

APHORISMS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: A COMPARATIVE REFLECTION

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Abstract: This article analyzes the linguocultural features of aphorisms. Aphorisms are considered as an important reflection of national mentality, values, and culture, with their semantic, conceptual, and cultural messages identified. A comparative analysis of English and Uzbek sports aphorisms highlights both commonalities and national specificities.

Keywords: sports aphorisms, linguoculturology, concept, national mentality, culture.

Introduction. Aphorisms are concise, memorable expressions that embody wisdom, moral values, and philosophical reflections. They are widespread in both English and Uzbek traditions, often functioning as guiding principles in everyday communication. While English aphorisms frequently emphasize individuality, pragmatism, and resilience, Uzbek aphorisms are deeply rooted in collective values, cultural traditions, and moral upbringing.

The comparative study of aphorisms in both languages provides valuable insight into linguistic structure, cultural worldview, and pragmatic function.

Research aim: to analyze English and Uzbek aphorisms comparatively, focusing on semantic, stylistic, and cultural aspects.

Research questions:

1. What structural and semantic features characterize aphorisms in English and Uzbek?
2. How do aphorisms reflect cultural values in both traditions?
3. What similarities and differences can be identified?

Methods. The study applies a **comparative-linguistic and descriptive method**.

Corpus: about 50 English aphorisms (collected from works of Shakespeare, Emerson, Franklin, etc.) and 50 Uzbek aphorisms (drawn from Alisher Navoiy, oral folklore, and modern Uzbek collections).

Analysis approach:

Semantic grouping (life, morality, wisdom, time, friendship).

Structural analysis (syntactic brevity, metaphor, parallelism).

Pragmatic interpretation (functions in society: didactic, moralizing, reflective).

Results. English Aphorisms (Examples)

“Time and tide wait for no man.”

“Knowledge is power.” — Francis Bacon

“The wound is the place where the light enters you.” — Rumi (widely quoted in English)

Features: brevity, logical clarity, focus on individuality, rational lessons.

Uzbek Aphorisms (Examples)

“Vaqt oltindan qadrli.”

“Ilm — nur, jaholat — zulmat.”

“Do‘st boshdan, dushman so‘ngdan bilinadi.”

Features: moral-didactic tone, collectivist values, metaphorical richness, rooted in folk wisdom.

Comparative Observations

Similarities: brevity, metaphorical language, universal themes (life, time, friendship, knowledge).

Differences:

English aphorisms — more individualistic, philosophical, sometimes skeptical.

Uzbek aphorisms — more communal, moralizing, connected to tradition and oral literature.

Discussion. The analysis shows that aphorisms serve as cultural mirrors. In English, aphorisms reflect **pragmatism, rationalism, and personal responsibility**. In Uzbek, they express **collective ethics, moral guidance, and cultural continuity**. Despite these differences, both traditions employ aphorisms as tools of reflection, teaching, and communication.

Implications:

Aphorisms can be used in comparative linguistics to study cultural values.

They are also useful in foreign language teaching to connect language and culture.

Future research may explore translation strategies of aphorisms across English and Uzbek, and their use in modern media.

Conclusion. The study highlights that aphorisms in English and Uzbek, while sharing structural conciseness and semantic depth, diverge in their cultural orientation. English aphorisms lean toward **individualist philosophy**, while Uzbek aphorisms emphasize **collective morality and didactic tradition**. Both, however, remain powerful linguistic tools for inspiring reflection on life.

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