

## A COMPARATIVE SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF PRAISE EXPRESSIONS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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### Annotation

This article provides a comprehensive comparative semantic analysis of praise expressions in English and Uzbek from the perspective of functional semantics. Praise is examined as a category of positive evaluation that reflects linguistic, cultural, and communicative values. The study aims to identify the semantic structure of praise expressions, distinguish their core and peripheral components, and reveal similarities and differences between the two languages. The research employs comparative, componential, and contextual analysis of lexical and phraseological units. The findings demonstrate that although English and Uzbek praise expressions share universal evaluative features, they differ in cultural motivation, intensity, and functional orientation, highlighting the influence of language-specific and socio-cultural factors.

### Keywords

praise, evaluation, functional semantic field, semantic analysis, English language, Uzbek language.

### Аннотация

В статье проводится детальный сопоставительный семантический анализ выражений похвалы в английском и узбекском языках в рамках функциональной семантики. Похвала рассматривается как категория положительной оценки, отражающая языковые, культурные и коммуникативные ценности. Цель исследования — выявить семантическую структуру выражений похвалы, определить их ядерные и периферийные компоненты, а также установить сходства и различия между двумя языками. В работе используются методы сравнительного, компонентного и контекстуального анализа лексических и фразеологических единиц. Результаты показывают, что, несмотря на универсальные оценочные характеристики, выражения похвалы в английском и узбекском языках различаются по культурной мотивации, интенсивности и функциональной направленности.

### Ключевые слова

похвала, оценка, функционально-семантическое поле, семантический анализ, английский язык, узбекский язык.

### Annotatsiya

Mazkur maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi maqtov ifodalari funksional semantika nuqtayi nazaridan qiyosiy tahlil qilinadi. Maqtov ijobjiy baholash kategoriyasi sifatida talqin etilib, lingvistik, madaniy va kommunikativ qadriyatlarni aks ettiradi. Tadqiqot maqtov ifodalarining semantik tuzilishini aniqlash, ularning yadro va periferik komponentlarini belgilash, shuningdek, ikki til o'rtasidagi o'xshash va farqli jihatlarni aniqlashga qaratilgan. Tadqiqot qiyosiy, komponential va kontekstual tahlil metodlariga asoslanadi. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadi, ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi maqtov ifodalari umumiyligi baholovchi xususiyatlarga ega bo'lsa-da, ular madaniy motivatsiya, intensivlik va funksional yo'nalish jihatidan farqlanadi, bu tilga xos va ijtimoiy-madaniy omillarning ta'sirini ko'rsatadi.

### Kalit so'zlar

maqtov, baholash, funksional-semantic maydon, semantik tahlil, ingliz tili, o'zbek tili.

### Introduction

Praise is an essential component of human communication, functioning as a means of expressing positive evaluation, approval, and encouragement [1], [2], [3]. In linguistic studies, praise is closely connected with the broader category of evaluation, reflecting the speaker's attitude toward people, actions, or phenomena. Evaluative language has attracted considerable scholarly attention due to its role in shaping interpersonal relations and social interaction. However, despite numerous studies devoted to evaluation and complimenting behavior, a comprehensive comparative semantic analysis of praise expressions in English and Uzbek has not yet received sufficient attention.

Praise can be viewed as a structured system of linguistic units united by the common meaning of positive evaluation [4], [5]. Within functional semantics, such systems are described as functional semantic fields consisting of a semantic core and a periphery [6]. The core includes lexical units that explicitly express praise, while peripheral elements convey positive evaluation indirectly or through culturally and contextually conditioned means. Praise is closely connected with cultural norms and communicative conventions, and its linguistic realization varies significantly across languages.

The relevance of this study lies in the growing interest in contrastive linguistics and intercultural communication, where the analysis of evaluative meanings plays a crucial role. English and Uzbek belong to different language families and cultural traditions, making their comparison particularly valuable. The aim of the present article is to analyze praise expressions in English and Uzbek from a functional-semantic perspective, identify their core and peripheral components, and determine both universal and language-specific semantic features.

### Methodology

The research employs a qualitative comparative approach to identify and interpret the semantic features of praise expressions in English and Uzbek [6], [7]. The empirical material consists of lexical and phraseological units expressing praise, selected from authoritative explanatory dictionaries, linguistic studies, and examples of authentic language use. Comparative analysis reveals similarities and differences between the two languages, componential analysis identifies core semantic features, and contextual analysis examines functional realization in discourse. The functional semantic field framework serves as the main



theoretical basis, allowing praise expressions to be classified into core and peripheral elements according to the degree of explicit positive evaluation.

## Results

The analysis shows that praise expressions in both English and Uzbek are organized as structured functional semantic fields centered around the meaning of positive evaluation [1], [2]. The semantic core in both languages consists of lexical units that directly express approval and admiration. Peripheral elements, however, differ: English praise includes a wide range of neutral evaluative adjectives and idiomatic expressions, while Uzbek praise incorporates more culturally marked and emotionally expressive units [8], [9].

## Analysis and Discussion

Comparative findings reveal that, despite universal semantic features, praise expressions in English and Uzbek are shaped by distinct cultural and communicative norms [7], [10]. English praise focuses on individual achievement and personal qualities, reflecting an individual-oriented evaluative model. Uzbek praise often incorporates collective, moral, and social values, extending evaluation beyond the individual to family background and ethical behavior [8], [11]. Differences in emotional intensity and pragmatic orientation make Uzbek praise more emotionally charged and socially embedded. The functional semantic field approach effectively explains these distinctions by highlighting the interaction between semantic meaning and cultural context [12].

## Conclusion

This study confirms that praise expressions in English and Uzbek constitute coherent functional semantic fields with identifiable core and peripheral components [5], [6]. While both languages share the fundamental semantic function of positive evaluation, they differ significantly in cultural motivation, semantic emphasis, and functional realization. These differences underline the importance of integrating semantic and cultural perspectives in contrastive linguistic research. The results have practical implications for translation practice, language teaching, and further investigation of evaluative language across languages.

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