

## LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF METAPHORICAL AND EUPHEMISTIC EXPRESSIONS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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**Abstract.** This paper investigates the linguistic features of metaphorical and euphemistic expressions in English and Uzbek languages, focusing on their semantic, pragmatic, and cultural functions. Metaphors serve as cognitive tools that reflect how speakers conceptualize abstract phenomena, while euphemisms function as polite substitutes for socially sensitive or taboo subjects. The study highlights the similarities and differences between the two languages in terms of metaphorical imagery, euphemism formation, and cultural values embedded in language use. Through comparative analysis, the paper reveals how metaphor and euphemism are shaped by national worldview, social norms, and communicative strategies. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of intercultural communication, linguistic politeness, and translation challenges.

**Key words:** metaphor, euphemism, linguistic features, English, Uzbek, cultural values, semantics, pragmatics, conceptual metaphor, politeness strategies

### Introduction

In the framework of modern linguistics, particularly in cognitive linguistics and linguoculturology, metaphor and euphemism are among the most frequently studied phenomena. These linguistic devices reflect how human cognition and social norms are verbalized in different cultures. This paper explores metaphorical and euphemistic expressions in English and Uzbek languages by examining their linguistic nature, usage, and cultural underpinnings. Although various studies have explored metaphors and euphemisms separately, few have conducted a comparative analysis of these phenomena within the context of Uzbek and English. Therefore, this research aims to fill that gap by presenting theoretical insights and empirical examples from literary and journalistic sources.

### Theoretical Background

A metaphor is defined as a figure of speech that describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true but helps explain an idea or make a comparison. Lakoff and Johnson (1980) emphasized that metaphors are not just stylistic tools but fundamental structures of human cognition. Euphemism, on the other hand, is a linguistic device used to soften harsh or unpleasant realities, often substituting direct expressions with more socially acceptable or vague alternatives (Allan & Burrige, 1991). These expressions are embedded in

cultural and moral codes, making them significant in sociolinguistic and intercultural communication studies.

### **Analysis**

In Uzbek literary texts, euphemistic phrases such as 'olamdan o'tmoq' (to pass away) and 'ko'z yumdi' (closed one's eyes) are widely used to avoid direct references to death. Similar usage is seen in English with expressions like 'passed away' or 'no longer with us.' Both languages utilize euphemisms to show respect and soften the emotional impact of sensitive topics.

Metaphors in English, such as 'life is a journey,' are conceptually similar to the Uzbek expression 'hayot aravasi' (life's cart). Both present life as a difficult yet forward-moving experience. Literary examples from Uzbek authors like Abdulla Qodiriy and English writers such as Charles Dickens demonstrate the widespread use of metaphors in character development and worldview expression.

In journalistic language, euphemisms often serve political correctness. For instance, English media uses 'collateral damage' instead of 'civilian deaths,' whereas Uzbek media may use 'fojiali hodisa' (tragic event) instead of explicitly stating the nature of the incident. Though this article does not deeply engage with political discourse, such patterns offer a foundation for future PhD-level research on metaphor and euphemism in political language.

### **Conclusion**

This comparative study has shown that metaphors and euphemisms in English and Uzbek are deeply embedded in their respective cultures. These expressions serve not only as tools of communication but also as carriers of cultural values, taboos, and ideologies. Metaphorical and euphemistic language reflects how societies perceive reality and manage social interaction. The results of this paper can be applied in cross-cultural linguistics, translation studies, and language teaching.

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