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NATIONAL CLOTHING IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK CULTURES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE NAMES OF CLOTHING

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ABSTRACT

National clothing plays a significant role in expressing cultural identity, historical legacy, and social norms in both English and Uzbek cultures. This study aims to compare the evolution and cultural importance of traditional attire in these two nations by examining historical records, dictionaries, and modern practices. We utilized explanatory dictionaries in both languages to define key clothing terms and analyze their social and symbolic roles. The results demonstrate how English traditional attire evolved from functional to ceremonial use, while Uzbek clothing retains a strong connection to national identity and craftsmanship. The study highlights the significance of national clothing as a form of cultural expression, emphasizing how it shapes and reflects the identity of both nations.

KEYWORDS

National clothing, culture, periods, blending, tunic, kilt, chopon, do'ppi, explanatory dictionary.

INTRODUCTION

Clothing serves as more than just protection from environmental factors; it is a means of expressing cultural identity, social status, and historical memory. Clothing and fashion have always played a vital role in the identity and culture of both the English-speaking

world and the Uzbek people. The evolution of clothing reflects historical, social, economic, and even geographical factors that have shaped the development of both societies over centuries. The role of national clothing in both English and Uzbek cultures

reflects deep-seated cultural values, societal roles, and historical influences. English traditional attire, from medieval tunics to Victorian suits, has evolved significantly over time, now often reserved for ceremonial or historical purposes. In contrast, Uzbek clothing, with its vibrant atlas and adras fabrics, remains a visible aspect of both daily and celebratory life. This paper aims to explore how national clothing has evolved in these two cultures and how explanatory dictionaries in both languages reflect their significance.

The specific objectives of this study are:

1. To compare the definitions and cultural significance of traditional clothing in English and Uzbek explanatory dictionaries.
2. To analyze the evolution of clothing in both cultures from historical, social, and cultural perspectives.
3. To highlight the role of clothing as a marker of national identity and its continued relevance today.

METHODS

This study adopts a qualitative research approach, relying on primary sources from “English and Uzbek explanatory dictionaries”, as well as secondary sources that explore the cultural significance and historical development of clothing in these cultures. The dictionaries used include:

Oxford English Dictionary (OED) for English definitions.

O‘zbek tilining izohli lug‘ati for Uzbek terms.

Data collection involved selecting key terms related to traditional clothing from each language’s dictionary, such as tunic, kilt, chapan, and do‘ppi. We then compared these definitions, focusing on how each term is described in terms of cultural and historical importance.

Additionally, we reviewed academic literature on the evolution of clothing in both cultures, analyzing how historical events, such as the Industrial Revolution in England and the Silk Road’s influence in Uzbekistan, shaped their clothing traditions.

RESULTS

The results are presented in two parts: (1) the comparison of national clothing terms as reflected in English and Uzbek dictionaries, and (2) the cultural evolution of clothing in each nation.

National Clothing Terms in English and Uzbek Dictionaries

A comparison of dictionary definitions reveals key differences in how traditional clothing is conceptualized in each culture.

English Traditional Clothing: In the OED, traditional English clothing terms like “tunic” and “kilt” are defined largely in historical and functional terms. For example, a “tunic” is described as “a loose garment

typically worn by men in ancient and medieval periods,” with little emphasis on ongoing cultural significance. Similarly, the “kilt” is primarily defined by its association with Scotland and its ceremonial use.

Uzbek Traditional Clothing: In contrast, the “O‘zbek tilining izohli lug‘ati” defines traditional Uzbek clothing such as the “chapan” (robe) with an emphasis on its role in both everyday life and cultural celebrations. The do‘ppi is described not only as headwear but as a symbol of Uzbek identity. Terms like “atlas” (silk fabric) are elaborated upon in the context of their intricate craftsmanship and use in celebratory garments. Traditional Uzbek clothing reflects the climate of Central Asia, favoring loose, comfortable clothing to adapt to the region’s hot summers and cold winters. Both men and women wore ko‘ylak (shirt or tunic) and ishton (trousers) made from silk or cotton. During the Soviet period, traditional clothing started to blend with Western influences. Uzbek women began wearing sarafans (simple dresses), while Soviet-style military or professional uniforms became common for men. Despite Soviet attempts to modernize, traditional dress persisted, particularly in rural areas. For special occasions, women continued to wear brightly colored atlas dresses and elaborate accessories.

Cultural Evolution of Clothing

English Clothing: Over centuries, English clothing transitioned from practical garments worn for warmth

and modesty to elaborate fashion statements during the Renaissance and Victorian periods. The Industrial Revolution (late 18th–19th centuries) marked a turning point, as mass production of textiles made clothing more accessible, but also more uniform. By the 20th century, traditional English clothing became largely symbolic, worn mainly during formal events, national holidays, or cultural reenactments.

Uzbek Clothing: Traditional Uzbek clothing, by contrast, retained its importance in everyday life and ceremonial contexts. The “Silk Road” facilitated the development of luxurious fabrics such as “atlas” and “adras”, and national dress continues to be worn at festivals, weddings, and religious ceremonies. Post-Soviet Uzbekistan has seen a resurgence of interest in national dress as a symbol of cultural pride, with traditional garments like the “xalat (robe) becoming increasingly popular alongside modern attire.

DISCUSSION

The findings suggest that while both English and Uzbek national clothing began as practical solutions to environmental conditions, their paths diverged significantly due to historical, social, and economic influences. English clothing, shaped by industrialization and Western fashion trends, became ceremonial over time, with items like the “kilt” and “suit” gaining significance as markers of tradition rather than everyday wear.

In Uzbekistan, national clothing remains deeply rooted in daily and celebratory life. The country's geographical position along the Silk Road fostered a rich tradition of textile production, and national attire like the "chapan" and "do'ppi" is imbued with cultural symbolism. Even with the adoption of modern clothing styles, these garments retain a sense of identity and heritage that is actively preserved in both rural and urban communities.

The study reveals the pivotal role of explanatory dictionaries in reflecting cultural attitudes toward national clothing. English dictionaries tend to focus more on historical and functional descriptions, while Uzbek dictionaries emphasize the cultural and symbolic importance of traditional garments, reflecting their ongoing relevance in daily life.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights the contrasting trajectories of national clothing in English and Uzbek cultures. While traditional English attire has largely become symbolic, Uzbek clothing remains a vital part of national identity. The comparison of dictionary definitions underscores the cultural importance attached to traditional garments in each society, with Uzbek definitions focusing on craftsmanship and identity, and English definitions leaning toward historical significance. English fashion evolved through interactions with Europe and later the global world, especially through

colonization. Uzbek fashion, meanwhile, was heavily influenced by Persian, Mongol, and Islamic traditions. Uzbek clothing historically was designed to cope with the hot, dry summers and cold winters, while English clothing adapted to the temperate, often rainy British climate. Uzbek clothing often emphasized wealth and social status through bright colors and embroidery, while English clothing, especially post-Industrial Revolution, began to emphasize practicality and mass production. Western fashion rapidly evolved in the 20th century, embracing casual styles, while Uzbekistan has balanced both tradition and modernity, with a focus on preserving cultural identity.

Future research could explore how globalization continues to influence the wearing and interpretation of national clothing in both countries. Additionally, a deeper examination of regional variations within Uzbekistan could provide more insight into how national clothing reflects not just a national, but also local identities.

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