

SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF APHORISMS IN THE ENGLISH AND UZBEK
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Abstract. This article presents a comparative semantic analysis of aphorisms in the English and Uzbek languages. Aphorisms are concise, expressive statements that convey generalized wisdom and cultural experience through implicit and metaphorical meanings. The study aims to identify the main semantic features of aphorisms, analyze their meaning structure, and reveal similarities and differences in semantic representation across the two languages. The research applies descriptive, semantic, and contrastive methods. The findings show that while English aphorisms tend to emphasize pragmatism, rationality, and individual experience, Uzbek aphorisms are more oriented toward moral values, spirituality, and collective consciousness.

Keywords: aphorism, semantics, implicit meaning, metaphor, English language, Uzbek language, contrastive analysis

In modern linguistics, the study of aphorisms occupies a significant place due to their semantic density, expressiveness, and cultural value. Aphorisms represent a special type of text in which a large amount of meaning is condensed into a short linguistic form. Because of this feature, aphorisms are especially relevant for semantic analysis.

Both English and Uzbek languages possess a rich tradition of aphoristic expressions created by philosophers, writers, and thinkers. However, the semantic organization of aphorisms in these languages reflects different cultural and cognitive

models. Therefore, a contrastive semantic analysis allows us to identify both universal and culture-specific semantic features.

An **aphorism** is defined as a brief, concise statement that expresses a general truth, principle, or observation about life. Semantically, aphorisms are characterized by:

- compact structure,
- generalized meaning,
- implicit semantic content,
- metaphorical and symbolic expression,
- evaluative and pragmatic orientation.

Unlike ordinary sentences, aphorisms often rely on **semantic compression**, where part of the meaning remains unspoken and must be inferred by the reader.

One of the key semantic features of aphorisms is the coexistence of **explicit** and **implicit** meaning.

English example:

Uzbek: *Ey o'g'il! Qaysi fan bo'lmasin, to uni mukammal egallamaguningcha harakatni to'xtatma, bir ilm ikkinchi ilmni egallashga yordam beradi.* – **Abdibek Sheroziy;**

English: *I study myself more than any other subject. That is my metaphysics, that is my physics* [Men o'zimni boshqa fanlardan ko'ra ko'proq o'rganaman. Bu mening metafizikam, bu mening fizikam]. – **Michel de Montaigne;**

The explicit meaning equates knowledge with power, while the implicit meaning suggests social control, influence, and progress through education.

Aphorisms express abstract and universal ideas through generalized semantics.

English:

"Life is short." — Seneca

The statement abstracts human existence without specifying time, age, or context.

Uzbek:

"Inson — tarbiya mahsuli." — Abdurauf Fitrat

Here, the semantics generalize human identity as the result of upbringing and education.

Metaphor plays a central role in the semantic organization of aphorisms.

English:

"Time is money." — Benjamin Franklin

The metaphor equates time with an economic resource, reflecting pragmatic semantics.

Uzbek:

"Soʻz — qudrat." — Alisher Navoiy

The metaphor presents speech as power, emphasizing rhetorical and moral influence.

Aphorisms often carry **positive or negative evaluation**, guiding social behavior.

English:

"Actions speak louder than words." — Abraham Lincoln

The semantic evaluation prioritizes action over speech.

Uzbek:

"Adab — inson ziynati." — Ahmad Yassaviy

This aphorism positively evaluates politeness and moral behavior.

Many aphorisms contain **semantic lacunae**, where meaning is culturally implied rather than explicitly stated.

English:

"Freedom is responsibility." — George Bernard Shaw

The nature of responsibility is left undefined, relying on Western cultural understanding.

Uzbek:

“Yurtga xizmat — sharaf.” — Choʻlpon

The concept of serving the homeland assumes shared national values.

When aphorisms related to science and art in English and Uzbek were divided into micro fields according to the semantic field and conceptual group, a difference was observed between the field formed in the two languages. These differences are determined by aspects such as the non-kinship language of the two languages, their grammatical construction, structural structure.

The semantic analysis of English and Uzbek aphorisms demonstrates that aphorisms function as linguistically compressed carriers of meaning. While both languages employ metaphor, generalization, and implicit semantics, their semantic priorities differ due to cultural factors. English aphorisms emphasize pragmatism, rationality, and individual agency, whereas Uzbek aphorisms foreground morality, spirituality, and social harmony.

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