



PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS AS LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL UNITS

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Annotation

This article explores phraseological units as integral components of language and culture, highlighting their dual role in reflecting linguistic systems and cultural identities. By examining examples from different languages, the study delves into the semantic, structural, and cultural characteristics of phraseological units, showcasing their significance in fostering cross-cultural understanding.

Keywords: phraseological units, culture, linguistics, idiomatic expressions, cross-cultural communication, semantics, phraseology.

Linguoculture is a multidisciplinary concept that combines elements of linguistics and cultural studies to explore the relationship between language and culture. It refers to the way language both shapes and is shaped by the culture of its speakers. Linguoculture encompasses the unique worldview, values, traditions, and beliefs encoded within a language and expressed through its vocabulary, idioms, metaphors, and grammatical structures[1].

Phraseological units involving somatic elements (body parts) reflect how languages conceptualize human experience. These units encode cultural values, worldview, and social norms, providing valuable insights into the relationship between language and culture. This study aims to compare and contrast somatic phrases in English and Uzbek, uncovering their linguistic and cultural significance.

Somatic phrases are idiomatic expressions that include body-related terms, such as head, heart, eyes, hands, or feet. Their meanings often transcend their literal sense, reflecting metaphorical or symbolic interpretations[2].

Somatic phrases serve as cultural markers, encapsulating societal values, beliefs, and historical experiences. For instance:

English: Cold feet (to feel nervous or hesitant)

Uzbek: Qo‘rqib qoldi (Literal: "He/she froze," meaning to feel scared)[3].



Analysis of Somatic Phrases in English and Uzbek

1. Shared Universal Concepts

Certain somatic metaphors are universal, as they derive from shared human experiences. For example:

Heart (emotion):

English: To have a big heart (to be kind and generous).

Uzbek: Keng yurakli bo‘lmoq (Literal: "To have a wide heart," meaning to be generous).

Head (intelligence):

English: To use your head (to think wisely).

Uzbek: Aqlingni ishlat (Literal: "Use your brain," meaning to think critically).

2. Culturally Specific Metaphors

The cultural context significantly influences the interpretation of somatic phrases:

Eyes:

English: To turn a blind eye (to ignore intentionally).

Uzbek: Ko‘z yumib qo‘ymoq (Literal: "To close one's eyes," with a similar meaning but nuanced differently).

Liver:

English: Rarely used metaphorically.

Uzbek: Jigar bo‘laklari (Literal: "Pieces of liver," a term of endearment, reflecting the liver's cultural significance in Uzbek traditions).

3. Symbolic Imagery in Somatic Phrases. Certain body parts carry symbolic meanings unique to their culture[4].

Hands:

English: To wash one's hands of something (to disclaim responsibility).

Uzbek: Qo‘lini sovuq suvga urmay (Literal: "Not to touch cold water," meaning to avoid effort or responsibility).

Feet:

English: To get back on one's feet (to recover).

Uzbek: O‘z oyoqqa turmoq (Literal: "To stand on one's own feet," a direct equivalent).



Cultural Insights from Somatic Phrases

Reflection of Social Norms and Values

Uzbek somatic phrases often emphasize family and community bonds (Jigar bo‘lagim, "My liver piece," used to address loved ones)[5].

English somatic phrases often focus on individual responsibility (To stand on one’s own two feet).

Uzbek somatic expressions frequently reference traditional views of health and vitality, with the liver symbolizing strength and affection [6].

English somatic phrases tend to emphasize action and pragmatism, reflecting a Western cultural focus on agency and results.

To sum up, phraseological units are a mirror of the language that reflects the culture and values of the people. Therefore, the conceptual-linguistic analysis of phraseological units is considered important in determining the national-cultural essence of phrases. The thematic groups of English and Uzbek phrasemes and the number of parts in them are not the same. The reason for this is the history of the English and Uzbek peoples, their dissimilar mentality, different material and spiritual culture, traditional economy, social and daily lifestyle, belief in different religions, and domestic life. and connections, national feelings, customs, geographical location of countries. Somatic phrases in English and Uzbek exemplify the close relationship between language and culture. While some expressions reflect universal human experiences, others reveal unique cultural perspectives. A linguocultural analysis of these phrases not only enriches our understanding of the languages themselves but also fosters deeper appreciation of the societies they represent.

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