



SEMANTIC AND CULTURAL FEATURES OF EMOTION-RELATED IDIOMS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK

Nizomova Mohinur Baratboyevna

Qarshi State University, Department of Applied English, Associate Professor,

Doctor of Sciences in Philology (DSc)

Zokirova Elinura Jasurovna

Abstract: *This article explores the semantic and cultural features of emotion-related idioms in English and Uzbek through a comparative linguistic analysis. Idiomatic expressions reflecting human emotions represent an important component of national worldview, cultural identity, and cognitive perception. The study aims to identify similarities and differences in the conceptualization and verbalization of emotions in the two languages by analyzing idioms associated with happiness, anger, fear, sadness, love, and surprise. The research applies semantic, cognitive, and comparative methods to examine the figurative meanings, structural patterns, and cultural connotations of selected idiomatic units. The findings reveal that both English and Uzbek employ metaphorical imagery connected with body parts, nature, color symbolism, and everyday experiences to express emotional states.*

Keywords: *emotion-related idioms, semantics, cultural linguistics, comparative analysis, English language, Uzbek language, phraseology, emotional expression, cognitive linguistics, intercultural communication, metaphorical meaning, national worldview.*

INTRODUCTION

In modern linguistics, comparative studies of phraseological units have become increasingly important due to the growing interest in intercultural communication and cognitive linguistics. English and Uzbek belong to different language families and cultural backgrounds; therefore, their emotion-related idioms



demonstrate both universal human experiences and culturally specific features. While some idioms in both languages share similar semantic meanings and metaphorical images, others reflect unique historical, social, and moral values characteristic of each nation. Emotion-related idioms often contain figurative components connected with body parts, colors, animals, natural phenomena, and daily life experiences. These expressions serve not only as stylistic devices but also as indicators of cultural identity and national mentality. For example, idioms expressing anger, happiness, fear, or sadness may differ in imagery and symbolic meaning depending on cultural traditions and collective perceptions.

The purpose of this study is to conduct a comparative analysis of emotion-related idioms in English and Uzbek from semantic and cultural perspectives. The research aims to identify similarities and differences in the representation of emotions, analyze their figurative meanings, and determine the cultural factors influencing their formation and usage. The study employs comparative, semantic, and cognitive methods to examine selected idiomatic expressions from both languages.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The significance of the research lies in its contribution to phraseology, cognitive linguistics, translation studies, and intercultural communication. A deeper understanding of emotion-related idioms can improve language learning, translation accuracy, and cross-cultural interaction by helping learners recognize the cultural meanings embedded in idiomatic expressions. The study of idioms and phraseological units has attracted the attention of many linguists in modern language research. Scholars such as Charles Bally, Vinogradov V. V., and George Lakoff contributed significantly to the development of phraseology and cognitive semantics. Their works emphasize that idioms are not only fixed linguistic expressions but also cultural and cognitive phenomena reflecting people's perception of reality.

In cognitive linguistics, emotions are often explained through conceptual metaphors. According to conceptual metaphor theory, abstract emotional states are understood through concrete experiences such as heat, movement, color, or bodily



reactions. For example, English idioms like “boil with anger” or “cold with fear” demonstrate metaphorical conceptualization of emotions. Similar metaphorical patterns can also be observed in Uzbek phraseology.

Uzbek linguists have also investigated phraseological units from semantic and cultural perspectives. Research on Uzbek idioms shows that many emotional expressions are closely connected with national traditions, family values, and moral norms. Therefore, comparative analysis between English and Uzbek idioms helps identify both universal and culture-specific aspects of emotional expression. The present study employs comparative, semantic, and cognitive methods in analyzing emotion-related idioms in English and Uzbek. The research materials consist of idiomatic expressions selected from English and Uzbek dictionaries, literary texts, and phraseological sources. The idioms were grouped according to emotional categories such as happiness, anger, fear, sadness, love, and surprise.

The semantic analysis focuses on the figurative meanings and lexical structures of idioms, while the comparative approach identifies similarities and differences between the two languages. In addition, cultural analysis is used to determine how national traditions, values, and social norms influence the formation of emotional idioms. Emotion-related idioms in both English and Uzbek are characterized by figurative meaning and expressive imagery. Most idioms cannot be understood through literal translation because their meanings are culturally and contextually motivated. The table demonstrates that some idioms in both languages express similar emotions through comparable metaphorical images. Body-part imagery is especially common. Words such as “heart,” “head,” and “eyes” frequently appear in emotional idioms because emotions are associated with physical and psychological experiences.

English idioms often emphasize internal emotional states and individual psychological reactions. Uzbek idioms, however, tend to express emotions through interpersonal relations and social behavior. This difference reflects the individualistic tendencies of English-speaking cultures and the collectivistic orientation of Uzbek culture. Idioms reflect cultural mentality and national worldview. In Uzbek culture,



respect, family honor, patience, and modesty are highly valued; therefore, many emotional idioms are connected with morality and social harmony. For example, expressions related to patience and self-control are frequently used in Uzbek speech. English idioms, on the other hand, often originate from historical events, literature, maritime culture, and everyday practical experiences. Some idioms contain references that are difficult to interpret without cultural background knowledge.

Color symbolism also differs between the two languages. In English, the color “blue” may symbolize sadness (“feel blue”), whereas in Uzbek emotional expression sadness is more commonly associated with words related to darkness, heaviness, or grief. Animal imagery presents another cultural distinction. English idioms frequently use animals such as cats, dogs, or horses, while Uzbek idioms may include culturally familiar animals connected with traditional lifestyle and agricultural practices.

Similarities

- Both languages use metaphorical and figurative expressions to describe emotions.
- Body-part symbolism is common in emotional idioms.
- Universal human emotions such as love, fear, anger, and happiness exist in both linguistic cultures.
- Many idioms are based on observable physical reactions to emotions.

Differences

- English idioms focus more on individual emotional experience.
- Uzbek idioms emphasize collective values and interpersonal relations.
- Cultural symbols and metaphorical sources vary according to historical and social traditions.
- Literal translation of idioms often leads to semantic misunderstanding.

CONCLUSION

The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek emotion-related idioms demonstrates that idiomatic expressions are important linguistic and cultural units reflecting national mentality, worldview, and emotional perception. Although both



languages share universal patterns in expressing human emotions, they differ significantly in metaphorical imagery, semantic structure, and cultural associations. The study reveals that English idioms mainly highlight personal psychological experience, whereas Uzbek idioms are strongly connected with social ethics, cultural traditions, and collective values. Emotional idioms in both languages employ body-part symbolism, color imagery, and metaphorical expressions; however, their cultural interpretations differ according to national context. Understanding the semantic and cultural features of emotion-related idioms is essential for successful intercultural communication, translation, and foreign language teaching. The findings of the research contribute to the fields of phraseology, cognitive linguistics, and comparative linguistics by demonstrating the close relationship between language, culture, and emotional cognition.

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