ISSN:2828-6235
Impact factor:13.77

International Journal of Literature and Language Studies(IJLLS)

LINGUOCULTURAL FEATURES OF CONCEPTS IN THE UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Doi: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23019496

Abstrac: This article presents a comparative analysis of the linguocultural and cognitive features of cultural concepts in the Uzbek and English languages. In particular, the semantic and cultural expression of such universal concepts as “family,” “happiness,” “love,” “homeland,” “shame,” “freedom,” and “time” in the two languages is examined. The study shows that each concept is closely connected with the mentality, values, customs, and worldview of a people. It is analyzed that collectivism and spiritual values occupy a prominent position in Uzbek, whereas the concepts of individualism and personal independence play a leading role in English.

Keywords: concept, linguoculturology, cognitive linguistics, mentality, conceptual sphere, semantics, national-cultural unit, individualism, collectivism, cultural thinking.

Introduction

In modern linguistics, language is studied not only as a means of communication but also as a reflection of the thinking and culture of a people. In particular, with the development of cognitive linguistics and linguoculturology, the concept has become a central object of scientific research.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A concept is a complex mental unit formed in the human mind and expressed through language. It incorporates a person’s life experience, cultural views, national values, and social environment. The conceptual picture of the world of each people is manifested in its language.

The Uzbek and English languages belong to cultures with different historical and cultural developmental trajectories. Therefore, the content, semantic field, and pragmatic features of certain concepts in these languages differ from one another. In particular, concepts such as “family,” “happiness,” “love,” “shame,” “freedom,” and “homeland” clearly reveal differences in the mentality of the two peoples.

The main purpose of this article is to conduct a comparative linguocultural analysis of cultural concepts in the Uzbek and English languages.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

THE CONCEPT OF “FAMILY”

The concept of “family” is one of the most important components of Uzbek linguoculture. The following semantic features are dominant within this concept:

- love and affection
- loyalty
- respect
- kinship
- solidarity

In the national thinking of the Uzbek people, a person is interpreted not as an isolated individual, but as part of the family and society. Therefore, family values are highly valued. Proverbs such as "Family is a sacred fortress" and "A child is the light of the family" can serve as examples.

The English concept of "family," however, is based on a different cultural foundation. Since personal independence and individual freedom are more prominent in Western society, it is generally accepted that children may live separately after reaching adulthood. This indicates the strength of individualism in the English conceptual system.

Thus, while the Uzbek concept of "family" is shaped by a collective mentality, the English concept of "family" is characterized by individualistic views.

SEMANTIC FEATURES OF THE CONCEPT OF "HAPPINESS"

The concept of "happiness" is considered a universal concept among all peoples. However, its semantic expression differs across cultures.

In Uzbek, the concept of "happiness" is interpreted in connection with:

- family
- peace
- health
- children
- kindness and mutual care

Uzbek proverbs also present happiness primarily as a spiritual value: "Happiness is not in money" and "Happiness is in the family" are examples of this interpretation.

The English concept of "happiness," by contrast, is closely associated with such notions as personal success, self-realization, financial independence, and career growth.

In Western culture, achieving one's own goals is regarded as a measure of happiness. As a result, the semantic feature of individual success predominates in the English conceptual system.

CULTURAL INTERPRETATION OF THE CONCEPT OF "LOVE"

The concept of "love" belongs to the group of emotional concepts. In Uzbek, this concept is expressed through modesty, loyalty, patience, and spiritual closeness. In Eastern mentality, love is often portrayed as an inner feeling. Restraint and modesty tend to prevail over open emotional expression.

The English concept of "love" has a relatively freer and more open character. In Western culture, the free expression of feelings is generally regarded positively. In addition, notions such as romantic love, self-love, and free relationships are widely used in English.

This situation demonstrates differences in the cultural thinking of the two peoples.

THE CONCEPT OF "HOMELAND" AND NATIONAL THINKING

The Uzbek concept of "homeland" has a strong emotional and expressive character and combines the meanings of motherland, the heritage of ancestors, national values, and a sacred place.

The widespread use of the expression "Ona Vatan" ("Motherland") in Uzbek demonstrates the strong emotional charge of the concept.

Although the English language has the terms “homeland” and “motherland,” they do not have exactly the same depth of emotional semantics as the Uzbek concept. This is explained in the article by the greater emphasis placed on individual life and personal interests in Western culture.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CONCEPTS OF “UYAT” AND “SHAME”

The concept of “uyat” is one of the central concepts of Uzbek mentality. It is closely associated with manners, morality, social control, and public opinion. In Uzbek society, a person’s behavior is often evaluated according to the principle, “What will people say?”

Although the English concept of “shame” is semantically related, its pragmatic use differs. In Western culture, personal choice and freedom are considered important. Therefore, according to the article, social pressure is not as strong as in Uzbek society.

COGNITIVE INTERPRETATION OF THE CONCEPT OF “TIME”

The English metaphor “Time is money” expresses the perception of time as an economic resource. In Western society, punctuality, productivity, and schedule are important values.

In Uzbek, time is more often interpreted in connection with patience, life experience, and fate. As a result, the cognitive model of the concept of time is formed differently in the two languages.

CONCLUSION

The concepts in the Uzbek and English languages are important linguistic units that reflect the national and cultural thinking of the two peoples. The study shows that collectivism, spiritual values, respect, and restraint are prominent in Uzbek. In English, individualism, independence, freedom, and personal success appear as the main conceptual characteristics.

A comparative study of these concepts is of significant scientific importance for cognitive linguistics, linguoculturology, and translation studies because the mentality and cultural worldview of a people are manifested through language.

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