

**JEWELRY CRAFT-BASED PROVERBS IN UZBEK FOLKLORE: A
LINGUOCULTURAL ANALYSIS**

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Abstract

This article examines Uzbek folk proverbs formed on the basis of traditional jewelry craft from a linguocultural perspective. The study analyzes the semantic transformation of lexemes such as *gold*, *silver*, *jeweler*, *gem*, and *rust*, and explores their metaphorical and conceptual functions in paremiological discourse. The research reveals how material craft terminology evolves into abstract ethical and cultural values within the national worldview. Jewelry-related proverbs are interpreted as linguistic representations of moral, aesthetic, and axiological codes embedded in Uzbek culture.

Keywords

jewelry craft, proverb, linguoculturology, concept, metaphor, semantic transformation, cultural code, Uzbek folklore.

Introduction

Craft-based proverbs occupy a significant place in Uzbek oral tradition. Among them, proverbs related to jewelry making reflect not only professional terminology but also deep moral and aesthetic principles. Jewelry craft has historically flourished in Central Asia, particularly in Bukhara, Samarkand, and Khiva, where it developed as both an economic activity and a marker of cultural identity.

In Uzbek folk consciousness, gold and precious stones symbolize purity, durability, honor, and moral integrity. Therefore, jewelry-related vocabulary frequently appears in proverbs as a metaphorical tool for expressing ethical values.

This article aims to provide a linguocultural analysis of such proverbs by examining their lexical, semantic, and conceptual features.

Research Methodology

The research applies the following methods:

descriptive analysis

componential analysis

linguocultural interpretation

conceptual analysis

semantic modeling

The corpus of proverbs was selected from Uzbek paremiological collections and folklore sources.

Main Discussion

1. Lexical-Semantic Features

The primary lexical units associated with jewelry craft in Uzbek proverbs include:

gold

silver

copper

jeweler

gem

pearl

rust

Examples of proverbs:

“Gold is tested in fire, a person in labor.”

“The value of gold is known to the jeweler.”

“Gold does not rust; a good name does not fade.”

“A jeweler knows gold, a wise man knows people.”

At the denotative level, these lexemes refer to tangible materials or professions. However, in proverbial discourse, they undergo semantic transformation and acquire symbolic meaning.

2. Metaphorical Model and Semantic Transformation

Jewelry-based proverbs operate within a stable metaphorical model:

Physical Process	Abstract Meaning
Gold tested in fire	Human character tested by hardship
Polishing metal	Moral refinement
Rust	Moral corruption
Jeweler	Wise or experienced person

For instance, in the proverb “Gold is tested in fire,” *fire* represents hardship, while *gold* symbolizes a person’s true character. The physical process of purification becomes a metaphor for moral endurance.

This transformation demonstrates how material craft experience is conceptualized as ethical philosophy in folk consciousness.

3. Linguocultural Interpretation

3.1. The Concept of Value

In Uzbek culture, gold represents the highest value. Expressions such as “a person of gold” denote honesty and moral strength. Thus, gold functions as an axiological concept reflecting societal ideals.

3.2. The Concept of Labor and Patience

Jewelry making requires precision, patience, and mastery. Proverbs reflect this idea by presenting labor as a refining force. The process of polishing metal metaphorically corresponds to education and moral upbringing.

3.3. The Master Figure

The image of the jeweler symbolizes wisdom and professional expertise. In the proverb “The value of gold is known to the jeweler,” the jeweler represents someone capable of recognizing true worth. This reflects the cultural respect for masters and the teacher–apprentice tradition in Uzbek society.

4. Conceptual Structure

The conceptual field of jewelry-based proverbs may be represented as follows:

GOLD → purity, value, integrity

JEWELER → wisdom, experience

FIRE → trial, hardship

RUST → moral decay

POLISHING → education, refinement

These conceptual metaphors reveal how professional vocabulary encodes cultural meanings and moral philosophy.

Findings

The analysis shows that:

Jewelry-related lexemes undergo systematic metaphorical extension in proverbs.

Craft terminology becomes a vehicle for ethical and axiological expression.

The jewelry metaphor constructs a cultural model of human character and social value.

These proverbs function as linguistic manifestations of national worldview and cultural identity.

Conclusion

Jewelry craft–based proverbs in Uzbek folklore represent a significant linguocultural phenomenon. Through semantic transformation and metaphorical modeling, material objects such as gold and silver become symbols of moral endurance, purity, and human dignity.

Thus, jewelry terminology in proverbs transcends its literal meaning and forms part of a broader cultural code that reflects the aesthetic and ethical ideals of Uzbek society. These proverbs

demonstrate how professional knowledge is integrated into the linguistic and conceptual system of the nation.

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