

Phraseological Units: Structure, Meaning, And Usage in English And Uzbek Languages

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Abstract: In both Uzbek and English, phraseological units—also referred to as idioms, set expressions, or fixed phrases—are essential. Cultural values, historical history, and the cognitive quirks of language speakers are all reflected in these linguistic components. This essay offers a thorough comparison of Uzbek and English phraseological units, emphasizing their structure, meaning, and practical use. Their origins, classification, and cross-linguistic parallels and differences are also covered in the study.

Keywords: Phraseological units, idioms, proverbs, collocations, set phrases, English, Uzbek, translation, semantics, cultural differences, linguistic structure.

Introduction: The national cultural semantics of language are the result of historical development, which also includes the cultural past; the richer a nation's history, the brighter and more diverse the content of its linguistic units. The comparative study of the pharmacology of different languages serves to deepen the understanding of the structure of both languages, to enrich the knowledge of the behavior, culture, literature, history, and customs of people who speak these languages. Phraseologisms are the result of long-term development, reflecting the experience of society and passing it down from one generation to the next. As a result, they play an important role not only as a means of communication, but also as a source of various socially significant information.

Research topic and techniques unrelated phraseological units in the Uzbek and English languages were chosen as the subject of the study. The study employed a variety of research techniques, including etymological analysis, lexicographic, linguistic, contextual, associative, conceptual, and semantic-cognitive analysis. Findings and their interpretation. It's critical to understand what a phraseological unit is before considering its characteristics. The object of phraseology is defined by a number of hypotheses. Only stable substances are the focus of phraseology. The study of phraseological units' structural

characteristics, their occurrence in the linguistic system, and the characteristics of their usage at a particular moment is known as phraseology. Phraseological units are inextricably linked with the spiritual culture, customs, profession, way of life, past, aspirations, attitude to reality of the people who speak the language. Much work has been done in world linguistics on the study of phraseological units. Although phraseological units are very ancient in terms of origin, the history of the science of phraseology covers almost two centuries [1]

Phraseological units are stable word combinations that have a specialized or metaphorical meaning that is not necessarily apparent from their component words. They are often referred to as idioms, set expressions, or fixed phrases. They can be divided into various categories according to their level of structure, significance, and fixedness. The primary categories of phraseological units in English are listed below.

1. Idioms

The meaning of these fixed statements cannot be inferred from the individual words. Frequently, they are symbolic.

Examples:

Kick the bucket (to die)

Break the ice (to reduce social stress)

Bite the bullet (to put up with something challenging)

2. Proverbs

These are whole phrases that convey moral teachings, wisdom, or universal truths.

Examples: Actions speak louder than words, A rolling stone gathers no moss, The early bird catches the worm.

3. Collocations

These are naturally occurring word pairings that are frequently predictable.

Examples: Make a decision (instead of "do a decision"), Strong coffee (not "powerful coffee"), Heavy rain (not "big rain")

4. Clichés

These are overused expressions that have lost their uniqueness or impact.

Examples: Better late than never, At the end of the day, Time will tell.

5. Phrasal Verbs

These are idiomatic verb + preposition/adverb combinations.

Examples: Give up (to stop doing something), Look after (to take care of), Run out of (to have no more left)

6. Aphorisms and Sayings

These are succinct, memorable quotes that convey a universal reality or insight.

Examples: No pain, no gain, Knowledge is power, Fortune favors the bold.

7. Binomials and Trinomials

These are fixed expressions with two or three words joined by a conjunction, often in a specific order

Examples: Black and white (clear distinction), Give and take (compromise), Wine, women, and song (pleasures of life)

Proponents of top-level phraseology, on the other hand, limit themselves to the study of fixed units of integral portable meaning. In their phraseological research, they study only phraseological units that are equivalent to a compound, and do not evaluate proverbs and sayings as objects of phraseology [2]

Phraseological units are stable word combinations having specialized or figurative meanings in the Uzbek language. They are crucial for enhancing speech and adding vibrancy and expressiveness to expressions. Like English, Uzbek phraseological units can be divided into a number of categories.

1. Phraseological Collocations

2. Phraseological Unities / Idioms

3. Proverbs

4. Set Expressions / Fixed Phrases

5. Sayings and Aphorisms

6. Compound Phraseological Units

7. Clichés and Fixed Phrases

Phraseological units are widely used in English to improve communication, add expressiveness, and convey meanings more effectively. The use of phraseological units (idioms, collocations, proverbs, and other fixed expressions) varies according to the context, purpose, and degree of formality; the following are important aspects of their usage:

Enriching Speech and Writing (Phraseological units add vibrancy, expressiveness, and interest to language. They assist writers and presenters in condensing and remembering difficult concepts), **Everyday Conversations** (In casual conversation, idioms and collocations are frequently employed to naturally convey feelings, responses, and ideas), **Professional and Business Communication** (In formal contexts, specific phraseological units are employed to preserve professionalism and improve the effectiveness of speech), **Literature and Creative Writing** (Phraseological units are frequently used by writers and poets to improve storytelling, enrich meaning, and conjure vivid images), **Journalism and Media** (Phraseological units are used in newspapers, periodicals, and internet articles to create attention-grabbing headlines and more interesting content), **Academic and Scientific Writing** (While idioms and informal phraseological units are usually avoided in academic writing, certain collocations and fixed expressions are commonly used to maintain clarity and precision), **Humor and Sarcasm** (Many phraseological units are used playfully or sarcastically to bring wit to talks), **Cross-Cultural and Language Learning Importance** (Learning phraseological units is crucial for non-native English speakers to comprehend cultural allusions and idioms that sound native. Gaining proficiency in idioms enhances fluency because many of them do not translate precisely).

When it comes to Uzbek language phraseological units are used extensively to enhance the expressiveness, meaning, and cultural richness of speech. Depending on the situation, degree of formality, and goal, these fixed expressions enhance communication by succinctly expressing ideas, concepts, and emotions.

Everyday Conversations (Uzbek speakers regularly utilize phraseological units in daily speech to communicate feelings, thoughts, and attitudes. These phrases typically make conversations more engaging and culturally resonant), **Literature and Poetry** (Uzbek

poets and writers regularly use phraseological units to produce vivid imagery, improve storytelling, and represent cultural values. Many classical and modern works contain idiomatic language), Proverbs and Wisdom in Speech (Uzbek culture cherishes proverbs as they communicate wisdom, life lessons, and ancient values. They are commonly used in both formal and casual communication), Journalism and Media (In order to make the language more powerful and captivating, phraseological units are frequently utilized in news articles, headlines, and reports), Business and Professional Communication (In order to make the language more powerful and captivating, phraseological units are frequently utilized in news articles, headlines, and reports), Humor and Sarcasm (In Uzbek, comedy and sarcasm are expressed through a variety of phraseological units), Uzbek Language Learning and Cross-Cultural Communication (Since many idioms are specific to Uzbek culture and lack direct counterparts in other languages, learning Uzbek phraseological units is crucial for non-native speakers to comprehend authentic speech and cultural nuances).

A crucial part of language, phraseological units add to its expressiveness and individuality. Despite being members of distinct linguistic families—Uzbek is a member of the Turkic family, while English is a member of the Germanic branch of the Indo-European family—their phraseological systems are somewhat similar because of shared cultural and cognitive experiences. However, societal influences, history, and linguistic structure all contribute to notable variances.

Although different academics have different definitions of phraseological units, they generally refer to stable word combinations that have figurative meanings that are frequently inferred from the meanings of their constituent words. Among the most widely used classifications are:

- 1. Idioms** – Expressions with a meaning that cannot be interpreted literally (e.g., "kick the bucket" in English, "gain experience" (lit. "teeth come out") in Uzbek, meaning to become experienced)
- 2. Proverbs and Sayings** – Fixed expressions that carry moral or practical lessons (e.g., "Actions speak louder than words" vs. "One who engages with many agrees with many" (One who engages with many agrees with many))
- 3. Collocations** – Frequently occurring word combinations with a natural-sounding structure (e.g., "strong wind" vs. "strong wind").
- 4. Set Phrases** – Fixed expressions commonly used in everyday communication (e.g., "Nice to meet you" vs. "Nice to meet you").

The grammatical and syntactic differences between English and Uzbek cause significant differences in the structural composition of phraseological units. In English, phraseological units typically follow a subject-verb-object (SVO) structure, while in Uzbek, which is an agglutinative language, they typically follow a subject-object-verb (SOV) structure. This leads to distinct patterns of phrase formation.

Furthermore, unlike English fixed expressions, Uzbek phraseological units usually contain affixes and suffixes that alter the core meaning.

Semantic transparency can be used to classify phraseological units in both languages:

- 1. Fully Transparent Units** – Expressions whose meaning is clear from the individual words (e.g., "black and white" It is the same in Uzbek by changing the places of the words "white-black").
- 2. Semi-Transparent Units** – Expressions where the meaning is partially deducible (e.g., "spill the beans" vs. "let words slip").
- 3. Opaque Units** – Expressions with meanings completely unrelated to individual words (e.g., "kick the bucket" vs. "give up completely").

One of the goals of phraseology as a linguistic science is to analyze a language's phraseological Fund in detail. The stability of phraseological units, the system of phraseology and semantic structure of phraseological units, their genesis, and their crucial roles are all significant research topics in this field. One particularly complex area of phraseology that requires in-depth understanding of the subject matter is the translation of phraseological units. Phraseology history is the study of phraseological units' primary, initial forms and meanings, their sources from all available monuments, the areas in which they were used in various linguistic epochs, the volume of phraseological composition, and its systematic arrangement in a dictionary. The relationship between a phraseological unit and a word has recently presented researchers with a particularly challenging problem in the development of phraseology as a branch of linguistics. The phrasing of this question is the subject of multiple perspectives in contemporary linguistics. While some consider PU to be similar to words, others highlight their association with the word, replacing the idea of equivalency with the theory of correlation of phraseological combination. It should also be noted that proverbs and sayings, i.e. phraseologisms with sentence structure, can only be identified using sentences, for example, birds of a feather flock together –individuals who have similar interests, opinions, and so on are drawn to each other and remain together near proximity; the blind guiding the blind –a scenario in which the one leading

or counseling others understands as much as they do.

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