# SEMANTIC AND STRUCTURAL CLASSIFICATION OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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**Abstract:** Phraseological units are fixed expressions that carry figurative meanings and embody the cultural and cognitive perspectives of a particular nation. They form a significant part of a language's lexical system and enhance the expressiveness and effectiveness of communication. This article explores the semantic and structural classifications of phraseological units in English and Uzbek, offering a comparative analysis of their similarities and differences. The research is grounded in linguistic and linguocultural approaches and includes a review of key studies in the field of phraseology. The results show that while both languages follow common classification principles, they also reveal unique national and cultural features.

Keywords: phraseological units, idioms, semantics, structural classifications, linguocultural analysis, comparative linguistics.

**Annotatsiya**

Frazeologik birliklar - bu ko‘chma ma’noga ega bo‘lgan va ma’lum bir xalqning madaniy hamda kognitiv dunyoqarashini aks ettiruvchi turg‘un birikmalardir. Ular har qanday tilning leksik tizimining muhim qismi bo‘lib, nutqning ifodaliligi va samaradorligini oshiradi. Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o‘zbek tillaridagi frazeologik birliklarning semantik va strukturaviy tasnifi o‘rganilib, ularning o‘xshash va farqli jihatlari qiyosiy tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot lingvistik va lingvomadaniy yondashuvlarga asoslangan bo‘lib, frazeologiya sohasidagi muhim ilmiy ishlarga tayanadi. Natijalar shuni ko‘rsatadiki, har ikkala til umumiy tasnif tamoyillariga ega bo‘lsa-da, ular o‘ziga xos milliy va madaniy xususiyatlarni ham namoyon etadi.

Kalit so’zlar: frazeologik birliklar, idiomalar, semantika, strukturaviy tasniflanish, lingvomadaniy analiz, qiyosiy lingvistika.

**Аннотация**

Фразеологические единицы представляют собой устойчивые выражения с переносным значением, отражающие культурное и когнитивное мировоззрение народа. Они являются важной частью лексической системы любого языка и способствуют выразительности и эффективности речи. В данной статье рассматриваются семантическая и структурная классификации фразеологических единиц в английском и узбекском языках, а также проводится сравнительный анализ их сходств и различий. Исследование основано на лингвистическом и лингвокультурологическом подходах и включает обзор основных научных работ в области фразеологии. Результаты показывают, что, несмотря на наличие общих принципов классификации, оба языка демонстрируют свои национальные и культурные особенности.

Ключевые слова: фразеологические единицы, идиомы, семантика, структурная классификация, лингвокультурный анализ, сравнительная лингвистика.

## Introduction

Phraseology is one of the most vivid and culturally meaningful areas of linguistics. Phraseological units, often called idioms, are fixed expressions whose meanings usually cannot be

understood simply by looking at the individual words. These expressions carry the history, traditions and worldview of a people, making them an important part of a nation's cultural heritage. In today's globalized world, learning a foreign language is no longer limited to grammar and vocabulary. It also involves understanding the culture behind the language. In this respect, phraseological units play a crucial role, as they reflect national identity and convey cultural values in a unique and expressive way. Both English and Uzbek languages are rich in phraseological expressions. However, they differ in their meanings, origins and cultural associations. For this reason, a comparative study of their semantic and structural features is especially important for translation, language teaching and linguocultural research. The purpose of this article is to examine the semantic and structural classifications of phraseological units in English and Uzbek and to highlight both their similarities and differences.

**Literature review**

The study of phraseological units has been extensively developed in linguistic scholarship. The foundations of phraseological theory were laid by Vinogradov, who introduced a semantic classification of phraseological units into fusions, unities and combinations. His approach remains influential in modern phraseology.[8;116] Western linguists such as Cowie and Fernando focused on idioms in English, their classification and their role in communication.[5;33] In Uzbek linguistics, phraseology has been studied by scholars such as Rahmatullayev, who compiled explanatory dictionaries of Uzbek phraseological units and Mamatov, who analyzed their semantic and stylistic features.[7;312] Linguocultural approaches have been developed by researchers such as Maslova, who emphasized the connection between language and culture, particularly in phraseological expressions.[6;98] Despite the extensive literature, comparative studies of English and Uzbek phraseological units remain limited, especially in terms of combined semantic and structural classification, which justifies the relevance of the present study.

**Methodology**

The present study is grounded in a qualitative linguistic approach, which allows for an in-depth examination of the nature and functioning of phraseological units in both English and Uzbek languages. The research combines several interrelated methods to ensure a comprehensive analysis. Firstly, a descriptive method is applied to identify and outline the main characteristics of phraseological units, focusing on their stability, figurative meaning and usage in context. This approach helps to clarify how such units function as integral elements of the lexical system. Secondly, a semantic analysis is conducted to classify phraseological units according to the relationships between their overall meanings and the meanings of their individual components. This includes distinguishing between different types such as fusions, unities, combinations, and expressions, based on the degree of semantic motivation. Moreover, a structural analysis is employed to examine the grammatical and syntactic patterns of phraseological units. In this stage, units are categorized into verbal, nominal, adjectival, adverbial, and sentence-like types, depending on their form and function within sentences.[4;18] The data for the study were collected from a variety of reliable sources, including phraseological dictionaries, scholarly works in linguistics and phraseology, and examples drawn from authentic language use in both written and spoken contexts. Such a diverse data set ensures the validity and relevance of the analysis.

**Results and Discussions**

Phraseological units in both English and Uzbek languages can be classified semantically into four main types. Phraseological fusions are completely fixed expressions whose meanings are

not motivated by the meanings of their individual components, such as over the moon (very happy) or og'zi qulog'ida in Uzbek. Phraseological unities are figurative expressions whose meanings can still be partially understood from their components, for example cry over spilled milk (to worry about past mistakes) and ko'z yummoq (to ignore). Phraseological combinations are partially fixed expressions in which one element is used figuratively while the other retains its literal meaning, such as make a decision and qattiq intizom.[7;27] Finally, phraseological expressions include proverbs and sayings that convey generalized meanings, such as Actions speak louder than words and Mehnatning tagi rohat.

From a structural perspective, phraseological units can be divided into several types according to their grammatical form. These include verbal units like hit the nail and qo'l qovushtirib turmoq, nominal units such as a dark horse and oq ko'ngil odam, adjectival units like as busy as a bee and qo'li ochiq, and adverbial units such as in a hurry and bir zumda.[7;64] In addition, there are sentence-like units, which mainly consist of proverbs and sayings.

A comparative analysis of English and Uzbek phraseological systems reveals both similarities and differences. In both languages, phraseological units nearly rely on metaphor and imagery, share common semantic classifications and play an essential role in expressive communication. However, there are also notable differences: English idioms often originate from the Bible, classical literature and historical events, whereas Uzbek idioms are closely connected with Eastern traditions, folklore and social values.[3;16] Moreover, Uzbek phraseological expressions tend to be more descriptive and elaborate, while English idioms are generally more concise and compact.

**Conclusion**

Phraseological units are an integral part of both English and Uzbek languages, reflecting cultural identity and linguistic creativity. Their semantic classification includes fusions, unities, combinations and expressions, while structural classification includes verbal, nominal, adjectival, adverbial and sentence-like forms. The comparative analysis highlights both universal linguistic patterns and culture-specific features. The study contributes to better understanding of phraseology and has practical implications for language teaching, translation, and intercultural communication.

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