

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE RITUALS INHERENT IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH WEDDING CEREMONIES

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Annotation: This article is aimed at analyzing the rituals present in Uzbek and English wedding ceremonies and their cultural, historical and spiritual content. Wedding ceremonies of each people reflect the traditions and values of society. The wedding rituals of the Uzbek and English peoples are analyzed comparatively, revealing their historical roots and current significance. The article uses ethnographic research and scientific literature.

Keywords: Uzbek wedding ceremonies, chaqachak, sep, English wedding ceremonies, rituals, traditions, culture, sep, fata, comparative analysis.

Introduction

A wedding is one of the most important events in a person's life, and it is significant not only as an event that reflects the uniqueness of the personal, but also as a national culture. The wedding ceremonies of the Uzbek and English peoples are rich in many rituals and traditions, which are aimed at ensuring a happy life for the bride and groom, strengthening family unity. However, the meaning and place of use of rituals vary depending on the region. We can especially observe this in Uzbekistan. The use of rituals does not always lead to good consequences. Because some fanatics can interpret them in the wrong way. No matter what kind of rituals they are, it is important that they do not spoil the happiness of the bride and groom. This article will analyze the types of these rituals, their meaning and their place in modern life.

Literature review

In recent years, the traditions of different peoples related to wedding ceremonies, especially the irmi-sirim, have been studied in many scientific studies from the point of view of anthropology and cultural studies.

In the context of Uzbekistan, extensive research has been conducted by folklorists and ethnologists on wedding ceremonies and the irmi inherent in them. For example, A. Kadirova paid attention to how the ancient beliefs of the Uzbek people are preserved in wedding ceremonies. In addition, B. Tashpulatov's articles analyzed the influence of irmi on the consciousness of young people and their echo in modern society.

Research on English wedding ceremonies has been conducted mainly within the framework of cultural anthropology, social psychology and historical analysis. For example, Deborah Chambers evaluates traditional irmi at English weddings from a sociological approach. There

are also studies by David Cannadine and Simon R on the historical roots of English customs and beliefs.

At the same time, there are almost no special studies comparing English and Uzbek weddings or analyzing the similarities and differences between them. This further increases the relevance of studying this topic. Our study aims to provide a comparative analysis of weddings in English and Uzbek weddings in terms of their origin, function, and place in modern society, and serves to fill the existing scientific gap.

When planning a wedding, we are told that there are so many things we “have to” do. But in reality, this day belongs to the bride and groom. We don’t think that it is necessary to wear white, choose bridesmaids, or cut the high four at the ceremony. However, it is worth considering some ancient wedding traditions and determining how they are suitable for us. (1)

Weddings have a long history, and different cultures, religions, regions, and couples have added their own customs to these events. Therefore, it is not surprising that wedding traditions and customs have emerged. However, what surprises us is that many of them are still practiced today.

Whether or not to follow these customs and traditions is entirely up to us. But some are worth considering. Among the beautiful, strange, and even a little scary-looking wedding rings, I will explain the most popular ones in an understandable way for you, and also give you the history of their origin.

Uzbek wedding rituals

The rich historical and cultural heritage of the Uzbek people is reflected in wedding ceremonies. The main wedding rituals:

1. Choosing a special date for the wedding day. The tradition of choosing “good days” is important for Uzbeks. This tradition, based on the lunar calendar or religious beliefs, is aimed at bringing family happiness and blessings. This can also be observed during the Timurid era. However, very few people use this ritual now, and it can be said that over time it has lost its power.
2. Breaking bread and eating honey. The bride and groom breaking bread together means that they will live in harmony throughout their lives. In some regions, honey is given to the newlyweds, which is a symbol of wishing them a sweet life (2).
3. Sugar-sprinkling and the ceremony of chaqachak. When the bride arrives at her new home, flour, sugar, and sweets are sprinkled on her. This is an expression of a wish for abundance and prosperity for the new family. Also, good intentions are expressed to the bride and groom through the ceremony of chaqachaq (prayer with a song) (3).
4. Irim related to the bed and dowry. There is a belief that the bride's dowry should not be shown to strangers before the ceremony, otherwise the evil eye may strike (4).
5. Gifts from the groom and the ceremony of inviting neighbors. Before the wedding, the groom sends gifts to the bride's family, which is done to ensure warm relations between the new family. In some regions, not only the groom, but also the bride's family members pay tribute to the groom. This is especially common in the valleys.

English wedding rituals:

The English approach wedding ceremonies with their own symbolic rituals: 1. “Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue” We have all heard this rhyme when it comes to weddings: “something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue” — but what does it really mean? “Something old” — this represents the bride’s past. “Something new” — symbolizes the happy future of the couple. “Something borrowed” — meaning that something is taken from a happily married person, so that his happiness will also be transferred to the bride’s life. “Something blue” — is a symbol of loyalty and love. This ancient ritual is considered necessary for the bride to live a happy life. (5). 2. The bride’s flower throwing. At the end of the ceremony, the bride throws the flower behind her back. There is a belief that the woman who catches it will get married in the near future (6). This custom has now spread from the West to the East. 3. A special step for the wedding night. The groom carries the bride into the new house without setting foot on it. This custom appeared in Europe in the Middle Ages. In those days, people believed that the bride was more susceptible to evil spirits through her feet. Therefore, so that evil spirits would not follow them into the house, the groom carried the bride and brought her into their new home. (7). 4. The importance of soup and eggs. In some English regions, breaking eggs and spilling soup before the wedding is considered a symbol of warding off evil (8). 5. The marriage ceremony. Since the English are Christian, they get married in church with the help of a priest. During this ceremony, passages from the Bible are read, and the couple takes their vows: they promise to be faithful to each other, love each other, and be together for life. 6. The bride wears a white veil. This custom dates back to ancient Rome. The bride, fearing evil spirits who might envy her happiness, would cover her face with a veil (fata) as she walked down the aisle. This was to conceal her identity and prevent the spirits from harming her. The Holmewood community estimates that about 70% of English people are veiled. (10)

Similarities

1. Good intentions: In both cultures, wedding ceremonies are performed to ensure the happiness of the bride and groom and the harmony of the family. 2. Protective symbols: The British consider the veil, and the Uzbeks consider the passage over the bonfire as a symbol of protection. Both of these are certainly related to the distant past and the religious views prevalent in the regions. 3. Elements of wishing for happiness: In both ceremonies, sweets and flowers indicate good intentions. That is, they are considered to serve the sweet and beautiful course of the bride and groom's life path. 4. Marriage: In both cultures, the bride and groom are married with the help of a priest in the British, and a mullah in the Uzbeks. Differences 1. Duration of ceremonies: While Uzbek weddings often last several days, English weddings are relatively short. 2. Public participation: Uzbek weddings are held with a large public participation, while English weddings are held in the circle of family and close friends. 3. Modernization of traditions: In the English, traditions are increasingly being combined with modern elements, while in the Uzbeks, traditions have largely been preserved.

Uzbek wedding rituals are a practically unstudied topic. Not only wedding rituals, but also rituals are a painful topic for many. Because they directly involve religion and ancient culture. According to Akrom Achilov, such ethnographic materials can only be collected on the basis of interviews with the adult population and personal observations. The scientific works of specialists devoted to the issues of family and marriage, which are an important part of spiritual culture, which are among the theoretical problems of ethnography, and the scientific works of A.

Doniyorov, K. Kubakov, S. Schreiber, Kh. Ismailov, I. Jabborov, and A. Ashirov helped determine the methodological foundations of the article.

Conclusion

Wedding rituals of the Uzbek and English peoples reflect cultural identity. These superstitions testify to the richness of national values and traditions. In addition, superstitions are criticized by some people, while others support them. The wedding rituals of both peoples serve happiness and family unity, but they are formed in accordance with the lifestyle and culture of the people. To believe in superstitions or not is up to everyone. Because no one has ever checked whether they are true or false, but it is certainly possible that there is some connection. Wedding rituals are an important social phenomenon that embodies the cultural heritage, religious beliefs and ancient views of each people. They have been formed over the centuries and passed down from generation to generation. Superstitions often give the wedding ceremony a mysterious, symbolic and spiritual meaning. In most cases, these rituals are seen as an expression of hope and faith in ensuring a happy and harmonious life for the bride and groom. They also serve to strengthen traditional values in society, maintain connections between generations, and facilitate the integration of the new family into society. Although some rituals have taken on a modern form in modern times, their main idea - the desire to bring lightness, blessings, and positive energy into the marriage - still remains. Therefore, rituals are an integral, symbolic, and culturally enriching part of the wedding ceremony. After all, the basis of the rituals associated with the wedding should certainly serve to ensure a happy life for the bride and groom.

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