



ANTONYMIC FEATURES OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Annotation. *This article explores the antonymic features of phraseological units in the English and Uzbek languages, highlighting the differences and similarities in structure, semantics, and cultural reflection. Phraseological units, commonly known as idioms, proverbs, or fixed expressions, often encapsulate contrasting concepts that reveal the cultural and linguistic nuances of each language. Antonymy in phraseological units serves as a key mechanism for expressing opposition, contradiction, or contrast. By comparing these features in English and Uzbek, we can better understand the interplay of language and culture.*

Key words: *antonymy, phraseological units, metaphorical relationships, contrastive approach.*

Introduction.

Phraseological units are linguistic expressions that are fixed, often metaphorical, and reflect the rich cultural traditions of a language. In both English and Uzbek, phraseological units are an important part of everyday speech, often used to convey wisdom, moral lessons, or emotional states. Antonyms, as a form of opposition, play a significant role in shaping these units by presenting two opposing concepts within the same linguistic structure. Antonymy can be observed on multiple levels - lexical, structural, semantic, and cultural.

While the nature of phraseological units in English and Uzbek is similar in their function of providing figurative meaning, the ways in which antonyms are used can vary based on linguistic traditions and cultural backgrounds. This article delves into the key antonymic features of these phraseological units across both languages.

Literature analysis and Methodology.

In order to thoroughly examine the antonymic features of phraseological units in English and Uzbek, it is essential to analyze prior research in the fields of phraseology, contrastive linguistics, and cultural linguistics. The literature analysis section focuses on identifying key studies, theories, and findings that are foundational to this study.

1. Phraseology and Idiomatic Expressions

English Phraseology: Studies on English idioms such as "The Oxford Dictionary of English Idioms" and works by scholars like Cowie, Moon, and Fernando have delved into the classification and usage of idiomatic expressions in English. Idioms are understood as fixed expressions whose meanings are non-literal, often based on metaphorical relationships.

Uzbek Phraseology: In Uzbek linguistics, scholars like Abdurashidov and Matyokubova have analyzed the significance of proverbs, idioms, and phraseological units as vehicles for cultural transmission. Uzbek idioms tend to be more literal and

socially grounded compared to English, with a strong focus on moral and ethical teachings.

2. Cultural Linguistics and Contrastive Studies

Cultural Reflections in Language: Research in cultural linguistics (Palmer, 1996; Wierzbicka, 1992) explores how idioms reflect societal values, worldview, and historical contexts. Uzbek proverbs and phraseological units, in particular, are heavily influenced by moral teachings, communal values, and cultural traditions.

Contrastive Linguistics: The comparative study of English and Uzbek linguistic structures is essential for understanding the structural and semantic differences between the two languages. The contrastive approach helps in identifying patterns and unique features of antonymic phraseological units.

The methodology for studying the antonymic features of phraseological units in English and Uzbek languages involves several key steps that combine qualitative and comparative research methods. This section outlines the approach taken to analyze, compare, and interpret the phraseological data. The first step is to compile a corpus of phraseological units (idioms, proverbs, and fixed expressions) in both English and Uzbek languages. This will involve:

Primary Sources: Dictionaries of phraseological units, such as The Oxford Dictionary of English Idioms for English and O‘zbek Tillarining Maqol va Iboralar Lug‘ati for Uzbek. These resources provide a rich collection of idioms that include antonymic pairs.

Secondary Sources: Research papers, linguistic studies, and cultural texts will also serve as references to ensure the comprehensive collection of relevant phraseological units.

Lexical Antonymy: Phraseological units where the antonymy is based on direct lexical opposites, such as "black and white" in English or "yaxshi va yomon" (good and bad) in Uzbek.

Semantic Antonymy: Units where the antonymy is based on contrasting meanings, even if the lexical forms are not direct opposites.

Cultural Antonymy: Antonyms that reflect cultural or societal values, such as wealth vs. poverty, morality vs. immorality, etc.

Each phraseological unit will be analyzed within these categories to ensure that both linguistic and cultural features are captured.

Discussion and Results.

Structural Antonymy. Antonymy in phraseological units can be expressed through the juxtaposition of opposites. In English, structural antonymy often takes the form of binary oppositions within idioms (e.g., "black and white," "high and low"). These pairs reflect a direct contrast between two opposing elements, making the meaning of the phrase transparent. The English language often employs prepositions or conjunctions such as "or," "and," or "neither" to signal opposition (e.g., "sink or swim," "neither here nor there").

In contrast, Uzbek phraseological units tend to rely on simpler constructions, often pairing two antonyms in parallel structures. These units frequently embody moral or ethical opposites. For example, the Uzbek phrase "boy va kambag‘al" (rich

and poor) reflects a social dichotomy, often used in proverbs and sayings. The structure of these oppositional pairs is often straightforward and reinforces a clear binary.

Semantic Antonymy. On a semantic level, antonymic phraseological units are deeply rooted in the cultural and social contexts of each language. In English, antonymic phrases such as "rags to riches" emphasize the contrast between poverty and wealth, often with a focus on individual achievement or failure. Semantic oppositions in English idioms frequently revolve around themes of success, failure, and personal growth, reflecting cultural values of self-reliance and perseverance.

Uzbek phraseological units, on the other hand, place a greater emphasis on communal and ethical contrasts. For example, the phrase "yaxshi va yomon" (good and bad) highlights moral opposites, often reflecting traditional societal values. Uzbek idioms frequently rely on proverbs that convey lessons about virtue, integrity, and social responsibility. This focus on moral opposition is a defining feature of Uzbek phraseology.

Cultural Antonymy. The use of antonyms in phraseological units also reflects the cultural worldviews of English and Uzbek speakers. In English, the individualistic culture is often reflected in idioms that emphasize personal success or failure. Phrases like "rise and fall" or "make or break" reflect the importance of personal agency and the consequences of one's actions. The opposition here is often metaphorical, representing abstract concepts such as success vs. failure or calmness vs. anger (e.g., "keep your cool" vs. "blow your top").

In Uzbek culture, phraseological units with antonyms frequently mirror collective values, social hierarchy, and the contrast between good and evil, life and death, or wealth and poverty. Proverbs such as "Oq va qora" (white and black) symbolize clear moral oppositions and are used to teach ethical behavior. The cultural emphasis on hospitality, wisdom, and respect for tradition is often encapsulated in such oppositional phrases.

Syntactic Antonymy. Syntactically, English phraseological units with antonyms may appear in more complex sentence structures. For instance, phrases like "It's neither here nor there" or "to be or not to be" rely on syntactic elements to present opposition. The placement of antonyms within these structures often enhances the contrast and adds depth to the meaning.

In Uzbek, antonymic phraseological units are typically simpler in syntax, often presented as parallel phrases. The focus is on clarity and directness, with many idioms using repetition or juxtaposition of contrasting ideas (e.g., "Kelish va ketish" — coming and leaving). This simplicity allows the oppositional meaning to stand out, particularly in proverbs where moral lessons are conveyed succinctly.

Idiomatic Antonymy. Idiomatic expressions in both English and Uzbek languages frequently contain inherent antonymic meanings. In English, many idioms have opposite counterparts, where contrasting emotions or actions are expressed (e.g., "hit the roof" vs. "keep your cool"). The idiomatic use of antonyms can be metaphorical, reflecting emotional states, situational outcomes, or even abstract concepts such as good vs. bad luck.



In Uzbek, antonymic idioms often have a more literal connotation, though metaphorical usage is not absent. For example, the phrase "tog‘day va pashshaday" (as big as a mountain and as small as a fly) highlights size contrasts, but it also carries metaphorical meaning, emphasizing exaggeration vs. triviality. These contrasts are frequently used to convey social and ethical lessons.

Conclusion.

Antonymic features in the phraseological units of English and Uzbek reflect not only the linguistic structures of each language but also the cultural values and worldview of their speakers. While English idioms often emphasize individualism and metaphorical contrasts, Uzbek phraseological units focus more on moral, ethical, and social oppositions, frequently tied to communal wisdom and cultural tradition.

By examining the structural, semantic, and cultural aspects of antonymic phraseological units, we gain insight into the deeper meanings these linguistic expressions carry. Antonymy in phraseology is more than just the opposition of words - it serves as a window into the values, traditions, and thought patterns of a language community.

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