

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK PROVERBS OF  
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**Abstract.** Through a comparative analysis, it examines how each culture conceptualizes and articulates the notion of friendship, shedding light on similarities and differences between English and Uzbek proverbs and sayings. The analysis reveals the significant role of cultural context in shaping the content and form of proverbs related to friendship. Cultural values such as loyalty, trust, reciprocity, and mutual support emerge as central themes in both languages.

**Key words:** loyalty, trust, reciprocity friendship, expressiveness, linguocultural features.

СРАВНИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ АНГЛИЙСКИХ И УЗБЕКСКИХ ПОСЛОВИЦ  
«ДРУЖБА»

**Аннотация.** Путем сравнительного анализа рассматривается, как каждая культура концептуализирует и артикулирует понятие дружбы, проливая свет на сходства и различия между английскими и узбекскими пословицами и поговорками. Анализ раскрывает значительную роль культурного контекста в формировании содержания и формы пословиц, связанных с дружбой. Культурные ценности, такие как лояльность, доверие, взаимность и взаимная поддержка, становятся центральными темами в обоих языках.

**Ключевые слова:** лояльность, доверие, взаимность, дружба, экспрессивность, лингвокультурные особенности.

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There are many proverbs, sayings, quotations about friendship that emphasize its different features and cultural information. Thus, we will try to give examples in two languages by evaluating positively being associated with such notions of loyalty, care, support, self-sacrifice, devotion; and negatively, being careful of making false friends. In the main part of our article we analyze fifteen proverbs based on the concept “friendship” by employing The Cross-cultural and Conceptual methods of Linguoculturology.

In the process of the research we have been witnessed that friendship is one of the main cultural values for all nations and it is represented in nations’ languages with specific linguoculturemes. English and Uzbek languages are rich in the proverbs, sayings about friendship.

This can be evidenced by the following quotations: ‘Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together’. (W.T.Wilson) or Friendship is the golden thread that ties the heart of all the world. (J. Evelyn). There are many sayings about friendship that is regarded as something precious: ‘Life is partly what we make it, and partly what it is made by the friends we choose’ (T. Williams). Or “Do’st xazinayu, do’stlik gavhardir /Gavharni yo’qotmoq ayb ila nuqson” (Durbek). It is worth to mention that a real friend always speaks truth even if it is bitter: ‘A good friend can tell what is matter with you in amminute. He may not seem such a good friend after telling’ (A. Brisbane). In Uzbek, “Yaxshi do’st aybi yoru-do’stini ko’zgudek ro’parasida so’zlar” (A. Avloniy)<sup>1</sup> or “Do’st achitib gapirar/Dushman kuldirib”. Friendship is more valuable than wealth and it is reflected in both nations’ languages: ‘A friend in court is better than a penny in purse’, in Uzbek “Ming so’m puling bo’lmasin/Bitta do’sting bo’lsin”, “Do’stlik oltinga sotilmas/Mehmon pulga”. And there are proverbs which warn us from false friends and their harm which can be worse even than enemies. For instance: ‘False friends are worse than open enemies’; “Yomon do’stdan qirda yotgan tosh yaxshi”, whilst loyal friends are considered as the most precious and the close like our relatives such as “Chin do’st tug’ishgan bilan bir”.

The interest in English language in our country has been growing for many years, for this case, a lot of English proverbs and sayings began to utilize in our language as daily expressions.

The majorities of young people today want to learn English and are more literate. Learning English is not an easy task for Uzbek people if we compare with the Russian because of the fact that English and Russian languages have similar structures while Uzbek does not. Therefore, English proverbs are easily understood by Russian and have absolute equivalents like ‘A friend to all is a friend to none’, in Russian “Тот, кто дружит со всеми, не дружит ни с кем”.<sup>2</sup> However, in Uzbek, the concept of friendship is near to the English version semantically, not structurally or lexically.

In the following we try to analyze some proverbs related to the theme of ‘friendship’ from the point of linguoculturology which studies a language is as a mirror of a nation as it is closely connected with nation’s traditions, thinking and ways of life. Thus, we chose fifteen English proverbs and sayings, then analyzed them by comparing with Uzbek alternative equivalents. It is a testament to the friendship and mutual understanding that has existed between nations since ancient times.

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<sup>1</sup> D.U. Ashurova, M.R.Galieva “Cultural linguistics” –course book. Tashkent-2019 (p 14)

<sup>2</sup> A.V. Kunin “English –Russian Phraseological Dictionary” Moscow-1984 (p 299, F-742)

1. ***Keep your friends close but your enemies closer.*** (Do'stlaringni yaqin tut, dushmanlaringni undan ham yaqinroq)

Conceptually, it suggests that it is important to maintain a close watch on one's enemies, perhaps even closer than one's friends, in order to anticipate their actions and protect oneself from potential harm. It emphasizes the importance of being vigilant and aware of potential threats, whether they come from rivals, competitors, or adversaries, by keeping one's enemies "closer", one can gain insights into their intentions, plans, allowing for better preparation and defense. In various contexts, this phrase has been interpreted as both a strategy for survival and a tactic for gaining an advantage in competitive situations. In Uzbek, we found the equivalent which is likely similar this meaning as

***Dushmanning tashida bo'lguncha, ichida bo'l.***

In both cultures, it is advised that keeping friends close is good, however, keeping enemies closer is much better due to the fact that if you know your enemies and keep them in front of your eyes it could be safer for people what enemies are preparing something bad for you. In English proverb, should be kept in nearer and in Uzbek, the same meaning is expressed the phrase with 'ichida bo'l'.

2. ***A friend at hand is better than a relative at a distance.*** (Uzoqdagi qarindoshdan yoningdagi do'st yaxshiroq).

- ***Uzoqdagi qondoshdan yaqindagi jondosh yaxshi.***

We choose the Uzbek version exactly the same meaning with English one by giving relative equivalent such as 'qondosh-relative' and 'jondosh-friend'. The definition of this proverb is that a friend who lives near is better than your relatives, siblings if they are far from you. Because, a person can face up to hard situations which must be helped as soon as possible, in these cases the near person is the best helper for them than their relatives who live far. In both nations, cultural information is expressed in the same way.

3. ***A friend to everybody is a friend to nobody*** (Hammaga do'st/ Hech kimga do'st).

It suggests that trying to be friends with everyone ultimately results in shallow or insincere relationships. Conceptually, it highlights the idea of the importance of authenticity and depth in friendship. While being friendly and sociable is admirable, spreading oneself too thin in trying to maintain superficial relationships with everyone can dilute the quality of connections. It implies that by trying to please everyone, one may fail to keep meaningful bonds with anyone.

The definition of the proverb is that whoever pretends as a friend to all, cannot be trusted by anyone. In Uzbek, there is no coincidence to this proverb about the classification of friendship,

thus we attempt to reveal its meaning by giving absolutely different words as **“Ko’pni sevgan birni sevmas.”**

In Uzbek version, people who express their love to everybody, it cannot be a real love or cannot be loyal for only one person. The meaning is similar despite of the non-equivalent version according to V.G. Belinskiy “each language has its own tools and characteristics in order to express an image or a sentence, it is sometimes necessary to change them in the translation”<sup>3</sup>

4. ***A friend’s frown is better than a fool’s smile.*** (Do’stning qovoq uygani, nodonning tabassumidan yaxshiroq)

- ***Do’st achitib gapirar***

***Dushman kuldirib.***

In this English proverb, a friend is better even though he frowns which tells the truth by showing his sadness. A fool is in the meaning of ‘an enemy’ that makes you laugh, smile, however, by stirring up the positive feeling, they tend to know your weakness or secrets you have kept privately from your opponents. In Uzbek language, it also reflects that a real friend who can confide to tell you the truth even a bitter one in order to make you better is your friend indeed, but enemies cause some harm by telling a lie which makes you laugh and their aim is to attack you in any time they witness your weak points. In both nations, opposite words are used to contradict friends and enemies with the verbs ‘frown-smile’ in English and the adverbial modifiers ‘achitib-kuldirib’ in Uzbek. The two proverbs convey the same cultural information.

5. ***False friends are worse than open enemies.*** (Soxta do’stlar oshkora dushmandan yomon).

It highlights the betrayal and deception that can occur within relationships. Conceptually, it suggests that it is more harmful to be betrayed by someone who pretends to be a friend than to openly confront an enemy. It underscores that false friends who pretend to support and care for someone while secretly working against them, can inflict significant emotional and psychological harm. Their actions undermine trust and erode the foundation of friendship, often resulting in feelings of betrayal and disillusionment. In contrast, open enemies, while openly adversarial, do not hide their intentions, their hostility may be more straightforward and predictable, making it easier to defend against and confront. During the research we came across another proverb which gives the same meaning in English as “Save me from my friends”. sometimes, several proverbs can give

<sup>3</sup> M. Abdurahmanov, M. Obilov, H. Qodirjanov, T. Ahmadjanov “Peculiarities in Translating proverbs and sayings in the literature” -2021:5. 857

the same sense however, structure and lexemes are different. In that case we gave “*Do’stlarimdan o’zing saqla, dushmanlarimni o’zim bilaman*” as the near equivalent.

In both cultures, we are witnessed that false friends who we do not know can harm us because of being aware of our secrets. For this reason, they are worse than enemies that we recognize; we can be careful when our enemies are noticeable, but, only God can save us from false friend’s tricks. In English language, false friends are claimed to be even worse than the enemies whilst Uzbek people always believe in God and make ‘duo’.

In conclusion, the linguistic and cultural examination of English and Uzbek proverbs about friendship reveals both similarities and differences. Analyzing the semantic construction of phrases, we see that English and Uzbek proverbs represent a true friend as a kind of acquisition, real wealth however false friends are expressed as even worse than enemies. In Uzbek proverbs a friend is considered a part of some unity without which a person is no longer complete. This comparative analysis serves as a bridge between languages and cultures, highlighting universal themes while also celebrating the diversity of human experiences and perspectives.

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