

**PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS CONTAINING SIMILE IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK****Usenova Marjan Nurlibek qizi****Madrahimova Mohichehra Mansurbek qizi****Student of the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek****<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20018837>****INTRODUCTION**

Phraseology is one of the most important branches of linguistics that studies fixed expressions, idioms, and phraseological units used in everyday communication. Among different types of phraseological units, those containing simile occupy a special place because they reflect figurative comparison between two different objects or phenomena. Simile is a stylistic device that expresses similarity using comparative markers such as like, as...as in English and kabi, singari, misoli in Uzbek. These expressions make speech more expressive, emotional, and culturally rich. According to A. P. Cowie, phraseological units are an essential part of vocabulary that reflects both linguistic structure and cultural identity.

In both English and Uzbek languages, simile-based phraseological units are widely used to describe human appearance, character, emotions, and natural phenomena. English language provides numerous examples such as as blind as a bat, as busy as a bee, as proud as a peacock, as gentle as a lamb, as hungry as a wolf, as cunning as a fox, as free as a bird, as slow as a snail, as white as snow, as black as coal, as thin as a rake, as fat as a pig, and as old as the hills.

Uzbek language also demonstrates rich usage of similes: ko'rdek ojiz, ari kabi tinmay ishlamoq, tovsudek kerilmoq, qo'zidek yuvosh, bo'ridek och, tulkidek ayyor, qushdek erkin, toshbaqadek sekin, qordek oppoq, ko'mirdek qora, cho'pdek ozg'in, semizdek to'lishgan, tog'dek qadimiy. These examples show that although meanings are often similar, imagery may differ depending on cultural perception. Rosamund Moon highlights that such fixed expressions form an important part of natural language use and reflect everyday thinking patterns.

Similes are also активно used to express emotions and psychological states. In English, we can observe expressions like as happy as a king, as nervous as a cat, as angry as a bull, as calm as a cucumber, as pale as death, as brave as a lion, and as innocent as a child. Uzbek equivalents include podshodek baxtli, mushukdek bezovta, buqadek jahldor, suvdek sokin, o'likdek rangpar, arslondek jasur, boladek beg'ubor. According to Chitra Fernando, idiomatic expressions like these require interpretation beyond literal meaning and are closely tied to cultural context.

Another group of similes describes природные явления и физические характеристики. English examples include as bright as the sun, as cold as ice, as dry as a bone, as light as air, as hard as stone, as sharp as a knife, as deep as the ocean. Uzbek language offers similar constructions: quyoshdek yorqin, muzdek sovuq, suyakdek quruq, havodek yengil, toshdek qattiq, pichoqdek o'tkir, dengizdek chuqur. These parallels demonstrate the universality of nature-based imagery.

From a cognitive perspective, George Lakoff and Mark Johnson argue that such comparisons help people understand abstract concepts through familiar experiences. For example, as clear as crystal, as strong as iron, and as fast as lightning reflect how human thinking relies on concrete images. Uzbek parallels like billurdek tiniq, temirdek mustahkam, and chaqmoqdek tez support this idea.

Moreover, Raymond W. Gibbs Jr. emphasizes that figurative expressions are deeply rooted in cognition and culture, which explains why some similes are universal while others are culturally specific. For instance, English expression as drunk as a lord has no direct Uzbek equivalent and requires descriptive translation.

Thus, the abundance of simile-based phraseological units in both languages proves that they are essential tools of expressive communication. Their diversity reflects not only linguistic richness but also cultural identity, making them an important object of study in linguistics, translation, and intercultural communication.

**Methods.** The research is based on descriptive, comparative, and analytical linguistic methods. The descriptive method is used to define the concept of simile and phraseological units in both languages. The comparative method helps to identify similarities and differences between English and Uzbek simile expressions. The analytical approach is applied to examine semantic, structural, and cultural aspects of phraseological units.

The study is based on linguistic literature, phraseological dictionaries, and examples from everyday speech. English and Uzbek phraseological units containing simile are selected and analyzed in terms of meaning, usage, and cultural background.

**Results and findings.** The analysis shows that simile-based phraseological units are widely used in both English and Uzbek languages, but they differ in imagery and cultural associations. English similes often rely on natural phenomena, animals, and everyday objects. For example, as quick as lightning, as brave as a lion, and as cold as ice are common expressions.

In Uzbek language, similar structures exist but they are often based on local cultural experience and traditional imagery. For example, arslon kabi jasur, muzdek sovuq, and chaqmoqdek tez are widely used equivalents. Although meanings are similar, the cultural background behind these expressions may differ.

One of the key findings is that simile-based phraseological units perform several important functions in both languages. First, they serve an expressive function by making speech more vivid and emotional. Second, they have a descriptive function, helping speakers to describe qualities in a more imaginative way. Third, they have a cognitive function, as they reflect how people conceptualize the world through comparisons.

Another important result is that some simile expressions are universal across languages, while others are culturally specific. Universal expressions often involve natural elements such as fire, water, or animals. However, culturally specific expressions reflect local traditions, environment, and lifestyle. For example, English expression as busy as a bee has no direct equivalent in Uzbek culture but can be explained using different imagery.

The study also shows that simile-based phraseological units are frequently used in literature, everyday speech, and media discourse. They enhance stylistic richness and help speakers express emotions more effectively. In addition, they play an important role in language teaching because they improve learners' understanding of figurative language.

**Discussion.** The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek simile phraseological units demonstrates that language is deeply connected with culture and cognition. According to cognitive linguistics, similes are not just linguistic expressions but mental models that help people understand abstract concepts through familiar images.

English similes often reflect Western cultural values such as individualism, nature observation, and scientific thinking. For instance, as clear as crystal reflects precision and clarity, while as strong as an ox reflects physical strength associated with animals.

Uzbek similes, on the other hand, are closely related to traditional life, agriculture, and social relationships. Expressions like tog‘dek mustahkam (as strong as a mountain) or suvdek sokin (as calm as water) reflect harmony with nature and collective cultural values.

Another important aspect is the role of simile in translation. Translating phraseological units requires not only linguistic knowledge but also cultural understanding. Literal translation often leads to misunderstanding, so translators must find equivalent expressions in the target language or use descriptive translation strategies.

The study also highlights the importance of simile-based phraseological units in modern communication. In social media, advertising, and journalism, these expressions are widely used to attract attention and create emotional impact. Their metaphorical nature makes communication more engaging and persuasive.

**Conclusion.** The analysis of phraseological units containing simile in English and Uzbek languages shows that these expressions are an essential part of linguistic and cultural systems. They enrich language, enhance expressiveness, and reflect cultural identity.

The study confirms that simile-based phraseological units perform important communicative, expressive, and cognitive functions. They help speakers describe reality in a more imaginative way and reflect how different cultures perceive the world.

Comparative analysis reveals both similarities and differences between English and Uzbek similes. While some expressions are universal, others are culturally specific and reflect unique traditions and lifestyles. This demonstrates that language is not only a system of communication but also a reflection of cultural experience.

In conclusion, phraseological units containing simile are valuable linguistic tools that contribute to expressive communication and cultural understanding. Their study is important for linguistics, translation studies, and language teaching. Further research may focus on cognitive aspects of simile usage and their role in intercultural communication.

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