

LEXICAL-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK PROVERBS

Shukurova Madina Askarovna

*Associate Professor of English Linguistics Department, PhD
Bukhara State University*

Hikmatulloeva Aziza Shermat kizi

*1st year master’s student of the specialty “Linguistics: English language” English
Linguistics Department
Bukhara State University*

Abstract: *This article delves deeply into the lexical and semantic aspects of proverbs, drawing the appropriate conclusions. It also conducts significant and pertinent lexical-semantic evaluations of proverbial lexical and semantic structures. Furthermore, the term’s history and origin, the content and essence of particular proverbs, and the lexical-semantic use of proverbs are addressed, with required examples provided.*

Keywords: *proverb, lexis, semantics, phrasal semantics, cognitive semantics, formal semantics, universalisation, and metaphor.*

ЛЕКСИКО-СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ АНГЛИЙСКИХ И УЗБЕКСКИХ ПОСЛОВИЦ

Шукурова Мадина Аскарровна

*доцент кафедры английского языкознания
Бухарского государственного университета, PhD*

Хикматуллоева Азиза Шермат кизи

*Магистрант 1-го курса специальности «Лингвистика: английский язык»
кафедры английского языкознания
Бухарского государственного университета*

Аннотация: *В данной статье глубоко рассматриваются лексические и семантические аспекты пословиц, делаются соответствующие выводы. Она также проводит значимые и актуальные лексико-семантические оценки пословичных лексико-семантических структур. Кроме того, рассматриваются история и происхождение термина, содержание и сущность конкретных пословиц, лексико-семантическое использование пословиц, приводятся необходимые примеры.*

Ключевые слова: *пословица, лексика, семантика, фразеологическая семантика, когнитивная семантика, формальная семантика, универсализация и метафора.*

The study of a word’s meaning is known as lexical semantics, and it looks at how words interact lexically with one another as well as whether they have multiple meanings. By structuring sentence content or controlling words, phrasal semantics learns to generate new meanings. Formal semantics provides a clear basis for understanding the connection between

language and meaning through the use of mathematics and logic. Cognitive semantics examines the significance of a psychological perspective and suggests a close relationship between language proficiency and conceptual frameworks for worldview. Cultural semantics, computational semantics, and conceptual semantics are additional subfields of semantics.

English proverbs’ semantic characteristics are a reflection of their cultural traditions, life experiences, and worldview. As a result, they frequently have a permanent meaning in place of being universal and changeable.

There are numerous similarities and differences between the semantic properties – that is, the content and meaning – of Uzbek and English proverbs. We’ll look at some of their primary semantic distinctions and parallels below:

The following elements of English proverbs’ semantic properties can be taken into consideration:

1. Meaning and Symbolism: Proverbs frequently reflect common life experiences and have symbolic meaning. They represent a society's cultural and moral ideals;

2. Strength and Brevity: Proverbs are brief and to the point, frequently employing powerful metaphors and imagery to enhance their impact;

3. Universality: A lot of proverbs can represent the universal human experience by having comparable meanings across cultural boundaries;

4. Time-consistency: Proverbs frequently have historical background and remain applicable over time;

5. Metaphor and simile: Proverbs frequently employ metaphors to convey ideas and give them a deeper meaning;

6. Stability and Variability: Certain proverbs may become meaningless over time or take on new significance in different situations.

These elements aid in a deeper comprehension of the semantic characteristics of English proverbs. English proverbs are a kind of phraseologism that are brief and include life advice as well as the people’s lifestyle, circumstances, experiences, and truths, because proverbs are frequently used in speech by speakers, especially English speakers. Additionally, proverbs reflect the nation’s life experiences as well as its historical, cultural, social, and spiritual perspectives. Every country and culture has its own oral folk works and proverbs. It is crucial that no words be left out of proverbs. Because the meaning conveyed by a proverb is lost if a word is removed or substituted with another. Proverbs aid in the succinct and figurative expression of ideas. They can be applied metaphorically as well. According to renowned Uzbek linguist Bahodir Sarimsakov, proverbs have both literal and symbolic meanings. This characteristic broadens the topic and use of proverbs [5;186].

Proverbs also expedite the comprehension and elucidation of concepts. When a manager of a company tells his staff, for instance, “If we can attract customers before other companies do, we will definitely succeed”, he is using the adage “The early bird catches the worm” and effectively, quickly, and easily communicates his message to others [1;75].

Words that once meant one thing but now have a different meaning can also be found in English. For instance, the Old English word “swan” in the proverb “Every man thinks his own geese swans” is derived from the German words “zwan” and “schwaan”, which meant military

concepts. Today, though, it describes a long-necked, white bird that inhabits a lake or river. Such examples are available in both Uzbek and English. In the past, for instance, the word “salt” meant “correct, decent, truthful, or field plate”. However, it now refers to “mineral substance”. However, sayings like “Be with the one in the house, not the one in the salt” and “If you save a girl, save salt” maintain the word’s historical meaning [2;57]. Additionally, in some proverbs or dialects, the word “labor” in the saying “State is twin, labor is twin” also means “grief, anxiety” [4;209]. Furthermore, some proverbs are incomprehensible when translated directly from English into Uzbek. “First impressions are the most lasting”, for instance, is an English proverb that means “I should try to present my personality, appearance, good manners, and professional skills in a beautiful way when I first meet my boss”. Otherwise, the manager might treat me differently. We will add the conjunction “in a person’s memory” to make this proverb more beautiful rather than translating it literally as “First impressions last a long time”.

For example, the English saying “Fingers were made before forks” literally means “I eat with my hands/or don’t let go of my hands” in Uzbek. Those who eat with their hands rather than a utensil are referred to by this proverb [3;108].

The majority of British people prefer to eat with their hands rather than a knife, fork, or spoon, as indicated by the cultural keyword “fork”. This proverb literally translates to “Fingers were made before forks” in Uzbek. Despite the fact that the word “forks” has something to do with food, the entire meaning of the proverb has evolved. Furthermore, this proverb has no precise translation in Uzbek, so we translate it as “Fingers appeared before forks”. “This proverb warns every person to carefully consider and weigh the results and consequences before making a decision; otherwise, a wrong decision can harm its owner”, wrote Mahmud Kashgari, a renowned 19th-century linguist of the Turkic lands [6;256]. Despite having different lexical meanings, the English proverbs “Don’t put all your eggs in one basket” and “Don’t put off your boots without seeing water” have similar meanings. We chose the proverb “Boringni biringga tikma” as a lexical and semantic equivalent of the Uzbek proverb “Suvni kormay, etik yechma”, even though it is semantically synonymous with the proverb “Don’t put all your eggs in one basket”.

In conclusion, there are a lot of parallels and divergences between the semantic characteristics of English and Uzbek proverbs. English proverbs are more universal and pragmatic, whereas Uzbek proverbs are more grounded in moral and social standards. Nonetheless, both cultures’ proverbs incorporate logical ideas, values, and life experience. Additionally, proverbs are frequently used to convey ideas in a metaphorical way. Symbolic and metaphorical in nature, they are stylistically distinct from ordinary everyday speech forms. Despite geographical boundaries, some proverbs reflect the way of life and culture of certain locals.

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