

Somatic Proverbs And Their Synonymy: A Comparative Study Of English And Uzbek

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Abstract: Somatic proverbs represent an important segment of phraseological units in many languages, as they are formed on the basis of body-part terms and human physical experience. Such proverbs reflect not only linguistic structures but also cultural values, national mentality, and cognitive models shared by speech communities. This article provides an extended analysis of somatic proverbs with particular emphasis on their synonymy. Special attention is paid to the comparative study of English and Uzbek somatic proverbs. The paper examines theoretical approaches proposed by well-known linguists, illustrates the ideas with numerous examples, and reveals similarities and differences in the use of somatic components across the two languages.

Keywords: Somatic proverbs, body-part lexemes, proverb synonymy, English and Uzbek, linguocultural comparison.

Introduction: Proverbs are concise and stable expressions that encapsulate the life experience, worldview, and moral values of a people. Due to their figurative nature and semantic density, proverbs have long been an object of study in linguistics, folklore studies, and cultural anthropology. Among various groups of proverbs, somatic proverbs hold a special place because they are based on the human body, which serves as a universal and easily accessible source of metaphorical conceptualization.

In both English and Uzbek, somatic proverbs are widely used to describe intellectual abilities, emotional states, ethical behavior, and social relations. The relevance of studying somatic proverbs lies in their ability to reveal how abstract notions are interpreted through bodily experience. Furthermore, the phenomenon of synonymy among somatic proverbs demonstrates the richness of proverbial language and the diversity of expressive means within and across languages.

Theoretical Background of Somatic Phraseology. The concept of somatic phraseological units has been discussed in the works of many linguists. According to V. V. Vinogradov, phraseological units are stable word combinations with a partially or fully transferred meaning, and somatic components play a crucial role in

their semantic motivation. A.V. Kunin also emphasizes that body-part terms are among the most productive components in English phraseology due to their high metaphorical potential.

From a cognitive linguistic perspective, G. Lakoff and M. Johnson argue that human thinking is fundamentally metaphorical and grounded in bodily experience. This idea explains why somatic elements are so frequent in proverbs: the human body functions as a primary cognitive model for understanding the world.

In Uzbek linguistics, scholars such as Sh. Rahmatullayev and A. Madvaliyev have highlighted the importance of somatic lexemes in phraseology and paremiology, noting their close connection with national culture and traditional values.

The Concept of Somatic Proverbs. The term somatic originates from the Greek word *soma* meaning "body". In linguistic studies, somatic units refer to words and expressions that include names of body parts such as head, hand, eye, heart, tongue, and their Uzbek equivalents head/*bosh*, hand/*qo'l*, eye/*ko'z*, heart/*yurak*, tongue/*til*.

Somatic proverbs are defined as proverbs containing at least one somatic component. These components are rarely used literally; instead, they function

metaphorically. For example, the head (bosh) is commonly associated with intellect and reason, while the heart (yurak) symbolizes emotions and sincerity.

Linguocultural Characteristics of Somatic Proverbs.

Somatic proverbs reflect the linguocultural identity of a nation. While the human body is universal, the symbolic meanings attached to its parts may differ across cultures. In English culture, for instance, the heart is primarily associated with love and kindness, whereas in Uzbek culture it also strongly represents courage and bravery.

For example:

English: A kind heart is better than a rich purse.

Uzbek: Ko'ngli boynig qo'li ochiq .

Although different images are used, both proverbs praise moral qualities and generosity.

Synonymy in Somatic Proverbs

Synonymy in paremiology refers to the existence of different proverbs that express similar meanings. Somatic proverb synonymy emerges when various body parts or different metaphorical images convey the same idea.

Within one language, several somatic proverbs may share a common semantic core. Across languages, synonymous relations can also be observed, although the somatic components may differ.

Comparative Analysis of English and Uzbek Somatic Proverbs

1. Somatic Proverbs Expressing Intelligence

English: Two heads are better than one.

Uzbek: Bir boshdan ikki bosh yaxshi.

English: A good head is better than a strong hand.

Uzbek: Aql kuchdan ustun.

These proverbs are fully synonymous, as both use the head/bosh to symbolize thinking and intelligence.

Another example:

English: A good head is better than a strong hand.

Uzbek: Bilagi zo'r – birni yiqar, bilimi zo'r – mingni.

2. Somatic Proverbs Expressing Emotions and Sincerity

English: What comes from the heart goes to the heart.

Uzbek: Yurakdan chiqqan so'z yurakka yetar.

Both proverbs express sincerity and deep emotional involvement, showing absolute synonymy based on the same somatic component.

3. Somatic Proverbs Expressing Generosity

English: An open hand makes many friends.

Uzbek: Qo'li ochiqning yo'li ochiq.

Here, the hand/qo'l symbolizes generosity. Although the structure differs, the semantic meaning is identical, which demonstrates partial synonymy.

4. Somatic Proverbs Expressing Speech and Restraint

English: Speech is silver, silence is golden.

Uzbek: Til – balo, jimlik – najot.

In both languages, the tongue/til represents speech, and the proverbs advise self-control.

Types of Synonymy among Somatic Proverbs

Based on the comparative analysis, the following types of synonymy can be identified:

1. Absolute synonymy, where both meaning and somatic component coincide.
2. Partial synonymy, where the meaning is similar but imagery or stylistic coloring differs.
3. Cross-cultural synonymy, where different cultures use distinct somatic images to express the same concept.

Functions of Somatic Proverbs in Discourse. Somatic proverbs perform several functions: didactic, communicative, expressive, and cultural. Their synonymous variants enrich speech and allow speakers to choose expressions according to context, style, and emotional tone.

CONCLUSION

The analysis shows that somatic proverbs constitute a rich and productive layer of proverbial language in both English and Uzbek. Despite cultural differences, many somatic proverbs demonstrate striking semantic similarities, which proves the universality of human bodily experience as a cognitive foundation.

The study of synonymy among somatic proverbs deepens our understanding of linguistic imagery, metaphorical thinking, and intercultural communication. Further research may focus on expanding the comparative scope to other languages and exploring pragmatic aspects of somatic proverbs.

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