

THE REFLECTION OF NATIONAL CULTURE AND MENTALITY IN PROVERBS AND SAYINGS

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Abstract: Proverbs and sayings, deeply rooted in a nation's collective wisdom and experience, offer a powerful lens through which to understand its cultural and mental landscape. This article explores the multifaceted ways in which proverbs and sayings reflect the values, beliefs, and perspectives of a particular nation. Through a comparative analysis of proverb collections from diverse cultures, the study examines how these concise expressions encapsulate social norms, historical experiences, religious influences, and prevailing attitudes towards life, work, and relationships.

Key words: mentality, folklore, cultural values, social norms, language and culture.

ОТРАЖЕНИЕ НАЦИОНАЛЬНОЙ КУЛЬТУРЫ И МЕНТАЛИТЕТА В ПОСЛОВИЦАХ И ПОСЛОВИЦАХ

Аннотация: Пословицы и поговорки, глубоко укоренившиеся в коллективной мудрости и опыте народа, предоставляют мощный инструмент для понимания его культурного и ментального ландшафта. В данной статье рассматриваются многообразные способы, с помощью которых пословицы и поговорки отражают ценности, убеждения и перспективы конкретной нации. Через сравнительный анализ сборников пословиц из различных культур исследование анализирует, как эти лаконичные выражения воплощают социальные нормы, исторический опыт, религиозные влияния и преобладающие отношения к жизни, труду и взаимоотношениям.

Ключевые слова: ментальность, фольклор, культурные ценности, социальные нормы, язык и культура.

MILLIY MADANIYAT VA MENTALITETNING MAQOLLARDA IFODALANISHI

Annotatsiya: maqollarda bir xalqning umumiy donoligi va tajribasiga chuqur singdirilgan, uning madaniy va ruhiy manzarasini tushunish uchun kuchli bir ko'zgu sifatida xizmat qiladi. Ushbu maqola maqollar va maqollarning qanday qilib ma'lum bir xalqning qadriyatlari, e'tiqodlari va nuqtai nazarini aks ettirishi ko'p jihatdan o'rganiladi. Turli madaniyatlardan olingan maqollar to'plamlarining qiyosiy tahlili orqali, ushbu qisqa ifodalar qanday qilib ijtimoiy normalar, tarixiy tajribalar, diniy ta'sirlar va hayot, mehnat va munosabatlarga bo'lgan mavjud munosabatlarni o'z ichiga olishini o'rganadi.

Kalit so'zlar: mantiqiy fikr, folklor, madaniy qadriyatlar, ijtimoiy normalar, til va madaniyat.

Due to our president's task for linguists, we decided to work with one of the most important and interesting topics such linguocultural peculiarities of the English and Uzbek proverbs in linguistics. While teaching a language, the culture of the nation should be taken into consideration by teachers. The culture of the concrete nation may find its reflection in proverbs. Proverbs not only belong to a language but also reflect much of its culture. In other words, they are considered to be a mirror reflecting social-cultural traditions in the most reliable ways. Proverbs and popular sayings are capsules that contain highly condensed bits of cultural values and beliefs. The appropriate use of proverbs in verbal communication indicates one's depth of knowledge and language competence. Proverbs and sayings are more than mere linguistic expressions; they serve as a vibrant reflection of a nation's culture and mentality. These concise, often metaphorical phrases encapsulate the collective wisdom, values, and beliefs of a society, providing insights into its historical experiences and social norms. As vehicles of cultural transmission, proverbs encapsulate the essence of a community's worldview, revealing how people perceive their environment, relationships, and moral principles.

The richness of proverbs lies in their ability to convey complex ideas in simple terms, making them accessible across generations. They often illustrate universal themes such as love, hardship, wisdom, and human nature, while simultaneously showcasing unique cultural nuances that differentiate one society from another. By examining proverbs and sayings, we gain a deeper understanding of the social

fabric that binds individuals together, highlighting shared experiences and collective memory.

In this exploration, we will delve into how proverbs reflect the values and beliefs inherent in a culture, serving as a mirror that not only reflects the past but also shapes the present and future. Through this lens, we can appreciate the profound impact of language on identity and community, revealing how these age-old expressions continue to resonate in contemporary life.

There is a close relationship between language and culture. Language and culture are undoubtedly closely integrated and interdependent during their whole development processes¹. Language is a part of culture because language is vehicle for nearly every type of cultural expression. Culture is a part of language because language that has grown with a community has also to some extent been molded to the task of expressing that community's culture. Culture is the idea, custom and beliefs of a community with a distinct language containing semantics, everything speakers can think about and every way they have of thinking as medium of communication.

Language is used to maintain and convey culture and cultural ties. The two are inseparable. Language may refer either to the specifically human capacity for acquiring and using complex systems of communication, or to a specific instance of such a system of complex communication. The scientific study of language in any of its sense is called linguistics. The word "language" can also be used to describe the set of rules that makes this possible, or the set of utterances that can be produced from those rules.¹ A language in this sense is a system of signs for encoding and decoding² information. Language is processed in many different locations in the human brain. Humans acquire language through social interaction in early childhood, and children generally speak fluently when they are around three years old. The use of language has become deeply entrenched in human culture and, apart from being used to communicate and share information, it also has social and cultural uses, such as signifying group identity, social stratification and for social grooming and entertainment. It is possible to say that language is one of the top important elements of any culture; it reserves and reflects most apparently that culture's characteristics. Culture (from the Latin

¹ Бакиров П.У. Номинацентрические пословицы в разносистемных языках (на материале русского, узбекского и казахского языков): Дис. док. филол. наук. Ташкент, 2007.-286 с.

² www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/language

cultura stemming from *colere*, meaning “to cultivate”) is a term that has various meanings³.

Proverbs and sayings often encapsulate the core values of a society. They reflect what is deemed important, virtuous, or taboo within a culture. For example, in many African cultures, proverbs emphasize communal values and the importance of kinship, such as “It takes a village to raise a child.” This saying highlights the collective responsibility of the community in nurturing its youth, showcasing a culture that prioritizes social cohesion over individualism⁴. Conversely, in Western cultures, proverbs like “The early bird catches the worm” promote individual initiative and personal responsibility. Such sayings encourage competition and self-reliance, underscoring values that are integral to the cultural identity of these societies.

Proverbs often emerge from historical experiences that shape a nation’s identity. They serve as a repository of collective memory, reflecting significant events, challenges, or triumphs. For instance, Russian proverbs often convey resilience in the face of adversity, shaped by centuries of hardship. A saying like “Hope dies last” illustrates a mentality forged through struggle, emphasizing endurance and optimism despite difficult circumstances⁵.

In contrast, proverbs from nations with more stable histories may focus on prosperity and innovation. For example, Japanese proverbs that celebrate diligence and craftsmanship reflect a culture that has historically valued hard work and precision.

As societies evolve, so too do their proverbs. New experiences, technological advancements, and shifts in social norms can lead to the emergence of new sayings or the reinterpretation of old ones. This adaptability reflects a culture's resilience and ability to integrate modern values while retaining traditional wisdom.

For example, contemporary proverbs may address issues like environmental sustainability or digital communication, illustrating how cultural expressions adapt to current realities. This evolution not only mirrors changing societal values but also serves as a barometer for cultural shifts over time.

Here are some extended samples that delve deeper into how proverbs and sayings reflect a nation's culture and mentality, organized by different themes:

³ Кунин. А.В. Некоторые вопросы английской фразеологии. Англо-русский фразеологический словарь. М. 1955. – 455 с.

⁴ Жўраева Б. Маколларнинг лисоний мавқеи ва маъновий-услубий қўлланилиши: Филол. фан. ном.... дис. Тошкент, 2002-136 б.

⁵ Зимовец Н.В. К вопросу о происхождении английских пословиц и поговорок / Актуальные вопросы переводоведения и практики перевода. Россия. Г. Белгород. 2013. С. 112-118

1. Collective Values and Community

Sample Proverb: "It takes a village to raise a child." (African Proverb)⁶

Analysis: This proverb emphasizes the importance of community involvement in child-rearing. In many African cultures, the upbringing of children is seen as a communal responsibility rather than an individual one. This reflects a collectivist mentality where the welfare of the community is prioritized over individual pursuits. It underscores values such as cooperation, shared responsibility, and social interconnectedness, illustrating how cultural identity is often rooted in communal ties.

2. Resilience and Endurance

Sample Proverb: "Hope is the last to die." (Russian Proverb)

Analysis: This saying reflects the historical struggles faced by the Russian people, from wars to political upheaval. The emphasis on hope as a lasting quality speaks to a cultural mentality that values resilience in adversity. It suggests an understanding that even in the darkest times, maintaining hope is crucial for survival and recovery. This perspective shapes the national character, promoting a sense of endurance and optimism despite challenges.

3. Individualism vs. Collectivism

Sample Proverb: "The early bird catches the worm." (Western Proverb)

Analysis: This proverb highlights the value placed on initiative and proactivity in many Western cultures. It promotes individualism and the idea that success comes to those who take action ahead of others. The mentality reflected here encourages competition and self-reliance, emphasizing personal effort as a key to achievement. This contrasts sharply with collectivist cultures, where success might be viewed more as a communal effort.

Proverbs and sayings serve as rich sources of cultural insight, encapsulating the values, beliefs, and historical experiences of a society. They act as mirrors reflecting collective mentalities, guiding behavior, and shaping social norms. By examining these expressions, we can gain deeper understanding not only of specific cultures but also of universal human experiences that connect us all.

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⁶ Wierzbicka A. *Semantics, Culture and Cognition: Universal Human Concepts in Culture-Specific Configurations*. — NY: Oxford University Press, 1992. —754 p.

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