



ANTHROPOCENTRIC ANALYSIS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS EXPRESSING NATIONAL VALUES (IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES)

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Abstract: This article explores how phraseological units in English and Uzbek reflect national values through an anthropocentric approach. The study focuses on how people, their worldview, emotions, and cultural experience shape fixed expressions in both languages. By comparing phraseological units, the article shows how each culture encodes its values, traditions, and collective identity in language. The analysis is written in simple academic English without numbered sections.

Keywords: anthropocentrism, phraseological units, national values, English, Uzbek, culture, worldview

Language is one of the most important tools through which people express their understanding of the world. In both English and Uzbek, phraseological units carry deep cultural meanings that reflect social values, traditions, and collective experience. The anthropocentric approach views language as centered around humans: their feelings, beliefs, attitudes, and cultural behavior. Therefore, studying phraseological units from this perspective helps us understand the national mindset and the way each society conceptualizes life. Phraseological units such as idioms, proverbs, and fixed expressions often preserve cultural memory. They represent moral values, social norms, and symbolic meanings. English and Uzbek languages have rich phraseological systems that reflect national identity. Comparing them



reveals similarities in human experience as well as differences shaped by history, lifestyle, and cultural background.

The anthropocentric approach is based on the idea that language cannot be separated from humans. It shows how people's behavior, emotions, and values influence linguistic expressions. When this approach is applied to phraseology, it allows researchers to see why certain expressions appear in a language and how they are connected to cultural values. For example, many phraseological units describe human traits such as kindness, bravery, honesty, and hospitality. These values are universal, but their linguistic expression depends on the worldview of the speakers. In English, individualism and practicality often influence idioms.

In Uzbek, collectivism, respect for elders, and hospitality play a major role in shaping phraseological expressions. English phraseological units often highlight values such as independence, practicality, fairness, and personal responsibility. This reflects the historical development of English-speaking societies, where individual initiative and personal success are highly valued. Examples include:

“Stand on your own feet” - expressing self-reliance

“Time is money” - emphasizing practicality and efficiency

“Honesty is the best policy” - highlighting moral integrity

“Actions speak louder than words” - promoting responsibility and reliability

These expressions show that English culture places importance on individual decisions, logical thinking, and personal accountability. They encourage people to be active, productive, and straightforward. Another important value is moderation and emotional restraint. Many English idioms promote calm behavior, such as “keep a cool head” or “stay level-headed.” This demonstrates the cultural tendency toward self-control and rational judgment



Expressions like “let the cat out of the bag” or “a horse of a different color” show how these symbols have entered the common imagination. In contrast, Uzbek phraseological units frequently use symbols drawn from nature, agriculture, family life, and emotional experience. Expressions such as “Ko‘ngli tog‘dek,” which compares emotional strength to a mountain, or “Yuragi qushdek,” which describes fear through the image of a small bird, illustrate how closely language is tied to the natural and cultural environment of Uzbek life. These symbolic choices demonstrate how each culture shapes the linguistic imagination in different yet meaningful ways. Even though English and Uzbek differ in symbolism and cultural priorities, both share important anthropocentric features. Both languages use phraseological units to describe human emotions, judge moral behavior, evaluate a person’s social role, and transmit lessons about proper conduct. Through idioms and proverbs, speakers of both cultures pass on moral knowledge from one generation to another. Both traditions value honesty, kindness, hard work, and social responsibility, even though they express these values in different linguistic forms.

Studying phraseological units from an anthropocentric perspective is important because it helps reveal how languages reflect the human experience. This type of analysis shows how linguistic expressions are shaped by culture and how they express the worldview of the people who use them. The comparison of English and Uzbek phraseology makes it possible to understand the similarities and differences between cultural values, and it also clarifies how these values become encoded in language. Such insights strengthen intercultural communication and help language learners grasp the deeper meanings that cannot be understood through direct translation alone. Phraseological units therefore serve not only as linguistic forms but also as cultural bridges that connect people through shared human experiences and unique cultural identities.



In conclusion, phraseological units serve as an essential source for understanding national values because they preserve cultural memory, collective worldview, and long-standing social traditions. When examined through an anthropocentric perspective, these expressions reveal how deeply human experience, emotion, and behavior are embedded in language. The comparison of English and Uzbek phraseology demonstrates that each language carries its own cultural orientation shaped by history, lifestyle, and societal ideals. English phraseological units highlight values such as individualism, responsibility, independence, and practical thinking, reflecting a worldview that prioritizes personal initiative and self-reliance. In contrast, Uzbek phraseological units emphasize the centrality of community, respect for elders, generosity, hospitality, and moral purity, showing a cultural model in which interpersonal harmony and collective identity hold significant importance. While the values differ, both languages express universal human experiences related to emotions, social behavior, and moral guidance. This demonstrates that despite cultural diversity, people share similar ways of making meaning through language. Studying phraseological units in English and Uzbek therefore provides insight into how linguistic expressions are used to maintain cultural continuity, transmit traditional wisdom, and shape the attitudes and behavior of future generations. Through this analysis, it becomes clear that language is not only a communication tool but also a cultural vessel that reflects the human condition across time and society.

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