

PAPER

# THE ROLE OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH DIALOGUES

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## Abstract

Phraseological units (PUs) play a crucial role in communication by enhancing expressiveness, conveying emotions, and embedding cultural nuances in dialogues. This study examines the role of PUs in Uzbek and English dialogues, focusing on their structure, function, and cultural significance. Using a comparative analysis of authentic conversational examples, the research highlights similarities and differences in the usage of phraseological units in both languages. Findings suggest that while Uzbek and English employ PUs for emphasis, humor, and metaphorical expression, their cultural and historical contexts significantly shape their meaning and application.

**Key words:** Phraseological units, idioms, Uzbek language, English language, cross-cultural communication, linguistic comparison, translation studies, figurative language, cultural differences, fixed expressions

## Introduction

Phraseological units are an essential component of natural language, encompassing idioms, proverbs, collocations, and fixed expressions. These units contribute to the richness and uniqueness of spoken and written discourse, allowing speakers to communicate complex ideas concisely. In both Uzbek and English, PUs serve as a means of expressing emotions, attitudes, and cultural wisdom.

However, PUs often pose challenges for language learners and translators due to their figurative meanings and deep-rooted cultural significance. For example, the English PU “barking up the wrong tree” (meaning to misunderstand a situation) has no direct equivalent in Uzbek, requiring adaptation. Similarly, Uzbek phrases like “tovuqning ham tuxumi bor, xo‘rozning ham g‘ururi” (literally “a hen has eggs, but a rooster has pride”) reflect cultural perspectives that may be unfamiliar to English speakers.

This study is significant for linguists, educators, and translators as it sheds light on the role of phraseological units in dialogues across two distinct languages. By analyzing the similarities and differences in PU usage, the research provides valuable insights for those involved in cross-cultural communication.

The study of phraseology dates back to the early 20th century, with significant contributions from scholars like Charles Bally and Vinogradov. Phraseological units are often classified based on their structural stability and semantic integrity. In English, linguists like Cowie (1998) and Moon (2006) have examined idioms and fixed expressions, while Uzbek researchers such as Mamatov (2012) have explored the cultural and historical significance of Uzbek PUs.

Previous research has shown that while both languages use PUs to convey metaphorical meaning, their origins and applications are deeply influenced by cultural context. For example, English idioms often stem from historical events (“turn a blind eye”—linked to Admiral Nelson), whereas Uzbek idioms frequently derive from folklore and nature (“yurtimning toshi olma”—“the stones of my homeland are like apples,” expressing deep love for one’s country).

## Materials and methods

A qualitative comparative analysis was conducted to examine PUs in Uzbek and English dialogues. Data were collected from literary texts, films, and conversational transcripts to ensure a diverse

representation of usage.

#### Data Collection

• English Corpus: Dialogues from novels, films, and TV shows were analyzed for frequent PU occurrences.

• Uzbek Corpus: Literary works, folk tales, and contemporary media sources provided examples of PUs in natural conversation.

#### Analytical Approach

Each PU was categorized based on its function, frequency, and semantic meaning. Comparative analysis focused on identifying cultural and linguistic patterns in their application.

## Results and discussion

### Common Functions of PUs in Uzbek and English Dialogues

#### Differences in PU Usage

• Cultural Influence: Uzbek PUs often stem from Eastern traditions and nomadic life, while English PUs reflect maritime and historical influences.

• Structural Variations: English PUs are often metaphorical, whereas Uzbek PUs frequently rely on poetic and rhythmic patterns.

• Usage Contexts: English dialogues in media heavily incorporate PUs, while Uzbek dialogues sometimes favor direct expression in formal settings.

The study highlights that while Uzbek and English both utilize PUs to enrich dialogue, their formation and application are shaped by cultural context. English PUs often emerge from historical and literary sources, whereas Uzbek PUs frequently reference nature, traditions, and proverbs. This distinction affects how PUs are understood and translated between the two languages.

Understanding PUs is crucial for learners and translators. Direct translation of PUs often leads to confusion, as their figurative meanings may not be immediately clear. For example, translating “raining cats and dogs” literally into Uzbek would be nonsensical, requiring a culturally appropriate equivalent like “mushuk-ko’ppak yog’ayotgandek” (raining heavily).

## Conclusion

This study explored the role of phraseological units in Uzbek and English dialogues, analyzing their functions, cultural significance, and linguistic patterns. The findings reveal that while both languages employ PUs to enhance communication, cultural background plays a significant role in shaping their meaning and application. PUs enrich dialogues by adding expressiveness, humor, and emphasis. English and Uzbek PUs differ in structure, cultural origins, and application. Language learners and translators must consider cultural context when interpreting PUs. Future research could explore how globalization and digital communication influence the evolution of PUs in both languages.

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