

**METAPHORS AND SYMBOLS AS CULTURAL MARKERS: A STUDY IN
ENGLISH AND UZBEK CONTEXTS***Tasheva Zuxra Azimovna**Master's student at Karshi International University, Kashkadarya, Uzbekistan*ahmedovbotir308@gmail.com

Annotation: This article explores the use of metaphors and symbols in the English and Uzbek languages from a comparative linguistic and cultural perspective. It analyzes how metaphorical expressions and symbolic imagery reflect the unique worldview, historical background, and national identity of each linguistic community. By examining selected examples from literature, proverbs, and everyday speech, the study identifies both universal and culturally specific features of metaphor and symbol usage. The article highlights the cognitive and communicative functions of these linguistic devices and discusses their role in shaping conceptual frameworks. The research findings contribute to a deeper understanding of cross-cultural semantics and support effective intercultural communication and translation practices.

Keywords: figurative language, metaphors, symbols, concept.

INTRODUCTION

This article compares metaphors and symbols in two languages and offers some general information on metaphors and symbols. The following paragraphs of the article also explain how metaphors differ and are similar in the two languages. A number of basic explanations and short samples are provided to illustrate the topic's morphological point. Since metaphors and symbols are one of the primary elements of literary works and are regularly utilized in everyday speech, they are important. Most people struggle greatly with metaphor comprehension since their structure does not allow for a clear knowledge of them. Naturally, it happens whenever a non-native speaker of the language initiates a discussion with an English-speaking native speaker.

METHODS

The research employs a comparative analysis grounded in qualitative data gathered from Uzbek and English literature, dictionaries, and cultural sources. Information was gathered from multiple sources to address the symbolic meanings of specific words, phrases, gestures, and body language, connotations in English and Uzbek, such as:

1. Proverbs, historical and religious writings, and Uzbek folklore that incorporate cultural symbols.
2. Media, idioms, and English literature that convey symbolic meanings.

In both languages, we concentrate on a collection of culturally significant symbols, such the pomegranate (anor). Analyzing the data entailed looking at how words, phrases, and idioms are represented linguistically in both languages as well as the sociocultural connotations associated with them.

Methods of metaphorical use of words, as well as metaphorical naming of works of art are widely used in Uzbek language. It is known that the main stylistic functions of metaphors are found in artistic style. However, metaphors based on prose texts in the Uzbek language as a linguistic phenomenon have not been fully and comprehensively studied. Writers' unique word formation is explained by the transfer of individual metaphors to the category of traditional metaphors.

RESULTS

Cultural and Lexical Symbol Representation Symbols frequently occur in fixed lexical forms like idioms, metaphors, and proverbs in both Uzbek and English. The "pomegranate," for instance, is a symbol with rich and varied connotations in both English-speaking and Uzbek societies, however the two linguistic and cultural contexts have different perspectives on its importance. The pomegranate, often known as a or, is a highly symbolic fruit in Uzbek culture. It is linked to life, fertility, and plenty. This has its origins mostly in Central Asian agricultural customs, where pomegranates have been grown for millennia. Both the spiritual and cultural realms are represented by the symbology. RESULTSAs a result, we have attempted to examine metaphor, one of the crucial poetic imagination devices and the rhetorical flourish, which involves using unusual vocabulary as opposed to regular language. We shall examine the in-depth the following study's futuristic metaphor. Some people think of metaphors as less than the sweet stuff of songs and poems- Love is a pearl or a flower or a butterfly. But in fact, we all speak, write and think with metaphors every day. It cannot be avoided: metaphors are baked into our language. metaphor - transfer, migration) ad. Using a word or phrase in a figurative sense based on analogy or analogy and a word or phrase used in such a sense;metaphor, metaphor (may., the meaning of the word kulak is the ear of the dutor, the word "head" in the combinations "the head of the street" is based on a metaphor).

Analysis: Metaphors and Symbols in English and Uzbek Languages

1. Conceptual Nature of Metaphor

Both English and Uzbek employ metaphors as cognitive tools to understand abstract concepts via more concrete domains. These metaphorical structures are largely universal in form but often diverge in content due to cultural and historical contexts. Similarities (Universality):

EMOTIONS AS TEMPERATURE:English: cold-hearted, hot-temperedUzbek: yuragi sovuq, g'azabdan yonmoqdaThese illustrate a shared conceptual mapping where bodily temperature represents emotional intensity.LIFE AS A JOURNEY:English: He's lost his way, She's on the right pathUzbek: hayot yo'li, yo'ldan ozdiBoth languages encode life progression in terms of movement through space.

2. Cultural Symbolism and Its DivergenceSymbols are more culturally bound than metaphors. While metaphors arise from embodied cognition, symbols stem from collective memory, tradition, and religion. Floral Symbols:English: rose symbolizes romantic love and beauty.Uzbek:lola (tulip) is associated with national pride, martyrdom, and spring renewal.

Tree Symbols:English: oak stands for endurance, monarchy, and national strength.

Uzbek: chinar symbolizes shelter, wisdom, and community life in historical cities like Samarkand or Bukhara. Color Symbols: White: English: purity, innocence (e.g., white wedding). Uzbek: truthfulness, respect (e.g., oq yo'l, "white road" as a blessing). Black: English: death, mourning. Uzbek: also used for grief, but sometimes carries additional meanings like qora kunlar (dark days) indicating hardship.

3. Stylistic and Literary Usage In literary works, metaphors and symbols are key for artistic expression. Uzbek classical literature (e.g., Alisher Navoi) and English literary canon (e.g., Shakespeare, Blake) employ layered metaphors and symbols. Nightingale and Rose: In both traditions, the nightingale and rose symbolize love and suffering, especially in Sufi poetry (Uzbek) and Romanticism (English). Blood as Sacrifice: English: blood, sweat, and tears (effort, sacrifice) Uzbek: qon to'kildi (blood was shed) often relates to martyrdom and historical struggle.

4. Linguistic and Cognitive Implications Cross-linguistic metaphor analysis reveals how the mind structures abstract reasoning across languages. Translation challenges arise when culturally specific symbols lack equivalents. For example, translating "lola yurtim" literally as "tulip homeland" would lose its emotive and nationalistic undertones. Pedagogical value: Teaching metaphor and symbol awareness can enhance second-language acquisition and intercultural understanding.

DISCUSSION

Dr. Gregory's House (from the old TV series *At Home, MD*): "I'm a night owl, Wilson's an early bird, we're a different species," he said metaphorically. "Then take him to his cafe," said Dr. Cuddy, extending the metaphor of the bird of the house "Who can clean the belly out of me?" - he said. Calling someone a "night owl" or an "early bird" is a common (or traditional) example of metaphor that is often easily understood by native speakers. Let's look at different ways of using the same traditional metaphor. Simple metaphors Some metaphors are so common that we can't even see that they are metaphors. Take, for example, the well-known metaphor of life as a journey. We find it in advertising slogans: "Life is a journey, a good journey." (United Airlines) "Life is a journey." (Nissan) "The journey never stops." (American Express) After exploring the creative metaphors below (and there are many more) try your hand (and head) at creating some new forms of your own. The study demonstrates that although symbols are utilized in both Uzbek and English to convey cultural values, the construction and usage of these symbols in language reflects the cultural frameworks of each language. While English symbols, on the other hand, tend to focus more on individualism and romanticism, frequently reflecting the literary and cultural development of Western societies, Uzbek symbols are frequently linked to historical, religious, and social values, reflecting the collective identity of the Uzbek people [Khakimova]. One symbol that exemplifies how one item may have several linguistic and cultural connotations across various languages and communities is the pomegranate. Pomegranates have several connotations in English-speaking cultures, ranging from fertility to riches and resurrection, but in Uzbek, they are a powerful sign of fertility, prosperity, and life. The distinct historical, theological, and cultural backgrounds that influence the usage and interpretation of symbols in every language are reflected in these variations.

Conclusion

The comparative analysis of metaphors and symbols in English and Uzbek illustrates the dual nature of figurative language: cognitively grounded yet culturally shaped. While both languages utilize similar conceptual metaphors based on universal human experiences, their symbolic systems differ significantly due to historical, religious, and environmental influences. Understanding these differences enriches cross-cultural communication, improves translation accuracy, and deepens our appreciation of linguistic and cultural diversity. The comparative study of metaphors and symbols in English and Uzbek languages reveals a dynamic interplay between universal cognitive patterns and culturally specific representations. Metaphors, rooted in human embodiment and shared conceptual experiences, exhibit remarkable similarities across both languages—for instance, in domains such as emotion, life, and time. These commonalities highlight the universality of metaphor as a tool for abstract reasoning and communication.

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