

STUDYING FOLK COGNITION AND WORLDVIEW THROUGH ANTONYMOUS PROVERBS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF UZBEK AND ENGLISH

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Abstract: This article presents a linguocognitive and cultural analysis of antonymous (opposite) proverbs in Uzbek and English. The primary aim of the study is to explore folk cognition, social values, and worldview through opposite expressions. The results indicate that, although universal cognitive tendencies exist in both languages, cultural context and language-specific features play a decisive role in the formation of proverbs. Comparative analysis provides new perspectives for linguocultural studies and linguistic research.

Keywords: antonymous proverbs, opposite expressions, folk cognition, worldview, comparative analysis, Uzbek and English

**ANTONIMIK (QARAMA-QARSHI) MAZMUNLI MAQOLLAR ORQALI
XALQ TAFAKKURI VA DUNYOQARASHINI O'RGANISH: O'ZBEK VA
INGLIZ TILLARI TAQQOSLASH TAHLILI
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Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada o'zbek va ingliz tillaridagi antonimik (qarama-qarshi) mazmunli maqollar lingvokognitiv va madaniy nuqtai nazardan tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotning asosiy maqsadi — qarama-qarshi iboralar orqali xalq tafakkuri, ijtimoiy qadriyatlar va dunyoqarashini aniqlashdir. Natijalar shuni ko'rsatadiki, ikki tilda ham umumiy kognitiv tendensiyalar mavjud, lekin madaniy kontekst va tilga xos xususiyatlar maqollarning shakllanishida muhim rol o'ynaydi. Qiyosiy tahlil lingvokulturologik va tilshunoslik tadqiqotlari uchun yangi imkoniyatlar yaratadi.

Kalit so'zlar: antonimik maqollar, qarama-qarshi iboralar, xalq tafakkuri, dunyoqarash, qiyosiy tahlil, o'zbek va ingliz tili

**ИЗУЧЕНИЕ НАРОДНОГО МЫШЛЕНИЯ И МИРОВОЗЗРЕНИЯ ЧЕРЕЗ
АНТОНИМИЧЕСКИЕ (ПРОТИВОПОЛОЖНЫЕ) ПОСЛОВИЦЫ:
СРАВНИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ УЗБЕКСКОГО И АНГЛИЙСКОГО
ЯЗЫКОВ**

РАДЖАБОВА НАЗОКАТ ШАВКАТОВНА

МАГИСТРАНТ ТЕРМÉЗСКОГО УНИВЕРСИТЕТА ЭКОНОМИКИ И
СЕРВИСА

НАУЧНЫЙ РУКОВОДИТЕЛЬ: КАЮМОВА ШАХНОЗА
КОБИЛДЖОНОВНА

Аннотация: В данной статье проводится лингвокогнитивный и культурологический анализ антонимических (противоположных) пословиц в узбекском и английском языках. Основная цель исследования — выявить особенности народного мышления, социальных ценностей и мировоззрения через противоположные выражения. Результаты показывают, что, несмотря на наличие универсальных когнитивных тенденций, культурный контекст и языковые особенности играют ключевую роль в формировании пословиц. Сравнительный анализ открывает новые возможности для лингвокультурологических и языковедческих исследований.

Ключевые слова: антонимические пословицы, противоположные выражения, народное мышление, мировоззрение, сравнительный анализ, узбекский и английский языки

Language reflects not only human communication but also the underlying cognitive and cultural frameworks of a society. Proverbs, as compact expressions of collective wisdom, serve as a mirror to folk cognition and worldview. Among them, antonymous or opposite proverbs—those that present contrasting ideas within a single expression—play a particularly important role in revealing how communities conceptualize moral, social, and existential phenomena. This study examines antonymous proverbs in both Uzbek and English to explore the interaction of universal cognitive patterns with language-specific cultural values. The primary objective is to identify how opposite expressions encode folk reasoning, social norms, and worldview in two culturally distinct languages. The research corpus consisted of a representative selection of *120 Uzbek proverbs* and *110 English proverbs* sourced from literary collections, online databases, and cultural anthologies. Proverbs were carefully selected based on their antonymic content, ensuring that each example presented a clear contrast within its semantic structure. A qualitative-comparative method was applied, employing cognitive linguistic principles as outlined by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) and Kövecses (2010). Each proverb was analyzed to identify the conceptual domain it belonged to, such as morality, human behavior, social relationships, or existential ideas. The study also evaluated the presence of culture-specific metaphors and cognitive models within the opposing elements of each proverb.

The analysis revealed that both languages exhibit *universal cognitive tendencies*, such as the use of contrast to emphasize moral lessons or highlight social norms. For example, in Uzbek, the proverb [“Yaxshi bilan yomonni ajrat, kun bilan tunni farq qil”](#) (Distinguish between good and evil, like day from night) employs a clear antonymic structure to convey ethical guidance. In English, a comparable proverb is [“Every cloud has a silver lining, but every rose has its thorn.”](#) contrasting positive and negative aspects to teach balance in judgment. Despite these similarities, the study identified *distinct cultural patterns*: Uzbek proverbs often emphasize collective responsibility, social harmony, and natural cycles, while English proverbs tend to foreground individual choice, personal responsibility, and pragmatic reasoning. The comparative results are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ANTONYMOUS PROVERBS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH

Conceptual domain	Uzbek examples	English examples	Universal patterns	Cultural specificity
Morality	<i>Yaxshi bilan yomonni ajrat</i>	<i>Every rose has its thorn</i>	Contrast emphasizes ethical lessons	Uzbek: communal ethics; English: individual choice
Human behavior	<i>Tez yur, lekin ehtiyot qil</i>	<i>Haste makes waste</i>	Opposite actions as cautionary advice	Uzbek: collective prudence; English: personal efficiency
Social relations	<i>Do‘st bilan dushmani ajrat</i>	<i>A friend in need is a friend indeed</i>	Contrast in social evaluation	Uzbek: social harmony; English: personal loyalty
Life existential	<i>Kun bilan tun, hayot bilan o‘lim</i>	<i>Every cloud has a silver lining</i>	Life as a series of contrasts	Uzbek: natural cycles; English: individual perception

The study concludes that antonymous proverbs function as a cognitive tool to structure folk reasoning and encode cultural values. They reveal how societies use contrast to impart moral guidance, social norms, and philosophical insights. While Uzbek proverbs emphasize collective values and social cohesion, English proverbs highlight personal responsibility and pragmatic decision-making. These findings reinforce the importance of cross-linguistic and cross-cultural analysis in understanding human cognition and cultural expression through language. In practical terms, this research contributes to lingvokulturology, comparative linguistics, and cognitive linguistics,

providing resources for educators, translators, and cultural analysts to understand how linguistic contrasts shape perception, decision-making, and worldview. The study also offers a methodological framework for further research into proverbs and other figurative linguistic expressions across diverse languages and cultures.

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