

**THE LINGUOCULTURAL IMPACT OF OCCUPATIONS ON UZBEK FOLK
PROVERBS**

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Abstract: This article explores the linguocultural impact of occupations on Uzbek folk proverbs, focusing on how professional activities, labor ethics, and craftsmanship are reflected in national wisdom. The study analyzes occupational imagery, semantic symbolism, and pragmatic functions of proverbs related to professions. Special attention is paid to traditional occupations such as farming, craftsmanship, and trade, which play a significant role in shaping Uzbek national mentality. The findings demonstrate that occupational concepts in Uzbek proverbs function not only as linguistic units but also as carriers of cultural memory, moral values, and social norms.

Keywords: Uzbek folk proverbs, occupation, linguoculture, labor ethics, national mentality, cultural symbolism.

Folk proverbs represent one of the most valuable sources for studying the interaction between language and culture. As concise yet meaningful expressions of collective experience, proverbs preserve historical knowledge, social norms, and moral principles of a nation. In Uzbek linguoculture, folk proverbs occupy a special place due to their rich imagery and didactic function.

Occupations and professional activities constitute an important thematic group within Uzbek folk proverbs. Historically, the Uzbek people have been engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, craftsmanship, and trade. These occupations have significantly influenced everyday life and social organization, which is clearly reflected in folk wisdom. In Uzbek proverbs, occupation is conceptualized not merely as economic activity but as a moral category associated with diligence, honesty, patience, and responsibility.

The relevance of this study lies in the growing interest in linguocultural analysis, which views language as a reflection of national mentality. By examining occupational proverbs, it becomes possible to understand how professional activity shapes ethical values and cultural identity in Uzbek society.

From a linguocultural perspective, language units are considered carriers of cultural meaning. Proverbs, in particular, function as micro-texts that encode cultural concepts. Occupational proverbs reflect the conceptualization of labor, profession, and craft in the collective consciousness.

In Uzbek culture, the concept of mehnat (labor) is closely associated with dignity and self-worth. This idea is repeatedly emphasized in proverbs such as:

- “Hunari bor o‘lmas” — A person with a craft never perishes.
- “Mehnat qilgan to‘yadi” — He who works will be satisfied.

These examples demonstrate that professional skills are viewed as a guarantee of survival and social stability. Linguoculturally, such proverbs construct labor as a universal value and a moral obligation.

Occupational imagery in Uzbek folk proverbs is deeply rooted in traditional lifestyles. Farming, craftsmanship, and trade appear as dominant professional domains.

Farming and Agriculture

Agriculture has historically been one of the main occupations of the Uzbek people. As a result, agricultural imagery frequently appears in folk proverbs:

- “Dehqon yerga qarab ish qiladi” — A farmer works according to the land.
- “Yerga mehnat qilsang, yer seni boqadi” — If you work the land, the land will feed you.

In these proverbs, the farmer symbolizes wisdom, patience, and harmony with nature. The land is personified as a living entity that responds to human effort. This reflects the Uzbek worldview in which nature and human labor are interconnected.

Craftsmanship and Skill

Craftsmanship occupies a special place in Uzbek culture. Proverbs related to crafts emphasize mastery, experience, and continuity of knowledge:

- “Usta ko‘rmagan shogird – shogird emas” — An apprentice without a master is not a true apprentice.
- “Hunarsiz odam — qanotsiz qush” — A person without a skill is like a bird without wings.

Here, profession is conceptualized as a source of personal freedom and social mobility. The master–apprentice relationship reflects the cultural importance of mentorship and intergenerational knowledge transfer.

The analysis demonstrates that occupations play a crucial linguocultural role in Uzbek folk proverbs. Professional activity is not merely depicted as a means of earning a living but as a fundamental cultural value connected with morality, identity, and social responsibility. Occupational imagery reflects historical experience, national mentality, and ethical principles of the Uzbek people.

In Uzbek folk proverbs, occupation functions as a cultural concept that integrates labor ethics, social norms, and worldview. Therefore, studying occupational proverbs contributes to a deeper understanding of Uzbek linguoculture and the relationship between language and society.

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JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY SCIENCES AND INNOVATIONS

VOLUME 04, ISSUE 11
MONTHLY JOURNALS



ISSN NUMBER: 2751-4390

IMPACT FACTOR: 9,08

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2016