

Date: 7th May-2025

LINGUOCULTURAL ASPECTS OF ZOONYMIC PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH, CHINESE AND UZBEK CULTURE

Tuychiyeva Manzura Xojimurodovna

Uzbekistan state world languages university,

Faculty of oriental philology,

Teacher of the department of chinese philology

E- mail: aruznam88@mail.ru

Abstract. This paper explores the linguocultural features of zoonymic phraseological units (ZPUs)—idioms and fixed expressions involving animal names—in english, chinese, and uzbek. ZPUs reflect deep-rooted cultural values, worldviews, and social norms. By comparing ZPUs across these three linguistically and culturally distinct languages, this study reveals both universal and culture-specific features of human-animal associations encoded in language.

Keywords: zoonym, phraseological unit, cultural linguistics, idiom, english, chinese, uzbek

Introduction. Phraseological units involving animal names, or zoonymic phraseological units (ZPUs), are a significant part of the linguistic and cultural heritage of any nation. These units reflect the perceptions, beliefs, and symbolic meanings attributed to animals within a specific culture. english, chinese and uzbek, while distinct in typology and cultural history, all possess a rich tapestry of ZPUs that provide insights into their respective societies.

This paper aims to analyze the similarities and differences in the use and meaning of ZPUs in these three languages, highlighting how cultural and historical contexts shape phraseological imagery.

ZPUs are a subtype of idioms that include the name of an animal (zoonym) as a key semantic component. From a cognitive-linguistic perspective, they often rely on metaphor and metonymy. From a cultural-linguistic viewpoint, they represent collective knowledge and traditional worldviews. The cross-cultural comparison of ZPUs allows for insights into the values and ideologies of different societies.

The study employs comparative and descriptive methods. ZPUs were collected from dictionaries and corpora in english, chinese and uzbek. Each ZPU was analyzed for its literal meaning, metaphorical sense, cultural connotation, and functional use in communication.

In English, animals often reflect personality traits and human behaviors. Examples include:

- **"To be the black sheep"** – a disreputable or outcast member of a group.
- **"As sly as a fox"** – clever and deceitful.
- **"Kill two birds with one stone"** – achieve two goals with one action.



Date: 7th May-2025

These idioms often derive from folklore, rural life, and biblical references. The focus is on individuality and pragmatism.

Chinese ZPUs are deeply rooted in Confucian values, classical literature, and zodiac symbolism:

- 狐假虎威 (hú jiǎ hǔ wēi) – “a fox borrows the tiger’s might” (a weak person leveraging another’s power).
- 对牛弹琴 (duì niú tán qín) – “playing the lute to a cow” (talking to someone who doesn’t understand).
- 井底之蛙 (jǐng dǐ zhī wā) – “a frog at the bottom of a well” (narrow-minded person).

ZPUs in Chinese often carry moral lessons and philosophical depth, highlighting harmony, hierarchy, and wisdom.

Uzbek ZPUs reflect nomadic heritage, islamic influences, and central asian folklore:

- “It bilan do‘stlashgan qo‘y” – “a sheep that befriends a dog” (naivety or poor judgment).
- “Otni o‘ylab to‘n tikilmaydi” – “a coat is not sewn for a horse” (not everything is worth the effort).
- “Tulki yetmagan uzumga ‘achchiq’ degan” – similar to “sour grapes” (envy disguised as disdain).

Uzbek ZPUs often reflect practical wisdom, social cohesion, and survival values.

Conclusion. Zoonymic phraseological units serve as linguistic windows into culture. English, chinese and uzbek ZPUs reflect their societies’ historical experience, social structures, and cognitive styles. Understanding these expressions is crucial for intercultural competence, especially in translation, language teaching, and cross-cultural studies.

Further research could explore ZPUs in other language families or examine their evolution in modern discourse.

REFERENCES:

1. Baker, M. - *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation* (3rd ed.). Routledge. 2018
2. Dobrovolskij, D., & Piirainen, E.- *Cultural Knowledge and Idioms*. In: *Cognitive Linguistics and Cultural Knowledge* (pp. 49–67). Mouton de Gruyter. 2006
3. Kövecses, Z. - *Metaphor in Culture: Universality and Variation*. Cambridge University Press. 2005
4. Liao, Q., & Low, G. D. (2009). Chinese and English metaphorical idioms of anger. *Applied Linguistics*, 30(1), 45–68.
5. Moon, R.- *Fixed Expressions and Idioms in English: A Corpus-Based Approach*. Oxford University Press. 1998
6. *Phraseological Dictionary of the English Language*. /// Moscow: AST Press. 2005
7. Svanidze, M. - *Phraseological Units with Zoonym Components: Semantics and Translation Problems*. Tbilisi State University Press. 2019



Date: 7th May-2025

8. Wang, Y. (2013). Animal Metaphors and Cultural Implications: A Contrastive Study between English and Chinese. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 3(9), 1684–1689.
9. Yunusov, A.-*O'zbek tilida hayvonot olami nomlari ishtirokidagi frazeologizmlar.* Toshkent: Fan. 2015
10. Zhang, X. (2012). The Cultural Differences Reflected in Animal Idioms. *English Language and Literature Studies*, 2(1), 102–106.

