

**LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF PROVERBS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK
FAIRY TALES**

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Proverbs represent a concise and culturally rich form of folk wisdom that reflects the worldview, values, and cognitive experience of a speech community. Due to their brevity and fixed structure, proverbs employ a limited number of lexical units while conveying a broad and often metaphorical meaning. The lexical features of proverbs are primarily characterized by stability, imagery, and expressiveness. Their vocabulary frequently includes archaic words, figurative expressions, culturally marked lexical items, and symbolic objects that embody historical memory and national identity. The lexical composition of proverbs is also notable for its semantic economy, where minimal linguistic material expresses maximum conceptual content.

In terms of semantics, proverbs demonstrate multilayered meaning achieved through figurative language and culturally shaped associations. Their semantic features rely on mechanisms such as metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole, antithesis, and comparison. These mechanisms allow proverbs to generalize human experience and present moral or didactic messages through symbolic imagery rather than explicit explanation. Semantically, proverbs often operate on two levels: the literal meaning of words and the implied, culturally relevant interpretation accepted by speakers. This implicitness contributes to the cognitive depth and universal applicability of proverbs across contexts.

Overall, the interaction of lexical and semantic features makes proverbs an effective and memorable linguistic phenomenon. Their lexical form ensures stability and recognizability, while their semantic layers provide depth, moral value, and cultural significance. Studying these features is crucial for understanding how language encodes collective wisdom and how proverbs function as tools of cultural transmission in both oral and written traditions.