COMPARATIVE-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF ZOONYMIC PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Abstract: This article presents a comparative study of idioms containing animal names (zoonymic phraseological units) in the Uzbek and English languages. The primary objective of the research is to identify how human character is depicted through animals in the worldviews of both nations. Utilizing specific examples, the paper highlights the similarities and cultural differences between Uzbek and English idioms. For instance, the analysis demonstrates that while certain animals (such as the rabbit and the fox) convey identical meanings in both languages, others (such as the dog, the donkey, and the sheep) manifest entirely diverse connotations. The materials of this article can be effectively utilized in language learning and translation practices.

Keywords: idiom, animal names, Uzbek language, English language, similarity, cultural difference, translation, human character.

Аннотация: В данной статье проводится сравнительное исследование фразеологизмов с компонентами-зоонимами (наименованиями животных) в узбекском и английском языках. Основная цель работы — определить, как через образы животных описывается характер человека в мировоззрении двух народов. На конкретных примерах в статье раскрываются сходства и культурные различия между узбекскими и английскими идиомами. Например, анализ показывает, что в то время как некоторые животные (такие как кролик и лиса) выражают одинаковые значения в обоих языках, другие (такие как

собака, осел и овца) имеют совершенно разные коннотации. Материалы статьи могут быть эффективно использованы в практике изучения языков и перевода.

Ключевые слова: идиома, наименования животных, узбекский язык, английский язык, сходство, культурное различие, перевод, характер человека.

INTRODUCTION

The language of every nation is a unique mirror that reflects its culture, centuries-old history, and worldview. In linguistics, idioms, or phraseological units, serve as the primary source for studying the national character and distinctive features of a people. This is because the long-term life experience and values of a nation are preserved precisely within these idioms (Usmanova, 2005, p. 22). Units containing animal names within idioms, namely zoonyms, form a distinct and highly rich group. Since ancient times, humanity has lived in close connection with nature and the animal kingdom, and thus, people have attempted to depict the good and bad traits of human character through the images of animals familiar to them (Yusupov, 2007, p. 44).

Today, there is a very high interest in modern comparative linguistics regarding the mutual comparison and study of materials from the Uzbek and English languages. Although the Uzbek and English peoples live far apart geographically and culturally, many similarities are observed in the linguistic descriptions they attribute to animals (Cross-Cultural Analysis, 2021, p. 1). For instance, in both languages, the fox is accepted as a symbol of cunning, while the rabbit symbolizes cowardice and hesitation. However, due to differences in social life and lifestyles, significant national-cultural differences also exist. In the worldview of the Uzbek people, a dog mostly signifies a difficult life situation and fatigue, whereas in English culture, a dog stands as a symbol of friendship and good luck (Comparative Analysis, 2022, p. 14).

The relevance of this article lies in the fact that by comparing zoonymic idioms in the Uzbek and English languages from a comparative-semantic perspective, it is possible to gain a deeper understanding of how the two nations perceive the world and express it through language. This helps students learning these languages not just to memorize idioms, but to feel the national logic underlying them and to avoid semantic errors during the translation process.

ANALYSIS

When conducting a comparative study of idioms containing animal names in the Uzbek and English languages, they can be classified and analyzed into three primary semantic groups based on their linguistic and cultural characteristics.

Fully Corresponding (Universal) Zoonymic Idioms. In idioms belonging to this group, it can be observed that speakers of both nations attribute absolutely identical characters and traits to a specific animal. For instance, the traits of hesitation and cowardice in human character are expressed through the same animal in both languages. The Uzbek idiom "Quyon yurak" (Rabbit-hearted) or "Quyondek qo‘rqoq" (As cowardly as a rabbit) carries precisely the same meaning in English (O‘zbek Tili Frazeologik Lug‘ati, 2023, p. 45). In English linguistics as well, the rabbit is considered the primary symbol reflecting a person's inner fear (Comparative Analysis, 2022, p. 16). Furthermore, complete universality exists in the image of the fox, which serves as a symbol of cunning. The English counterpart of the Uzbek phrase "Ayyor tulki" (Cunning fox) possesses exactly the same semantics (Cross-Cultural Analysis, 2021, p. 1).

Partially Corresponding Idioms with Differing Animal Species. In this group, although a specific behavior or nature of a human being is depicted similarly in both languages, completely different animals are chosen to express them. For example, a highly stubborn and disobedient human character is expressed through the donkey in the Uzbek language, resulting in phrases like "Eshak fe‘l" (Donkey-natured) or

"Eshakday qaysar" (As stubborn as a donkey) (Rahmatullayev, 1992, p. 94). In English culture, however, the mule was selected among domestic animals to describe this character trait (Longman Idioms Dictionary, 2000, p. 78). Another vivid example is the trait of simplicity and being easily deceived. While the Uzbek people connect this with the sheep—a symbol of gentleness—saying "Qo‘y og‘zidan cho‘p olmagan" (One who hasn't even taken a twig from a sheep's mouth) (Rahmatullayev, 1992, p. 234), the English people adopt the goose as a symbol for this meaning in their idioms (Seidl and McMordie, 1988, p. 112).

Radically Differing (National-Cultural) Zoonymic Idioms. Due to variations in the lifestyles, religious views, and environments of nations, certain animals carry a positive meaning in one language and an entirely negative one in another. This can be clearly seen in the example of the zoonym "dog". In Uzbek idioms, the dog is often a symbol of humiliation, hard labor, or difficulty (Rahmatullayev, 1992, p. 112). In the worldview of the English people, conversely, the dog is viewed as man's closest friend and a creature that brings good luck (Comparative Analysis, 2022, p. 14). In addition, while the owl is a symbol of wisdom among the English, it is considered a symbol of misfortune among the Uzbeks (Usmanova, 2005, p. 56). As a result of the conducted analysis, the following comparative table was formulated:

Comparative Analysis of Zoonymic Idioms

Human Character	In the Uzbek language	In the English language	Aspects of Difference
Cowardice	Quyon yurak	As timid as a hare	Universal (Identical)

Stubbornness	Eshakday qaysar	As a stubborn as a mule	Different animal species
Simlpicity	Qo`y og`zidan cho`p olmagan	As silly as a goose	Different animal species
Wisdom	-	As wise as owl	Cultural difference (Lacuna)

RESULTS

Degree of Universality: A specific portion of the analyzed idioms shares identical semantic indicators in both languages. Animals such as the rabbit and the fox demonstrate cross-cultural commonality in expressing universal traits of human nature (cowardice and cunning).

Metaphorical Divergences: Although both nations turned to the animal kingdom to depict traits like stubbornness and simplicity in human character, they selected different animals to express them (donkey and sheep in Uzbek, mule and goose in English). This situation is directly linked to the agricultural and daily life experiences of each nation.

Cultural Lacunae and Contrast: Certain animal images carry fundamentally differing cultural meanings. In particular, it was determined that the zoonyms dog and owl form opposing (positive and negative) semantic fields within the worldviews of the two nations.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the comparative-semantic study of zoonymic phraseological units in the Uzbek and English languages, the following important scientific conclusions were reached:First, since the representatives of both nations have been

in close contact with the animal kingdom since ancient times, they sought to describe human behavior through natural phenomena. Universal traits inherent in human nature (cunning, cowardice) are expressed through identical zoonyms in both languages (Cross-Cultural Analysis of Zoonyms in English and Uzbek. – Tashkent: Neliti Media, 2021. – 1-b.).Second, due to social lifestyles, customs, and climatic conditions, different animals were selected in the languages to express identical human characters. For instance, while stubbornness is reflected through the image of a donkey in Uzbek culture (Rahmatullayev Sh. O‘zbek tilining izohli frazeologik lug‘ati. – Toshkent: O‘qituvchi, 1992. – 94-b.), this function is performed by the zoonym mule in English culture (Longman Idioms Dictionary. – London: Longman, 2000. – 78-b.).Third, owing to the diversity of religious beliefs and national worldviews, fundamental differences (lacunae) exist in the images of certain animals. A vivid example of this is the zoonym dog, which signifies difficult life situations in the Uzbek language (O‘zbek Tili Frazeologik Lug‘ati. – Toshkent: Davlat tilini rivojlantirish departamenti, 2023. – 112-b.), whereas in English, it appears as a symbol of luck and loyalty (Comparative Analysis of Zoonymic Units. – Tashkent: Antispubmed Repository, 2022. – 14-b.).In general conclusion, a deep analysis of such linguistic similarities and differences directly serves to develop intercultural communication, to master foreign languages perfectly, and to prevent semantic errors during the translation process (Usmanova Sh. Lingvokultrologiya. O‘quv qo‘llanma. – Toshkent: Zarqalam, 2005. – 22-b.).

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