

**LEXICAL-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF THE TERM “FIDOYILIK” IN THE UZBEK  
LANGUAGE AND DIFFERENCES IN SYNONYMICAL ALTERNATIVES IN THE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**Akhmedova Mehrinigor Bahodirovna, DsC,**

English literature and translation studies department,  
Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan

[mbakhmedova@buxdu.uz](mailto:mbakhmedova@buxdu.uz)

**Jamoliddinova Dilnoza Jasur kizi**

Webster Universiteti Magistranti. (Uzbekistan, Bukhara )  
[jamoliddinovadilnoza02@gmail.com](mailto:jamoliddinovadilnoza02@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** This paper conducts a lexical-semantic analysis of the Uzbek word “fidoyilik” and compares it with its English synonyms. “Fidoyilik” carries profound cultural and emotional significance in Uzbek, often associated with self-sacrifice, devotion, loyalty, and selfless service to others. In the thesis, we examine the semantic structure and root meaning of “fidoyilik”, as well as its usage in literature and everyday life. We also explore how this concept embodies Uzbek cultural values such as patriotism, spiritual strength, and moral responsibility. In the main part, we compare “fidoyilik” with English synonyms such as “devotion”, “sacrifice”, “devotion”, “altruism” and “selflessness”. Despite these similarities, analysis reveals that none of these words fully capture the cultural depth of “fidoyilik” in Uzbek. The findings of this paper have applications in translation studies, cross-cultural communication and lexicography. They also highlight the importance of preserving and interpreting the concept of nation in comparative language.

**Key words:** fidoyilik, lexical-semantic analysis, synonymy, Uzbek language, English language, devotion, sacrifice, selflessness, cultural meaning, translation.

### **Introduction**

Language is not only a means of communication but also a reflection of people’s history, culture, and way of thinking. Every nation has words that carry deep cultural and emotional meaning. These words are often very difficult to translate exactly into another language because they show values and traditions that are unique to that nation. One of such important words in the Uzbek language is the term “fidoyilik”.

The word “fidoyilik” is widely used in Uzbek society, literature, and everyday speech. It expresses the ideas of self-sacrifice, devotion, loyalty, and serving others without expecting anything in return. When someone is called “fidoyi”, it means that the person is ready to give his or her time, energy, and even life for the good of others, for the homeland, or for a noble purpose. This concept is highly respected in Uzbek culture because it is connected with patriotism, spirituality, and moral duty.

At the same time, when we try to translate “fidoyilik” into English, we face some difficulties. There are many English words that are close in meaning, such as “devotion”, “sacrifice”, “dedication”, “altruism”, and “selflessness”. However, none of these words completely reflects the full meaning and cultural background of “fidoyilik”. Each of them shows only one part of the concept. For example, “sacrifice” often means giving up something important, while “devotion” emphasizes strong attachment and loyalty. “Selflessness” highlights the absence of selfishness,

and “altruism” shows care for others. But the Uzbek term combines all of these meanings in a single word with special cultural value.

Many Uzbek linguists and scholars have studied the role of national values in language. Researchers such as A. Madvaliyev (2008) and N. Mahmudov (2005) have emphasized that Uzbek vocabulary carries cultural and moral concepts that cannot always be translated directly. According to them, words like “fidoyilik”, “mehr-shafqat” (compassion), and “or-nomus” (honor) represent the worldview of the Uzbek people. Similarly, English linguists such as John Lyons (1977) and Geoffrey Leech (1981) have written about the semantic and cultural aspects of language, showing that translation is not only about finding the closest word but also about transferring meaning within a cultural context. Comparative studies in translation theory (Nida(1993), Newmark(1988)) also support the idea that cultural words often require explanation, not just substitution.

**Main part.** The analysis of the term “fidoyilik” in the Uzbek language shows that this concept is more than just a simple word. It carries deep cultural, social, and moral meanings. In Uzbek, “fidoyilik” comes from the root “fidoyi”, which means a person who is ready to sacrifice for others or for a greater goal. The suffix “-lik” turns it into an abstract noun, meaning the quality or state of being self-sacrificing and devoted. In daily speech, this word is often used to describe people who put the needs of others above their own. In literature and official speeches, “fidoyilik” is connected with patriotism, heroism, and service to the homeland.

In Uzbek usage, “fidoyilik” has several shades of meaning:

Table 1. Aspects of the term “fidoyilik”(by author)

| Aspect of “fidoyilik”    | Explanation                                                           |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Personal sacrifice       | Giving up personal comfort or even life for the sake of others.       |
| Devotion and loyalty     | Showing deep commitment to family, community, or homeland.            |
| Spiritual and moral duty | Acting in accordance with ethical values, without expecting a reward. |

**In English.** When comparing with English, we find several possible equivalents: “sacrifice”, “devotion”, “dedication”, “altruism”, “selflessness”. However, each of these words represents only a part of the meaning of “fidoyilik”.

Table 2. Synonyms of “fidoyilik” in English (by author)

| English term | Explanation                                                                            |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sacrifice    | Emphasizes loss or giving up something valuable, often in a religious or heroic sense. |
| Devotion     | Shows strong love, attachment, or loyalty, usually towards a person, idea, or belief.  |
| Dedication   | Refers to hard work and commitment to a task or goal.                                  |
| Altruism     | More scientific or philosophical, meaning helping others without personal interest.    |
| Selflessness | Describes the absence of selfishness, thinking of others first.                        |

None of these English words alone fully expresses the Uzbek concept of “fidoyilik”. For example, an Uzbek sentence like “Uning xalq uchun qilgan fidoyiligi abadiy yodda qoladi” could be translated as “His sacrifice for the people will always be remembered” or “His selfless

devotion to the people will always be remembered.” Both translations are close, but they do not fully carry the same cultural depth as the Uzbek word.

The comparison shows that language reflects cultural priorities. In Uzbek, “fidoyilik” is a single strong word that unites several values: sacrifice, loyalty, duty, and love. In English, these values are divided into several different words, each used in a different context. This shows that the Uzbek language gives special importance to the idea of self-sacrifice and collective well-being, while English separates these ideas into more specific terms.

The analysis also highlights the challenges of translation. If we translate “fidoyilik” with just one English word, we risk losing part of its meaning. The best approach is often to use a phrase such as “selfless devotion” or “spirit of sacrifice” to explain the cultural meaning more clearly. This supports the idea that translation is not only about finding words with similar meaning but also about transferring cultural concepts.

### Conclusion

“Fidoyilik” is more than just a linguistic unit. A lexical and semantic analysis of its meaning in Uzbek reveals it to be a cultural and moral concept that embodies the values of the Uzbek people. Fidoyilik condenses concepts such as duty, sacrifice, loyalty, and selflessness into a single word, and is highly valued in both literature and everyday life. The word traditionally symbolizes loyalty to higher principles and a willingness to help others, as reflected in Uzbek proverbs, Navoi's classical writings, and contemporary speech. Compared to English, the meaning of fidoyilik cannot be fully captured by a single equivalent. Instead, English uses several words “sacrifice”, “devotion”, “dedication”, “altruism”, “selflessness” to express different aspects of the same idea. This shows that while the values may exist in both cultures, the way they are expressed through language is different. Thus, the concept of “fidoyilik” reflects not only the richness of the Uzbek language but also the worldview of the Uzbek people. Its study offers valuable insights for linguists, translators, and cultural researchers, proving once again that language is both a mirror of thought and a carrier of cultural identity.

### References:

1. Leech, Geoffrey. *Semantics: The Study of Meaning*. 2nd ed., Penguin, 1981.
2. Lyons, John. *Semantics*. Vol. 1, Cambridge UP, 1977.
3. Madvaliyev, A. *O‘zbek Tilining Izohli Lug‘ati*. O‘zbekiston Milliy Ensiklopediyasi, 2008.
4. Mahmudov, N. *O‘zbek Tilining Nazariy Masalalari*. Toshkent: Fan, 2005.
5. Nida, Eugene A. *Language, Culture, and Translating*. Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press, 1993.
6. Newmark, Peter. *A Textbook of Translation*. Prentice Hall, 1988.
7. Navoiy, Alisher. *Hayrat ul-abror*. Annotated by S. Mirzayev, Toshkent: G‘afur G‘ulom Adabiyot va San‘at NPB, 1989.
8. Qodiriy, Abdulla. *O‘tkan Kunlar*. Toshkent: Cho‘lpon, 1994.