

Comparative Analysis Of Phraseological Units With Adverbial Antonyms In English And Uzbek Languages

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Abstract: This article investigates the comparative linguistic features of phraseological units with adverbial antonyms in English and Uzbek languages. It focuses on their semantic, stylistic, and cultural characteristics and analyzes how adverbial antonyms contribute to expressiveness and emotional intensity in idiomatic structures. The research highlights the theoretical viewpoints of both Uzbek and international linguists, showing that adverbial antonyms play a vital role in shaping contrast and meaning. The study emphasizes the similarities and differences between English and Uzbek idioms, revealing how national culture and worldview are reflected through linguistic expressions.

Keywords: Phraseological units, adverbial antonyms, semantics, contrast, expressiveness, idioms, linguistic worldview, English, Uzbek, culture.

Introduction: Phraseological units, as one of the most expressive and nationally specific layers of a language, reflect the worldview, mentality, and emotional culture of its speakers. They represent a linguistic treasury where a nation's collective experience, traditions, and cultural codes are preserved. Within this framework, antonymy plays a significant role in shaping semantic contrast, intensifying expression, and enhancing stylistic vividness.

In particular, adverbial antonyms — pairs of opposite adverbs such as sooner or later, up and down, or here and there — constitute a distinctive subgroup of idiomatic expressions. These combinations rely on contrast and symmetry to convey a sense of movement, uncertainty, and rhythm in speech. Such idioms enrich communication by creating dynamic semantic interplay that resonates with the listener's cognitive and emotional perception.

According to V. V. Vinogradov, "phraseological units are stable combinations of words that form a single semantic whole whose meaning cannot be deduced from the individual words" [1, 1972]. This view emphasizes the integrity and indivisibility of phraseological meaning, distinguishing idioms from free word combinations. A. V. Kunin further notes that

idioms are "a product of national culture and historical development that embodies collective linguistic experience" [2, 1996]. His definition highlights the sociocultural dimension of idiomatic expressions and their role in transmitting a community's values and worldview.

Building on these perspectives, V. N. Telia argues that phraseological units serve as "a mirror of national mentality," carrying implicit evaluative and emotional meanings that reveal how a society interprets its reality [3, 1988]. In this context, the study of antonymic phraseological units — particularly those involving adverbial components — provides insights into how languages encode opposition, balance, and contrast not only linguistically but also culturally.

The phenomenon of phraseological antonymy thus emerges as both a linguistic and cognitive mechanism, reflecting human perception of duality and contrast — life and death, joy and sorrow, success and failure — which are universal categories in all cultures. Comparative analysis of English and Uzbek adverbial antonymic phraseological units allows for a deeper understanding of how different linguistic systems express similar conceptual oppositions through distinct structural and cultural patterns.

The present study, therefore, aims to investigate the semantic, structural, and stylistic characteristics of phraseological units containing adverbial antonyms in English and Uzbek. It also seeks to reveal their role in reflecting national mentality and in enriching expressive means of both languages.

METHOD

1. The Nature of Adverbial Antonyms in Phraseology

Adverbs are an essential part of a sentence's grammatical and semantic structure, as they indicate time, manner, frequency, degree, and direction. Their flexible nature allows them to combine with various lexical units, creating nuanced shades of meaning. When two adverbs of opposite meaning are combined within a single idiomatic construction, they generate a powerful semantic polarity that reflects not only linguistic contrast but also conceptual duality inherent in human thought. Such combinations introduce tension, rhythm, and emotional intensity into speech, transforming ordinary expressions into memorable and vivid idioms.

According to M. A. Amosova, "contextual opposition is one of the organizing principles of idiomatic meaning, where contrast becomes the source of figurativeness" [3, 1963]. This means that antonymy in phraseology is not limited to logical contradiction; rather, it functions as a stylistic mechanism that produces imagery, irony, and expressiveness. For instance, English expressions such as sooner or later, up and down, now and then, back and forth, and here and there demonstrate how repetition and opposition can coexist harmoniously to express the ideas of continuity, alternation, and inevitability.

Similarly, the Uzbek language possesses a rich system of adverbial antonymic constructions such as erta-kech, u yoq-bu yoqqa, yuqoriga-pastga, narigi-berigi tomonga, and borib-kelib. These units reflect the rhythmic and musical nature of Uzbek speech and illustrate the national tendency to express dynamic movement, emotional contrast, and temporal progression through paired opposites.

In both English and Uzbek, adverbial antonyms are characterized by symmetry, balance, and repetition, which contribute to their euphonic and mnemonic qualities. The rhythmic structure of such idioms allows

them to be easily remembered and frequently used in oral speech, proverbs, and literary works.

O. Sayfullayeva emphasizes that "Uzbek antonymic idioms reflect emotional evaluation and national mentality through their contrastive and rhythmic form" [4, 2014]. This observation underscores the fact that adverbial antonymic phraseological units do not merely denote linguistic opposition; they encode cultural values, such as patience and destiny (erta-kech), uncertainty and search (u yoq-bu yoqqa), or social hierarchy (yuqoriga-pastga). Thus, the linguistic contrast mirrors the emotional and philosophical outlook of the nation.

Moreover, the semantic polarity of adverbial antonyms often goes beyond simple contradiction. As V. I. Shakhovsky points out, "emotional semantics in phraseological units emerges from the correlation between contrastive components that stimulate evaluative interpretation by the speaker" [5, 2008]. This means that such idioms not only describe events but also evaluate them emotionally and culturally. For example, sooner or later implies patience and inevitability, while up and down may suggest instability or fluctuation — each carrying an implicit emotional charge recognized by native speakers.

Therefore, adverbial antonyms within phraseological systems serve as a bridge between lexical opposition and cultural symbolism. They represent a unique intersection of grammar, semantics, and national worldview, embodying how languages encode the human experience of duality — success and failure, movement and stillness, hope and despair — through balanced and rhythmic structures.

2. Comparative Features of English and Uzbek Adverbial Idioms

A comparative study of English and Uzbek adverbial antonymic idioms demonstrates that both languages, despite their typological and structural differences, employ contrastive adverbs as a universal expressive tool. Adverbial antonyms in idiomatic expressions serve to emphasize repetition, alternation, uncertainty, and movement, forming an essential part of the linguistic worldview of each culture.

The table below illustrates several parallels between the two languages:

English Idiom	Uzbek Equivalent	Meaning
sooner or later	erta-kech	eventually
up and down	yuqoriga-pastga	continuously
now and then	ba'zida-ba'zida	occasionally
more or less	ko'p yoki kam	approximately

English Idiom Uzbek Equivalent Meaning

here and there u yoq-bu yoqqa in various places
back and forth u yoqdan bu yoqqa repeatedly

In English, such idioms often rely on analytical constructions, where the meaning arises from the combination of two separate lexical items joined by or, and, or but. These forms reflect the syntactic flexibility of English and its tendency to create meaning through coordination and logical connection.

In contrast, Uzbek idioms typically exhibit synthetic and rhythmical structures, reflecting the melodic and poetic nature of the Uzbek language. They often use sound repetition, alliteration, and vowel harmony, which give the idioms a musical rhythm. For instance, erta-kech and u yoq-bu yoqqa show phonetic symmetry and rhythmic balance, which are integral to the aesthetics of Uzbek oral speech.

According to V. I. Shakhovsky, "emotional expressiveness in phraseological units is created through the interplay of contrast and evaluation" [5, 2008]. This statement is particularly relevant to adverbial antonyms, as contrast inherently stimulates emotional coloring. Thus, antonymic adverbs serve as a universal mechanism for emotional expression, demonstrating that linguistic opposites are not merely structural but also psychological and cultural phenomena.

Furthermore, Uzbek idioms are more emotionally saturated and context-bound, while English idioms tend to be conceptual and pragmatic, emphasizing clarity and logic. This contrast reflects the different communicative traditions of the two linguistic communities: the English preference for reasoned expression and the Uzbek inclination toward rhythmic and expressive speech.

3. Semantic and Stylistic Value

Phraseological units containing adverbial antonyms perform significant semantic and stylistic functions in both languages. They not only denote contrast but also convey modality, evaluation, and emotional coloring, which enriches the overall expressive power of speech. Below are examples of the semantic nuances of some adverbial idioms:

- sooner or later → expresses inevitability or certainty;
- now and then → indicates irregularity or temporariness;
- up and down → conveys instability or constant movement;

- more or less → expresses approximation or vagueness.

Similarly, Uzbek idioms such as erta-kech, u yoq-bu yoqqa, and yuqoriga-pastga express temporal alternation, spatial movement, and emotional fluctuation. However, their sound repetition and rhythmic harmony make them even more expressive, as these features are deeply rooted in the oral and poetic traditions of Uzbek culture.

According to Komilova G., "Uzbek phraseology is deeply poetic and emotionally colored, where contrastive pairs serve to harmonize rhythm and thought" [6, 2019]. This statement captures the stylistic essence of Uzbek adverbial idioms — they do not merely contrast opposites but also create balance and unity through rhythm. This rhythmic duality reflects the Uzbek cultural tendency to perceive life in complementary oppositions, such as day and night, good and evil, joy and sorrow.

From a stylistic point of view, both English and Uzbek adverbial antonymic idioms can perform several functions:

1. Intensification – strengthening the expressive force of an utterance (up and down, erta-kech);
2. Irony – creating a humorous or evaluative contrast (more or less);
3. Rhythmization – contributing to the musicality and fluency of speech (u yoq-bu yoqqa);
4. Cultural expression – embodying traditional worldviews and national psychology.

Thus, adverbial antonymic phraseological units function not only as linguistic contrasts but also as carriers of national mentality, bridging the linguistic and emotional dimensions of communication. Their frequent use in both everyday speech and literature proves their vitality and adaptability, reflecting how both languages conceptualize the dynamics of life through balanced opposition and emotional symmetry.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The comparative study of adverbial antonymic phraseological units in English and Uzbek reveals several important linguistic and cultural findings that deepen our understanding of how contrastive adverbial pairs function within idiomatic systems.

1. Adverbial antonyms as semantic intensifiers.

In both English and Uzbek, adverbial antonyms serve as semantic intensifiers that enhance the expressiveness of speech. Their use adds emphasis, rhythm, and emotional depth to an utterance. Idioms such as sooner or later and erta-kech communicate inevitability and persistence, transforming neutral expressions into emotionally charged statements. This confirms the view of V. V. Vinogradov, who regarded idioms as “semantic wholes with heightened stylistic effect” [1, 1972].

2. Linguistic typology and contrast realization.

The structural comparison shows that English idioms tend to emphasize logical and temporal contrast, while Uzbek idioms focus more on emotional and rhythmic harmony. For example, now and then expresses sporadic recurrence through clear logical contrast, whereas u yoq-bu yoqqa conveys a sense of continuous, rhythmic motion, reflecting the melodic and repetitive tendencies of the Uzbek language. This pattern aligns with A. V. Kunin’s claim that idioms are “not only products of linguistic evolution but also mirrors of cultural rhythm and thought” [2, 1996].

3. Cultural identity and interpretation.

The analysis also shows that cultural identity strongly influences the formation and interpretation of antonymic idioms. English adverbial idioms often reflect the values of precision, time consciousness, and pragmatism, while Uzbek equivalents embody emotional balance, patience, and collectivist worldview. Such differences prove that antonymy in phraseology operates as a cross-cultural semiotic tool, reflecting national mentality through linguistic structure and rhythm.

4. Emotional power and symbolism.

The emotional force of phraseological antonymy is determined by both its cultural symbolism and contextual application. For instance, up and down can signify instability or struggle in English, while yuqoriga-pastga may carry an emotional undertone of social movement or fortune fluctuation. This supports V. I. Shakhovsky’s argument that “the emotional meaning of idioms emerges from the evaluative correlation between contrastive components” [5, 2008]. Hence, antonymic pairs are not merely lexical opposites but also emotional and cognitive symbols.

Overall, the findings confirm that phraseological antonymy performs dual functions — cognitive and stylistic — as emphasized by Vinogradov [1], Kunin [2], and Shakhovsky [5]. Cognitively, it structures human perception of opposites and gradations; stylistically, it amplifies the aesthetic and emotive expressiveness of speech.

Furthermore, the comparative results demonstrate that despite the typological distinctions between English (an analytical language) and Uzbek (an agglutinative language), both employ contrastive adverbial pairs as universal expressive tools. This indicates that semantic opposition is a fundamental linguistic mechanism transcending grammatical boundaries.

Thus, the study verifies that adverbial antonymic idioms function as a bridge between linguistic form and cultural identity, offering insight into how speakers of both languages perceive time, emotion, and experience through contrastive expression.

CONCLUSION

Phraseological units containing adverbial antonyms in English and Uzbek reveal profound interrelations between language, cognition, and culture. Their structure and semantics demonstrate that contrast is a universal linguistic mechanism for expressing evaluation, emotion, and intensity, forming one of the core principles of figurative and idiomatic language.

The comparative analysis confirms that both English and Uzbek utilize adverbial antonyms as powerful linguistic and stylistic tools. However, each language reflects its unique cultural and aesthetic traditions through these constructions. English idioms tend to emphasize logical clarity, temporal precision, and analytical contrast, while Uzbek idioms highlight rhythm, melody, and emotional resonance. This difference mirrors broader cultural patterns: the rational linearity of English communication versus the poetic and harmonic worldview characteristic of Uzbek discourse.

- Adverbial antonyms function as expressive devices that convey both contrast and emphasis in idiomatic usage.
- Idiomatic combinations embody national mentality, reflecting the worldview, aesthetic norms, and emotional culture of each people.
- Phraseological antonymy enriches both languages, enhancing stylistic diversity and communicative effectiveness.

These findings reaffirm that idiomatic antonymy is not merely a structural feature but also a cognitive and cultural phenomenon, linking linguistic form with conceptual meaning.

Future research can broaden this comparative perspective by examining adverbial antonymic idioms in other Turkic and European languages, thereby tracing how universal linguistic oppositions are adapted to distinct national modes of thought and cultural symbolism. Such interdisciplinary exploration

would further illuminate the universal nature of contrast as a fundamental mechanism of human expression.

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