

AXIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF “DILIGENCE” AND “LAZINESS” CONCEPTS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK PROVERBS

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Annotation. This article explores the axiological representation of hard work and laziness in proverbs from English and Uzbek cultures. It highlights how moral values and social views on human behavior are mirrored in these sayings. The research reveals both commonalities and culturally unique traits and aims at recognizing the positive and negative connotations associated with these concepts. The findings indicate that in both language traditions, laziness is associated with failure, passivity, and social alienation, whereas diligence is linked to success, responsibility, and ethical virtue.

Keywords: axiology, linguistic worldview, proverbs, diligence, laziness, English, Uzbek, moral evaluation.

Аннотация. В данной статье исследуется аксиологическое представление трудолюбия и лени в пословицах английской и узбекской культур. Подчеркивается, как моральные ценности и социальные взгляды на поведение человека отражаются в этих пословицах. Исследование выявляет как общие черты, так и культурные особенности, и направлено на распознавание положительных и отрицательных коннотаций, связанных с этими понятиями. Результаты показывают, что в обеих языковых традициях лень ассоциируется с неудачей, пассивностью и социальной отчужденностью, тогда как усердие связано с успехом, ответственностью и этической добродетелью

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o'zbek madaniyati maqollarida mehnatkashlik va dangasalikning aksiologik ifodasi o'rganiladi. Bu naqlarda axloqiy qadriyatlar va inson xulq-atvoriga ijtimoiy qarashlar qanday aks etganligi yoritilgan. Tadqiqot umumiy va madaniy jihatdan o'ziga xos xususiyatlarni ochib beradi va ushbu tushunchalar bilan bog'liq ijobiy va salbiy ma'nolarni tan olishga qaratilgan. Topilmalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, ikkala til an'analarida ham dangasalik muvaffaqiyatsizlik, passivlik va ijtimoiy begonalashuv bilan bog'liq, mehnatsevarlik esa muvaffaqiyat, mas'uliyat va axloqiy fazilatlar bilan bog'liq.

Introduction. Within the scope of axiological linguistics, the study of values contained in language has received more attention in contemporary linguistics. Language uses culturally conditioned value systems to assess, classify, and interpret reality rather than just reflecting it. Proverbs, which capture moral standards and collective wisdom, are among the most useful resources for analyzing such values.

The ethical assessment of human behavior in all cultures places a strong emphasis on the ideas of diligence and sloth. In both Uzbek and English linguistic worldviews, these ideas are very important since they serve as crucial markers of social acceptance or rejection.

In order to determine these two ideas' semantic characteristics, evaluative polarity, and cultural distinctiveness, this article will perform an axiological examination of them using proverbs from both English and Uzbek.

The study is based on the idea of axiological semantics, which highlights the evaluative aspect of linguistic meaning and was established by academics like V.N. Teliya and N.D.

Arutyunova. This method holds that language uses lexical choices, metaphors, and contextual usage to encode both positive and negative value judgments.

Methodology. The current study utilizes a qualitative comparative method to examine how the values associated with diligence and laziness are depicted in English and Uzbek proverbs. The research is founded on a collection of proverbs chosen from reputable lexicographic sources, including dictionaries of English proverbs and Uzbek compilations such as “Maqollar to‘plami” and “Ma’nolar maxzani.” The criteria for selection were influenced by thematic relevance, usage frequency, and the existence of explicit or implicit evaluative connotations.

The methodological framework encompasses a variety of complementary analytical approaches: 1. Semantic Analysis The semantic analysis aimed to uncover the fundamental meanings and prevalent semes (the smallest units of meaning) found in the proverbs. This phase included the study of lexical elements that convey the themes of diligence and laziness, along with their contextual expressions. Particular focus was given to: key lexical indicators (e.g., work, effort, early, idle, lazy, dangasa, mehnat) implicit meanings that emerge through metaphorical or figurative language contrasting semantic pairs (e.g., work vs. idleness, effort vs. passivity) This analysis facilitated the reconstruction of the semantic framework for each concept across both linguistic traditions.

The methodological framework incorporates a variety of complementary analytical techniques: 2. Axiological Analysis Axiological analysis aimed to identify the evaluative polarity (either positive or negative) inherent in the proverbs. Based on the theoretical foundations established by N.D. Arutyunova and V.N. Teliya, proverbs were analyzed as components of value-laden discourse that mirror societal norms and perceptions. The analysis comprised: the identification of explicit evaluation indicators (such as praise, approval, or condemnation) the discovery of implicit evaluative meanings conveyed through metaphor and context the categorization of proverbs into groups of positive value (like diligence) and negative value (such as laziness) This phase allowed for the identification of prevailing value orientations within both English and Uzbek linguistic perspectives.

3. Analysis of Linguistics and Culture. The cultural distinctiveness of the chosen proverbs was interpreted using linguo-cultural analysis. Given how deeply ingrained proverbs are in national culture, this phase sought to identify:

Proverbial expressions that reflect traditional beliefs and social standards, culturally meaningful imagery (such as animals, nature, and daily life), and variations in the metaphorical portrayal of abstract notions

For instance, Uzbek proverbs typically represent social interactions, labor ethics, and community ideals, but English proverbs often use imagery relating to nature and individual activity (the early bird).

4. Thematic Categorization. The gathered proverbs were finally categorized into thematic groups according to their axiological and semantic content. There were two main classifications created:

Proverbs that symbolize hard work (ijobiy qadriyat) and sloth (salbiy baho/aksilqadriyat)

A more complex comparison analysis was made possible by the identification of other subgroups within these categories, such as effort and reward, time management, social duty, and repercussions of idleness.

English Proverbs on Diligence

In English, success, accomplishment, and moral worth are invariably linked to diligence. Think about the following instances:

No pain, no gain.

Hard work pays off.

The early bird catches the worm.

These sayings place a strong emphasis on hard work, tenacity, and time management. The “early bird” metaphor illustrates how timeliness and initiative are valued in this culture. Diligence is described as an active, goal-oriented action that yields observable benefits.

Uzbek Proverbs on Diligence

Similarly, diligence is highly valued in Uzbek proverbs

Mexnat-mexnatning tagi roxat. (Hard work pays off)

Mexnat- roxat keltirar Hard work brings comfort)

Erta turgan kishini xudo o'nglar ishini. (Those who wake up early are blessed with success.)

Diligence is intimately associated with moral integrity and honest effort (halol mehnat) in Uzbek culture. In contrast to English, Uzbek proverbs frequently highlight the moral and social aspects of labor, depicting it as a responsibility and a source of honor.

Diligence has a positive axiological charge in both languages and is distinguished by the following semantic characteristics: • Efficiency • Accountability Persistence Reward and achievement However, English proverbs emphasize individual accomplishment and efficiency, whereas Uzbek proverbs tend to emphasize collective and moral qualities.

English proverbs about laziness. In English proverbial language, laziness is highly condemned: Idle hands are the devil's workshop; Laziness travels so slowly that poverty soon overtakes it; A lazy sheep thinks its wool heavy.

These instances link sloth to sin, poverty, and moral weakness. Laziness is frequently portrayed in the metaphorical language as a bad force that has unfavorable effects.

Laziness in Uzbek Proverbs Laziness is also strongly condemned in Uzbek proverbs: *Dangasa – ishning dushmani.*" (The adversary of work is a lazy person.) *Dangasaga ish buyursan senga aql o'rgatar* (Lazy people talk more than they work). *Ishlagan yetib olar, yotgan yotib qolar.*

These sayings emphasize the negative societal effects of sloth, such as disrespect and failure. Laziness is frequently portrayed as a negative quality that undermines productivity and social harmony.

In both linguistic traditions, laziness is defined by a negative axiological value that is connected to: A lack of activity; Carelessness; Poverty; Social rejection. However, English proverbs usually define sloth in terms of personal failure and moral weakness, whereas Uzbek proverbs emphasize societal judgment and group expectations.

Characteristics Particular to Culture: English proverbs highlight personal achievement and time management. Uzbek proverbs emphasize societal peace, moral responsibility, and ethical work; Uzbek proverbs frequently depict daily life and interpersonal relationships, whereas English proverbs frequently use images of nature and animals (bird, sheep). Individualism in English-speaking societies contrasts with collectivism and moral responsibility in Uzbek culture, reflecting broader cultural tendencies.

Conclusion. The axiological examination of hard work and idleness in English and Uzbek proverbs reveals that both notions are essential in influencing moral judgment within the linguistic perspective. Although there is a common global inclination to appreciate hard work and criticize idleness, the particular linguistic and cultural expressions vary.

English proverbs typically depict diligence concerning individual success and productivity, while Uzbek proverbs highlight moral labor and community responsibility. In a similar way, laziness is condemned globally, yet its effects differ based on cultural context.

This research establishes that proverbs are significant linguistic tools for grasping the interaction between language, culture, and values, and they offer crucial perspectives on the axiological framework of various societies.

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