

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PROPER NAMES USED IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK PAREMIOLOGICAL UNITS

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Abstract. *This article provides a comparative analysis of the linguistic and cultural characteristics of proper names occurring in English and Uzbek paremiological units. During the research, the semantic functions of anthroponyms, toponyms, and religious names used in proverbs and sayings are examined, and their role in reflecting national culture and the people's worldview is highlighted. The analysis reveals that proper names in both languages not only perform a naming function but also serve as important means of transmitting spiritual values, historical memory, and cultural experience from one generation to another.*

Keywords: *paremiology, proverb, saying, proper name, anthroponym, toponym, comparative linguistics, English language, Uzbek language.*

Introduction

Language is one of the most important means of reflecting a nation's history, culture, identity, and collective worldview. Over centuries, each society has developed a rich store of experience, traditions, moral values, and social norms, which are preserved and transmitted through proverbs and sayings. These paremiological units represent concentrated forms of folk wisdom, characterized by brevity, imagery, and semantic depth. They are not only linguistic expressions but also cultural artifacts that encode the mentality and historical experience of a people. In this context, the proper names used in proverbs are of particular interest, as they often extend beyond their literal referential function and acquire symbolic, metaphorical, or evaluative meanings within specific cultural contexts. Proper names in paremiological units frequently undergo semantic transformation, becoming markers of generalized human traits, social roles, or culturally significant archetypes. In both English and Uzbek proverb traditions, such names may refer to historical figures, religious personalities, or fictional characters, and their usage often reflects culturally specific associations and value judgments. A comparative study of these elements allows for a deeper understanding of how different linguistic



communities conceptualize identity, morality, and social behavior through language. Therefore, analyzing proper names in English and Uzbek proverbs is essential for revealing the interaction between language, culture, and cognition, as well as for identifying both universal and culture-specific patterns in proverbial thinking.

The Concept of Paremiology and Proper Names

Paremiology is a branch of linguistics that studies proverbs, sayings, and aphoristic expressions. Paremiological units are formed as generalized representations of people's thinking and life experiences. Proper names are linguistic units used to identify a person, place, historical event, or another unique object. The study of proper names in linguistics is carried out by onomastics.

The main types of proper names are as follows:

- Anthroponyms (personal names);
- Toponyms (place names);
- Theonyms (religious names);
- Ethnonyms (names of peoples and nations).

Within paremiological units, these names often acquire symbolic meanings and become tools for expressing particular qualities or characteristics.

Proper Names in English Paremiological Units

Proper names are widely used in English proverbs and sayings. Most of them originate from the Bible, history, and folklore. For example, in the expression “Doubting Thomas,” the name Thomas is used as a symbol of a person who is skeptical and does not easily believe everything. This name is associated with the Apostle Thomas in the Bible and later acquired a generalized meaning. Another famous expression is “Every Jack has his Jill.” In this proverb, the names Jack and Jill represent ordinary men and women. The meaning of the proverb is that every person eventually finds a suitable partner. The expression “Tom, Dick and Harry” is used to refer to ordinary people or members of the general public. Here, the three names collectively symbolize common people.

In English, the use of proper names performs the following functions:

- Preserving historical memory;
- Reflecting cultural values;
- Expressing particular character traits;
- Increasing the expressiveness of speech.

Furthermore, names associated with biblical figures such as Solomon, Job, and Thomas are actively used as symbols of wisdom, patience, and doubt.

Proper Names in Uzbek Paremiological Units

Although proper names occur less frequently in Uzbek folk proverbs than in English, their cultural significance is considerable. These names are mainly associated with religious sources, historical figures, and folk epics. For example, the expression “Musu alayhissalomning hassasi emas” is used to refer to something that is not miraculous. Here, the name Musu (Moses) appears as a symbol of divine power and miracles. In Uzbek folklore, the character Alpomish is regarded as a symbol of courage, bravery, and patriotism. Therefore, expressions associated with the name Alpomish convey ideas of heroism and perseverance. In addition, the names of historical figures such as Amir Temur, Alisher Navoi, and Ahmad Yassaviy are also used in public discourse as symbols of wisdom, justice, and enlightenment.

In Uzbek paremiological units, proper names perform the following functions:

- Expressing national values;
- Providing moral education;
- Preserving historical heritage;
- Conveying religious and spiritual concepts.

Comparative Analysis of Proper Names in English and Uzbek

Proper names occupy an important place in the paremiological systems of both languages. Their main similarity is that names acquire symbolic meanings in addition to their direct meanings. For example, the English name Thomas symbolizes doubt, while Solomon symbolizes wisdom; similarly, the Uzbek name Musu symbolizes miracles, and Alpomish symbolizes heroism.

Similarities:

- In both languages, proper names perform symbolic functions;
- They preserve historical and cultural memory;
- They promote moral values;
- They reflect the worldview of the people.

Differences:

- In English, names associated with the Bible predominate;
- In Uzbek, names related to Islamic and folkloric sources occur more frequently;

- Ordinary personal names are widely used in English proverbs;
- Historical and legendary heroes' names are more actively used in Uzbek proverbs.

This situation has developed according to the historical development and cultural environment of each nation.

Linguocultural Significance of Proper Names

Proper names in paremiological units serve as a means of preserving the cultural code of a nation. Through them, information about a particular era, historical event, or famous person is transmitted to future generations. In addition, proper names enhance the figurative nature of language. Using a symbolic name instead of expressing an ordinary concept increases the impact of speech. As a result, proverbs and sayings remain in the people's memory for a long time. From a linguocultural perspective, proper names also play an important role in shaping national identity. They are an integral part of a nation's historical memory and spiritual heritage.

Conclusion

The results of the study demonstrate that proper names play significant semantic and cultural roles in both English and Uzbek paremiological units. They function not merely as linguistic labels for individuals or objects, but as culturally loaded elements that reflect a nation's historical memory, spiritual values, and worldview. Through their usage in proverbs, proper names often gain generalized meanings, symbolizing particular human qualities, social behaviors, or moral judgments, thereby enriching the expressive capacity of paremiological discourse. A comparative analysis shows that in English paremiological units, proper names are predominantly associated with biblical figures, historical personalities, and traditional folk characters, which reflects the strong influence of religious and historical narratives on English linguistic culture. In contrast, Uzbek paremiological units more frequently incorporate names derived from Islamic traditions, national folklore, and heroic figures, highlighting the importance of religious heritage and national identity in Uzbek cultural consciousness. Despite these differences, in both languages proper names serve as effective instruments for transmitting folk wisdom, preserving cultural memory, and passing down moral and ethical values from one generation to the next.

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