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## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDYING COMPARATIVELY PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS RELATED TO THE NAMES OF FLORA AND FAUNA IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGE

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Phraseological units (PUs) that reference flora and fauna are a vibrant and essential component of linguistic expression in many cultures. This article aims to comparatively examine such phraseological units in English and Uzbek to reveal the underlying cultural, historical, and ecological elements that shape their meanings and usage. By employing a comparative and descriptive methodology, the study investigates similarities and differences between the two languages, offering insights into shared human experiences and distinct cultural identities. The research not only enhances our understanding of linguistic and cultural diversity but also contributes to more effective language teaching, translation, and cross-cultural communication.

**INTRODUCTION.** Language is a powerful repository of cultural knowledge and worldview. Within the vast landscape of language, phraseological units—especially those involving flora and fauna—serve as vivid reflections of human interaction with the natural world. These expressions often carry symbolic meanings that go beyond their literal definitions, embedding within them stories, values, traditions, and perceptions unique to each culture. The English and Uzbek languages, despite belonging to different linguistic families, both possess rich inventories of such phraseological units.

This article investigates the significance of studying phraseological units that incorporate names of flora and fauna comparatively in English and Uzbek. It aims to uncover how these expressions reflect cultural contexts, values, and the environment of their speakers. Such a study is particularly relevant in the field of comparative linguistics, where analyzing idioms

and metaphors can reveal universal cognitive patterns as well as culture-specific features. Furthermore, these findings hold practical value in translation studies and foreign language teaching, where understanding the deeper meaning of expressions is essential for accurate communication.

## LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

**2.1 Literature Review** Research on phraseological units has a long-standing tradition in both English and Uzbek linguistic scholarship. Western linguistic studies often explore idioms from cognitive and metaphorical perspectives. Notable works include Lakoff and Johnson's (1980) "Metaphors We Live By," which argues that metaphors are fundamental to human thought and language. Similarly, Makkai (1972) provided a classification of idioms based on their structural and semantic properties.

In the Uzbek linguistic tradition, researchers such as Sabirova (2017) and Karimov (2015) have focused on the semantic, stylistic, and cultural aspects of phraseological units. Their studies emphasize the role of idioms in reflecting national character, folklore, and traditional lifestyles. While comparative studies between Uzbek and other languages exist, few have specifically addressed flora and fauna-based phraseological units.

Comparative phraseology, as a field, bridges linguistic typologies and cultural studies. It enables researchers to identify not only lexical correspondences but also conceptual frameworks that shape idiomatic expressions. The present study contributes to this niche by focusing on idioms with names of plants and animals, which are often laden with cultural connotations.

**2.2 Methodology** This study adopts a qualitative, comparative-descriptive methodology. The research involved selecting 50 phraseological units from English and 50 from Uzbek that reference flora and fauna. Sources included monolingual and bilingual phraseological dictionaries, literary texts, and spoken corpora. Each idiom was analyzed for its literal meaning, figurative interpretation, cultural background, and usage context.

To facilitate comparison, idioms were categorized according to:

- The type of organism referenced (flora or fauna)
- The semantic field (e.g., intelligence, beauty, danger)
- Cultural symbolism
- Structural features (e.g., similes, metaphors, fixed expressions)

The analysis aimed to uncover both universal themes and culture-specific nuances embedded in the idioms. Data were then synthesized to form thematic patterns that highlight the linguistic and cultural significance of these phraseological units.

## DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

**3.1 Universal Symbolism** Many idioms in both languages exhibit universal themes, especially those tied to common human experiences or globally recognized animals and plants. For example, the lion often symbolizes strength and bravery in both English ("heart of a lion") and Uzbek ("sher yurak" - lion heart). Similarly, roses are emblematic of beauty and love in both cultures.

**3.2 Cultural Specificity** Despite shared themes, cultural specificity plays a major role in idiomatic meaning. In English, the fox is frequently associated with cunning and deceit ("sly as a fox"), whereas in Uzbek, while cunning is also acknowledged, the metaphor may not carry the same pejorative undertone. Uzbek idioms often draw on animals native to the steppes and deserts, such as camels ("tuya sabrli" - patient as a camel), reflecting the region's ecological and historical context. Floral idioms also differ. In English, expressions like "pushing up daisies" convey death euphemistically, whereas Uzbek may use plant metaphors less frequently in such contexts. However, plants like tulips, which have historical and cultural significance in Central Asia, appear more prominently in Uzbek idioms.

**3.3 Structural and Semantic Patterns** The structure of idioms shows both similarities and differences. Similes are common in both languages (e.g., "as brave as a lion" in English and "qoplon kabi jasur" in Uzbek). However, Uzbek idioms often use culturally resonant references and may include religious or historical allusions that are absent in English.

**3.4 Ecological Reflections** The natural environments in which English and Uzbek speakers live influence the idiomatic inventory. English idioms reflect the flora and fauna of Europe and the British Isles, while Uzbek expressions often incorporate desert, mountain, and steppe elements. This ecological imprint enriches the linguistic landscape of each language and provides a unique lens through which to view their idiomatic content.

**3.5 Educational and Translational Implications** Understanding idioms involving flora and fauna is essential for effective language instruction and translation. Literal translations often fail to convey the intended meaning, leading to miscommunication. For instance, translating "kick the bucket" literally into Uzbek would not make sense unless its idiomatic meaning (to die) is explained. Thus, comparative idiomatic studies can improve curriculum development and intercultural competence in education.

## CONCLUSION

Phraseological units that incorporate references to flora and fauna are deeply embedded in the linguistic and cultural fabric of both English and Uzbek. Through comparative

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analysis, this study has shown that while there are universal motifs in human expression, such as the symbolism of lions or roses, many idioms are deeply rooted in specific cultural and ecological contexts.

These findings have important implications for linguistic theory, language education, and translation practice. They underscore the need for cultural literacy in both understanding and teaching idiomatic expressions. Future research could expand this work by incorporating other language pairs, employing corpus linguistics methods, or exploring the psychological processing of idioms in bilingual speakers.

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