

STYLISTIC AND EXPRESSIVE FEATURES OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK SHORT STORIES

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Abstract: This article investigates the stylistic and expressive functions of phraseological units in English and Uzbek short stories. Phraseological expressions play a significant role in literary discourse because they enhance imagery, emotional intensity, and artistic individuality. The research focuses on the ways writers employ idioms, proverbs, and fixed expressions to shape characterization, create realism, and strengthen narrative expressiveness. Through comparative analysis, the study identifies both common and culture-specific stylistic features of phraseological units in English and Uzbek fiction. The article also examines the relationship between phraseology and national mentality, emphasizing the role of idiomatic language in reflecting social values, emotions, and cultural identity. The findings demonstrate that phraseological units are essential stylistic tools that enrich literary language and deepen the aesthetic impact of narrative texts.

Keywords: phraseological units, stylistics, expressiveness, literary language, short stories, idioms, narrative discourse, emotional coloring, English literature, Uzbek literature.

Introduction

Literary language differs from ordinary communicative language because it aims not only to convey information but also to produce emotional, aesthetic, and psychological effects on the reader. Among the linguistic devices that contribute to artistic expression, phraseological units occupy a special place. Idioms, proverbs, and stable expressions enrich narrative discourse by making it more vivid, emotionally colored, and culturally meaningful [11].

In both English and Uzbek short stories, phraseological units function as important stylistic instruments. Writers use them to reveal characters' emotions, portray social relationships, create humor or irony, and strengthen narrative realism. Since phraseological expressions often contain metaphorical and culturally specific meanings, they contribute significantly to the artistic individuality of literary texts [12].

The stylistic analysis of phraseological units is particularly important in short stories because this genre requires concise yet expressive language. Due to limited narrative space, authors frequently rely on idiomatic expressions to convey deep meanings and emotional nuances in a compact form [1]. Therefore, the comparative study of English and Uzbek literary phraseology allows a better understanding of how

language functions as a tool of artistic representation.

Phraseological Units as Stylistic Devices

Phraseological units possess strong stylistic potential because they combine semantic richness with emotional expressiveness. Unlike neutral vocabulary, idiomatic expressions create imagery and intensify the emotional tone of narration. In literary texts, they often serve as markers of colloquial speech, cultural atmosphere, and character identity [2].

English writers frequently employ phraseological units to create dynamic and realistic dialogue. Expressions such as *under one's nose*, *keep an eye on someone*, or *a storm in a teacup* help make conversations natural and emotionally engaging [13]. These idioms allow characters to sound authentic while simultaneously revealing their attitudes and emotional states.

Similarly, Uzbek short stories actively use phraseological expressions to enrich narrative language. Idioms like *yuragi orqasiga tortib ketdi*, *tili kalimaga kelmadi*, or *ko'ngliga qil sig'madi* intensify emotional description and reflect the expressive nature of spoken Uzbek [3]. Such expressions often carry strong national coloring and contribute to the cultural authenticity of literary discourse.

Phraseological units also perform evaluative functions. Through idiomatic language, authors express approval, criticism, irony, or sympathy toward characters and events. As a result, phraseology becomes an important means of shaping the emotional atmosphere of a story [14].

The Role of Phraseological Units in Characterization

One of the most important stylistic functions of phraseological units in short stories is characterization. Authors use idiomatic expressions to reveal the psychological condition, social background, education level, and worldview of fictional characters [4].

In English fiction, characters' speech often contains idioms reflecting their personality or social identity. A confident or humorous character may use expressive colloquial idioms frequently, while a reserved or educated character may rely on more formal phraseological expressions. Through such linguistic choices, writers construct believable and multidimensional personalities [5]. Uzbek literary works also demonstrate strong connections between phraseology and characterization. Elderly characters in Uzbek stories often use proverbs and traditional expressions, reflecting wisdom and life experience. Younger characters, by contrast, may employ more emotional or conversational phraseological forms. In this way, phraseological language becomes a tool for distinguishing generations, social groups, and cultural values [15].

Moreover, phraseological units help portray inner emotional states indirectly. Instead of directly describing fear, anger, or happiness, writers often use figurative expressions that create stronger artistic impact. Such indirect emotional representation

increases psychological depth and reader engagement [6].

Expressive and Emotional Functions

The expressive power of phraseological units lies in their metaphorical nature. Literary texts use idiomatic language to intensify emotional tension and produce vivid mental images. Phraseological expressions frequently function as carriers of irony, sarcasm, humor, exaggeration, or emotional drama [16].

English short stories often employ irony through phraseological expressions. An idiom used in an unexpected context may produce comic or sarcastic effect. This stylistic technique allows writers to communicate implicit meanings without direct explanation [7]. The emotional richness created by idiomatic language also contributes to narrative rhythm and stylistic diversity.

In Uzbek literary tradition, phraseological units are particularly important for emotional amplification. Expressions connected with the heart, soul, eyes, or facial expressions are widely used to describe psychological experiences. Such idioms make narration emotionally intense and culturally expressive at the same time.

Another significant feature is imagery. Phraseological units transform abstract feelings into concrete artistic pictures. Readers not only understand the meaning intellectually but also imagine it visually and emotionally [8]. Consequently, phraseology strengthens the aesthetic quality of literary texts.

National and Cultural Specificity

Phraseological units in literature reflect national mentality and cultural traditions. English and Uzbek literary phraseology differ considerably in imagery, symbolism, and thematic associations because each language developed within a unique historical and cultural environment [9].

English literary phraseology frequently includes expressions related to weather, sea navigation, hunting, sports, and urban life [. Such imagery reflects important aspects of British social and historical experience. Uzbek literary phraseology, however, is closely connected with family relationships, hospitality, traditional customs, and agricultural life [17]. For example, Uzbek stories often use phraseological expressions associated with respect, honor, and collective social values. These expressions emphasize interpersonal relationships and emotional closeness within society. English phraseological units, on the other hand, may place stronger emphasis on individuality, practicality, or personal independence. Despite these differences, both literary traditions use phraseological language to preserve cultural memory and strengthen national identity [10]. Through idiomatic expressions, readers encounter not only artistic language but also the cultural worldview embedded within it.

Phraseological Units and Narrative Realism

Another important stylistic function of phraseological units is the creation of realism [18]. Natural speech in everyday communication contains numerous idioms

and fixed expressions. Therefore, authors incorporate phraseological language into dialogues and narration to imitate authentic communication.

In English short stories, colloquial idioms help reproduce social interaction realistically and make dialogues more convincing [19]. Similarly, Uzbek writers use conversational phraseology to reflect everyday speech patterns and social relationships accurately. The use of phraseological units also helps establish setting and atmosphere. Rural characters, urban speakers, educated individuals, or ordinary villagers may employ different types of idiomatic language. As a result, phraseology contributes not only to characterization but also to the sociolinguistic realism of the narrative world [19]. Furthermore, phraseological expressions often make literary language more concise. A single idiom can communicate complex emotional or social meanings that would otherwise require lengthy explanation. This feature is especially valuable in short stories, where brevity and expressive efficiency are essential [20].

Conclusion

Phraseological units occupy an important place in the stylistic organization of English and Uzbek short stories. Their expressive, emotional, evaluative, and imagery-producing functions significantly enrich literary discourse and strengthen artistic impact. The comparative analysis demonstrates that phraseological units serve similar stylistic purposes in both literary traditions, particularly in characterization, emotional expression, and narrative realism. At the same time, the imagery and cultural associations of phraseological expressions reveal important differences connected with national mentality and historical experience. In literary texts, phraseological units function not merely as decorative linguistic elements but as powerful artistic tools that shape meaning, atmosphere, and emotional perception. Therefore, the study of phraseological stylistics contributes greatly to linguistics, literary criticism, and intercultural research, allowing a deeper understanding of how language and culture interact within artistic discourse.

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