

Linguocultural Characteristics Of Symbolic Meanings In Different Languages

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Abstract: The article reveals the linguistic and cultural characteristics of symbolic meanings in different languages using the examples of the animal world, the plant world, the uniqueness of natural climatic conditions, and colors.

Keywords: - Language, symbol, animal, plant, climatic conditions, color, wind.

Introduction: Language is a priceless gift that reflects the world, man, who is a part of it, and his thinking, worldview, spirituality, and culture. "Among the phenomena related to man, there is no other phenomenon as complex, magnificent, and venerable as language. Its complexity is as great as a spell, and its magnificence is a symbol of endless imagination" [1; 3]. It also names a person's attitude and imagination towards the world. Such views are also reflected in the symbols of a particular nation in linguistics.

Symbols are associated with human thinking, life experience, lifestyle, and environment. The fact that symbols differ in nations with different thinking styles indicates that the generalizations based on symbolic meaning and the national vision of the world are different. For example, the moon is a symbol of darkness and the afterlife for the Russian people, while the Vietnamese, who live according to the lunar calendar, consider it a symbol of goodness and beauty.

The existence of such differences can be explained by various factors. We will touch on some of them here:

– The uniqueness of the animal world: each region has its own animal world that is suitable for its climate and geographical location. People symbolize them based on their characteristics and lifestyle. We can include kangaroos and lions among such animals. The kangaroo lives in Australia and is its symbol. Interestingly, kangaroos cannot jump backwards. Their large tail prevents them from jumping. Since Australians live in their own territory and do not know how to walk

backwards, they made it their symbol (one that walks forward, takes bold steps) in order to show that we are a nation that always moves forward. Another flightless bird living in Australia, the emu, also does not know how to go back. Therefore, the kangaroo and emu are depicted on the Australian coat of arms as symbols of forward movement.

The lion is a symbol of strength, power, justice, and cruelty. It was a symbol of royal authority in Scotland and England in the Middle Ages, and in the 19th century it represented the power of the British Empire. Due to its above-mentioned symbolic meanings, we can see its depiction on the flags of Armenia during the reign of the Rubens and Hetum dynasties.

– The uniqueness of the plant world: the plant world is also unique in each country. Their symbolic meanings stem from the properties of the plants. We can include ginkgo and peonies among such plants. The ginkgo plant is a tree that grows in China. It grows near temples, and due to its longevity, it is considered a symbol of immortality. In Japan, it is a symbol of loyalty. Its average lifespan is 2,500 years, it is resistant to strong winds, it has been around since ancient times, and it is the only plant that grew after the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which is why it is endowed with the above symbolic meanings.

In China, the peony has two symbolic meanings. The first symbolizes power, glory, wealth and prosperity, while the second symbolizes beauty and charm. In China, the peony was originally grown in the gardens

and homes of emperors and wealthy officials, and only during the Han Dynasty did it become popular throughout China, making it a symbol of wealth today. As is known, the fact that the peony is a symbol of beauty is determined by its beautiful and attractive flower.

In Japan, the lotus is a symbol of strength, elegance, beauty, and good luck, but it is also a symbol of determination and endurance. The Japanese people pay attention to the fact that the lotus blooms on a strong stem, and they attribute this to the lotus's tenacity. Researcher I. Jamoliddinova, studying the concept of determination in the Uzbek language, recognizes the Japanese as the most determined people [2].

– The uniqueness of natural climatic conditions: the climate of countries differs from each other. Depending on the natural phenomenon that exists or occurs frequently in a particular country, the lexemes that name it will be assigned different symbolic meanings. We will consider the symbolic meanings of the names of natural phenomena such as volcano and tornado. The word volcano contains contradictory symbolic meanings such as “creation and destruction”, “birth and death”. The formation of such contradictory meanings is based on the fact that as a result of a powerful fiery eruption, it destroys the surrounding area, resulting in the appearance of certain (silver, copper, tin, diamond, etc.) deposits. Such symbolic meanings of the name of a volcano exist only in the place where the volcano erupts. For example, due to the presence of volcanoes in the Hawaiian Islands, Central America, Italy, Mexico, Indonesia, it has a symbolic meaning in these nations.

In the Uzbek linguistic culture, the volcano does not have a symbolic meaning. On the contrary, in our country, wind is considered a natural phenomenon that is often observed, especially in the cities of Kokand and Bekabad. For this reason, there are such combinations as Kokand wind and Bekabad wind in our language. Therefore, in the Uzbek language, the lexeme wind expresses a symbolic meaning. It is a symbol of “intensity”. In the “Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language”, the lexeme wind is explained as follows: “Wind - the (horizontal) movement of air along the surface of the earth. Pleasant wind. Cool wind. Strong wind stood” [3; 542]. The formation of the symbolic meaning was caused by its speed semantics, and as a result of this semantics, it began to denote the symbolic meaning of intensity. This meaning is clearly evident in the following words of Turab Tola about Usman Nasir: “Usman came into our poetry like a wind. Maybe like a storm! He came with such a storm and wave that he completely destroyed poetic style and creativity” [4].

At the same time, nations have not only a national worldview, but also a universal culture, commonality in conceptualizing and categorizing the world, and the totality of symbolic meanings of one lexeme. An example of this is the symbolic meanings expressed through colors. White is represented in almost all cultures as a symbol of purity, honesty, goodness. This color also means happiness, strength, health, eternity, purity, authority, survival, growth, maturity, (gray hair, beard). Green in a number of cultures represents renewal, spring, and survival. It is a symbol of nature that gives blessings and peace, and in many cultures, it is a symbol of youth, hope, and happiness.

Unique symbolic meanings are formed based on the different evaluations of the world by people of different nationalities and their diverse relationships to the world. This is because, as Humboldt said, “Languages are not only a means of expressing known truths, but also a means of revealing previously unknown truths. The difference between languages is not only due to the difference in sounds and signs, but also due to the difference in seeing the world” [5; 318-319].

From the earliest periods of human development, people have symbolized objects, events, and phenomena around them. A number of symbolic images were created based on their relationship and fear of animals, plants, and natural phenomena. Their number was very small at first, but gradually increased, their scope of meaning expanded, and their significance increased. D. Abdullayeva expressed the following thoughts about this in her article: “The perception, description, and perception of the world through symbols was formed at the very early stages of the development of human thought. The symbol, as one of the manifestations of figurative thinking, has great importance in life and literature” [6; 74].

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that one lexeme can have different symbolic meanings in different languages. Symbols reflect the worldview, mentality, and lifestyle of certain nations. In people with different lifestyles, the different aspects of symbols indicate the diversity of their imagination, because the processes of perception and interpretation of the surrounding world are unique and reflect life experience and national values. Symbolic meanings are one of the linguistic units that indicate the uniqueness of the national worldview.

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