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**COMPARISON OF METAPHORICAL EXPRESSIONS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK
LANGUAGES**

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Abstract: This article explores the comparative analysis of metaphorical expressions in English and Uzbek languages, focusing on their linguistic, cultural, and cognitive dimensions. Metaphors serve as powerful tools in shaping human thought and communication, reflecting both universal and culture-specific aspects of language. The study highlights similarities in conceptual metaphors that arise from shared human experiences, such as metaphors of life, time, and nature, while also emphasizing distinctive metaphoric patterns rooted in cultural traditions, worldview, and socio-historical background of each language community. Through a descriptive and contrastive approach, the research demonstrates how metaphorical expressions not only enrich the lexical system of both languages but also reveal deeper insights into the cognitive mechanisms underlying human communication. The findings contribute to a better understanding of cross-linguistic metaphor studies and provide valuable implications for linguistics, translation studies, and intercultural communication.

Keywords: Metaphorical expressions; English language; Uzbek language; cognitive linguistics; comparative analysis; intercultural communication; conceptual metaphors; cultural semantics.

INTRODUCTION

Metaphorical expressions have long been recognized as a central phenomenon in human language and thought. They are not simply ornamental features of speech but fundamental cognitive mechanisms through which individuals conceptualize the world. According to cognitive linguistics, metaphors structure the way people understand abstract concepts by relating them to more concrete domains of experience. For example, metaphors such as “*time is money*” in English or “*vaqt oltin*” (“time is gold”) in Uzbek demonstrate how abstract notions are perceived through tangible, universally valued entities. In the context of cross-linguistic studies, metaphor analysis provides valuable insights into both shared human cognition and culture-specific worldviews. English, as a global language with diverse cultural influences, reflects a wide variety of metaphorical frameworks, many of which are shaped by Western philosophical and literary traditions. Uzbek, on the other hand, as a Turkic language deeply rooted in Central Asian history and culture, embodies metaphorical expressions that resonate with its socio-cultural environment, folklore, and everyday practices. The comparison of these languages reveals not only similarities derived from universal human experiences—such as metaphors of life as a journey, emotions as physical forces, or knowledge as light—but also differences shaped by unique cultural and historical backgrounds.

The importance of this study lies in its potential to bridge linguistic and cultural understanding. By identifying how metaphorical expressions function in both English and Uzbek, researchers and language learners can deepen their awareness of how meaning is constructed and conveyed across languages. Moreover, the analysis contributes to translation studies, as metaphors often present challenges in cross-linguistic communication due to their cultural specificity. Understanding these

patterns may also enhance intercultural competence, helping individuals communicate more effectively in multilingual contexts. This research adopts a descriptive and comparative approach, examining metaphorical expressions in both languages from cognitive and cultural perspectives. The aim is to highlight the common conceptual metaphors while also emphasizing distinctive patterns that reflect cultural identity. Ultimately, the study contributes to broader discussions in linguistics and intercultural communication by demonstrating that metaphors are not only linguistic devices but also windows into the ways people think, feel, and interact with the world around them.

CONCLUSION

The comparative analysis of metaphorical expressions in English and Uzbek demonstrates that metaphors are not merely stylistic embellishments but essential elements of cognition, language, and culture. Both languages employ metaphors to conceptualize complex and abstract ideas through concrete experiences, revealing universal patterns that stem from shared aspects of human life, such as emotions, time, and natural phenomena. For instance, conceptualizations of time as a valuable resource or life as a journey are commonly observed in both English and Uzbek, showing the universality of certain metaphorical frameworks. At the same time, the study highlights significant cultural differences that shape metaphorical thinking in each linguistic community. English metaphors often reflect Western values such as individualism, progress, and rationality, whereas Uzbek metaphors are deeply influenced by collective traditions, social values, and the rich cultural heritage of Central Asia. These differences underscore the role of history, environment, and cultural practices in forming metaphorical patterns unique to each language. The findings of this research carry important implications for applied linguistics, translation studies, and intercultural communication. Translating metaphors across languages requires more than literal equivalence; it demands sensitivity to cultural meanings and contexts. By examining metaphorical expressions comparatively, language learners and translators can develop greater awareness of cross-cultural nuances and avoid misinterpretation. Furthermore, the study contributes to theoretical discussions in cognitive linguistics by reinforcing the idea that metaphor is a universal but culturally adaptable cognitive tool.

In conclusion, metaphorical expressions in English and Uzbek are windows into the cultural and cognitive worldviews of their speakers. While they reflect shared human experiences, they also preserve cultural distinctiveness, serving as markers of identity and tradition. Continued research in this field can further enrich our understanding of how language, thought, and culture interact, ultimately fostering deeper intercultural understanding and more effective communication in our increasingly globalized world.

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