

# Semantic and Pragmatic Features of Plant Terms in English And Uzbek Languages

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**Abstract:** This article presents a comparative analysis of expressions related to plant components encountered in the Uzbek language, along with their translations. The study discusses issues such as the unity of form and meaning, imagery, literary details, similes, and the re-expression of rhyme and refrain. The advantages and challenges of translating from closely related languages are illustrated with examples. Emphasis is placed on the necessity of direct translation from Uzbek into English. Additionally, idioms specifically related to flora components are examined in depth from semantic and pragmatic perspectives.

**Keywords:** Idiom, comparative analysis, equivalence, form and meaning, literary detail, simile, flora, semantics, pragmatics.

**Introduction:** Culturally and nationally specific language units embody the uniqueness of a nation's identity. Among these units, phraseological expressions (idioms) serve as a reflection of national culture, lifestyle, and accumulated traditional observations. Unveiling the cultural and linguistic features of language units on a global scale, particularly their formal-meaning structures, constitutes a complex challenge for linguists. Specifically, analyzing the semantics and pragmatics of idioms and modeling them on an occasional basis are significant issues within linguistic research.

In Uzbek linguistics, research on phraseological units has been ongoing for many years. Studies have focused on their formation, etymology, stylistic features, unique characteristics, and comparisons with similar expressions in other languages. Notable linguists such as Sh.Rahmatullaev, M.Husainov, A.Mamatov, Ya.D.Pinkhasov, B.Yuldoshev, A.Isayev, M.Sodiqova, Sh.Usmanova, K.Bozorboev, B.Juraeva, Sh.Almamatova, and M.Vafoeva have contributed significantly to this field.

For instance, Sh. Rahmatullaev's research resulted in the creation of the "Explanatory Dictionaries of Uzbek Phraseological Units." A.Mamatov and B. Yuldoshev

have provided scholarly work on the stylistic features and historical development of idioms. In the 1990s, Rahmatullaev proposed models for Uzbek language units, illustrating their formal structures with examples. However, comprehensive structural analysis and modeling of phraseological units in Uzbek have yet to be fully explored in monographic form.

This context underscores the importance of studying flora-related idioms in Uzbek, as such research broadens our understanding of their semantic and pragmatic relationships and translation methodologies.

**Flora Idioms in Uzbek Language.** In Uzbek, flora idioms expressions related to plants reflect the people's attitude toward nature, culture, and traditions. These idioms often describe characteristics of specific plants or their roles in life. They are vital not only for enriching vocabulary but also for preserving national heritage and cultural identity.

Many Uzbek flora idioms originate from ancient Turkic languages, shaped by historical processes, cultural exchanges, and linguistic evolutions. Dialectal variations also influence these expressions across regions.

Plants play an essential role in traditional Uzbek life—

used in food, medicine, folklore, and rituals. Compared to other cultures, Uzbek flora idioms convey notions of connection, respect, and appreciation.

Common plant-related expressions include components such as “apple,” “quince,” “melon,”

“gunch (a type of shrub),” “stick,” “watermelon,” “pumpkin,” “tree,” “root,” among others.

A brief lexicon of selected flora idioms translated from Uzbek to English:

№	In Uzbek	Meaning	Translation
1.	Olma bilan o‘rik bo‘larmidi	Yoshi o‘tgan, qari	An old person
2.	Jinnini jinni desang arpa bo‘yi o‘sadi	Yomonni yomonlasang shuncha yomonlashadi	The worse you speak about a person the worse she/he can be
3.	Ko‘z bilan olma termoq	Anqaymoq, tikilib qarash	To stare
4.	Tarvuzi qo‘ltig‘idan tushmoq	Umidi puchga chiqmoq, hafsalasi pir bo‘lmoq	To be disappointed
5.	Oq oltin	Paxta	White gold, cotton
6.	Dala malikasi	Makkajo‘xori	The queen of fields, corn

Many flora idioms are associated with the intrinsic qualities, symbolic meanings, or metaphorical representations of plants. For example, the phrase “tug‘yonli gul” (fruitful flower) can carry various symbolic connotations, reflecting respect for the plant’s value and its role in life. During the study of Uzbek flora idioms, it is essential to consider both their semantic and pragmatic aspects.

**Semantic and Pragmatic Features.** Semantic features analyze the meaning behind words and expressions, revealing hidden or implied content. Pragmatic features focus on the contextual usage of expressions in communication, including how they function in specific situations and cultural settings. Both aspects are interconnected, providing a comprehensive understanding of language units.

Semantic and pragmatic analyses are fundamental in linguistics for examining how expressions carry

meaning and influence communication. For example, a phrase may be semantically correct but pragmatically inappropriate in certain contexts.

Idioms related to plants constitute a significant subset of figurative language in English, reflecting cultural perceptions, environmental symbolism, and societal values. These expressions often encapsulate complex ideas, attitudes, and social norms through metaphorical references to flora. Recognized scholars such as Michael Hoey (1983), George Yule (2014), and Paul R. Rayson (2008) have contributed to the understanding of idiomatic language, emphasizing the importance of semantic and pragmatic analysis in studying figurative expressions.

**Examples of Plant-Related Idioms in English.** Below are several common English plant idioms, along with their literal and figurative meanings:

№	In English	Literal meaning	Figurative meaning
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1.	To beat around the bush	To walk around bushes	To avoid addressing the main point
2.	To grow on someone	Plants developing on a surface	To develop affection or liking
3.	To be in the same boat	To be in a boat together	To be in similar circumstances
4.	To take root	To plant roots in soil	To establish oneself firmly
5.	To go out on a limb	To extend a branch	To take a risk or make oneself vulnerable
6.	To nip in the bud	To cut a bud from a plant	To stop something before it develops

**Semantic Features.** Semantically, plant idioms rely heavily on metaphorical extensions of literal botanical concepts. For instance, "to take root" connotes stability and establishment, while "to nip in the bud" signifies preventing development at an early stage. These idioms often embody abstract ideas such as growth, risk, or avoidance, grounded in concrete imagery of plants and their growth processes.

Research by Michael Hoey (1983) highlights that idioms often derive their meaning from shared cultural understanding of natural phenomena, making them transparent within their cultural context but opaque or metaphorical to outsiders. The semantic component involves the core metaphor linking plant parts or growth processes with human experiences or social interactions.

**Pragmatic Features.** Pragmatically, plant idioms serve functions such as expressing attitudes, giving advice, or framing social situations. For example, "nip in the bud" is frequently used as advice to prevent problems from escalating, reflecting a pragmatic function of caution. Similarly, "to grow on someone" conveys gradual affection, often used in social or emotional contexts.

Scholars like Rayson et al. (2008) emphasize that the pragmatic interpretation of idioms depends on context and speaker intention. Idioms can be used to soften statements, convey humor, or provide emphasis, which are crucial for understanding their communicative effectiveness.

**Theoretical Perspectives.** George Yule (2014) emphasizes that idioms function as fixed expressions with a non-literal meaning that is understood collectively within a speech community. Their semantic transparency varies; some idioms, such as "to go out on a limb," are metaphorically transparent, while others, like "to beat around the bush," involve idiomatic conventions that may not be immediately obvious to language learners.

The study of idioms also involves the concept of semantic opacity (the degree to which the figurative meaning differs from the literal meaning). In plant idioms, opacity varies; "to be in the same boat" is relatively transparent, whereas "to go out on a limb" is more metaphorical.

## CONCLUSION

Overall, the translation preserves the content and essence of the original. The sequence of images and events remains intact. Variations observed in translation may result from the fact that the original text was translated indirectly from Russian; thus, direct translation from the source language is preferable. Achieving a complete recreation of the original form and content requires a talented poet-translator. In poetic translation, the story's meaning, theme, and plot are comprehensively conveyed, with rhyme and poetic devices maintained. The close adherence to the original indicates a successful translation. Idioms serve as tools to express actions, states, and relationships in human

life and nature, reflecting their deep-seated cultural significance. Given the interconnectedness of humans and nature, numerous examples of flora idioms in Uzbek are available for analysis. This work illustrates some selected idioms, providing descriptive insights.

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