

**PHRASIOLOGICAL UNITS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF UZBEK AND  
ENGLISH EXPRESSIONS IN GLOBAL COMMUNICATION***Pulatova Khilola G'ayrat kizi**Jizzakh State Pedagogical University, Uzbekistan*

**Abstract:** Phrasiological units, such as idioms, proverbs, and fixed expressions, are pivotal in conveying cultural and linguistic nuances across languages. This article examines the role of phrasiological units in global communication, with a specific focus on comparing Uzbek and English expressions. By analyzing their structural, semantic, and cultural dimensions, the study highlights how these units reflect societal values and historical contexts. The comparison reveals both universal themes and culture-specific differences, underscoring challenges in translation and cross-cultural understanding. Through this exploration, the article emphasizes the importance of phrasiological units in fostering intercultural dialogue and preserving linguistic heritage in a globalized world.

**Keywords:** Phrasiological units, idioms, proverbs, Uzbek language, English language, cultural identity, translation challenges, global communication, linguistic heritage

**Introduction**

Phrasiological units—fixed multi-word expressions like idioms, proverbs, and collocations—are more than linguistic constructs; they are cultural artifacts that encapsulate a community's history, values, and worldview. In global communication, these units play a critical role in conveying meaning and fostering cultural understanding. This article compares phrasiological units in Uzbek and English, two languages with distinct cultural and historical backgrounds, to explore their linguistic and cultural significance. By examining their similarities, differences, and translation challenges, the study highlights their role in bridging cultural gaps and enriching global discourse.

**The Nature of Phrasiological Units**

Phrasiological units are stable word combinations with meanings that extend beyond their literal components. As Cowie (1998) defines, they are "fixed expressions with wholly or partially figurative meanings" (p. 4). They include:

Idioms: Figurative expressions like the English "kick the bucket" (to die).

Proverbs: Wisdom-based sayings like the Uzbek "Bir qo'l bilan ikki tarvuz ko'tarilmas" (you can't carry two watermelons with one hand, meaning you can't do two tasks at once).

Collocations: Conventional pairings like the English "make a decision" or Uzbek "yurak sinmoq" (heart breaking, meaning to feel deep sorrow).

Phrasal Verbs: Verb-preposition combinations like the English "give up" (to surrender).

These units require cultural and contextual knowledge for accurate use, making them a rich field for comparative linguistic analysis (Moon, 1998).

**Comparing Uzbek and English Phrasiological Units**

Uzbek, a Turkic language spoken primarily in Uzbekistan, and English, a global lingua franca, offer a fascinating contrast in their phrasiological units due to their distinct cultural and historical contexts.

**Structural and Semantic Features**

**Uzbek Phrasiological Units:** Uzbek expressions often rely on vivid imagery and metaphors drawn from rural life and Islamic traditions. For example, "Qo'lida gul, ko'nglida mul" (a flower in hand, a thorn in heart) describes someone who appears kind but harbors malice. Structurally, Uzbek idioms are concise, often using parallel constructions or rhyming elements.

**English Phrasiological Units:** English idioms, such as "spill the beans" (to reveal a secret), frequently derive from historical practices or literature, with a tendency toward metaphorical abstraction. English units vary in length and complexity, often incorporating phrasal verbs or colloquialisms.

While both languages use figurative language, Uzbek expressions lean heavily on tangible, nature-based imagery, whereas English idioms are more varied, drawing from diverse sources like nautical terms ("under the weather") or folklore.

### **Cultural Reflections**

Phrasiological units mirror cultural values:

**Uzbek Culture:** The proverb "O'z uyim — o'z vatanim" (my home is my homeland) emphasizes family and community ties, reflecting Uzbekistan's collectivist society and nomadic heritage. Expressions often invoke hospitality, a core value, as in "Mehmon otangdan ulug'" (a guest is greater than your father).

**English Culture:** The idiom "every man for himself" reflects individualistic tendencies in Anglo-Saxon cultures, while proverbs like "a penny saved is a penny earned" highlight pragmatism and thrift. English expressions often draw from maritime or industrial history, such as "barking up the wrong tree" (from hunting).

Despite these differences, universal themes like love, wisdom, and resilience appear in both languages. For instance, the Uzbek "Sevgi ko'zda emas, yurakda" (love is not in the eyes but in the heart) parallels the English "love is blind," emphasizing the emotional depth of affection.

### **Translation Challenges**

Translating phrasiological units between Uzbek and English is fraught with difficulties due to cultural and linguistic disparities:

**Cultural Specificity:** The Uzbek idiom "Toshbaqa yo'lida o'ladi" (a turtle dies on its path, meaning persistence leads to success) lacks a direct English equivalent, requiring paraphrasing or substitution with a phrase like "slow and steady wins the race."

**Figurative Gaps:** The English "let the cat out of the bag" (to reveal a secret) has no feline imagery in Uzbek; a translator might use "sirni fosh qilmoq" (to expose a secret), losing the original metaphor.

**Structural Differences:** Uzbek's agglutinative nature contrasts with English's analytic structure, complicating direct translations. For example, the Uzbek "Ko'z bilan ko'r, yurak bilan sev" (see with eyes, love with heart) requires restructuring in English to maintain natural flow.

Baker (2011) suggests strategies like finding equivalent expressions or explanatory paraphrases, but these often dilute cultural nuances, highlighting the need for cultural competence in translation.

### **Phrasiological Units in Global Communication**

In a globalized world, phrasiological units facilitate and challenge intercultural communication. Social media and digital platforms have popularized English idioms like "go viral," while Uzbek expressions gain traction through diaspora communities and cultural

exchanges. For example, Uzbek proverbs are featured in language learning apps, promoting cultural awareness. However, misunderstandings arise when cultural contexts are overlooked, as when an English speaker misinterprets the Uzbek "Og'izda mosh, ko'ngilda tosh" (peas in the mouth, stones in the heart) as literal rather than deceitful intent. Comparative studies of phrasiological units, as Gibbs (2015) argues, enhance mutual understanding by revealing shared human experiences and unique cultural lenses.

### Conclusion

Phrasiological units in Uzbek and English are vibrant expressions of cultural identity and linguistic creativity. While Uzbek units draw from rural and collectivist traditions, English expressions reflect diverse historical and individualistic influences. Their comparison reveals universal themes and culture-specific nuances, underscoring their role in global communication. Despite translation challenges, these units enrich intercultural dialogue, preserving linguistic heritage and fostering mutual respect. As globalization continues, understanding and appreciating phrasiological units will remain essential for meaningful cross-cultural connections.

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