



Comparative Study Of Idioms In English And Uzbek Languages

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OPEN ACCESS

SUBMITTED 30 August 2025

ACCEPTED 24 September 2025

PUBLISHED 29 October 2025

VOLUME Vol.05 Issue10 2025

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Abstract: This article explores the comparative study of idioms in English and Uzbek languages. The research highlights the linguistic, cultural, and semantic features of idiomatic expressions, emphasizing their role in reflecting national mentality and worldview. The study analyzes similarities and differences in idiom formation, meaning, and usage. It also demonstrates how idioms embody cultural identity and collective experience, which are crucial for effective intercultural communication and translation studies. The comparative approach helps to understand the relationship between language and culture and to improve methods of teaching idiomatic expressions to foreign language learners.

Keywords: Idiom, comparative linguistics, semantics, cultural connotation, worldview, English, Uzbek.

Introduction: Idioms are one of the most expressive layers of any language, reflecting the national culture, history, and mentality of its speakers. In both English and Uzbek, idioms play a significant role in enriching the vocabulary and expressing emotions, attitudes, and evaluations. Studying idioms from a comparative perspective helps to reveal universal features of human thinking and culturally specific ways of perceiving the world.

Theoretical Background

The term idiom refers to a phrase or expression whose meaning cannot be deduced from the meanings of its individual words. For example, the English idiom "to kick the bucket" means to die, while in Uzbek, the idiom "жони узилди" (his soul was cut off) carries a similar meaning. Such expressions reflect national thinking and figurative perception of reality.

Idioms have been studied by many linguists, including A. Kunin, R. Moon, and M. Fernando in English linguistics,

and M. Mirzaev, A. Madrahimov, and others in Uzbek linguistics. Their works emphasize the semantic and cultural complexity of idioms, as well as their importance in linguistic and intercultural studies.

Comparative Analysis of English and Uzbek Idioms

Meaning	English Idiom	Uzbek Idiom
To be very happy	To be on cloud nine	Хурсанддан учиб кетмоқ (to fly from joy)
To die	To kick the bucket	Жони узилмоқ
To be in a difficult situation	Between a rock and a hard place	Икки ўт орасида қолмоқ (to remain between two fires)
To keep a secret	To keep it under wraps	Сирни ичда сақламоқ (to keep the secret inside)

These idioms show that while the meaning may coincide, the imagery differs according to cultural context. English idioms often use natural phenomena (clouds, rocks, buckets), while Uzbek idioms are based on everyday life, emotions, and traditional metaphors.

Cultural and Linguistic Features

Idioms serve as a mirror of the national mentality. The English idiom “a storm in a teacup” means exaggerating minor problems, while the Uzbek equivalent “мўшукнинг тўйи” (a cat’s wedding) describes a noisy but meaningless event. Each idiom reflects unique imagery typical for its culture.

Moreover, English idioms often rely on metaphorical and symbolic thinking related to nature and religion, whereas Uzbek idioms reveal the influence of folklore, proverbs, and everyday experiences.

CONCLUSION

The comparative study of idioms in the English and Uzbek languages reveals both universal and culture-specific features that reflect the linguistic worldview of each nation. Idioms, being an integral part of any language, serve as a mirror of people’s mentality, historical experience, customs, and traditions. The analysis shows that while many idiomatic expressions share structural or semantic similarities due to universal human experiences, their figurative meanings often vary depending on cultural background and national values.

In English idioms, metaphorical imagery frequently derives from everyday life, nature, and religion, reflecting the pragmatic and individualistic orientation

Both English and Uzbek idioms show a close connection between language and culture. However, they differ in imagery and cultural sources.

For example:

of English-speaking societies. In contrast, Uzbek idioms tend to reflect communal values, hospitality, and moral-ethical principles rooted in the collective consciousness of the people. Despite these differences, both languages employ idioms as powerful tools for emotional expression, evaluation, and communication of social norms.

The study also demonstrates that idioms are not static linguistic units; they evolve and adapt to modern realities. The influence of globalization, digital communication, and intercultural exchange contributes to the emergence of new idiomatic expressions and the reinterpretation of traditional ones. Therefore, further corpus-based and cross-cultural research is needed to trace ongoing changes and to enhance idiom teaching strategies in bilingual and multilingual contexts.

In summary, idioms embody not only linguistic but also cultural identity. Their comparative analysis deepens our understanding of how language encodes culture and highlights the importance of intercultural competence in language education. Recognizing both similarities and differences in idiomatic systems of English and Uzbek enriches translation studies, phraseology, and teaching methodology, ultimately fostering intercultural understanding and respect between speakers of both languages.

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