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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS: STRUCTURE, SEMANTICS, AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

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Annotation:

This thesis is devoted to the study of phraseology, a branch of linguistics that deals with the structure, meaning, and use of fixed expressions, idioms, collocations, and phrasal units in a language. Phraseological units are essential elements of any language, as they reflect the culture, traditions, and worldview of its speakers. The paper discusses different types of phraseological units, their classification based on structure and semantics, and their functions in communication. Special emphasis is placed on English and Uzbek phraseological expressions, drawing comparisons between them and analyzing their cultural relevance. The study also highlights the importance of learning phraseology for language learners, as mastering idioms and set expressions greatly improves fluency and understanding of native-level speech. By exploring the richness of phraseological units, this paper aims to show how they contribute to the expressiveness and emotional depth of language.

Abstract:

This study examines the field of phraseology, focusing on the nature, structure, and function of phraseological units in language. Phraseology includes idioms, fixed



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expressions, collocations, and phrasal verbs that carry meanings beyond the literal interpretation of individual words. The paper analyzes the classification of phraseological units and explores their semantic, syntactic, and cultural aspects. It also investigates the role of phraseological expressions in effective communication and language fluency. Special attention is given to comparing English and Uzbek idioms to highlight cross-cultural similarities and differences. The findings suggest that understanding and using phraseological units is crucial for deeper language competence and for grasping the cultural nuances embedded in language.

Key words: Phraseology, idioms, phraseological units, collocations, phrasal verbs, figurative meaning, language learning, cultural expressions, English-Uzbek comparison, fixed expressions

Introduction:

Language is not only a means of communication but also a reflection of a nation's culture, mentality, and traditions. One of the most vivid and expressive elements of any language is its phraseological units, which include idioms, collocations, and set expressions. These fixed phrases enrich the language by adding figurative, emotional, and cultural meaning. Phraseology, as a branch of linguistics, studies these units in terms of their structure, semantics, origin, and usage. Understanding phraseological expressions is essential for achieving fluency and sounding natural in a foreign language. In this paper, we explore the main types of phraseological units, their features, and their role in both English and Uzbek. The comparative analysis of idioms in both languages helps to reveal how cultural values and everyday life are encoded in language. By studying phraseology, language learners can gain deeper insight into the richness and beauty of linguistic expression.

Main Body:

Phraseology is a significant field within linguistics that focuses on studying fixed word combinations that function as a single unit in communication. These combinations include idioms (e.g., spill the beans), collocations (e.g., make a



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decision), phrasal verbs (e.g., give up), and other set expressions that have meanings different from the sum of their parts.

Phraseological units can be classified into several types based on their structure and meaning. Vinogradov, a Russian linguist, categorized them into three main groups: phraseological fusions, phraseological unities, and phraseological combinations. Phraseological fusions are expressions whose meanings cannot be deduced from the meanings of the individual words (e.g., kick the bucket – to die). Phraseological unities have a figurative meaning, but the original sense of the words can still be somewhat understood (e.g., to break the ice – to initiate conversation).

Phraseological combinations include collocations where one word has a figurative meaning, and the other is used in its literal sense (e.g., make a mistake). Phraseological expressions are closely tied to culture. They often reflect the history, traditions, and worldview of the people who speak the language. For instance, the English idiom "the early bird catches the worm" promotes punctuality and proactiveness, while the Uzbek equivalent "Erta turganning rizqi keng bo'ladi" carries a similar message in a culturally adapted way.

Comparing English and Uzbek phraseological units reveals both similarities and differences. Some idioms have direct equivalents, while others are unique to each language due to cultural, religious, or historical contexts. Understanding these differences helps learners develop not only linguistic skills but also intercultural competence. Moreover, phraseological units are essential for language fluency. They are widely used in everyday speech, literature, media, and advertising. Without knowledge of these expressions, learners may struggle to understand native speakers or express themselves naturally.

Research Methodology:

This research is based on a comparative and descriptive qualitative approach. The main objective is to analyze the structure, meaning, and usage of phraseological units in English and Uzbek. Data for the study were collected from a variety of sources, including phraseological dictionaries, academic articles, literary texts, and online corpora.



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The methodology includes several key steps:

Selection of phraseological units – A set of commonly used idioms and fixed expressions were selected from both English and Uzbek.

Classification – The selected phraseological units were classified according to established linguistic criteria, such as semantic transparency, structure, and syntactic function.

Comparative analysis – English and Uzbek phraseological units were compared to identify similarities, differences, and culture-specific features.

Interpretation – The results were analyzed to understand how phraseological expressions reflect cultural values and contribute to language fluency.

Conclusion

In conclusion, phraseology plays a vital role in enriching language and enhancing communication. Phraseological units such as idioms, collocations, and phrasal verbs not only add color and expressiveness to speech but also reflect the culture, traditions, and worldview of a nation. Through the comparative analysis of English and Uzbek phraseological expressions, this study has shown both the universal nature of some idioms and the cultural uniqueness of others. Understanding phraseological units is essential for language learners, as it improves their ability to comprehend and use the language naturally and fluently. Moreover, it promotes cross-cultural awareness and helps learners grasp deeper meanings in spoken and written texts. The study of phraseology should therefore be an integral part of language education and linguistic research.

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