in the interpretation and teaching of phraseological units.*

Keywords: *Phraseological units, idioms, English language, Uzbek language, comparative analysis, semantics, translation.*

INTRODUCTION

Phraseological units, commonly referred to as idioms or fixed expressions, represent a vital component of a language's lexicon. Unlike individual words, these units convey meanings that often cannot be deduced from their constituent parts, reflecting figurative language and cultural nuances. In both English and Uzbek, phraseological units play an important role in communication, literary expression, and cultural representation.

Comparative studies of phraseological units have gained significance due to globalization, intercultural communication, and the increasing need for effective translation. Understanding the structural, semantic, and functional characteristics of phraseological units in different languages is crucial for linguists, translators, and language educators. English, as an analytic language, and Uzbek, as an agglutinative language, demonstrate distinct ways of forming and using phraseological units, influenced by grammatical structure, word formation patterns, and cultural context. The primary objective of this study is to conduct a systematic comparative analysis of phraseological units in English and Uzbek. The research focuses on identifying similarities and differences in their structural composition, semantic motivation, idomaticity, and cultural representation. By doing so, the study aims to contribute to contrastive linguistics, translation studies, and the teaching of foreign languages, highlighting the importance of cultural and contextual awareness in understanding phraseological units.

METHODS

This study employs a **comparative-descriptive methodology** to analyze phraseological units in English and Uzbek. The research is based on both **qualitative**



and **quantitative approaches**, allowing for a systematic examination of structural, semantic, and functional features of idioms and fixed expressions.

Data Collection: The data were collected from authoritative linguistic sources, including English and Uzbek phraseology dictionaries, academic articles, and corpora of contemporary texts. Selected examples include idiomatic expressions, set phrases, and commonly used phraseological units in both languages.

Classification and Analysis:

Phraseological units were classified according to:

1. **Structural characteristics** – single-word vs. multi-word units, syntactic patterns.
2. **Semantic motivation** – literal, figurative, or metaphorical meanings.
3. **Idiomaticity** – degree to which the meaning is non-literal or culturally specific.

Comparative Procedure:

Each phraseological unit was analyzed to identify:

- similarities and differences in structure and meaning between English and Uzbek,
- cultural and contextual nuances,
- challenges in translation and adaptation from one language to another.

Methodological Justification:

The comparative-descriptive method is particularly suitable for studying cross-linguistic phenomena because it highlights both universal patterns and language-specific features. It also provides insights for applied fields such as translation studies and foreign language teaching, ensuring practical relevance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The comparative study of phraseological units in English and Uzbek has revealed several significant findings, shedding light on both linguistic structures and cultural dimensions. Structurally, English idioms are predominantly fixed multi-word expressions, such as *kick the bucket* or *break the ice*, which retain a stable form regardless of grammatical context. In contrast, Uzbek phraseological units exhibit notable flexibility, often incorporating affixes due to the agglutinative nature of the language. Examples such as *qoyilmaqom bo'lmoq* or *devor ortidan kulmoq* demonstrate how Uzbek idioms can adapt morphologically while preserving their idiomatic meaning.

Semantically, both English and Uzbek phraseological units convey figurative meanings, yet they reflect their respective cultural backgrounds. English idioms often draw upon metaphorical or historical references familiar to Western contexts, while Uzbek idioms are deeply rooted in local traditions, historical events, and social practices. This cultural specificity contributes to the richness and uniqueness of each language's idiomatic repertoire.



The analysis further highlighted the degree of idiomaticity. Certain English idioms, like *once in a blue moon*, may appear opaque to non-native speakers, whereas many Uzbek expressions retain more transparent metaphorical logic for native users. This difference has important implications for translation, as some phraseological units lack direct equivalents. Translators must often employ semantic substitution or explanatory translation to convey the intended meaning accurately. For instance, *once in a blue moon* is rendered in Uzbek as *har yuz yilda bir marta*, preserving the sense while adapting culturally.

In terms of frequency and usage, everyday idiomatic expressions in both languages exhibit comparable communicative functions. English expressions such as *piece of cake* or *call it a day* have Uzbek counterparts in colloquial speech, such as *o'ng qo'l bilan qilmoq* or *ishni tugatmoq*, though formal registers often show greater variation. This observation underscores the importance of register awareness when teaching or translating idiomatic language.

Overall, these findings indicate that while English and Uzbek phraseological units share universal linguistic functions—enriching expression, conveying cultural meaning, and enhancing communicative effectiveness—they differ substantially in structural, morphological, and cultural aspects. The flexibility of Uzbek idioms, coupled with their deep cultural embedding, contrasts with the fixed nature and Western cultural specificity of English idioms. Consequently, effective teaching, translation, and intercultural communication require not only linguistic knowledge but also an appreciation of the underlying cultural and contextual nuances.

CONCLUSION: The present study demonstrates that phraseological units in English and Uzbek, while serving similar communicative and semantic functions, exhibit notable differences in structure, morphology, and cultural representation. English idioms tend to maintain fixed forms and reflect Western cultural references, whereas Uzbek phraseological units show greater morphological flexibility due to the agglutinative nature of the language and are deeply rooted in local traditions, historical events, and social practices.

These differences have significant implications for translation, language teaching, and intercultural communication. Translators must carefully consider cultural and contextual nuances to preserve meaning, while educators should emphasize both figurative understanding and cultural background when teaching idiomatic expressions.

Overall, the comparative analysis highlights the importance of combining linguistic knowledge with cultural awareness. Recognizing both universal and language-specific features of phraseological units enhances effective communication, facilitates accurate translation, and contributes to the development of intercultural competence. Future research may expand to corpus-based studies, discourse analysis, and digital communication to further explore the dynamics of phraseology in English and Uzbek.



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