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THE COGNITIVE FEATURES OF PROVERBS

Sokhiba Babanazarova

Doctoral student of Khorezm Ma'mun Academy,

Doctor of Philosophy in Philology (PhD),

sohiba170289@mail.ru , Khorezm, Uzbekistan

Annotation: This thesis provides a detailed examination of the history of the creation of Uzbek folk proverbs, their place and significance in the lives of the people. Proverbs are wise words created by the people from ancient times, and the thesis discusses their origin, purpose, and meaning. It emphasizes the necessity of studying proverbs from the perspectives of linguistics, folklore, psychology, and ethnology. The importance of proverbs as words of wisdom reflecting the moral values and worldview of people, as well as their role in language and culture, is particularly acknowledged. The study also discusses the importance of analyzing proverbs from an anthropocentric approach and their significance from the perspective of cognitive linguistics. It highlights the historical roots of proverbs, their ideological and thematic content, and their connection to the long-standing life, customs, and traditions of the people. Many legends, tales, and historical events have been preserved through proverbs in the life of the people. The article emphasizes the need for in-depth study of proverbs to understand their historical and cultural value.

Keywords: Uzbek folk proverbs, linguistic analysis, cognitive analysis, anthropocentrism, lexical-semantic analysis, words of wisdom, sayings, folklore.

Uzbek folk proverbs are very ancient in terms of their creation and emergence in the life of the people. Our ancestors, based on their experiences and conclusions drawn throughout their lives, recorded proverbs as advice for future generations. The older the proverbs, the closer they are to the people's life and identity. Therefore, studying proverbs from a linguistic perspective provides valuable information for science. No nation has been without its proverbs or sayings, nor have they failed to preserve them with utmost care. The Uzbek people are no exception in this regard. Our pearls of wisdom—proverbs—have long intrigued world scholars. A famous European Orientalist, Professor G. Vamberi, after his visit to our country in the second half of the last century, collected Uzbek proverbs, compiled them into a collection, and highly appreciated the intellectual potential and wisdom of our people.

The study of proverbs is carried out within the frameworks of linguistics, folklore, psychology, and ethnology. Scholars study proverbs not only from the linguistic and literary points of view but also their spiritual and moral significance among the people, as well as their social and cultural context. The main directions of studying proverbs are as follows:



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1. **Lexical-semantic analysis:** The vocabulary of proverbs and their semantics are studied. This helps to understand the meaning of the proverb, the distinctiveness of its words, and their role in society.

2. **Folkloristic research:** Proverbs reflect the worldview of the people, their values, and moral standards. Folklorists study proverbs to analyze the historical and cultural development of society, its traditions, and customs.

3. **Historical and cultural analysis:** Proverbs are often linked to historical events or cultural changes. Scholars attempt to determine their origin, evolution, and how they formed during different historical periods.

4. **Psychological approach:** Proverbs reflect people's psychology, their worldview, and spiritual needs. Psychologists attempt to understand people's inner world and self-awareness through proverbs.

The study of proverbs is crucial not only for their spiritual significance but also for language development, providing ethical education to children, preserving national culture, and passing it on to future generations.

Today, special attention is also given to studying proverbs within the anthropocentric paradigm. In particular, studying them from the perspective of cognitive linguistics demonstrates the importance of the topic. The anthropocentric study of proverbs focuses on understanding them from the viewpoint of human beings and their place in society, behavior, social relationships, moral values, and worldview. **Anthropocentrism** (from the Greek *anthropos*—human and *centre*—center) focuses on analyzing the role of humans in cultural and social systems. Proverbs express human attitudes towards ethical norms, nature, society, and life experiences. The anthropocentric approach examines proverbs not only as oral expressions of the people but also as essential elements reflecting human thinking, moral, and social values. This approach aims to study how proverbs reflect the worldview, ethical views, and social and psychological conditions of people in various situations. For example, the proverb "If a ruler is a robber, neither chicken remains, nor the rooster" expresses the people's hatred toward colonial rulers, while "Father's command is higher than the throne" emphasizes loyalty to values, and in the proverb "He who hasn't tasted the bee's poison cannot appreciate the value of a child," deep life advice is embedded.

Some proverbs are connected to specific legends or tales. For example, the proverb "Barley and wheat are food, gold and silver are stones" is linked to a folk tale where a merchant, trusting in his wealth, sets off without carrying food, only to find himself desperate and exchanging his gold and silver for a little bread from a peasant. Moreover, some proverbs reflect the actions of historical figures who were hated in the past. For example, the proverb "When a lion grows weak, the bear hunts it" reflects historical facts. In the past, wealthy officials often exploited poor and vulnerable people's women. This proverb expresses the people's hatred toward such immoral and dishonest individuals.

The wisdom accumulated over the years in our people's life experiences has been generalized and typified in countless proverbs. In them, we can see and feel the path our



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ancestors walked, the joys and sufferings they experienced, their rebellion against colonial oppressors, their deep moral advice, and the customs and traditions of the past. Collecting these creative pearls of wisdom, studying them in-depth, and publishing them for the public are essential and noble tasks.

The core of proverbs lies in the long-standing life, worldview, and customs of the people who created them. Therefore, determining their historical roots and uncovering their ideological and thematic content requires extensive research and years of patient work.

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