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CULTURAL REFLECTIONS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK IDIOMS: A CROSS-LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract: This scientific article discusses cultural skills in Uzbek and English.

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What are Idioms? Idioms are expressions that have a specific, specific meaning in a language. They often consist of several words that create a new meaning when used together. For example, the phrase "kick the bucket" when directly translated means "to kick the bucket", but in fact this phrase means "to die". Types of Idioms Idioms are divided into different types. Some of them are as follows:

1. Phrasal Idioms: This type of idioms often consists of a verb and other words. For example, "give up" (to give up) and "run out of" (to run out).

2. Metaphorical Idioms: These idioms are used figuratively. For example, "barking up the wrong tree" actually means misunderstanding something or moving in the wrong direction.

3. Classical Idioms: These types of idioms are based on historical or cultural context. For example, "the ball is in your court" - this expression means that the responsibility for making a decision or taking action has been transferred to another person.

Idioms are linguistic units that reflect the uniqueness of each language, culture, and way of life. By comparing them, we can identify cultural similarities and differences between two peoples.

The purpose of the study is to identify cultural features reflected in English and Uzbek idioms, to analyze their similarities and differences.

Idioms are one of the main parts of each language, because they reveal problems or philosophical thoughts. Because the culture of each language, ideological and explanatory meaning, idioms and almost all thoughts and contents are carefully expressed. Although several of these idioms exist in both English and Uzbek, it is not easy to find their equivalent. The main reason for this is that the history, culture and mutual relations of both languages are different. However, even if an equivalent is found, it is impossible to translate them literally. If translated, it will cause the loss of its meaning and impact.

1. To be on the same page- is one of the most popular idioms in the English language, literally translated as "to be on the same page". When people are on the same page, it means that they agree or agree on some issue. The idiom can be used both in



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colloquial speech and in business communications. In Uzbek, it can be translated as “to understand each other”, “to think the same way” or “to have a single point of view”.

2. Hang on by (one’s) fingernail- literally “to hang on by a fingernail”. The idiom is used when someone finds themselves in an extremely dangerous situation and everything they have achieved and valued: their life, well-being, achievements at work, relationships with a loved one or a strong friendship may end. “Hang on by a fingernail” describes a suspended state. In Uzbek, the idiom is translated as “on the nail”, “a difficult situation”.

3. To cut someone deep-literally “to cut someone deep”. As you know, you can hurt someone without using sharp objects. Hearing very unpleasant and irritating words from a person that he did not expect is enough for him to turn into a traitor in the blink of an eye. The idiom means to cause moral harm to someone and can be translated into Uzbek as “to touch the passion”, “to hurt deeply”, “to wound the heart”.

4. Fruits of one’s labor-an expression that came to ordinary speech from agriculture, literally “the fruits of someone’s labor”. For example, a gardener who grows apple trees first plants trees, then waters them, feeds them, cuts the branches, and then gets a lot of delicious apples. In his case, apples are “the fruit of his labor”. In the same way, the fruits of your labor are the reward for a job well done, which can be any benefit you receive—a finished book, a great salary, or a creative work. In Uzbek, the phrase can be translated as “mehnt samarasi” or “mehnt oliyali”.

5. Win something hands down - this expression can be literally translated as "to win something hands down". This can be said in situations where winning is extremely easy for someone. It does not require any effort, because the victory is coming to you by itself. This term comes from racing, where jockeys lower the reins and consider the victory a certainty.

6. Half a loaf is better than none-literally “half a loaf is better than none”. The idea behind this idiom is very clear - if a person is hungry and has to choose between eating half a loaf of bread or not eating at all, he prefers the first option. This expression is usually used as a consolation for himself and his relatives. You want something expensive, but you have to be content with the cheaper option.

7. Carry a torch for somebody-literally “to carry a torch for somebody”. This means to fall in love with someone, to constantly think about that person. Most often, this expression is used when talking about secret or unrequited love. In the idiom, love is likened to a bright flame. Those who are in unrequited love carry the flame of their feelings.

8. Talk like a Dutch uncle-literally means “to talk like a Dutch uncle”. A “Dutch uncle” is a person who gives you unnecessary advice in order to teach you how to live. The Dutch are very practical and stubborn people, they always think that they are right, so the idiom “Talk like a Dutch uncle” appeared. “Talk like a Dutch uncle” is used in the meanings of “to teach reason”, “to accuse”, “to advise like a horse”.

9. Back to the drawing board-to start all over again, literally “to return to the drawing board”. The expression is used in situations where a person has failed and has to start all over again. He will have to reconsider his actions, plans, behavior, etc. This



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English idiom originated during World War II, when almost all military projects were first drawn on a blackboard and then implemented. If a project failed, its developers would go back to the drawing board and make corrections, often having to start all over again.

The above examples show that English and Uzbek idioms share common cultural features, but their expression may differ. In some cases, idioms may reflect different cultural features.

Conclusion

By comparing cultural features in English and Uzbek idioms, it is possible to identify similarities and differences in the culture, lifestyle, and worldview of the two peoples. This study may be useful in the fields of linguistics, cultural studies, language teaching, and translation.

Recommendations

- English and Uzbek teachers can use idioms in their teaching to enhance students' cultural competence.
- Translators should take into account the cultural nuances associated with idioms in the translation process.
- Larger corpora and questionnaires can be used to study this topic in more depth in the future.

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