



SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ENGLISH AND UZBEK MAGICAL FAIRY TALES

Bekberganova Gulrux Maksudbekovna

Webster university, master degree

gulruxbekberganova@icloud.com

Relevance of the topic. Fairy tales are one of the richest sources of cultural heritage, reflecting the worldview, values, and imagination of different nations. This article presents a comparative analysis of magical language units in English and Uzbek fairy tales. Special attention is given to the linguistic forms, semantic features, and cultural meanings of magical expressions such as spells, formulas, symbolic words, and repeated structures. The analysis shows that while both traditions use magical language to create an atmosphere of wonder and transmit moral values, they differ in form, symbolism, and cultural background.

Materials and Methods. This study is based on a comparative literary analysis of English and Uzbek magical fairy tales. Primary sources include classical collections of English folktales, such as *The English Fairy Book* and *The Oxford Companion to Fairy Tales*, as well as Uzbek folk tales published in *O‘zbek xalq ertaklari* and oral narratives preserved in Central Asian folklore. Secondary sources include works by folklorists such as V. Propp, S. Thompson, and contemporary Uzbek scholars who have analyzed the structure and themes of fairy tales.

The methods applied in this research are descriptive and comparative. The descriptive method is used to identify the main themes, characters, and motifs present in both English and Uzbek tales. The comparative method allows for highlighting similarities and differences in terms of plot structures, cultural symbolism, social roles, and moral functions. In addition, elements of structural analysis proposed by V. Propp in *Morphology of the Folktale* are employed to classify recurring narrative functions.



E CONF SERIES



International Conference on Medical Science, Medicine and Public Health

Hosted online from Jakarta, Indonesia

Website: econfseries.com

30th August, 2025

Results. The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek magical fairy tales shows that both traditions share universal narrative motifs such as the struggle between good and evil, the assistance of supernatural beings, and the eventual triumph of justice. In both cultures, fairy tales function as moral instruction, teaching courage, honesty, loyalty, and generosity, while condemning greed and betrayal. However, significant differences also emerged. English tales usually portray heroes of humble origin, such as peasants or ordinary young men, emphasizing individual initiative and ambition. By contrast, Uzbek heroes are often connected to kinship and tribal honor, reflecting collective responsibility and the importance of family reputation in Central Asian society.

Environmental settings also vary. While English tales often take place in enchanted forests, castles, or small villages, Uzbek tales are situated in vast steppes, deserts, mountains, or oriental palaces, shaped by the natural geography of the region. The role of women differs as well: English fairy tales frequently depict women as passive figures in need of rescue, whereas Uzbek tales highlight women as wise advisers, loyal companions, or guardians of family honor. Another key distinction lies in the magical elements. English tales often involve objects such as beans, swords, or rings, while Uzbek tales employ flying carpets, bows, and talismans, which are rooted in local traditions and material culture. Together, these findings demonstrate both the universality of human storytelling and the unique cultural identities reflected in each nation's folklore.

Conclusion. The study of English and Uzbek magical fairy tales demonstrates that, while both traditions share universal motifs of good and evil, supernatural assistance, and moral lessons, they also reflect the distinct cultural values and environments of their societies. English tales emphasize individual ambition, medieval European settings, and characters shaped by Christian and feudal traditions. Uzbek tales, on the other hand, highlight collective responsibility, kinship ties, and the influence of nomadic life, Islamic culture, and oriental symbolism. Women's roles, magical objects, and natural landscapes also differ, giving each folklore its unique flavor. These similarities and differences show that fairy tales serve not only as entertainment but also as mirrors of cultural identity, preserving moral codes and



International Conference on Medical Science, Medicine and Public Health

Hosted online from Jakarta, Indonesia

Website: econfseries.com

30th August, 2025

social values across generations. By comparing English and Uzbek traditions, it becomes clear that folklore is both a universal human heritage and a deeply local expression of culture.

References

1. Propp, V. Morphology of the Folktale. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2000.
2. Thompson, S. The Folktale. University of California Press, 2001.
3. Jacobs, J. English Fairy Tales. London: David Nutt.
4. Grimm, J. & Grimm, W. Children's and Household Tales. Berlin.
5. O'zbekiston xalq ertaklari. Toshkent: G'afur G'ulom nomidagi nashriyot, 1985.
6. Mamatqulov, A. O'zbek xalq og'zaki ijodiyoti. Toshkent, 2012.
7. Propp, V. Morphology of the Folktale. Austin: University of Texas Press.
8. Ashliman, D. L. (2004). Folk and Fairy Tales: A Handbook. Greenwood Press.
9. Jo'rayev, A. O'zbek xalq ertaklari. Toshkent: G'afur G'ulom nomidagi nashriyot.
10. Thompson, S. The Folktale. University of California Press.