

# EXPRESSION OF RUSSIAN MENTALITY IN PROVERBS AND SAYINGS OF THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE WITH THE CONCEPT OF "FAMILY"

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**Abstract:** This article is devoted to the analysis of the Russian linguistic picture of the world, which is represented in a small genre of oral folklore - proverbs. Proverbs with the concept of "family" were selected as the research material.

**Key words:** proverb, linguistic picture of the world, family, concept, mentality, cognitive linguistics, linguacultural studies.

**Introduction.** Russian proverbs and sayings are a valuable source of information about the Russian mentality, storing a reflection of the worldview, values and stereotypes formed over the centuries. The concept of "family" occupies a central place in Russian culture, associated with ideas about the continuation of the family, the preservation of traditions and spiritual values.

Studying the concept of "family" in the context of proverbs allows us to analyze the mechanisms of formation of public consciousness, cultural norms and ethical guidelines. Such phraseological units carry deep meanings and serve as an important tool for maintaining the identity and integrity of national self-consciousness. This article aims to study in detail the concept of "family" reflected in Russian proverbs and sayings, as well as to analyze their role in understanding the mental characteristics of the nation.

**Research methods.** The following methods were used for the stated research objectives: 1) content analysis, allowing to identify key themes and meanings contained in folklore material; 2) structural-semantic analysis, allowing to make a strict classification of the studied material; 3) comparative-historical method for analyzing the evolution of the concept of "family"; 4) cognitive-discursive analysis, aimed at deciphering the meanings contained in proverbs. Collections of Russian proverbs by V. I. Dahl and other authoritative linguistic works were used as a basic source.

**Discussion.** Linguaculturology is an interdisciplinary direction that studies the relationship between language and culture, as well as the ways in which language reflects and forms the mental and cultural characteristics of the people. This direction arose at the intersection of linguistics, cultural studies and ethnography, its main task is to study linguistic units in their cultural and historical context.

The main object of study in linguacultural studies are the so-called concepts — key units of national culture that are manifested through language. Concepts combine cognitive, emotional and value aspects, reflecting the worldview and system of priorities of a certain people. The concept of "family" in Russian culture, for example, includes not only ideas about



the structure of family relations, but also values associated with home, mutual assistance and raising children.

One of the key tasks of linguacultural studies is the analysis of phraseological units, proverbs and sayings that serve as stable expressions of national mentality. These linguistic forms allow us to identify and analyze archetypal images, symbols and ideals characteristic of a people. Proverbs, in particular, are a striking example of how collective experience and wisdom are preserved and passed on through generations [1].

Methods of linguacultural studies include text analysis, identification of key concepts, their structuring and study of their evolution in various cultural and historical conditions. This approach allows not only to describe, but also to explain the specificity of a national worldview through language.

A linguistic picture of the world is a set of ideas about reality, recorded in language and characteristic of the bearers of a certain culture. It is formed throughout the historical development of a people and reflects its unique experience, values and ways of interacting with the outside world.

The linguistic picture of the world is based on the idea that language not only conveys information, but also structures it, creating a certain model of perception of reality. For example, in the Russian language a large number of words and expressions are associated with the concept of "family", which indicates its importance for the Russian worldview. The linguistic picture of the world includes both universal and nationally specific elements. Universal elements reflect universal human values, such as love, work, friendship, while nationally specific elements express the unique features of a particular culture. Proverbs and sayings, which concentrate life experience and moral principles, play a special role in the formation of the linguistic picture of the world. In the Russian linguistic picture of the world, such expressions as "A house is a full cup" or "A hut is not beautiful with its corners, but with its pies" reflect ideas about home and family as places of comfort, well-being and hospitality.

Studying the linguistic picture of the world helps us understand how different cultures perceive and interpret the same phenomena, as well as identify differences in their cognitive and value systems. In the context of analyzing the concept of "family", this allows us to trace how linguistic means express family values, the role of traditions, and the characteristics of interaction within the family.

The concept of "family" has ancient roots and, in the process of its development, has acquired many aspects that reflect social, economic, and cultural changes in society. Since ancient times, the family has been the basic unit of society, performing the functions of not only reproduction, but also the transmission of cultural traditions, moral standards, and work skills.

In the early stages of the development of human civilization, the concept of "family" was associated with tribal ties, collective labor, and mutual assistance. In Russian culture, such ideas about the family were strengthened by the agricultural way of life, where the family played a key role in the survival and prosperity of the community. With the development of Christianity in Russian culture, the concept of "family" was enriched with religious values associated with the ideals of love, fidelity and honoring parents. Many Russian proverbs, such as "Honor your father and your mother," go back to biblical commandments, reflecting the deep religiosity of the people.

In the modern era, the concept of "family" has undergone further changes under the influence of urbanization, changing gender roles and socio-economic factors. However, the

core values associated with mutual assistance, care and procreation remain and are reflected in the language [1].

The concept of "family" can be classified based on the following aspects:

Social aspect: includes ideas about the role of family members (parents, children, spouses) and their interactions.

Emotional aspect: reflects values associated with love, care, support.

Normative aspect: includes moral and ethical standards governing family relations.

Cultural and historical aspect: covers traditions, customs and symbols associated with family in a particular culture.

These aspects allow us to better understand how the concept of "family" is structured and perceived in Russian culture.

Russian proverbs and sayings are a unique means of expressing folk wisdom, which has conveyed the main values, ideas and norms of behavior for centuries. They concentrate the experience of generations, reflecting the peculiarities of the mentality and way of life of the Russian people. The concept of "family" in proverbs is closely connected with the ideals of cohesion, mutual assistance, respect for elders and the importance of preserving traditions. For example, the proverbs "In the family, even the porridge is thicker" or "No need for treasure, if there is harmony in the family" emphasize the importance of harmonious relationships in the family as the basis for happiness and well-being.

The peculiarity of the Russian mentality is expressed in the emphasis on collective values. The family is perceived as a source of spiritual support and stability, which is especially important in the context of historical difficulties that the people have gone through. For example, the proverb "One mother is the head of a hundred nannies" illustrates a deep attachment to the maternal figure and her irreplaceable role in raising children.

Proverbs also reflect the patriarchal structure of the Russian family, where elders occupy a central place. Phrases like "An old father is a centuries-old treasure" emphasize respect for the older generation and their wisdom.

Below is a detailed analysis of proverbs reflecting the concept of "family". Each proverb is revealed in terms of its meanings, cultural context and influence on the understanding of family values in Russian culture.

**"В родной семье и каша гуще."** - Reflects the importance of family warmth and unity. The idea is that even simple food tastes better when you are surrounded by loved ones, symbolizing the spiritual and emotional satisfaction that comes from family harmony.

**"Не нужен клад, коли в семье лад."** - Emphasizes the priority of harmony in family relationships over material values. Family is perceived as the foundation of happiness.

**"Одна мать — на сто нянек голова."** - Indicates the uniqueness and irreplaceability of maternal care. It is based on respect for the mother's role in raising children.

**"Семья сильна, когда над ней крыша одна."** - Symbolizes the importance of living together and supporting each other. A common home is understood as a metaphor for cohesion.

**"Старый отец — мудрый совет."** - Demonstrates respect for elders, emphasizing their wisdom and life experience as the basis for making the right decisions.

**"Дерево держится корнями, а человек семьёй."** - Reflects the idea that family is the basis of human existence, like the roots of a tree.

**"Без семьи — как без рук."** - Symbolizes the need for a family for a full life. The comparison with hands emphasizes the functional significance of the family.

"Семья — это люди, которые всегда рядом." - Hints at closeness and mutual assistance in the family, regardless of the circumstances.

"Любовь в семье — счастье на столе." - Symbolizes the interdependence of love and general well-being.

"Семейное счастье куёт труд." - Emphasizes that harmony in the family is the result of the labor and efforts of each of its members.

"Дети — радость, а заботы в придачу." - Emphasizes that children are both a source of happiness and responsibility.

"Не хвались семьей богатой, а хвались семьей дружной." - Hints at the fact that the true value of the family lies in its unity, and not in material well-being.

"Каково в семье, таково и в мире." - Points to the connection between the family atmosphere and the general way of life of a person.

"Семьей дорожить — счастливым быть." - Emphasizes the importance of valuing your loved ones to achieve personal happiness.

"Не та мать, что родила, а та, что воспитала." - Focuses on the importance of upbringing, not just biological kinship.

"Дети малые — спать не дают, дети большие — жить не дают." - An ironic expression of the difficulties associated with different stages of parental responsibilities.

"Муж и жена — одна сатана." - Indicates a close connection between spouses, their unity in life and deeds.

"Жена да муж — одна душа." - Symbolizes harmonious marital relations, their spiritual unity [20].

**Conclusion.** These proverbs vividly illustrate the key values associated with family in Russian culture. They emphasize the importance of unity, mutual assistance, respect for elders, raising children and preserving traditions. The analysis allows for a deeper understanding of the Russian mentality and its unique attitude to the concept of "family."

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