

LINGUO-CULTURAL REPRESENTATION OF “HOME” IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK PROVERBS

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ARTICLE INFORMATION

ABSTRACT:

ARTICLE HISTORY:

Received:19.04.2026

Revised: 20.04.2026

Accepted:21.04.2026

The concept of home is a fundamental one in the lives of people, and it often comes to denote such vital values as comfort, individuality, cultural values, and social identity. This article examines the concept of home, how it is represented in English and Uzbek proverbs from a cultural perspective.

KEYWORDS:

proverbs, cultural sense, individual comfort, emotional belonging

Proverbs are sayings believed to contain traditional ideas or prevailing beliefs and cultural norms. Proverbs are normally metaphorical statements. This makes them interesting pieces of culture. Proverbs are passed down to future generations. They assist individuals in understanding cultural norms in the community.

The concept of home in the context of proverbs has rarely been analyzed as a separate theme in modern comparative studies. However, studies on the themes of families, cultural identities, and traditional values are indicative of the impact of language and cultural paradigms on the notion of home in various language groups. Proverbs on families and communities often make implicit references to the notion of home. This concept can be approached in terms of its implications in proper-life sayings such as proverbs. In this regard,

as proper-life sayings, proverbs often carry great emotional and cultural implications with regard to home.²⁹ Proverbs are short, fixed expressions that convey traditional wisdom, moral lessons, and cultural values through metaphorical language.³⁰

In a linguistic and cultural sense, home does not merely refer to a physical dwelling, but also to emotional attachment, family relations, security, and cultural norms.³¹

English proverbs reflect values such as safety, comfort, and moral lessons associated with home life:

“Home is where the heart is.”

Meaning: Home feels like a place where you emotionally connect with it, not just where you are physically comfortable.

Explanation: This is the psychological component of home. Being home means belonging, love, and identity more than the actual house.

The significance of this proverb is that emotions have to be given importance over physical composition. Home is not just something that is tangible.³²

“East or West, home is best.”

Meaning: However, no matter where you may go, the best place is at home.

Explanation: Despite visiting beautiful spots, people always feel more at home in their own environment.

This shows that regardless of worldly travels, people deeply value their own home as the most comfortable place.³³

“Charity Begins at Home”.

Meaning: First, one's own family and responsibilities need to be taken care of before helping others.

Explanation: This proverb relates morality with home. This proverb highlights the fact that home is a place where a person's primary responsibility is located.

English domestic sayings tend to stress personal comfort and satisfaction.

Proverbs used by the Uzbeks describe family values, etiquettes, and respect for elders at home:

“Uy — tinchlik, dalda bo‘lsa, doston bo‘ladi.”

²⁹ Mieder, W. (2004). *A Cultural History of Proverbs in English*. Bloomsbury Academic. –P 45

³⁰ Mieder, W. (1993). *Proverbs Are Never Out of Season: Popular Wisdom in the Modern Age*. Oxford University Press. –P 22

³¹ Tuan, Y.-F. (1977). *Space and Place: The Perspective of Experience*. University of Minnesota Press. –P 5

³² Bronowski, J. (2010). *The Ascent of Man*. Little, Brown and Company. –P 89

³³ Yule, G. (2010). *The Study of Language*. Cambridge University Press. –P 137

This implies, therefore, that peace and harmony at home signify a meaningful life, implying family well-being more than personal comfort.

“Otangning uyi — boshpanang, onangning uyi — ishonching.”

This proverb establishes a link between home and faithfulness in support from parents, emphasizing the respect for elderly members of the family. In Uzbek culture, home is also a socio-moral space where family and community values are cultivated.³⁴

English proverbs often focus on individuality and emotional well-being (home as a psychological space).³⁵(Yule, 2010). In contrast, Uzbek proverbs highlight family cohesion, social responsibilities, and respect for elders, which are core to Uzbek culture.

Linguistic Expression. Linguistically, both sets of proverbs use metaphor and symbolic language. However, English idiomatic expressions often emphasize internal feelings, whereas Uzbek proverbs frequently reference family roles and societal values tied to home.

Representation of Home

Aspect	English proverbs	Uzbek proverbs
Emotional focus	Heart, personal comfort	Family harmony and respect
Cultural value	Individualism, personal identity	Collectivism, social duty
Language use	Metaphorical, universal	Metaphorical, culturally rooted

The way home is described in proverbs may be a reflection of the way the population thinks generally with regard to individualism and collectivism. English proverbs may illustrate a psychological dimension of home, while Uzbek proverbs may illustrate a social dimension of home. These distinctions will enable English and Uzbek students not only to master the languages but also to benefit from the cultural norms conveyed through proverbs and wisdom. Proverbs related to the community and the concept of mutual help portray the concept of the home as a place of mutual use rather than as the private property of the individual alone. Even though research has often highlighted proverbs that directly refer to the concept of “home,” the comparison of other proverbs related to the concept of the family has highlighted the role of the concept of the home in the proverbs of the Uzbeks.

Linguo-Cultural Analysis: A Comparison of Mentalities

³⁴ Karimov, S. (2015). Uzbek Proverbs and Cultural Values. Tashkent University Press. -P 76

³⁵ Yule, G. (2010). The Study of Language. Cambridge University Press. -P 140

Studies of proverbs by researchers have highlighted the following differences between the proverbs of the English and the Uzbeks:

- Proverbs of the English refer to individualistic values and abstract concepts such as emotions and choice.
- Proverbs of the Uzbeks refer to collectivist values such as the role of the family and the importance of social norms.

The linguo-cultural analysis of the English and Uzbek proverbs on the theme of “home” shows that there are differences in the worldviews. Indeed, the importance of “home” is acknowledged in both language traditions; however, there are differences in the expressions of such values. “Home” in English is defined in terms of emotional affinity and self-identity, whereas “home” in Uzbek is defined in terms of social honor, respect, and families. The study of proverbs is profitable in the theory of cross-cultural communication.

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