

**A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ZOO-COMPONENT PROVERBS IN
CHILDREN’S FOLKLORE (BASED ON ENGLISH AND UZBEK
LANGUAGES)**

JORAYEVA NARGIZA BAKHTIYOROVNA

**MASTER’S STUDENT, TERMIZ UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND
SERVICE**

jurayevanargiza2003@gmail.com

SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISOR: URALOVA OYSULUV PAYANOVNA

Abstract: This article presents a comparative linguocultural and semantic analysis of zoo-component proverbs commonly found in children’s folklore in English and Uzbek. The study examines the role of animal-based proverbs in shaping children’s worldview and moral values, highlighting their educational and cultural significance. Special attention is paid to symbolic imagery, national mentality, and metaphorical meanings embedded in such proverbs. The comparative approach allows identifying both universal and culture-specific features, demonstrating the importance of folklore units in language acquisition and intercultural communication.

Keywords: children’s folklore, zoo-component proverbs, comparative analysis, semantics, linguocultural studies, English and Uzbek languages

**BOLALAR FOLKLORIDA UCHRAYDIGAN ZOOKOMPONENTLI
MAQOLLARNING CHOG‘ISHTIRMA TAHLILI (INGLIZ VA O‘ZBEK
TILLARI MISOLIDA)**

JO‘RAYEVA NARGIZA BAXTIYOR QIZI

TERMIZ IQTISODIYOT VA SERVIS UNIVERSITETI MAGISTRANTI

jurayevanargiza2003@gmail.com

ILMIY RAHBAR: O‘RALOVA OYSULUV PAYANOVNA

Annotatsiya: Mazkur maqolada bolalar folklorida keng qo‘llaniladigan zookomponentli maqollarning lingvokulturologik va semantik xususiyatlari ingliz va o‘zbek tillari misolida chog‘ishtirma jihatdan tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot jarayonida hayvon nomlari ishtirokidagi maqollarning bolalar tafakkurini shakllantirishdagi roli, ularning tarbiyaviy, didaktik va madaniy funksiyalari ochib beriladi. Shuningdek, maqollarda aks etgan milliy mentalitet, obrazlilik va ramziy ma’no qatlamlari qiyosiy nuqtayi nazardan yoritiladi. Tadqiqot natijalari til o‘rganish jarayonida folklor birliklaridan samarali foydalanish imkoniyatlarini ko‘rsatib beradi.

Kalit so‘zlar: bolalar folklori, zookomponentli maqollar, chog‘ishtirma tahlil, semantika, lingvokulturologiya, ingliz va o‘zbek tillari

СОПОСТАВИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ ЗООКОМПОНЕНТНЫХ ПОСЛОВИЦ В ДЕТСКОМ ФОЛЬКЛОРЕ (НА МАТЕРИАЛЕ АНГЛИЙСКОГО И УЗБЕКСКОГО ЯЗЫКОВ)

Жураева Наргиза Бахтиёр Кизи

Магистрант Термизского Университета Экономики И Сервиса

jurayevanargiza2003@gmail.com

Научный Руководитель: Оралова Ойсулув Паяновна

Аннотация: В данной статье проводится сопоставительный лингвокультурологический и семантический анализ зоокомпонентных пословиц, функционирующих в детском фольклоре английского и узбекского языков. Рассматривается роль образов животных в формировании детского мышления, нравственных ценностей и культурных представлений. Особое внимание уделяется символике, образности и национально-культурной специфике пословиц. Полученные результаты подтверждают значимость фольклорных единиц в процессе обучения языкам и межкультурной коммуникации.

Ключевые слова: детский фольклор, зоокомпонентные пословицы, сопоставительный анализ, семантика, лингвокультурология, английский и узбекский языки

INTRODUCTION

Folklore has always played a significant role in the formation of a child's worldview, moral values, and cultural identity. Among the various folklore genres, proverbs occupy a special place due to their brevity, expressiveness, and didactic potential. In children's folklore, zoo-component proverbs—those containing animal names—are particularly widespread, as animals serve as vivid, memorable, and emotionally engaging symbols that are easily perceived by children. Zoo-component proverbs reflect collective experience accumulated over centuries and transmit ethical norms, behavioral patterns, and cultural values in a figurative form. In both English and Uzbek cultures, animals are used metaphorically to represent human qualities such as wisdom, courage, laziness, cunning, or loyalty. However, despite the universal presence of animals in folklore, the semantic load and symbolic interpretation of the same animal image may differ significantly depending on cultural, historical, and social contexts. The relevance of this study lies in the growing interest in comparative linguistics and

linguocultural studies, especially in the context of teaching foreign languages and developing intercultural competence. By comparing zoo-component proverbs in English and Uzbek children's folklore, it becomes possible to identify both universal semantic patterns and nationally specific features. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of how language, culture, and cognition interact in the process of folklore transmission and child socialization.

Materials and methods

The research material consists of zoo-component proverbs selected from English and Uzbek folklore sources, including proverb dictionaries, folklore collections, and educational materials intended for children. The selection process focused on proverbs that are frequently used in children's speech or are commonly introduced in educational contexts. The methodological framework of the study is based on a combination of comparative, semantic, and linguocultural analysis. Comparative analysis is employed to identify similarities and differences in the use of animal images across the two languages. Semantic analysis allows for the examination of figurative meanings, evaluative components, and metaphorical extensions associated with zoo-components. Linguocultural analysis is used to reveal the cultural symbolism and national worldview reflected in the proverbs. In addition, elements of descriptive and contextual analysis are applied to interpret the proverbs within their cultural and communicative environment. This integrated methodological approach ensures a comprehensive and objective examination of zoo-component proverbs in children's folklore.

Results

The analysis demonstrates that zoo-component proverbs in both English and Uzbek children's folklore perform important educational and moral functions. In both languages, animals such as the fox, lion, dog, donkey, and horse are frequently used to personify human traits and social behaviors. Many proverbs convey universal meanings, such as the association of the fox with cunning or the dog with loyalty, indicating shared cognitive patterns across cultures. At the same time, significant cultural differences are observed in the symbolic interpretation of certain animals. In Uzbek folklore, animals like the donkey and camel often reflect social status, patience, or hardship, closely connected with traditional lifestyle and agricultural practices. In English folklore, animals such as the cat or sheep are more commonly associated with domestic life and individual behavior. The study also reveals that zoo-component proverbs in children's folklore tend to employ simpler syntactic structures and more explicit moral messages compared to proverbs used in adult discourse. This feature enhances their pedagogical effectiveness and facilitates memorization and

comprehension by children. Overall, the findings confirm that zoo-component proverbs serve as a powerful linguistic tool for transmitting cultural values and shaping children’s ethical perceptions.

Comparative Analysis Of Zoo-Component Proverbs

Animal component	English proverb meaning	Uzbek proverb meaning	Cultural interpretation
Fox	Cunning, cleverness	Cunning, deceit	Universal negative symbolism
Dog	Loyalty, friendship	Loyalty, protection	Positive moral value
Donkey	Stupidity, stubbornness	Patience, burden	Culture-specific symbolism
Lion	Courage, leadership	Power, bravery	Universal positive image
Sheep	Obedience, conformity	Rare usage	Culture-dependent relevance

Conclusion

The comparative analysis of zoo-component proverbs in English and Uzbek children’s folklore highlights both universal and culture-specific aspects of proverb semantics and symbolism. While many animal images convey similar moral meanings across cultures, their pragmatic usage and cultural connotations vary depending on national traditions and social experience. The research confirms that zoo-component proverbs play a crucial role in children’s moral education, linguistic development, and cultural socialization. Their figurative nature and emotional appeal make them particularly effective in conveying complex ideas in a simple and accessible form. The results of this study can be applied in the fields of comparative linguistics, folklore studies, and foreign language teaching, especially in developing culturally sensitive educational materials.

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- 13.