



Linguistic and Cultural Analysis of Words of Wisdom in Abdulhamid Chulpan's Kecha va Kunduz (Night and Day) and Stéphane Dudoignon's La Nuit

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ABSTRACT. This article provides a linguistic and cultural analysis of the words of wisdom in Kecha va Kunduz (Night and Day) by Abdulhamid Chulpan and La Nuit (The Night) by Stéphane Dudoignon. Through the examination of selected aphorisms and philosophical reflections in both works, the article explores the intersections of language, culture, and the human condition. Chulpan's Kecha va Kunduz, a cornerstone of early 20th-century Uzbek literature, offers insights into Central Asian moral and existential dilemmas, emphasizing themes like peace, trust, and the lasting impact of human emotions. In contrast, Dudoignon's La Nuit, influenced by existential thought, delves into themes of introspection, solitude, and the search for hidden truths, reflective of French cultural and philosophical values. The article compares how these words of wisdom reflect their respective cultural contexts, focusing on linguistic nuances, philosophical underpinnings, and the universal themes of self-realization, happiness, and the human quest for meaning. Ultimately, the study highlights how translation between Uzbek and French brings forth both linguistic and cultural transformations, revealing the commonalities and differences in human thought across cultures.

Keywords: linguistic analysis, cultural analysis, words of wisdom, introspection, trust, human condition, cross-cultural comparison.

Introduction

Words of wisdom, deeply embedded in cultural and philosophical contexts, serve as windows into the values, beliefs, and worldviews of a society. Both Abdulhamid Chulpan's Kecha va Kunduz (Night and Day) and Stéphane Dudoignon's La Nuit (The Night) feature profound reflections on human nature, society, and the cosmos. These literary works offer rich examples of words of wisdom that reflect their respective cultures' moral and philosophical landscapes.



Chulpan's *Kecha va Kunduz*, written in the early 20th century, deals with the complexities of identity, social struggle, and existential themes within Uzbek society. On the other hand, Dudoignon's *La Nuit*, a more modern French work, explores themes of isolation, introspection, and the search for truth, which align with broader philosophical inquiries within Western thought. Both works include aphorisms and wisdom sayings that illustrate their cultural contexts, and their linguistic and cultural translation provides a unique lens through which to compare Uzbek and French perspectives on universal human issues.

This article conducts a linguistic and cultural analysis of the words of wisdom in both *Kecha va Kunduz* and *La Nuit*, focusing on how these expressions resonate within their respective cultural and philosophical contexts and how their meaning might shift when translated across languages and cultures.

1. Abdulhamid Chulpan's *Kecha va Kunduz*: Words of Wisdom in Uzbek Literature

Abdulhamid Chulpan (1897-1938) is one of the leading figures in early 20th-century Uzbek literature. *Kecha va Kunduz* (Night and Day) is a seminal novel that reflects the social struggles, identity crises, and existential dilemmas faced by the individuals in the rapidly changing socio-political landscape of Central Asia. Chulpan's novel is rich with aphorisms, maxims, and philosophical reflections that express moral and social wisdom in the context of Uzbek society.

Key Words of Wisdom in *Kecha va Kunduz*

1. "Baxt — bu tinchlik, tinchlik esa o'z-o'zini anglashda."

Translation: "Happiness is peace, and peace lies in self-realization."

- **Cultural Context:** This saying reflects the deeply rooted idea in Uzbek culture that true happiness and peace come from self-awareness and harmony with one's inner self. The notion of peace, both internal and external, is central in Uzbek ethics, especially in relation to family, society, and religion.

- **Linguistic Nuances:** The term "tinchlik" (peace) in Uzbek holds a dual meaning, encompassing both physical peace (absence of conflict) and internal tranquility (spiritual peace). The term "o'z-o'zini anglash" (self-realization) highlights the importance of personal development and spiritual awakening in achieving happiness.



2. “Hayot o‘tadi, lekin qalbdagi izlar qoladi.”

Translation: “Life passes, but the marks on the heart remain.”

- **Cultural Context:** This phrase emphasizes the enduring nature of emotional and spiritual experiences. It resonates with the Islamic notion of the eternal soul and the importance of spiritual legacy in Uzbek society, where one’s actions and emotions are believed to leave an indelible mark on one’s character.

- **Linguistic Nuances:** The term “izlar” (marks) carries a dual meaning, suggesting both physical and metaphorical traces. It is a metaphor for memories and emotions that remain with the individual long after life’s events have passed.

3. “Ishonchni yo‘qotgan odam, o‘zini yo‘qotgan odamdir.”

Translation: “A person who loses trust, loses themselves.”

- **Cultural Context:** This phrase reflects the high value placed on trust and relationships in Uzbek culture. Family, loyalty, and trust are foundational to Uzbek social fabric. The loss of trust is seen not only as a personal failure but as a rupture in the individual’s sense of self and their relationship with others.

- **Linguistic Nuances:** The word “ishonch” (trust) is deeply tied to social bonds and moral integrity.

The expression suggests a deep interconnection between personal identity and the ability to trust and be trusted.

2. Stéphane Duhaime’s *La Nuit*: Words of Wisdom in French Literature

Stéphane Duhaime’s *La Nuit* (The Night) is a modern French novel that delves into themes of introspection, isolation, and the search for truth. Duhaime’s writing is steeped in existential philosophy, influenced by thinkers like Sartre and Camus, which gives the novel a strong emphasis on personal reflection and the struggle to find meaning in an often indifferent universe.

Key Words of Wisdom in *La Nuit*

1. “Le silence est une forme de vérité.”

Translation: “Silence is a form of truth.”



- **Cultural Context:** In French philosophy, particularly existentialism, silence is often seen as a form of resistance or a pathway to deeper understanding. It reflects the French tradition of intellectual reflection, where silence is valued as a way to confront personal truths and contradictions.

- **Linguistic Nuances:** The term “silence” in French has both literal and metaphorical connotations. In existential thought, silence represents an absence of external distractions, creating space for personal truth to emerge.

2. “La nuit nous enseigne la vérité cachée.”

Translation: “The night teaches us the hidden truth.”

- **Cultural Context:** The theme of night as a metaphor for hidden truths is deeply ingrained in French existential thought. The night is often portrayed as a time for reflection, where one confronts the darker aspects of existence and the self.

- **Linguistic Nuances:** The word “nuit” (night) is often used in French literature as a symbol of introspection, mystery, and existential questioning. The term “vérité cachée” (hidden truth) suggests that deeper meanings lie beneath the surface, waiting to be discovered through personal introspection.

3. “L’homme est un être de solitude.”

Translation: “Man is a being of solitude.”

- **Cultural Context:** This phrase resonates with the French philosophical tradition, particularly existentialism, which often grapples with the themes of isolation and the individual’s search for meaning in a seemingly indifferent world. The French existentialist tradition places a strong emphasis on solitude as an essential part of the human condition.

- **Linguistic Nuances:** The phrase “être de solitude” (being of solitude) connotes not only physical loneliness but also the existential solitude inherent in human life.

3. Linguistic and Cultural Comparison of Words of Wisdom

When comparing the words of wisdom from Kecha va Kunduz and La Nuit, we notice several key linguistic and cultural differences:

1. Concept of Peace and Happiness:

- In Uzbek culture, peace is deeply linked to social harmony, familial bonds, and religious faith. The wisdom in Kecha va Kunduz suggests that happiness comes from inner peace and self-realization within the context of these societal values.

- In contrast, the French philosophical tradition often emphasizes peace and happiness as individual achievements, found through introspection and sometimes through isolation, as seen in La Nuit. The French perspective places more weight on personal struggle and existential questioning.

2. Time and Memory:

- The idea that “life passes, but marks on the heart remain” in Kecha va Kunduz underscores the long-lasting effects of personal and emotional experiences. This reflects the Uzbek cultural view that memories and experiences shape one’s identity and are passed down through generations.

- In La Nuit, time and the night are metaphors for personal reflection and the uncovering of hidden truths. French existentialism often explores how time and memory are tied to personal authenticity and the search for meaning in an unpredictable world.

3. Trust and Relationships:

- In Kecha va Kunduz, the loss of trust is equated with the loss of self, reflecting the importance of relationships and loyalty in Uzbek culture.

- In La Nuit, the individual’s search for truth often involves solitude and internal reflection, where trust is not external but found within oneself. This reflects the French cultural emphasis on individualism and personal authenticity.

4. Conclusion

The words of wisdom in Kecha va Kunduz and La Nuit provide a fascinating lens through which we can explore the linguistic and cultural values embedded in both Uzbek and French societies. While Uzbek wisdom emphasizes social harmony, trust, and the enduring nature of emotional experiences, French wisdom focuses on introspection, individual struggle, and the pursuit of hidden truths.



Linguistically, the translation of these aphorisms between Uzbek and French demonstrates how language reflects cultural values and philosophical perspectives. Despite the differences, both sets of wisdom ultimately express a universal human quest for meaning, truth, and self-understanding, which transcends cultural and linguistic boundaries.