



## **SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF TWO CULTURES: UZBEK AND ENGLISH CULTURE**

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### **Abstract**

This paper compares language, culture, and social norms in English and Uzbek contexts. It examines how linguistic diversity shapes societal interactions, emphasizing key norms like respect for elders in Uzbekistan and queuing in England. Both cultures show how language reflects social identity through dialects and accents. This analysis reveals shared values amidst cultural diversity.

### **Keywords**

Language, culture, social norms, English, Uzbek, linguistic diversity, societal interactions, respect for elders, queuing, dialects, accents, social identity, comparative analysis.

Undoubtedly, phenomena such as language and culture are greatly affected.

However, it follows that this relationship is not as simple as it seems first glance. The points of contact between language and culture are: firstly, both language and culture are forms of consciousness that reflect human worldview, secondly, they exist in close interaction. Thirdly, the subject of these phenomena is always a person (individual) or society (society). Fourthly, the characteristic features of a gaze are glances to normativity and historicism. And fifthly, both phenomena, on the one hand, are constantly changing, on the other – focus on stability, stability has been achieved.<sup>1</sup>

The linguistic landscapes of English and Uzbek cultures are nuanced and shaped by a variety of factors. In English culture, the language itself is foundational, playing a central role in shaping communication, literature, and societal interactions. The variants of British English and American English further contribute to linguistic diversity, showcasing regional nuances.

In Uzbek culture, the linguistic landscape is characterized by the official use of the Uzbek language in Uzbekistan, complemented by the widespread use of Russian due to historical influences. This linguistic blend reflects a unique combination of Turkic and Russian elements, enriching the vocabulary with diverse linguistic influences.

Religiously and culturally, English language use is permeated by Christian terms and expressions, with the lexicon reflecting the diversity of religious denominations and secular language. Conversely, in Uzbek culture, the linguistic landscape is enriched by Islamic influences, incorporating vocabulary related to Sunni Islam. Traditional expressions and proverbs often draw upon historical and cultural contexts, adding depth to the linguistic tapestry.

Culinary lexicons in both cultures mirror their distinct culinary traditions. English culinary terms such as "scone," "pudding," and "crumpet" reflect a diverse culinary landscape influenced by global cuisines.

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In Uzbek culture, culinary terms like "plov" (pilaf), "shashlik" (kebabs), and "somsa" (pastries) highlight the Central Asian culinary traditions, with a rich vocabulary extending to discussions of traditional spices and flavors.

Social norms and politeness markers contribute significantly to the linguistic aspects of both cultures. In English culture, the use of politeness markers like "please" and "thank you," along with formal language and titles in specific contexts, underscores social norms. In Uzbek culture, expressions related to hospitality and respectful forms of address are deeply embedded in the language, reflecting cultural values and emphasizing hierarchy and age.

There can be listed lots of examples of social norms and politeness markers in Uzbekistan and England. At first, let's analyze Uzbek social norms.

In Uzbekistan, social norms and politeness markers are influenced by cultural traditions and values. Here are some examples:

**Respect for Elders:** Traditional Uzbek culture places a strong emphasis on respecting elders. Younger individuals are expected to show deference and use polite forms of address when interacting with older generations.

**Hospitality:** Hospitality is a significant aspect of Uzbek culture. Offering guests tea, sweets, or a meal is a common practice, and guests are expected to accept offerings with gratitude.

**Greetings and Handshakes:** Greetings are an important social norm. Handshakes are commonly used, and it's polite to inquire about the well-being of the other person and their family before engaging in other conversation.

**Removing Shoes Indoors:** It is customary to remove shoes when entering someone's home. This practice is a sign of respect for the cleanliness of the household.

**Politeness Titles:** Politeness markers often include the use of titles and honorifics. People may use titles like "Aka" (elder brother) or "Opa" (elder sister) to address someone respectfully.

**Offering and Receiving Gifts:** Giving and receiving gifts is a common way to express politeness and goodwill. When presenting a gift, it is customary to downplay its importance to show humility.

**Expressing Gratitude:** Like in many cultures, expressing gratitude is important. Phrases like "Rahmat" (thank you) and "Tashakkur bildiraman" (I express my gratitude) are commonly used.

**Observing Cultural and Religious Traditions:** Respecting cultural and religious traditions is a norm in Uzbekistan. For example, during Ramadan, it's considerate to avoid eating or drinking in public during daylight hours.

**Respect for Personal Space:** While there is a warmth in social interactions, respecting personal space is important. People generally maintain a comfortable distance during conversations.

Similarly, the norms from English point of view are these:

**Queuing (Standing in Line):** One prominent social norm in England is queuing or standing in line. People typically wait their turn in an orderly fashion, whether it's at a bus stop, in a store, or even at an event.

**"Please" and "Thank You":** Politeness markers include the frequent use of "please" when making requests and "thank you" to express gratitude. These expressions of politeness are ingrained in everyday conversations.

**Apologizing (Even Unnecessarily):** Apologizing is a common politeness marker, and sometimes apologies are made even for things beyond one's control. For example, saying "sorry" if someone accidentally bumps into you.

**Respecting Personal Space:** There is an unspoken norm about respecting personal space. Britons generally maintain a certain distance during conversations to avoid making others feel uncomfortable.

**Tea Etiquette:** In England, tea is a significant cultural element. When offering tea, there's often a politeness associated with asking if someone would like a cup and ensuring that they have everything they need.

**Waiting for Others Before Eating:** It's common for people to wait until everyone at the table has been served before beginning to eat. This reflects a consideration for others and is seen as polite.

**Greetings and Small Talk:** Politeness often extends to greetings and small talk. People may exchange pleasantries even with strangers in certain situations, such as waiting for public transportation.

Simultaneous interpretation involves translating spoken words from one language to another in real-time. When dealing with social norms and politeness markers, interpreters must consider various cultural and linguistic factors to convey the intended meaning accurately.

The historical and cultural lexicons further distinguish the linguistic landscapes. In English, terms related to historical periods like "Tudor," "Victorian," and "Elizabethan" contribute to a rich lexicon, alongside literary references such as Shakespearean phrases. In Uzbek, the legacy of the Silk Road is evident in terms related to trade and cultural exchange, and linguistic expressions commemorate historical figures and events.

Clothing terminology provides another lens through which linguistic distinctions can be observed. In English, Western-style clothing terms like "blouse," "trousers," and "sweater" are commonplace, with fashion-related vocabulary evolving rapidly. In Uzbek, traditional clothing terms such as "chapan" and "tubeteika" denote specific garments with cultural significance, and occasional use of traditional attire is reflected in language associated with ceremonial events.

Both cultures experience the impact of globalization on their linguistic landscapes. The borrowing of international terms and phrases, coupled with technological advancements, introduces new vocabulary and expressions. In essence, the lexicon of each culture serves as a linguistic tapestry, weaving together the threads of cultural identity, historical narratives, and contemporary influences. Divergent as they may seem, the cultures of England and Uzbekistan share a surprising array of commonalities that bridge geographical and historical gaps. This exploration seeks to uncover the threads that weave these two cultures together, revealing shared values, experiences, and global influences that transcend their unique identities. From the globalizing impact of modernity to shared educational values and cultural celebrations, the following analysis sheds light on the uncharted territories of similarity that coexist within the tapestry of English and Uzbek cultures.

#### Dialects, Accents, and Regional Variations:

Uzbekistan, a country with a diverse cultural heritage, exhibits a myriad of linguistic nuances across its regions. The Uzbek language, belonging to the Turkic language family, is spoken in various dialects reflecting the historical and geographical intricacies of the country. The Fergana Valley, for instance, is known for its unique dialect, distinct from the Karakalpakstan or Khorezm regions. Accents and regional variations contribute to a linguistic mosaic that underscores the rich cultural diversity within Uzbekistan.

#### Influence of Language on Social Identity:

Language in Uzbekistan serves as a potent marker of social identity, influencing individuals' self-perception and how they are perceived by others. The choice of dialect often aligns with one's geographical origin, shaping a sense of belonging and shared history. Moreover, linguistic variations can denote social strata, with urban and rural distinctions, creating layers of identity within the broader cultural framework.

#### Dialects, Accents, and Regional Variations:

England, a country with a rich linguistic history, is marked by a multitude of dialects, accents, and regional variations. From the Received Pronunciation (RP) associated with the South of England to the distinct accents of the North, language reflects the geographical and historical complexities of the nation. Urban centers like London exhibit linguistic diversity, with multicultural influences shaping local dialects.

In England, language serves as a dynamic social identifier, transcending regional boundaries. Accents can convey not only one's place of origin but also socio-economic background and educational attainment. The linguistic landscape is continually evolving, with influences from migration patterns, globalization, and social mobility contributing to a dynamic interplay of identities.

In both Uzbekistan and England, language stands as a multifaceted cultural identity marker. Dialects, accents, and regional variations not only distinguish geographical origins but also weave a narrative of historical and social intricacies. The influence of language on social identity is evident, shaping perceptions, interactions, and a sense of belonging within these diverse cultural contexts.

**Conclusion:**

In conclusion, the comparative examination of language, culture, and social norms in English and Uzbek contexts offers valuable insights into the broader dynamics of human communication and societal behavior. By scrutinizing the intricate interplay between linguistic diversity and societal interactions in these two distinct cultures, we gain a deeper understanding of how language shapes and reflects social norms, values, and identity.

Moreover, this comparative analysis underscores the universality of certain human experiences while also celebrating the diversity of cultural expressions. Recognizing both the shared values that transcend geographical boundaries and the unique nuances that define each culture enriches our appreciation for the complexity and richness of human interaction. By fostering dialogue and understanding across cultures, we can cultivate empathy, respect, and cooperation on a global scale. This broader perspective encourages us to continue exploring the multifaceted connections between language, culture, and society, ultimately contributing to a more interconnected and harmonious world.

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