

**PROVERBS ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY REFLECT WHO WE ARE****Choriyeva Dildora Muxtor kizi**4th year student of Termiz State Pedagogical Institute  
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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19950383>**Annotation**

This article explores the importance of proverbs as reflections of human identity, culture, and values. It discusses how proverbs carry collective wisdom, preserve traditions, and influence communication. The paper also highlights the role of proverbs in understanding cultural similarities and differences. Through examples from different languages, the study shows that proverbs are essential tools for expressing moral lessons and social norms.

**Keywords**

Proverbs, culture, identity, wisdom, language, values, tradition, communication, society, folklore

**Annotatsiya**

Ushbu maqolada maqollarning inson o'zligi, madaniyati va qadriyatlarini aks ettiruvchi muhim vosita sifatidagi o'рни yoritiladi. Unda maqollarning xalq donishmandligini saqlashi, an'analarni davom ettirishi va muloqotga ta'siri tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, maqollar orqali turli madaniyatlar o'rtasidagi o'xshashlik va farqlarni anglash mumkinligi ko'rsatiladi. Misollar asosida maqollar axloqiy saboqlar va ijtimoiy me'yorlarni ifodalovchi muhim vosita ekanligi ochib beriladi.

**Kalit so'zlar**

Maqollar, madaniyat, o'zlik, donishmandlik, til, qadriyatlar, an'ana, muloqot, jamiyat, folklor

Proverbs play a significant role in shaping and reflecting human identity. Every culture has its own set of proverbs, which are deeply rooted in its history, traditions, and social norms. For example, English proverbs like "Time is money" show the importance of efficiency and productivity, while Uzbek proverbs such as "Mehnat qilgan – to'yadi" emphasize hard work and patience. Firstly, proverbs reflect cultural values. They teach what is considered right or wrong in a society. Through them, we learn about honesty, kindness, respect, and responsibility. For instance, many proverbs around the world encourage truthfulness and warn against dishonesty, showing that moral values are universal. Secondly, proverbs preserve traditions and collective memory.

They carry the experiences of ancestors and pass them on to younger generations. Even in modern times, people use proverbs in daily conversations, which keeps cultural heritage alive. Thirdly, proverbs influence communication and thinking. They make speech more expressive and meaningful. When people use proverbs, they often convey complex ideas in a simple and memorable way. This shows how language and thought are closely connected.

Moreover, proverbs highlight similarities and differences between cultures. Some proverbs are equivalent across languages, while others are unique. This comparison helps learners understand not only language but also intercultural communication.

Proverbs. They're old-fashioned, folksy, pithy — and everywhere.

From old chestnuts like “no pain, no gain” to sports wisdom like “the best offence is a good defence”, there seems to be a proverb for everything. There's good reason: proverbs touch on just about every aspect of life, providing a connection to truths that go beyond one person or any single moment in time. Proverbs have many names: they can be called axioms, old saws, sayings and adages. Defining a proverb isn't easy, but like pornography, most people believe they know it when they see it. Generally, it's an older saying without a known author that's considered wise. Every proverb has to start somewhere — but where? (Credit: Alamy) If your sibling lost a job to a friend of the boss, you might say, “It's not what you know, it's who you know.” If your son loses a football match, you say, “You can't win them all.” If your friend goes through a painful breakup, you're likely to say, “There are plenty of fish in the sea.”

For a native speaker, the worst thing about a proverb is probably its overuse. For everyone who finds comfort in sayings like “Everything happens for a reason” and “God only gives you what you can handle,” there's someone else who finds such sayings maddening. A 2015 article in the *Journal of Judgement and Decision Making* found a correlation between pseudo-profound malarkey and low intelligence. It's never your successful friends posting the inspirational quotes. Still, the best rebuttal to trite inspiring sayings is probably a tweet by comedian Damian Fahey: “It's never your successful friends posting the inspirational quotes.”

### **Proverbial verse at work**

There's a proverb for everything, of course, but they're perhaps nowhere as plentiful as in our daily work life. Business and proverbs are natural partners for several reasons, says Fred Shapiro, editor of *The Yale Book of Quotations* and co-editor, with Charles Clay Doyle and Wolfgang Mieder, of *The Dictionary of Modern Proverbs*. As Shapiro puts it, “In business, time really is money,” therefore brevity is a plus. “Business people are going to be attracted to pithy statements because they don't have time for lengthy discourse.”

That could explain all the jargon we face every day, too. Proverbs — much like Twitter, which is useful for spreading them — are perfect for this time-crunched world. Shapiro also cited the memorability of proverbs and a certain simplicity in the corporate world: “There's not a lot of subtlety in business. There are basic goals.” The timelessness of proverbs is comforting. What's more, in our work, the timelessness of proverbs is comforting. John Latham, a PhD in organisation architecture and author of *[Re]Create the Organization You Really Want!*, says that proverbs are useful in getting across ideas because they, “...point out that this isn't a new fad idea, but rather timeless wisdom that you can count on”.

### **The origin of everything**

Every proverb has to start somewhere — but where?

Finding out exactly where in the past a proverb emerged is a tough task, akin to looking for a needle not just in a haystack, but in the entire farmland. It's hard to know exactly how old a saying could be. Lexicographers are constantly antedating words — finding earlier examples — just as palaeontologists discover fossils that prove forms of life are older than anyone believed. A great example is “to regift” — ah, yes, the proverbial giving of a gift you don't want

to someone else (who, perchance, might regift the item, too). Most would swear this word was coined on US TV sitcom Seinfeld in the 1990s, but The Oxford English Dictionary found examples as far back as the 1600s, when a gift was more likely to be a quill than a fruitcake.

Finding out exactly where in the past a proverb emerged is a tough task, akin to looking for a needle not just in a haystack, but in the entire farmland (Credit: Alamy). There’s also rarely a single, permanent version of a proverb. Like all language, the real story is about variations. For example, the saying, “A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle” has a complex history. Though often attributed to American feminist Gloria Steinem, Shapiro recently found a new oldest example from a 1975 issue of Australia’s Sydney Morning Herald.

Similar phrases are much older. Since the 1950s, people have been saying the puzzling, Zen koan-like “A man without faith is like a fish without a bicycle.” A folk song from 1909 provided two early models: “A man without a woman is like a ship without a sail” and “A man without a woman is like a fish without a tail.” The phrase “fish without a tail” is even older, as the Quote Investigator website recently uncovered an 1858 poem that made this comparison about a bachelor. The task of quote research is both easier and lengthier these days, thanks to a constantly expanding range of searchable databases.

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