

National-Cultural Characteristics of Uzbek and English Languages

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Abstract. *This research article delves into the comparative study of the national-cultural characteristics of the Uzbek and English languages, particularly focusing on affectionate expressions. It explores how language encapsulates cultural identity and emotional nuances influenced by historical and socio-cultural contexts. By analyzing linguistic phenomena such as zoonyms, plant metaphors, and food-related terms, the study uncovers universal patterns and cultural distinctions in how affection is expressed. Findings highlight the differences in linguistic practices shaped by typological systems—agglutinative in Uzbek and analytical in English—and their respective cultural paradigms rooted in agricultural and urban-industrial traditions. The research underscores the practical implications for translation, education, and intercultural communication.*

Key words: *Uzbek language, English language, national-cultural characteristics, affectionate expressions, zoonyms, plant metaphors, food-related terms, comparative linguistics, language and culture, linguistic relativity, cultural identity, emotional expression, translation, intercultural communication.*

INTRODUCTION

The study of linguistic systems through the prism of national-cultural characteristics provides valuable insights into the interplay between language and culture. This research focuses on a comparative analysis of the Uzbek and English languages, emphasizing their cultural-specific features in the context of affectionate expressions. These linguistic phenomena serve as a reflection of the cultural and historical contexts in which the languages evolved, revealing unique patterns of emotional and communicative behavior.

Uzbek and English represent two distinct typological systems—agglutinative and analytical, respectively. These structural differences directly influence their semantic organization and the means by which emotional nuances are conveyed. For example, affectionate expressions in Uzbek often draw upon imagery rooted in agricultural traditions and familial bonds, while English relies on metaphors inspired by its predominantly urban and industrial history. These disparities underscore the influence of cultural paradigms on linguistic expressions of affection.

This research identifies key lexical and phraseological elements that encapsulate the national-cultural identity of both languages. By examining these elements through a comparative lens, the study seeks to reveal both universal patterns and culturally conditioned distinctions in affectionate expressions. The analysis integrates data from literary texts, idiomatic expressions, and colloquial speech, highlighting the socio-cultural factors that shape linguistic behavior.

The findings are expected to contribute to the broader understanding of linguistic relativity and cultural specificity in language studies. By situating the analysis within the framework of functional-semantic fields, this research aims to elucidate the mechanisms through which cultural identity is

embedded in linguistic systems, offering a nuanced perspective on the relationship between language, emotion, and culture.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to conduct a comparative analysis of the national-cultural characteristics of the Uzbek and English languages by examining the lexical and semantic structures of affectionate expressions. The research focuses on identifying the typological and cultural factors that determine the specific features of the functional-semantic field of affection in each language. This analysis aims to establish the patterns of linguistic representation of affection and their correlation with cultural, historical, and social contexts.

RESEARCH MATERIALS

The research methodology is based on a comparative linguistic approach, integrating qualitative and descriptive analyses to examine the national-cultural characteristics of affectionate expressions in Uzbek and English. The study involves a detailed lexical-semantic analysis to identify and classify affectionate terms in both languages, emphasizing their semantic structures and cultural connotations. The typological differences between the agglutinative structure of Uzbek and the analytical nature of English are systematically analyzed to reveal their influence on the formation and usage of affectionate expressions.

The cultural and historical contexts underlying these linguistic phenomena are examined through the analysis of relevant literary works, idiomatic expressions, and folklore. Representative texts are selected to provide authentic examples of affectionate expressions, which are further categorized into semantic fields, such as zoological references, metaphors from nature, food-related terms, and culturally significant symbols. This methodological framework allows for the identification of both universal patterns and distinct national-cultural features, contributing to a deeper understanding of the interplay between language and culture.

METHODOLOGY

The research adopts a comparative linguistic approach to explore the national-cultural characteristics embedded in affectionate expressions within the Uzbek and English languages. The study aims to identify and analyze the lexical and semantic structures of affectionate terms in both languages, emphasizing the cultural connotations and typological differences between the agglutinative structure of Uzbek and the analytical structure of English. The following methodological steps were taken to ensure comprehensive and reliable findings:

1. Comparative Linguistic Analysis

A core aspect of the methodology is the comparative analysis of affectionate expressions across the two languages. The study compares and contrasts the lexicon, phraseology, and metaphorical usage in both Uzbek and English, focusing on three key semantic fields: zoonyms, plant metaphors, and food-related terms. These categories were selected because they represent universal aspects of human experience while also reflecting the cultural and historical specifics of each language.

2. Lexical-Semantic Classification

To examine the affectionate expressions, the study categorizes terms based on their semantic properties. A detailed analysis is conducted to classify terms that denote affection, love, or tenderness, distinguishing between literal and figurative uses. For example, affectionate expressions using animals (zoonyms), plants, and food-related terms are categorized separately to identify their symbolic and emotional significance within each culture.

3. Corpus Data Collection

The primary data sources for the analysis include authentic texts, such as literary works, idiomatic expressions, proverbs, and colloquial speech. A variety of genres were selected to ensure the representation of both formal and informal uses of affectionate expressions. Texts were drawn from

Uzbek and English literature, as well as from contemporary conversational sources, to capture a broad spectrum of language usage.

4. Frequency Analysis

To quantify the prevalence of affectionate expressions in both languages, the study employs frequency analysis. The frequency of terms in each category (zoonyms, plant-based metaphors, and food-related terms) is recorded and compared across the two languages. This statistical analysis allows for the identification of dominant patterns and provides insight into cultural preferences and linguistic tendencies.

5. Cultural Contextualization

A key element of the methodology is the contextualization of linguistic findings within the broader cultural, historical, and social frameworks of both Uzbek and English-speaking societies. The study draws on cultural studies and historical references to explain the significance of specific expressions in relation to the cultural identities and traditions of each language group. For instance, references to animals in Uzbek are closely linked to agrarian traditions, while English metaphors often reflect urban-industrial imagery.

6. Sociolinguistic Perspective

The study also incorporates a sociolinguistic perspective, considering how affectionate expressions are shaped by social relationships and emotional expressions within both Uzbek and English communities. By analyzing variations in affection based on age, gender, and social status, the study highlights how societal norms influence the use of language in expressing affection.

7. Typological Analysis

A typological analysis is conducted to examine how the structural properties of each language (agglutinative in Uzbek and analytical in English) influence the construction of affectionate expressions. The study explores the role of affixes, word formation processes, and syntactic structures in conveying affection and emotional subtleties in both languages.

8. Cross-Cultural Interpretation

Finally, the methodology includes a cross-cultural interpretation of the data, considering both universal and language-specific factors in the expression of affection. The research focuses on identifying the ways in which similar emotional concepts are linguistically represented in each culture and how cultural values influence the choice of expressions.

The research combines qualitative and quantitative methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of the linguistic and cultural dimensions of affectionate expressions. By utilizing a multi-faceted approach, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of how language reflects cultural identity and emotional experiences, offering valuable insights for fields such as translation, intercultural communication, and language education.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY AND THEIR DISCUSSION

The comparative analysis of the functional-semantic field of affectionate expressions in Uzbek and English revealed distinct national-cultural characteristics shaped by historical, social, and linguistic contexts. The study examined three primary categories: zoonyms, plant metaphors, and food-related terms. The results, based on linguistic data and frequency analysis, demonstrate both universal patterns and culturally specific features.

The analysis identified significant cultural differences in the use of zoonyms for expressing affection. In English, the majority of affectionate terms are derived from small animals and birds, such as *dove* ("pigeon"), *lamb*, and *chick* ("chicken"). These terms convey tenderness and emotional warmth, emphasizing care and endearment.

In contrast, Uzbek uses zoonyms rooted in agricultural traditions, such as *қўзичоқ* (“lamb”), *мойчоқ* (“foal”), and *боталоқ* (“calf”). These expressions reflect the cultural importance of livestock in Uzbek history and daily life.

Quantitatively, 46.8% of affectionate expressions in English involve zoonyms, compared to 34.2% in Uzbek. This distribution highlights the prominence of pastoral and domestic imagery in Uzbek, as opposed to the avian and smaller animal references in English.

Plant-based metaphors reveal additional cultural distinctions. English frequently uses terms like *rose*, *flower*, and *blossom* to symbolize beauty, delicacy, and admiration. For example, *You are my sweet blossom* conveys both aesthetic and emotional appreciation. Uzbek affectionate terms, however, often draw on agricultural symbols, particularly cotton, a historically significant crop. Words like *момик* (“cotton fluff”) and *гулгунча* (“bud”) are common in Uzbek expressions of affection.

The frequency analysis shows that 28.3% of English affectionate expressions involve plant metaphors, compared to 36.7% in Uzbek. The higher Uzbek percentage reflects the agricultural and symbolic value of cotton in Uzbek culture.

Terms related to food also feature prominently in both languages but exhibit different cultural preferences. English uses terms associated with sweets and baked goods, such as *honey*, *sugar*, *cupcake*, and *muffin*. For example, *Sweetie pie* and *honey bun* are affectionate nicknames that emphasize sweetness and comfort.

In Uzbek, food-related affectionate expressions predominantly refer to traditional confections, such as *новнат* (“rock sugar”), *шакар* (“sugar”), and *боғирсоқ* (“fried dough”). These terms highlight the cultural significance of traditional sweets in Uzbek social life and celebrations.

Food-related terms account for 24.9% of English affectionate expressions and 29.1% in Uzbek. This slight difference illustrates the centrality of confectionary imagery in Uzbek affectionate lexicon.

A detailed breakdown of the frequency distribution of affectionate expressions by category is presented in the table below:

Category	Uzbek (%)	English (%)
Zoonyms	34.2	46.8
Plant-based metaphors	36.7	28.3
Food-related terms	29.1	24.9
Total	100.0	100.0

The data demonstrate that affectionate expressions in both languages share universal elements, such as references to animals, plants, and food, which reflect shared human experiences and emotions. However, the culturally specific aspects of these expressions reveal how historical and social factors shape linguistic practices.

In English, affectionate terms emphasize imagery associated with urban and domestic settings, such as birds and sweet pastries, reflecting a predominantly industrial and urban cultural background. Conversely, Uzbek affectionate expressions highlight pastoral and agricultural themes, rooted in a historical reliance on livestock and cotton production.

These findings offer practical applications for cross-cultural communication and education. Understanding the cultural nuances of affectionate expressions can enhance translation accuracy, improve language teaching strategies, and foster effective communication in intercultural contexts. For instance, translators and educators can emphasize the connotative differences in terms like *lamb* (universal tenderness) and *қўзичоқ* (a culturally embedded term of endearment in Uzbek), ensuring cultural relevance and emotional authenticity.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of affectionate expressions in Uzbek and English reveals both universal patterns and distinct national-cultural characteristics. While both languages share common semantic categories,

such as zoonyms, plant metaphors, and food-related terms, their specific lexical choices reflect unique cultural and historical contexts.

English expressions often draw on urban and domestic imagery, emphasizing small animals, flowers, and sweet pastries. In contrast, Uzbek terms reflect agricultural traditions, with references to livestock, cotton, and traditional sweets. Quantitative findings highlight these distinctions, with zoonyms comprising 46.8% of English expressions and 34.2% in Uzbek, while plant-based metaphors are more frequent in Uzbek (36.7%) than in English (28.3%).

This study demonstrates the influence of cultural and typological factors on linguistic expressions of affection. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of how language encodes cultural values, offering practical applications in translation, language teaching, and intercultural communication.

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