

## **National and Cultural Characteristics of Phraseological Units in Modern English and Uzbek**

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**Abstract.** *This paper provides an in-depth analysis of how the linguistic landscape is reflected in English and Uzbek through the use of idioms. It examines the parallel existence of lexical and phraseological meanings within these expressions and explores the national and cultural specificities embedded in English and Uzbek idioms.*

**Key words:** *combination, linguistic landscape, phrase, lexical meaning, structural unity, explicit form.*

Like individual words, phraseological units (idioms) within a language actively name things and events, playing a crucial role in communication. These idioms exhibit a spectrum of meaning expression, with the contributions of their component words being either implicit or explicit. They function as fixed units, preserving both their meaning and form. This observation supports the view that idioms are distinct linguistic entities. Moreover, the parallel existence of lexical (word-based) and phraseological (idiom-based) meanings is evident in numerous phraseological units. The phraseological inventory of each language contains a diverse range of expressions, shaped by their semantic origins and retaining their core meanings.

In contemporary linguistics, examining the national and cultural specificity of language subsystems, particularly from a typological perspective, is highly significant. The growing interconnectedness of nations through economic, political, cultural, and scientific exchanges underscores the need for theoretical research in this area. Learning a language's vocabulary is always a fascinating process. While rote memorization of English vocabulary can be tedious, learning words in groups with friends, through interactive methods, makes the process more engaging and effective. Interactive learning transforms knowledge acquisition. Students gain information about the world not as a ready-made system from an instructor, but through their own active engagement. Teachers must facilitate active learning environments where students question, participate, and take initiative. As is well known, comparative linguistics gathers essential data for understanding the national-specific worldview embedded in language. Modern linguistics, focused on identifying linguistic universals, is largely concerned with revealing intersystemic similarities across different languages (2). A key trend in modern linguistics is a growing focus on the content aspect of language, stemming from a deeper understanding of language as an interconnected and interdependent system. Current research efforts are focused on studying vocabulary and phraseology as structurally organized levels of language, aiming to identify the primary types of lexical and lexical-semantic relations within them.

Given the growth of comparative typological studies in lexical and phraseological semantics across both related and unrelated languages, the national and cultural distinctiveness of linguistic units, and the identification of unique semantic-stylistic components in their meaning structure, are particularly significant. The national-cultural specificity of phraseological units containing animal names is influenced by both linguistic and extralinguistic factors. The linguistic basis for this specificity stems from differences or partial overlaps in their figurative structures. These differences result from the unique phrase-forming processes involved in creating figurative meanings within these idioms, where the figurative meaning of animal names serves as the source of motivation. It is generally accepted that national-cultural specificity in the semantics of these phraseological units is shaped by both linguistic and extralinguistic factors that influence the formation of imagery and its national-cultural character. Each language exhibits national-cultural characteristics reflecting the life and development of a specific society, ultimately defining its national-cultural identity. Comparative-typological research serves as an effective method for uncovering the national-cultural specifics of phraseological units containing animal names and their semantics. This approach aligns with the core objective of comparative typology, which involves “comparing systems of different languages, regardless of their genetic relation, identifying both common and specific features, and establishing interlanguage correspondences within specific, limited language sets, while considering their typical or systemic characteristics” (3, 4). National and cultural distinctiveness is apparent to varying degrees across all levels of language—phonetic, lexical, phraseological, word-formation, and syntactic. Units at different language levels exhibit varying degrees of national-cultural specificity. Building on the idea that the nature of imagery reflects a language’s unique worldview (7), and that the national character of phraseological units is traceable in any aspect of their study (but most prominently at the semantic level), this study will explore a typological model for the association of imagery, shaping the national-cultural specificity of FUNA (phraseological units with the names of animals) in the compared languages. Researchers emphasize that national-cultural specificity is particularly evident in the phraseological system of language, which is directly and explicitly connected to the surrounding reality.

Recently, both theoretical and practical studies have increasingly focused on the national-cultural specificity of lexical unit semantics, as evidenced by numerous research papers, articles, monographs, and the development of linguistic-cultural dictionaries and manuals (5). Consequently, it is crucial to conduct research that identifies and examines the national and cultural specificity of lexical unit semantics, defining and identifying cultural component values and establishing their status within the semantic structure of language units.

It’s important to recognize that language is built upon universal principles of world perception. Humans possess a shared capacity for logical thought, irrespective of their geographic location. Without this commonality, effective communication and mutual understanding between people from different continents and language backgrounds would be impossible. Compelling evidence for this lies in the presence of phraseological units that are fully equivalent in both form and meaning across various languages.

Similar to other languages, English boasts a vast collection of idioms that are integrated within its vocabulary. These idioms have, for centuries, captured and conveyed the national-cultural identity, way of life, and social evolution of the British people. During our research, it became necessary to highlight several key characteristics of these phrases.

Like individual words, phraseological units within a language actively name things and events, fulfilling a crucial communicative function. Every language possesses a phraseological system whose units are constantly utilized to expand vocabulary, name objects and events, and facilitate daily communication. These language units embody and preserve the national-cultural identity, traditions, mentality, and history of its people.

To name and express novel concepts, portray diverse social situations, or illuminate various aspects of existing realities, a culture develops short, but expressively rich units. These expressions encapsulate the cumulative experiences of a nation, rendering them readily understandable to its people. Phraseological units typically go beyond simple naming; they also provide connotative

(stylistic) coloring and reflect the speaker's attitude toward existence. Therefore, the phraseological meaning is a distinct and specific semantic dimension within the language.

Idioms serve as unique linguistic tools for expressing a culture's perspective on the world (its linguistic landscape). Their phraseological meaning encompasses not only linguistic information but also extralinguistic information, reflecting cultural knowledge and context. Each nation develops idioms with profound expressive meaning to name and convey new concepts and to articulate various social situations.

Idioms are also distinct as linguistic units embodying the national-cultural characteristics of each nation. A cross-cultural examination of English and Uzbek idioms—originating from different language families, geographically distant regions, and lacking direct social, political, or religious connections—reveals the presence of both allomorphic (different form, same meaning) and isomorphic (same form, same meaning) features.

This study focuses on analyzing idioms as unique linguistic examples, using comparative analysis, classification, and descriptive research methods. It also seeks to identify both isomorphic (similar) and allomorphic (different) features in the semantics of English and Uzbek idioms.

In conclusion, examining the national and cultural elements of English and Uzbek idioms reveals a shared human capacity for logical thought, irrespective of geographic location or language. This commonality is evident in the formal and semantic parallels observed through the comparison of fully equivalent idioms in both languages.

English idioms demonstrate a strong connection to European culture and development, often referencing figures from ancient mythological literature, which distinguishes them from Uzbek idioms. A notable characteristic of English idioms is the prevalence of eponymous idioms, represented by personal names and related objects. Phrases related to ancient heroes are less common in the Uzbek idiom repertoire.

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