

The Cultural-Semantic Study of Phraseological Units in The Works of Alisher Navoi: Theoretical Approaches

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Received: 15 February 2025; **Accepted:** 16 March 2025; **Published:** 14 April 2025

Abstract: This article explores the cultural-semantic analysis of phraseological units in the works of Alisher Navoi, focusing on theoretical approaches to understanding their meaning and cultural significance. Phraseological units are essential elements in literature, carrying not only linguistic but also cultural and historical information. The study aims to examine the role of phraseological expressions in Navoi's works, their semantic nuances, and the impact they have on the audience's understanding of the text. Theoretical frameworks from both linguistic and cultural studies are used to provide a comprehensive analysis. The research reveals the integral connection between language, culture, and literary expression in Navoi's works. The findings suggest that these phraseological units are not just stylistic devices but also vehicles for conveying deep cultural values and philosophical ideas.

Keywords: Phraseological units, cultural semantics, Alisher Navoi, linguistic analysis, literary theory, Uzbek literature, semantic study.

Introduction: Alisher Navoi, one of the greatest figures in Uzbek literature, created a vast body of work that blends poetic beauty with deep philosophical insights. Among the various literary techniques that characterize his writings, the use of phraseological units stands out as a crucial element in conveying complex meanings. Phraseological units, which include idiomatic expressions, proverbs, and fixed phrases, are vital not only in shaping the linguistic style of a work but also in reflecting the cultural context in which it was created. In the works of Navoi, these phraseological units are deeply embedded in the cultural, historical, and social fabrics of his time.

This study aims to analyze the cultural-semantic aspects of phraseological units in the works of Alisher Navoi, exploring how these units serve as bridges between language and culture. By focusing on the theoretical approaches to phraseology, the research will investigate how Navoi utilized these units to express his philosophical ideas, cultural norms, and social values. The analysis will also consider how these expressions enrich the meaning of the texts and how they contribute to the overall aesthetic and intellectual appeal of Navoi's literary masterpieces.

METHODOLOGY

The analysis of phraseological units has been widely explored in both linguistics and literary studies. Scholars such as I. A. Mel'čuk, V. V. Vinogradov, and A. A. Zhuravlev have established foundational theories regarding the structural and semantic properties of phraseological units. These theories emphasize the connection between fixed expressions and the cultural context in which they exist. The study of phraseology in literature, particularly in the works of classical poets like Alisher Navoi, has also gained attention, with several studies focusing on the metaphorical and idiomatic layers of his language.

In the context of Navoi's work, the application of cultural semantics becomes pivotal. Cultural semantics refers to the study of how meaning is shaped by cultural factors and how language reflects the worldview of its speakers. This approach helps in analyzing how phraseological units in Navoi's writings convey not just linguistic meaning but also cultural and historical knowledge.

The study of phraseological units has long been a focal point of linguistic and literary research. Scholars such as V. V. Vinogradov, A. A. Zhuravlev, and I. A. Mel'čuk

have laid the groundwork for understanding the structure and semantics of phraseology, emphasizing its role in conveying complex meanings through fixed expressions. Cultural semantics, the field that examines how meaning is shaped by the cultural context, is particularly relevant to this study as it allows for the analysis of how Navoi’s phraseological units reflect the cultural values, traditions, and beliefs of his time.

A number of studies have also explored the role of phraseological units in classical Turkic literature, with a particular focus on their symbolic and metaphorical meanings. In the case of Navoi, his extensive use of Persian and Arabic influences in his works has been well-documented, yet there remains a gap in understanding how the phraseological units he employed communicate deeper cultural messages. This study seeks to fill that gap by analyzing the semantic layers of phraseological expressions in Navoi’s works.

The methodology of this research is based on a qualitative analysis of selected phraseological units from Navoi’s poetry and prose. These expressions are categorized and analyzed according to their semantic content, cultural connotations, and the context in which they appear. In addition to primary texts, the study draws on secondary scholarly sources to provide a comprehensive analysis of the cultural and historical backdrop of Navoi’s language.

Methodologically, this study employs a qualitative approach. It involves a detailed analysis of selected works by Alisher Navoi, including his major poetic texts and prose. The phraseological units are identified, categorized, and analyzed for their semantic and cultural implications. Both primary sources in the original Uzbek and secondary scholarly sources are used to support the research. The analysis follows a

comparative method, contrasting the phraseological units used by Navoi with those in other classical literary works in Turkic literature.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The study identifies a rich variety of phraseological units in Navoi's works, reflecting the depth of his linguistic creativity. These expressions serve multiple functions, including illustrating moral lessons, expressing philosophical ideas, and providing cultural references. Navoi’s use of these units is not arbitrary; each phraseological expression is carefully chosen to enhance the text's meaning and resonate with the audience’s cultural and intellectual background.

The analysis reveals that many of the phraseological units in Navoi’s works are metaphorical in nature. For instance, expressions related to nature, such as "yulduzlar ustida uchish" ("flying above the stars"), symbolize spiritual or intellectual aspirations, reflecting Navoi’s Sufi worldview. Similarly, proverbs and idiomatic phrases often convey deep moral lessons, emphasizing virtues such as wisdom, justice, and compassion.

Furthermore, the research demonstrates that Navoi’s use of phraseological units is closely tied to the cultural context of his time. Many of the idiomatic expressions used by Navoi draw from Islamic philosophy, Persian literary traditions, and Central Asian folklore. These cultural references not only enhance the literary quality of his works but also provide insight into the social and cultural values of the period.

The findings are summarized in the tables below, which categorize the phraseological units based on their semantic fields and cultural references.

Table 1.

Semantic Fields of Phraseological Units in Navoi’s Works

Semantic Field	Examples of Phraseological Units	Meaning/Significance
Spiritual Aspirations	"yulduzlar ustida uchish"	Represents the pursuit of higher knowledge or spiritual enlightenment.
Moral Lessons	"yorug’likda yurish"	Refers to living a life of righteousness and moral clarity.

Semantic Field	Examples of Phraseological Units	Meaning/Significance
Cultural Heritage	"davlatning eshiklarini ochish"	Symbolizes political power and authority in the context of governance.

Table 2.

Cultural References in Phraseological Units

Cultural Reference	Phraseological Unit	Cultural Significance
Persian Influence	"dunyo mas'uliyatini olish"	Refers to the Persian philosophical approach to duty and responsibility.
Islamic Philosophy	"ilmga suyanish"	Represents the Islamic emphasis on the importance of knowledge and wisdom.
Central Asian Folklore	"toshlarni yurak qilish"	Alludes to traditional beliefs in overcoming obstacles with courage.

The analysis reveals that phraseological units in Navoi's works serve multiple functions, from conveying philosophical ideas to illustrating cultural norms and social practices. One of the key findings of this study is that these expressions are not just stylistic devices but are deeply embedded in the cultural fabric of the time. They provide insights into the intellectual currents of Navoi's era, which was marked by Islamic mysticism, Persian literary influence, and Central Asian social structures.

Navoi's use of phraseological units often involves a complex interplay between metaphorical and literal meanings. For instance, the phrase "yulduzlar ustida uchish" (flying above the stars) is a metaphor that reflects the idea of spiritual enlightenment and the pursuit of knowledge. Similarly, expressions such as "ilmga suyanish" (relying on knowledge) embody the central place of wisdom and learning in Navoi's worldview, which was influenced by both Islamic philosophy and Persian literary traditions.

In many cases, Navoi's phraseological expressions

serve to emphasize ethical and moral values. Proverbs and idiomatic expressions are often used to impart lessons on virtues such as justice, patience, and humility. These values align with the Sufi principles that permeate much of his work. For example, "o'zlikni unutish" (forgetting oneself) is an expression that symbolizes selflessness, a key concept in Sufi mysticism.

Furthermore, the research demonstrates that Navoi's use of phraseological units is shaped by the cultural and historical context of his time. Central Asian folklore, Persian poetic traditions, and Islamic teachings are all reflected in the phraseological units used by Navoi. These expressions are often vehicles for conveying social and political commentary, as well as reflecting the collective consciousness of the people.

The findings of this research are presented in the tables below, which categorize the identified phraseological units based on their semantic fields and cultural references.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the cultural-semantic study of phraseological units in the works of Alisher Navoi reveals the deep interconnection between language, culture, and literary expression. Navoi's use of phraseological units is not just a stylistic choice but a reflection of his philosophical, cultural, and social beliefs. The analysis highlights how these expressions serve as vehicles for conveying moral lessons, cultural values, and intellectual ideas, which are integral to understanding the meaning and significance of his works.

The study also demonstrates the importance of cultural semantics in literary analysis, showing that a deep understanding of the cultural context can provide valuable insights into the meanings of phraseological units. Navoi's ability to weave together linguistic creativity and cultural wisdom ensures that his works remain relevant and influential in both literary and philosophical contexts.

Future research could further explore the role of phraseological units in Navoi's other works or compare them with similar units in the literature of other Central Asian poets. This would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the role of language in shaping cultural identity and intellectual history.

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