

The Concept Of Values And Their Linguocultural Expression

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Abstract: This article explores the concept of values, their sociocultural and moral essence, and their reflection in language from a linguocultural perspective. It examines how values are encoded and transmitted through language units such as proverbs, metaphors, culturally marked words, and discourse. The article also analyzes how values manifest in different languages and how cultural differences affect their semantic expression.

Keywords: Values, linguoculturology, culture, metaphor, proverb, national worldview, discourse, language.

Introduction: Throughout history, every nation has developed its own system of spiritual, moral, and social norms — collectively referred to as values. These values represent the cultural and ideological backbone of a society and serve as key regulators of behavior and social life. They define a nation's worldview, its collective mentality, and its historical consciousness.

Language plays a central role in the preservation and transmission of these values. It functions not only as a communication tool but also as a cultural repository. Therefore, analyzing values within the framework of linguoculturology provides deeper insight into the connection between language, thought, and culture.

The Nature of Values

Values are generally defined as socially and personally significant concepts that guide human attitudes, decisions, and behaviors. They can be classified into several categories:

- **Personal values:** honesty, responsibility, self-discipline;
- **Social values:** equality, justice, cooperation;
- **National-cultural values:** respect for elders, family integrity, hospitality;
- **Universal human values:** peace, truth, freedom.

These values are not expressed explicitly in everyday communication but are deeply embedded in the

language through figurative and symbolic expressions.

Linguocultural Expression of Values

The linguistic expression of values is at the core of linguocultural studies. This field examines how abstract cultural and moral principles are encoded in specific language units that carry national and cultural meanings.

Proverbs as Carriers of Values

Proverbs reflect collective wisdom and encode core values in a compact and metaphorical form.

Examples:

- Uzbek: "Respect to elders – kindness to juniors." (hierarchical harmony);
- Uzbek: "Be thankful to your parents – be honored among your people." (family and community);
- Uzbek: "Honesty is not wealth, but it brings blessing." (value of honesty);
- English: "Honesty is the best policy."
- Russian: "Честность – лучшая политика."

Despite linguistic differences, the underlying values — honesty, respect, family — remain consistent.

Metaphorical Representation of Values

Metaphors are fundamental to expressing abstract concepts such as love, freedom, or honor.

Examples in Uzbek:

- "A person with an open heart" – symbolizes kindness and sincerity;
- "Sweet speech" – eloquence and politeness;
- "Open hands" – generosity.

Each culture uses distinct metaphors, yet they often reflect similar moral ideals.

Culturally Marked Vocabulary

Some words carry strong cultural and emotional connotations and are tied closely to national identity.

Examples in Uzbek:

- "Odob" – respectful behavior;
- "Hayo" – modesty;
- "Ibodatli" – devout or spiritual;
- "Vijdon" – conscience;
- "Or-nomus" – honor, dignity.

These terms may lack full equivalents in other languages, which highlights the cultural specificity of value expression.

Values Across Languages: A Comparative Perspective

Though values are universal in nature, their linguistic representation can vary significantly across cultures.

In English

- "Freedom of speech", "Individual rights", "Speak your mind", "Be yourself" – reflect individualism, freedom, and personal agency;
- "Charity begins at home" – family values.

In Russian

- "Старших нужно уважать" – "Elders must be respected" (respect and hierarchy);
- "Без труда не вытащишь и рыбку из пруда" – "You can't catch a fish without effort" (hard work);
- "Родина – мать" – "Motherland is like a mother" (patriotism, nationalism).

In Uzbek

- "Yaxshilik qil, qaytar dunyo." – "Do good; the world will return it" (karma-like view);
- "Otangga rahmat – xalq ichida tanilding." – family and reputation;
- "Or-nomus – inson ziynati." – dignity is a person's ornament.

Each language frames values according to its worldview, history, and dominant ideology.

Values in Discourse

Values are not only represented in fixed expressions like proverbs but are also actively used in discourse – especially in media, politics, religion, and education.

Examples:

- Political speech:
 - o Uzbek: "Peace in the nation is the basis of prosperity."
 - o English: "We stand for justice and freedom."
- Religious discourse:
 - o "Halal earnings bring blessings." (Islamic value of honest labor)
- Educational discourse:
 - o "Respect for teachers is the foundation of knowledge."

Such expressions not only reflect but also shape social consciousness and norms.

Values and the Challenge of Translation

Translating value-laden language often poses serious challenges:

- **Cultural gaps:** Some values do not exist or are interpreted differently in other cultures;
- **Semantic loss:** Literal translation may strip an expression of its emotional or moral force;
- **Untranslatability:** Words like "odob" or "or-nomus" do not have full equivalents in English.

To address this, translators must use cultural adaptation, footnotes, or contextual paraphrasing to convey the intended value accurately.

CONCLUSION

Values are essential elements of human societies, functioning as invisible codes that guide behavior and social interaction. Their linguistic expression is a powerful indicator of a nation's worldview, mentality, and moral foundations.

From proverbs and metaphors to culturally loaded vocabulary and discourse, values shape and are shaped by language. Understanding how values are linguistically expressed helps scholars, translators, and educators navigate cultural differences more effectively and fosters intercultural dialogue and empathy.

As globalization continues to bring cultures closer, the need to respect and interpret values across languages becomes not only a linguistic task but a humanistic one.

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