

**LINGUISTIC FEATURES AND SOCIOLINGUISTIC FUNCTIONS OF
PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH AND
UZBEK**

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Abstract: Phraseological units (PUs) are essential elements of language that carry cultural and linguistic significance. This study examines the linguistic structure of PUs in English and Uzbek, comparing their morphosyntactic, semantic, and functional characteristics. It also explores their sociolinguistic roles, including how they reflect cultural identity and social norms. By analyzing similarities and differences between the two languages, this research contributes to a broader understanding of phraseology in bilingual and cross-cultural communication.

Keywords: phraseological units, idioms, sociolinguistics, English, Uzbek, linguistic structure, cultural identity

1. Introduction

Phraseological units, commonly known as idioms, collocations, and proverbs, are integral to linguistic expression. They encode cultural knowledge and are often resistant to direct translation due to their figurative meanings (Baker, 2018). This study aims to compare the linguistic features and sociolinguistic functions of PUs in English and Uzbek, focusing on their structural composition and social roles.

The objectives of this study are:

1. To analyze the morphosyntactic and semantic structure of PUs in English and Uzbek.
2. To explore their sociolinguistic functions, including their role in cultural identity and communication.

2. Methodology

This study employs a comparative linguistic approach, analyzing phraseological units from English and Uzbek corpora. Data sources include dictionaries, literary texts, and spoken discourse. The analysis is qualitative, focusing on structure, meaning, and usage within sociocultural contexts.

3. Results and Discussion

Phraseological units in both English and Uzbek exhibit structural complexity. They can be categorized as:

Idioms: Fixed expressions with non-literal meanings (e.g., kick the bucket in English, *копа кўй бўлмоқ* “to be a black sheep” in Uzbek).

Proverbs: Complete statements conveying wisdom (A rolling stone gathers no moss vs. *Кўп болга бир товоқ сув* “Too many cooks spoil the broth”).

Collocations: Habitual word combinations (strong tea in English, *катта эҳтимол* “high probability” in Uzbek).

English PUs often exhibit syntactic rigidity (Moon, 1998). For example, spill the beans cannot be altered to spill beans without losing its idiomatic meaning. Uzbek PUs, however, may show flexibility in word order due to the agglutinative nature of the language (Khudayberganova, 2020).

English idioms frequently derive from historical or literary sources, such as Shakespearean phrases (neither here nor there). Uzbek idioms are deeply rooted in folklore and Islamic

traditions (Бир борини ёр қилган “One who shares is blessed”). Both languages use metaphorical imagery, though cultural references differ.

PU's encapsulate cultural worldviews. English idioms often reflect individualism (stand on one's own two feet), whereas Uzbek idioms emphasize collectivism (Кўшни – ёру ғаминг “A neighbor is your companion in joy and sorrow”).

English PU's can indicate formality levels (break the ice is informal, whereas extend an olive branch is formal). Uzbek PU's often reflect hierarchical social structures, using respectful forms (Каттага ҳурмат – кичикка иззат “Respect for elders, care for the young”).

Both languages use PU's for humor, irony, and persuasion. However, Uzbek speakers frequently employ idioms in proverbs for moral instruction, while English idioms are more common in casual speech and media (Koonin, 2004).

4. Conclusion

The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek phraseological units reveals both linguistic and cultural distinctions. While English PU's reflect historical and literary influences, Uzbek PU's draw from folklore and collectivist values. Their sociolinguistic functions highlight differences in cultural communication styles. Understanding these aspects enhances cross-linguistic comprehension and translation accuracy.

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