

## COMMON LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK RIDDLES

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**Abstract.** Riddles are a unique genre of folklore that reflect the cultural, social, and historical heritage of a people. They encapsulate figurative information conveyed through language and have a long history in both English and Uzbek cultures. This article delves into the common linguistic features of English and Uzbek riddles, examining their similarities and differences. It also explores how these riddles serve as a mirror to the cultural values, beliefs, and linguistic intricacies of their respective societies.

**Keywords:** Riddle, linguistic culture, Uzbek riddles, English riddles, folklore, cultural codes, metaphorical expression, culture and language connection, similarities and differences

**Annotatsiya.** Topishmoqlar — bu xalq ogʻzaki ijodining oʻziga xos janridir. Ular xalqning madaniy, ijtimoiy va tarixiy merosini aks ettiradi. Til orqali yetkaziladigan obrazli maʼlumotlarni oʻz ichiga oladi va ingliz hamda oʻzbek madaniyatida uzoq tarixga ega. Ushbu maqolada ingliz va oʻzbek topishmoqlarining umumiy lingvistik xususiyatlari tahlil qilinib, ular oʻrtasidagi oʻxshashlik va farqlar koʻrib chiqiladi. Shuningdek, ushbu topishmoqlar har bir xalqning madaniy qadriyatlari, eʼtiqodlari va tilga oid murakkabliklarining aks etgan oynasi sifatida qanday xizmat qilishi yoritiladi.

**Kalit soʻzlar:** Topishmoq, lingvokultura, oʻzbek topishmoqlari, ingliz topishmoqlari, folklor, madaniy kodlar, metaforik ifoda, madaniyat va til bogʻliqligi, oʻxshashlik va farqlar.

**Аннотация.** Загадки — это уникальный жанр фольклора, отражающий культурное, социальное и историческое наследие народа. Они содержат образную информацию, передаваемую через язык, и имеют долгую историю как в английской, так и в узбекской культурах. В данной статье анализируются общие лингвистические особенности английских и узбекских загадок, а также рассматриваются их сходства и различия. Кроме того, исследуется, как загадки служат зеркалом культурных ценностей, верований и языковых особенностей каждого общества.

**Ключевые слова:** Загадка, лингвокультура, узбекские загадки, английские загадки, фольклор, культурные коды, метафорическое выражение, связь культуры и языка, сходства и различия.

**Linguoculturology** studies language and culture in an interconnected manner. This field is closely related to linguistics, cultural studies, ethnology, and ethnolinguistics. In the linguoculturological analysis of riddles, the way a people's worldview, customs, traditions, and cultural heritage are expressed through language is examined. English and Uzbek riddles express cultural indicators, traditions, and mentality in unique ways.

#### Nature and Everyday Life:

In both cultures, nature, animals, and daily life are reflected in riddles. However, the imagery used in riddles highlights the specific features of each culture. For example, Uzbek riddles often contain imagery associated with agriculture and livestock, while English riddles may feature themes related to technology and urban life.

#### Metaphors and Comparisons:

Uzbek riddles frequently use layered and extensive metaphors and comparisons. In contrast, English riddles tend to rely on simple and straightforward analogies.

**Religious and Traditional Concepts:**

Uzbek riddles often include references to religion and traditional customs, especially using symbolic and spiritual imagery. English riddles are more secular and pragmatic in nature.

**Metaphorical Expressions:**

These are vital to riddles. In Uzbek culture, riddles often describe human traits or behaviors using animals or natural phenomena. In English culture, metaphors often involve artificial objects or technological tools. Both English and Uzbek riddles are generally structured using metaphorical expressions. Objects or phenomena are described through things they do not literally resemble.

For example:

English: *"I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have no body, but I come alive with the wind"* (Answer: **Echo**)

Uzbek: *"Onasiz tug'ilgan, o'g''ilsiz boqilgan"* (Answer: **Tuxum – Egg**)

**Symbolism:**

Riddles often convey abstract and symbolic meanings, based on logical principles that can be universal across cultures.

**Simple Syntax:**

Riddles in both languages typically feature short and simple sentence structures, often in two parts or question-answer formats.

Examples:

English: *"What has keys but can't open locks?"* (Answer: **Piano**)

Uzbek: *"O'zi qora, ichida qora, so'ysa qon chiqmaydi"* (Answer: **Qovoq – Pumpkin**)

**Contractions and Poetic Form:**

English riddles often feature contractions and poetic, rhythmic expressions. Uzbek riddles similarly include poetic forms and rhythmic structures.

**Similes and Allegory:**

Both languages make broad use of similes.

English: *"I'm tall when I'm young, and I'm short when I'm old"* (Answer: **Candle**)

Uzbek: *"O'zi uzun, o'zi saraton"* (Answer: **Anor – Pomegranate**)

**Clear and Simple Vocabulary:**

One of the main features of riddles is the use of simple, understandable vocabulary that nonetheless conveys deep meanings.

**Sound and Rhythm:**

Both English and Uzbek riddles often use alliteration and rhythmic patterns, aiding memorability and fluid verbal expression.

**Phonetic Harmony:**

Sound correspondence between words in riddles helps ease cognitive processing for the listener.

**Ambiguity (Polysemy):**

Many riddles contain multiple layers of meaning, enhancing their complexity and requiring logical reasoning. A word or phrase may carry different meanings depending on context.

**Cultural Symbolism:**

Riddles often use cross-cultural or universal symbols such as the sun, moon, trees, animals, and elements of nature, though these are interpreted differently by different cultures.

**Semantic Shift:**

Words in riddles frequently change from their original meanings to metaphorical or symbolic interpretations. One object or event is described through another, expanding the semantic scope of language.

**Rare and Archaic Words:**

Many riddles include archaic or rarely used words, reflecting their historical roots and preserving ancient forms of language.

**Wordplay:**

Riddles often employ puns or multiple meanings for entertainment and cleverness. This makes them memorable and engaging.

**Audience Engagement:**

Riddles typically require the listener to make logical inferences, making them interesting not only linguistically but also socially and culturally.

**Target Audience:**

Riddles are often created for children, though they are widespread among adults too. Therefore, the language style is adapted to suit the intended audience.

**Cultural Education:**

Riddles foster logical thinking and also transmit cultural knowledge. For instance, Uzbek riddles frequently reference agricultural terms and traditional ways of life, while English riddles more often involve technology or nature-related concepts.

**Conclusion:**

In general, the linguistic characteristics of riddles are reflected through their language structure, meanings, and playful elements. Riddles in every language are shaped by diverse lexical, phonetic, and pragmatic features, making them both memorable and culturally significant. Riddles are more than just a form of entertainment; they are a reflection of the linguistic and cultural fabric of a society. By analyzing the similarities and differences between English and Uzbek riddles, we gain insights into how language and culture intertwine to shape traditional forms of expression. These riddles not only entertain but also educate, preserving the cultural heritage and promoting cognitive development.

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