

# CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PARENTS CONCEPT IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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**Abstract.** The concept of "parents" holds a fundamental role in shaping societal and cultural values across different nations. While both English and Uzbek cultures emphasize the significance of parents, their linguistic representation and cultural perceptions differ. This article provides a contrastive analysis of the "parents" concept in English and Uzbek languages, focusing on proverbs, idiomatic expressions, and metaphorical meanings. Through this comparison, the study highlights cultural similarities and differences in how parental roles, responsibilities, and values are expressed in language.

**Keywords:** Parents, contrastive analysis, English, Uzbek, culture, linguistics, proverbs, idioms, metaphor.

Language serves as a reflection of cultural values and social norms. The concept of "mother" is deeply ingrained in both English and Uzbek languages, but its representation differs based on historical, social, and cultural contexts. By comparing the use of the mother concept in both languages, this article aims to explore how different societies attribute meaning to motherhood through language[7].

In both cultures, the mother is seen as a central figure in family and society. However, the emphasis on different aspects of motherhood varies[1]:

- **English Culture:** Motherhood is often associated with wisdom, experience, and nurturing qualities. Mothers are seen as educators and moral guides, but the concept of independence is also emphasized.

- **Uzbek Culture:** Motherhood is viewed as sacred, and a mother's role is deeply tied to family honor, moral upbringing, and emotional warmth. The Uzbek language reflects a strong cultural respect for mothers, often linking them to spirituality and national identity. To understand how the mother concept is expressed in English and Uzbek, we will analyze proverbs, idiomatic expressions, and metaphors. Proverbs encapsulate the wisdom of a culture, and many focus on the role of mothers[2].

| Theme                  | English Proverbs                                       | Uzbek Proverbs  |
|------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Mother's Love</b>   | <i>A mother's love knows no bounds.</i>                | <i>Ona mehri – quyosh nuridek.</i> (A mother's love is like sunlight.)                    |
| <b>Wisdom</b>          | <i>Mother knows best.</i>                              | <i>Onadan yaxshi maslahatchi yo'q.</i> (There is no better advisor than a mother.)        |
| <b>Moral Influence</b> | <i>The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.</i> | <i>Onasi qattiq bo'lsa, bolasi shirin bo'ladi.</i> (A strict mother raises a good child.) |
| <b>Blessing</b>        | <i>A mother's prayer is the most powerful.</i>         | <i>Ona duosi – farzandga qanot.</i> (A mother's blessing is a child's wings.)             |

Both English and Uzbek proverbs emphasize the mother's wisdom and moral influence. However, Uzbek proverbs place a stronger focus on blessings and spirituality, while English proverbs highlight the mother's role in shaping society.

Idioms provide insights into how cultures metaphorically understand concepts.

| English Idioms                                      | Meaning                         | Uzbek Idioms                               | Meaning                              |
|---|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Mother tongue</b>                                | Native language                 | <b>Ona tili</b>                            | Native language                      |
| <b>Mother Nature</b>                                | Personification of nature       | <b>Ona tabiat</b>                          | The nurturing aspect of nature       |
| <b>Necessity is the mother of invention</b>         | Difficulties inspire creativity | <b>Ona – farzandning birinchi muallimi</b> | A mother is a child's first teacher  |
| <b>A mother's heart is always with her children</b> | A mother never stops caring     | <b>Ona yurak</b>                           | A mother's heart is full of patience |

Both languages use idioms that metaphorically associate motherhood with nurture and wisdom. However, Uzbek idioms emphasize purity, moral upbringing, and emotional depth, whereas English idioms focus more on practical wisdom and creativity.

In both English and Uzbek, the word “mother” is metaphorically used to describe important concepts[3].

| English Metaphors   | Uzbek Metaphors                                    |
|---|--|
| <i>Motherland</i> (a person's home country)               | <i>Ona yurt</i> (a person's home country)          |
| <i>Mother lode</i> (a rich source of something)           | <i>Ona boylik</i> (symbol of wealth and abundance) |
| <i>Mother ship</i> (the main vessel that supports others) | <i>Ona kemasi</i> (a guiding force)                |

Both languages use "mother" metaphorically to describe origins, sources of sustenance, and guidance. This similarity suggests that the concept of motherhood as a foundation for life and support is universally recognized. Despite many similarities, cultural differences influence how the mother concept is expressed[4]:

| Aspect                      | English Perspective                                      | Uzbek Perspective   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Spirituality</b>         | Less emphasis on blessings and prayers                   | Strong emphasis on a mother's prayers and spiritual guidance        |
| <b>Independence</b>         | Encourages children to become independent                | Stresses lifelong connection and emotional dependence               |
| <b>Symbolism</b>            | Motherhood linked to wisdom and experience               | Motherhood linked to national identity and moral authority          |
| <b>Emotional Expression</b> | Affection is shown but not overly emphasized in language | Strong linguistic focus on a mother's unconditional love and warmth |

The perception of parents varies across cultures, shaped by social structures, traditions, and historical influences. Parents are seen as guides who prepare their children for independence. The concept of a "nuclear family" is common, with an emphasis on children moving out and becoming self-sufficient. Parenting is often associated with teaching life skills, discipline, and emotional support[5].

To understand how the concept of "parents" is reflected in English and Uzbek, we will analyze proverbs, idiomatic expressions, and metaphors. Proverbs encapsulate the collective wisdom of a culture and provide insights into the values associated with parents.

| Theme                       | English Proverbs                                    | Uzbek Proverbs  |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Parental Wisdom</b>      | <i>A father's advice is a golden treasure.</i>      | <i>Ota-onangning duosini ol, ishing yurishadi.</i> (Seek your parents' blessing, and your work will go well.) |
| <b>Filial Piety</b>         | <i>Honor your father and mother.</i>                | <i>Ota-onaga qarash farzandning burchi.</i> (Taking care of parents is a child's duty.)                       |
| <b>Sacrifice of Parents</b> | <i>Parents give their children roots and wings.</i> | <i>Ota-onang tirik ekan, uyingda baraka bor.</i> (As long as your parents are alive, your home is blessed.)   |
| <b>Parental Love</b>        | <i>No love is greater than a parent's love.</i>     | <i>Ota-onaning mehri – quyosh nuri kabi.</i> (Parental love is like sunlight.)                                |

Both English and Uzbek proverbs emphasize respect for parents and acknowledge their wisdom. However, Uzbek proverbs place a stronger focus on blessings and obligations toward parents, while English proverbs highlight guidance and emotional support[6].

Idioms provide insights into how cultures metaphorically understand concepts.

| English Idioms                | Meaning   | Uzbek Idioms                                       | Meaning  |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Like father, like son.</b> | Children resemble their parents.                  | <b>Otadan bolaga o'tmasa, to'ng'izga o'tadimi?</b> | A child inherits traits from their father.                 |
| <b>Father figure.</b>         | A person who provides guidance.                   | <b>Otang oldingda tog'.</b>                        | A father is like a mountain (a source of strength).        |
| <b>Mother hen.</b>            | An overprotective parent.                         | <b>Ona yuragi – daryo.</b>                         | A mother's heart is as deep as a river (full of kindness). |
| <b>Parents' blessing.</b>     | The support and prayers of parents bring success. | <b>Ota-onaning duosi farzandga qanot.</b>          | A parent's blessing is like wings to a child.              |

Both languages associate parents with guidance, protection, and blessings. However, Uzbek idioms place a stronger emphasis on parental authority and moral responsibility, while English idioms often highlight personality traits inherited from parents. Both English and Uzbek languages use metaphors to describe parental figures and their influence.

## English Metaphors

## Uzbek Metaphors

*Father of the nation* (a respected leader) *Ota yurt* (Fatherland)

*Mother country* (a country of origin) *Ona vatan* (Motherland)

**English Metaphors****Uzbek Metaphors***Parental guidance* (moral direction)*Ota-onaning tarbiyasi* (Parents' upbringing)

Both languages use parental terms to describe national identity and guidance. However, Uzbek language more frequently uses "father" and "mother" in national and moral contexts, reinforcing the deep-rooted respect for parental authority in Uzbek society.

Despite many similarities, cultural differences influence how the parents concept is expressed:

| Aspect                            | English Perspective                                  | Uzbek Perspective   |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Parental Role</b>              | Parents guide children to independence.              | Parents are lifelong supporters of their children.                        |
| <b>Family Structure</b>           | Nuclear family is common.                            | Extended family is deeply valued.   |
| <b>Filial Duty</b>                | Respect is expected, but independence is emphasized. | Children are morally and religiously obligated to care for their parents. |
| <b>Spirituality</b>               | Less emphasis on blessings and prayers.              | Strong emphasis on parents' blessings and spiritual influence.            |
| <b>Discipline &amp; Authority</b> | Parents have authority but encourage individuality.  | Parents have strict authority and moral influence over children.          |

**To sum up**, the concept of "parents" is universally significant, but its linguistic and cultural representation varies between English and Uzbek. English proverbs and idioms emphasize parents' wisdom, guidance, and the value of independence. In contrast, Uzbek language and culture stress the sacred role of parents, their moral authority, and the obligation of children to care for them. Despite these differences, both languages recognize the importance of parents in shaping individuals and societies.

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