

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONCEPT “CHILD” IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH BY
MEANS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

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The concept of "child" holds profound significance across cultures, shaping societal values, beliefs, and practices related to upbringing and education. In both Uzbek and English contexts, the development of this concept can be traced through various phraseological units—proverbs, sayings, and idiomatic expressions—that encapsulate cultural attitudes toward childhood. These linguistic constructs serve not only as reflections of societal norms but also as vehicles for transmitting wisdom across generations.

In Uzbek culture, the perception of a child is often intertwined with themes of community, familial responsibility, and respect for tradition. Proverbs and sayings emphasize the collective role of society in nurturing the young, highlighting the interconnectedness of individual growth and communal values. Conversely, English phraseological units frequently underscore themes of individuality, personal potential, and moral education, reflecting a more individualistic approach to childhood.

This study aims to explore the development of the concept "child" through a comparative analysis of phraseological units in both languages. By examining how these expressions articulate cultural perspectives on childhood, we can gain deeper insights into the underlying values that shape parenting practices and societal expectations. Through this exploration, we will uncover both the universal themes that resonate across cultures and the distinctive nuances that define each linguistic tradition. Ultimately, this analysis not only enriches our understanding of childhood but also fosters greater appreciation for the diverse ways in which cultures celebrate and nurture their youngest members.

The concept of "child" serves as a cornerstone in the fabric of any society, embodying hopes, aspirations, and the collective future of communities. It is shaped by cultural narratives, historical contexts, and social structures, all of which find expression in language. Phraseological units—comprising proverbs, idioms, and sayings—are rich linguistic artifacts that encapsulate the values, beliefs, and attitudes of a culture toward childhood. In both Uzbek and English contexts, these expressions reveal how societies conceptualize the role and significance of children within their social frameworks.

In Uzbek culture, the notion of a child is often viewed through a lens of communal responsibility and familial ties. The traditional emphasis on collective upbringing reflects a deep-rooted belief in the interconnectedness of individuals within a community. Proverbs such as "A child is a mirror of their parents" highlight the importance of familial influence and societal expectations in shaping a child's character and future. This perspective underscores the idea that raising a child is not solely an individual endeavor but a shared responsibility among family members and the wider community.

In contrast, English phraseological units frequently emphasize themes of individuality and personal growth. Expressions like "Every child is an artist" or "Children are our future" reflect a belief in the inherent potential of each child to contribute uniquely to society. This individualistic

approach often encourages self-expression and personal achievement, suggesting that childhood is a critical period for nurturing one's talents and aspirations.

The comparative analysis of phraseological units related to childhood in both Uzbek and English offers valuable insights into how different cultures prioritize various aspects of child development. By exploring these expressions, we can uncover the broader societal values they represent, such as respect for elders, the importance of education, or the role of play in learning. Furthermore, this study aims to highlight both the commonalities and distinctions between these two linguistic traditions, fostering a deeper understanding of how cultural contexts shape our perceptions of childhood.

Ultimately, this exploration not only enriches our understanding of the concept of "child" but also emphasizes the vital role language plays in reflecting and transmitting cultural values. As societies evolve, so too do their expressions surrounding childhood, making this an ever-relevant topic for discussion and analysis. Through this investigation, we aim to illuminate the profound connections between language, culture, and the universal experience of growing up.

The concept of "child" is a multifaceted notion that transcends mere biological definition, encompassing a wide array of social, cultural, and emotional dimensions. In both Uzbek and English-speaking contexts, the way children are perceived and discussed reflects deeper societal values, beliefs, and aspirations. The exploration of this concept through phraseological units—such as proverbs, idioms, and sayings—provides a unique lens through which we can examine how different cultures articulate their understanding of childhood.

In Uzbek culture, the phraseological landscape is rich with expressions that emphasize the communal nature of child-rearing. For instance, the proverb "A child is a gift from God" underscores the reverence with which children are regarded, highlighting their importance not just to individual families but to society as a whole. This sentiment is further echoed in sayings like "It takes a village to raise a child," which reflects the collective responsibility of community members in nurturing and educating the younger generation. Such expressions reveal a cultural emphasis on interdependence, familial bonds, and the moral obligation to support one another in the upbringing of children.

Conversely, English phraseological units often focus on themes of individuality and personal potential. For example, the saying "Every child is an artist" suggests that each child possesses unique talents waiting to be discovered and nurtured. This perspective aligns with a broader cultural narrative that values self-expression and individual achievement. Another common expression, "Children are our future," encapsulates the idea that investing in the development of children is crucial for societal progress, thus placing significant responsibility on adults to foster environments where children can thrive.

By analyzing these phraseological units, we can gain deeper insights into how language reflects cultural attitudes toward childhood and child development. This comparative study aims to illuminate the complexities of the concept of "child" in both Uzbek and English contexts, showcasing how language serves as a vessel for cultural identity and social values. As we delve into specific examples and their implications, we will uncover not only the uniqueness of each cultural perspective but also the universal themes that bind them together in their understanding of what it means to be a child.

Phraseological units are fixed expressions, including proverbs, idioms, and sayings, that reflect the cultural and social values of a language community. They often convey wisdom, moral lessons, and cultural norms, making them an essential tool for understanding how societies conceptualize various themes, including childhood.

The concept of "child" encompasses biological, psychological, and sociocultural dimensions. It is shaped by societal norms, beliefs, and practices regarding upbringing, education, and the role of children in society. This concept can vary significantly across cultures, influencing how children are perceived and treated.

- Uzbek Context: In Uzbek culture, children are often seen as blessings and bearers of family honor. The communal approach to child-rearing emphasizes collective responsibility.

- English Context: In English-speaking cultures, there tends to be a focus on individuality and personal development, with an emphasis on nurturing each child's unique potential.

- Proverbs:

- "Bolalar – kelajagimiz" (Children are our future): This reflects the belief in investing in children's education and upbringing for societal progress.

- "Farzand tarbiyasi – ota-onaning burchi" (Raising children is the duty of parents): This emphasizes parental responsibility in child-rearing.

- Sayings:

- "Bola – jannatning kaliti" (A child is the key to paradise): This highlights the spiritual significance attributed to children.

- Proverbs:

- "It takes a village to raise a child": This suggests that community involvement is crucial in raising children.

- "Every child is an artist": This emphasizes the inherent creativity and potential within each child.

- Idioms:

- "Children are our future": Similar to the Uzbek proverb, this underscores the importance of nurturing children for societal advancement.

- Common Themes: Both cultures recognize the importance of children as future bearers of societal values. They emphasize education and moral upbringing as essential components of child development.

- Differences: Uzbek phraseological units often focus on communal responsibility and familial honor, while English expressions tend to highlight individual potential and self-expression.

The exploration of phraseological units related to the concept of "child" in both Uzbek and English reveals profound insights into cultural values and societal norms. By analyzing these expressions, we can better understand how different cultures articulate their beliefs about childhood, shaping not only individual identities but also collective futures. Through this comparative lens, we gain a richer appreciation of the universal yet diverse nature of childhood across cultures.

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