

**ARCHAIC WORDS IN UZBEK FOLK PROVERBS RELATED TO TAILORING AND
SEWING OCCUPATIONS**

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Abstract. This article investigates archaic words found in Uzbek folk proverbs related to tailoring and sewing occupations, focusing on their linguocultural significance and historical semantic features. The study analyzes how traditional sewing tools, clothing items, and craft-related terms preserved in proverbs reflect ancient occupational practices and cultural values. Special attention is paid to lexical units that have shifted into passive vocabulary but remain active within folkloric discourse. The findings demonstrate that archaic occupational vocabulary in proverbs serves not only as linguistic heritage but also as a carrier of cultural memory, professional ethics, and social worldview.

Keywords: Uzbek folk proverbs, archaic words, tailoring vocabulary, occupational lexicon, linguoculture, cultural memory.

Folk proverbs represent one of the most important sources for preserving historical layers of language and culture. As concise and expressive texts, proverbs reflect everyday life, labor traditions, and social relations of the people. In Uzbek folklore, proverbs related to crafts and occupations occupy a significant place, especially those connected with tailoring and sewing, which have long been essential components of domestic and social life.

Tailoring as a traditional occupation has developed alongside the material culture of clothing, fabrics, and household production. Therefore, many proverbs contain lexical units that refer to ancient sewing tools, garments, and production techniques. Some of these words are no longer actively used in modern speech and are considered archaic; however, they remain preserved in folkloric expressions.

The relevance of this research is determined by the growing interest in historical lexicology and linguocultural studies, which aim to reveal how cultural experience is encoded in linguistic forms. Through the analysis of archaic words in occupational proverbs, it becomes possible to trace the interaction between language change and cultural continuity.

From a linguocultural perspective, archaic words in proverbs function as markers of historical reality. They preserve information about material culture, social structure, and professional practices of earlier periods. In tailoring-related proverbs, archaic terms reflect not only the technical side of sewing but also moral attitudes toward labor and craftsmanship.

In Uzbek folk proverbs, the concept of craftsmanship is associated with patience, precision, and responsibility. This is reflected in examples such as:

- “Ignani bilmagan juvozni bilmas” — One who does not know the needle does not know the press.

- “Yamoq ustiga yamoq — usta ishidan dalolat” — Patch upon patch shows the work of a craftsman.

Here, the words igna (needle), juvoz (cloth press), and yamoq (patch) represent archaic or semi-archaic occupational vocabulary. These terms illustrate professional hierarchy and gradual mastery in tailoring, where small tools symbolize basic skills and larger equipment symbolizes advanced craftsmanship.

Occupational imagery in tailoring-related proverbs is deeply rooted in traditional clothing culture. Ancient garments and accessories often appear in metaphorical meanings:

- “Chakmon tor bo‘lsa, yurish ham tor bo‘lur” — If the coat is tight, one’s movement is also limited.

- “Yaktagi yo‘qning yengidan ushlama” — Do not rely on someone who has no shirt.

The words chakmon (traditional outer garment) and yaktak (shirt or inner garment) are archaic clothing terms that have mostly disappeared from everyday speech. In proverbs, however, they remain active as symbols of social status, personal dignity, and material stability.

Another group of archaic words reflects sewing accessories and decorative elements, such as jiyak (edging) and choriq (traditional footwear). These lexical units carry ethnographic information and indicate regional and historical clothing traditions. Their preservation in proverbs demonstrates how language stores cultural artifacts long after their physical disappearance.

The analysis shows that archaic occupational vocabulary in tailoring-related proverbs fulfills several functions. First, it preserves historical terminology of traditional crafts. Second, it contributes to the figurative and metaphorical richness of folk speech. Third, it transmits moral evaluations of labor, diligence, and professional competence.

Thus, tailoring-related proverbs serve as linguistic evidence of how professional culture is embedded in national consciousness. Archaic words in such proverbs function as cultural signs that connect modern speakers with ancestral ways of life and labor practices.

In conclusion, archaic words found in Uzbek folk proverbs related to tailoring and sewing occupations represent an important linguistic and cultural layer. These lexical units reflect historical realities of traditional craftsmanship and contribute to the preservation of professional ethics and cultural identity. Their study is essential for understanding the interaction between language evolution and cultural heritage within Uzbek linguoculture.

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