

METAPHORICAL ANALYSIS OF UZBEK FOLK PROVERBS

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Annotation. This article analyzes the metaphorical use of kinship terms found in Uzbek folk proverbs. Through this analysis, the social relations, religious views, values related to the lifestyle of the Uzbek people, and the national mindset reflected in these proverbs are revealed. The discussed ideas are further illustrated with examples taken from the oral folk tradition.

Keywords: proverb, metaphor, kinship terms, national mentality.

Every nation possesses a rich heritage of folk oral creativity that reflects its historical development, worldview, and national traditions, and which has been shaped and refined over centuries. Within this heritage, proverbs occupy a distinctive place as one of the most vivid and semantically rich genres. From a linguistic perspective, the semantic, structural, and pragmatic features of proverbs have been widely examined in previous studies. The present study, however, approaches proverbs from a metaphorical perspective, aiming to elucidate their role in expressing figurative thinking and the national worldview. Metaphor (from the Greek *metaphore* - transfer) is the transfer of the name of one object to the name of another object based on a certain similarity between them. From this it becomes clear to us that metaphor is a very versatile phenomenon that adds aesthetic expression to speech.

The word father is the eye of the mind. In Uzbek folk culture, the image of the father is wisdom, a guide to the right path. Here, the word father does not mean real fatherly speech, but rather the wisdom of adults, experience, and life wisdom. The expression "the eye of the mind" means the mind-human thinking, the ability to think; the eye is a tool for seeing and understanding reality. That is, it means something that illuminates thought and facilitates understanding.

A good wife is as necessary as bread. Bread is the most sacred, a symbol of vital necessity. A good wife was interpreted as a source of love, peace and blessing necessary for the family. Just as a person cannot live without bread, a good wife plays an important role in the family, and a good wife is also the blessing of the house.

"Out of the mouths of babies and sucklings", The proverb carries a metaphorical meaning, where the child symbolizes innocence and honesty, and the house represents the family and social environment. It conveys that in a household with children, secrets and hidden matters inevitably come to light, highlighting the value of openness and truthfulness.

Proverbs are an important genre of folk oral literature and represent a valuable cultural heritage shaped by centuries of accumulated life experience and observation. Each



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word and image expressed in a proverb carries deep meaning and embodies multiple layers of interpretation. In this regard, the analysis of metaphorical meanings in proverbs makes it possible to gain a scholarly understanding of the Uzbek people's distinctive way of thinking, lifestyle, system of values, and historical experience.

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