



## THE ROLE OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN EXPRESSING NATIONAL CULTURE.

***Khusnitdinova Dilrabo Donyorbek qizi***

*Student of ASIFL Philology language teaching: Arabic language, Andijan*

*State Institute of Foreign Languages, Andijan, Uzbekistan*

*Email address:*

*Dilradoxon.12.12.2006@gmail.com*

*Scientific supervisor-*

***Egamberdiyeva Iroda Abdurahimovna***

*Associate professor of ASIFL*

**Abstract:** The study of language as a cultural phenomenon reveals itself most vividly not merely in words but in the intricate tapestry of phraseological units, which are more than simple sequences of words. These units, fixed in structure and sense, are forged through generations and embody, within their linguistic forms, the worldview, historical circumstances, spiritual aspirations, and emotional palette of the people who use them. The role of phraseological units in expressing national culture remains one of the most fascinating subjects within the broader field of linguistics, semiotics, and cultural studies. The interconnection between phraseology and the ethos of a nation goes far beyond the lexical inventory, reaching deep into symbolic values, moral codes, and the very identity of a people.

**Keywords:** Phraseological units, national culture, language and identity, cultural heritage, linguistic worldview, semiotics, tradition, collective memory, cultural transmission, intercultural communication.

Phraseological units, as stable and idiomatic expressions, are profoundly embedded in the collective consciousness of a nation. They reflect the allegorical and figurative modes of thinking inherent in a specific culture. Within these



expressions, there exists a condensed record of the historical experience of a people—an encoded cultural memory, shaped not only by language contact but also by indigenous evolution, environmental factors, patterns of labor, religious and philosophical beliefs, and socio-political realities. Phraseology becomes a living museum of national culture, each expression carrying semantic nuances and connotations that, while sometimes universal, are often distinctly national. Within the evolutionary process of any language, phraseological units are not static formations; they change over time yet retain the core of their cultural origins. The meanings of these units are at once transparent to native speakers and, at times, opaque to outsiders, which demonstrates how profoundly they are tied to cultural background and shared cognitive frameworks. The transmission of national values through phraseological units is not merely decorative or literary but forms a basis for cultural continuity. Through these expressions, generations maintain a link to their ancestral heritage, ensuring the persistence of traditional norms, taboos, humor, and wisdom [1].

The very choice of phrases, their formulation, scope of use, and persistence within a language, works as a reflection of historical epochs, significant events, and societal transformations. Over centuries, phraseological units carry echoes of ancient rites, folklore, legends, communal practices, and societal hierarchies. Each unit is a microcosmic representation of how a nation's mind frames the world, responds to challenges, and articulates beauty, adversity, perseverance, or consensus. Phraseological units thus operate as both an intellectual and spiritual repository, preserving emotional and rational concepts specific to the national culture. Phraseological studies reveal not only the philosophical outlook of the society but also its aesthetic preferences, ethical standards, and practical wisdom. Each language, through its unique bank of phraseological units, marks the boundaries between 'us' and 'others', reinforces internal cohesion, and maintains the specificity of the nation among the plurality of the world. The distinctiveness of national culture



is often upheld by the particular selection and interpretation of phraseological units, which sometimes resist translation and lose much of their flavor when transposed into another language. This untranslatability points to the irreducible elements of worldview and sociocultural experience, aligning each linguistic community with its unique system of meanings—a system in which phraseological units play a pivotal role. Phraseological units are transmitted orally from generation to generation, playing an essential function in both everyday speech and canonical literature. The oral tradition, folklore, epic poetry, and other cultural forms are saturated with phraseology, cementing a sense of belonging and pride. These expressions unite members of the same speech community through shared knowledge. Phraseological units are thus agents of socialization, used by elders to instruct, by peers to establish trust, and by cultural leaders and artists to solidify and renew the collective memory [2].

The accumulation of philosophical, moral, or practical experience within phraseological units shapes collective behavior and provides a model for appropriate responses to social or natural phenomena. Ideas concerning time, fate, destiny, honor, work, love, and friendship are embodied in phraseological expressions, guiding individuals in daily life and forming the background moral code from which decisions are drawn. The density and richness of a nation's phraseological baggage serve as testimony to the depth of its cultural tradition, its historical challenges, and its creative potential. Cultural specificity is further marked by phraseological images grounded in material, natural, and spiritual reality. The metaphoricity of these expressions brings to light the cognitive models peculiar to a language community. The national landscape, fauna, flora, climate, social structure, and predominant occupations mold the imagery of phraseology. Thus, phraseological units are inextricably linked with the environmental context, historical events, and worldview formation processes which define a national culture. They are not just products of language but articulate, on a profound level, the dynamic and integrated nature of



national identity. Another important aspect of phraseological units' role in national culture is their function as carriers of humor, irony, and sarcasm. These expressive tools are often subtle, nuanced, and challenging for non-native speakers to grasp fully. Through humor and irony embodied in set expressions, societies reaffirm communal values and reaffirm social norms, while simultaneously providing spaces for dissent, satire, and playful critique of power or tradition. The interplay of serious and playful meanings in phraseological units reflects the duality of the human condition as seen through national sensibilities [3].

The resilience of phraseological units in the face of modernity, mobility, and linguistic hybridity highlights their adaptability and enduring cultural function. While globalization, migration, and digital communication reshape the contexts of use, phraseological units remain meaningful, evolving symbols of national continuity and creativity. As societies move forward, investing in the recognition, documentation, and creative application of phraseological units ensures that national cultures remain rooted, distinctive, and open to dialogue. Through them, the pulse of collective memory, imagination, and wisdom is kept alive for future generations [4].

### **Conclusion:**

Phraseological units are a living testimony to the dynamic interplay between language and national culture. They encode the historical experience, worldview, moral codes, and aesthetic sensibilities of a people, acting as a bridge between tradition and innovation. Their role in expressing, maintaining, and transmitting national culture cannot be overstated; phraseological language is an indispensable component of the nation's symbolic universe. To explore phraseology is to gain insight into the heart of a nation, its ways of thinking, feeling, and relating to the world. The preservation and creative development of these expressions fortify cultural uniqueness while facilitating mutual understanding in an increasingly interconnected world.



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