

LEXICAL-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS EXPRESSING PURPOSE AND ASPIRATION IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract. *Phraseological units represent one of the most expressive and culturally significant layers of a language. They reflect the worldview, values, traditions, and cognitive experiences of a particular nation. Among the various semantic groups of phraseological units, expressions denoting purpose, aspiration, determination, and achievement occupy a special place because they reveal human motivation and attitudes toward success. This article investigates the lexical-semantic features of phraseological units expressing purpose and aspiration in English and Uzbek languages. The study examines their semantic structure, figurative meanings, cultural specificity, and linguistic functions. Through a comparative analysis, similarities and differences between English and Uzbek phraseological units are identified, revealing both universal and nationally specific conceptualizations of ambition, goals, and perseverance. The findings demonstrate that phraseological units serve not only as linguistic phenomena but also as cultural markers reflecting national mentality and social values.*

Keywords: *phraseological units, phraseology, lexical-semantic analysis, English language, Uzbek language, aspiration, purpose, determination, comparative linguistics, linguoculturology.*

Introduction

Phraseology constitutes an important branch of linguistics concerned with the study of fixed expressions, idioms, proverbs, and other stable word combinations. Phraseological units enrich language by providing expressive, figurative, and culturally loaded meanings that cannot always be understood through the meanings of their individual components. As a result, phraseological units are regarded as valuable linguistic resources reflecting the historical development, traditions, customs, and collective consciousness of a speech community.

Modern linguistic research increasingly emphasizes the role of phraseology in understanding the relationship between language, culture, and cognition. Phraseological units preserve cultural experiences accumulated over centuries and

transmit them from one generation to another. Consequently, they represent a unique source for investigating national mentality and cultural identity.

Among numerous thematic groups of phraseological units, those expressing purpose and aspiration deserve particular attention. Human life is closely connected with goals, ambitions, hopes, and efforts directed toward achieving desired outcomes. Therefore, languages possess a rich variety of phraseological expressions describing determination, persistence, success, ambition, and the pursuit of objectives. Such expressions often emerge from metaphorical interpretations of human experience and reflect culturally specific attitudes toward achievement and self-realization.

In both English and Uzbek languages, phraseological units expressing purpose and aspiration are widely used in everyday communication, literary discourse, journalistic texts, and public speech. Despite belonging to different language families and cultural traditions, both languages demonstrate remarkable similarities in conceptualizing human aspirations while simultaneously preserving unique national characteristics.

The comparative investigation of phraseological units contributes to the development of contrastive linguistics, cognitive linguistics, linguoculturology, and translation studies. Understanding lexical-semantic correspondences between English and Uzbek phraseological expressions facilitates intercultural communication and improves translation accuracy.

The objective of this study is to analyze the lexical-semantic features of phraseological units expressing purpose and aspiration in English and Uzbek languages, identify their semantic classifications, and determine their cultural and linguistic peculiarities.

Main Part

Theoretical Foundations of Phraseological Units

Phraseological units are stable lexical combinations characterized by semantic integrity, reproducibility, and figurative meaning. According to phraseological theory, the meaning of a phraseological unit cannot be fully derived from the meanings of its constituent words. Instead, it functions as a single semantic entity.

Researchers such as Vinogradov, Kunin, and Amosova emphasize that phraseological units constitute an essential component of a language's lexical system. They perform nominative, expressive, evaluative, and cultural functions.

The semantic richness of phraseological units makes them particularly useful for expressing abstract concepts such as ambition, determination, and purpose. Through metaphorical imagery, speakers can convey complex psychological states and social attitudes in a concise and memorable form.

Phraseological Units Expressing Purpose and Aspiration in English

English contains numerous phraseological units associated with determination, ambition, and goal achievement.

Examples include:

Phraseological Unit	Meaning
Keep one's eye on the prize	Remain focused on a goal
Go the extra mile	Make additional effort
Reach for the stars	Have ambitious goals
Set one's sights on	Aim for a specific objective
Climb the ladder of success	Achieve professional advancement
Follow one's dreams	Pursue personal aspirations
Stay the course	Continue despite difficulties
Move mountains	Accomplish something difficult

These phraseological units emphasize perseverance, personal initiative, self-confidence, and achievement. Most are based on metaphorical images involving movement, height, travel, or physical effort.

For example, the expression "reach for the stars" metaphorically associates ambition with attempting to touch distant celestial objects, highlighting the importance of aiming high and pursuing challenging goals.

Phraseological Units Expressing Purpose and Aspiration in Uzbek

The Uzbek language also possesses a rich inventory of phraseological units expressing determination and aspiration.

Examples include:

Phraseological Unit	Meaning
Ko'zini maqsadga tikmoq	To focus completely on a goal
Bel bog'lamoq	To firmly decide to do something
Maqsad sari intilmoq	To strive toward a goal
Oldiga katta maqsad qo'yimoq	To set ambitious goals
Tishini tishiga qo'yib ishlamoq	To work with patience and determination
Jon-jahdi bilan harakat qilmoq	To make every possible effort
Yuksak marralarni ko'zlamoq	To aim for high achievements
Orzusiga yetmoq	To achieve one's dream

These expressions frequently emphasize diligence, perseverance, patience, and moral commitment. Unlike many English expressions that focus on individual achievement,

some Uzbek phraseological units additionally highlight collective values and social responsibility.

Lexical-Semantic Analysis

The lexical-semantic analysis reveals several common semantic components in both languages:

1. Goal orientation;
2. Determination and persistence;
3. Hope and aspiration;
4. Effort and hard work;
5. Success and achievement.

However, differences also emerge.

English phraseological units often reflect concepts associated with competition, personal success, and individual ambition. Metaphors involving journeys, climbing, and reaching are particularly common.

Uzbek phraseological units frequently emphasize endurance, patience, and moral strength. Many expressions originate from traditional cultural values related to diligence, responsibility, and social harmony.

Linguocultural Peculiarities

Phraseological units function as carriers of cultural information. The comparison demonstrates that English culture tends to conceptualize success through metaphors of upward movement and personal advancement, whereas Uzbek culture often associates achievement with perseverance, dedication, and collective respect.

For example:

- English: "Climb the ladder of success"
- Uzbek: "Bel bog'lab kirishmoq"

Although both expressions denote determination, their metaphorical foundations differ significantly, reflecting distinct cultural perspectives.

Similarities and Differences

The comparative analysis identifies several similarities:

- Both languages possess numerous phraseological units related to ambition and goals.
- Metaphorical imagery is widely employed.
- Determination and perseverance are highly valued.

Differences include:

- Cultural symbolism;
- Preferred metaphorical models;

- Social versus individual orientation;
- Historical and cultural origins of expressions.

These differences contribute to the linguistic uniqueness of each language while demonstrating universal human concerns regarding purpose and achievement.

Conclusion

The comparative analysis of phraseological units expressing purpose and aspiration in English and Uzbek languages demonstrates that phraseology serves as an important linguistic and cultural resource. Such phraseological units reflect universal human experiences related to ambition, determination, and achievement while simultaneously preserving nationally specific cultural values.

The lexical-semantic study reveals common conceptual domains including goal orientation, perseverance, effort, and success. However, significant differences emerge in metaphorical representations and cultural associations. English phraseological units frequently emphasize personal achievement and individual initiative, whereas Uzbek expressions often highlight patience, diligence, and social values.

The findings confirm that phraseological units are not merely linguistic structures but also reflections of cultural identity and national mentality. Their comparative investigation contributes to the fields of contrastive linguistics, phraseology, cognitive linguistics, linguoculturology, and translation studies. Further research may explore pragmatic and cognitive aspects of phraseological units in different linguistic and cultural contexts.

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