

## SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF NATIONAL CONCEPTS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH PROVERBS

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**Annotation:** This article analyzes the similarities and differences of national concepts reflected in Uzbek and English proverbs. Proverbs are among the important linguistic units that express a nation's worldview, culture, and values. The study compares shared and nationally specific features in the two nations' thinking through concepts such as "labour," "homeland," "family values," and "wisdom and intellect." As a result, the research reveals the distinctive aspects of national spirit, attitudes toward life, values, and moral perspectives in both languages.

**Keywords:** Proverb, national concept, culture, worldview, value, similarity, difference, Uzbek, English.

The language of every nation reflects its way of thinking, worldview, and national spirit. The experiences a people accumulate over centuries—along with their attitude toward life, values, and cultural outlook—are most vividly expressed in their proverbs. Proverbs teach people important lessons and convey deep truths about life. They are ancient and universal products of human thought, embodying a nation's social life, moral principles, and spiritual world.

For example, the Uzbek proverb "*Mehnat qilgan to'yadi*" ("He who works will be satisfied") promotes hard work, honesty, and diligence. The English proverb "*No pains, no gains*" carries almost the same meaning. In both cultures, labor is regarded as one of the highest values in life. This shows that even though different cultures perceive the world in various ways, their core moral principles are often similar.

Proverbs also express the national concepts of a people—their unique way of thinking, feeling, and valuing the world. For instance, Uzbeks honor their homeland through the proverb "*Ona yurt — oltin beshiging*" ("Your motherland is your golden cradle"), while the English say "*East or West, home is best*," highlighting the idea that one's homeland is the most sacred place. In both sayings, love and loyalty to one's country hold a central place.

Proverbs passed down from ancient times carry powerful meanings. Uzbeks often refer to them as "the words of our ancestors." Uzbek proverbs strongly emphasize community, unity, respect, and the value of parents. English proverbs, on the other hand, tend to reflect individuality, personal responsibility, and freedom. For example, Uzbeks say "*Birlik bo'lsa — yengilmas kuch*" ("Unity is an unbeatable force"), whereas the English have the proverb "*Every man for himself*." These differences stem from the distinct historical experiences and social structures of the two nations.

In English culture, individuality plays a significant role: children typically begin independent life once they turn eighteen, and parents often stop supporting them financially. Likewise, elderly parents usually live independently, and their children do not always take direct responsibility for their care. In contrast, Uzbek society places great importance on family unity and strong intergenerational bonds

The purpose of this article is to scientifically analyze the similarities and differences between the national concepts reflected in Uzbek and English proverbs, and to reveal their semantic, cultural, and philosophical meanings. As the object of the study, key concepts such as “labor,” “homeland,” “mind/wisdom,” and “family” in Uzbek and English proverbs were selected.

The relevance of this topic lies in the fact that, in the era of globalization, preserving national values and cultural identity, as well as strengthening communication and mutual understanding between different cultures, has become increasingly important. Since proverbs reflect a people’s mentality, worldview, and spiritual character, studying them holds significant theoretical and practical value in the fields of cultural diplomacy and translation studies.

Therefore, a comparative investigation of the national conceptual foundations of Uzbek and English proverbs is not only crucial for linguistics, but also for linguistic cultural studies, psycholinguistics, and translation theory.

Proverbs teach people many important lessons. The ideas expressed in them are based on truth and life experience. Below are several proverbs presented in both Uzbek and English:

“Oz oz o’rganib dono bo’lur, qatra- qatra yig’ilib daryo bo’lur”

“Ona yurting – oltin beshiging.”

“East or West, home is best.”

“O‘ylab gapirgan, o‘kinmas.”

“Look before you leap.”

“Ota-onani hurmat qilmagan, dunyoda hurmat topolmaydi.”

“Honor thy father and thy mother.”

“Halol mehnatning barakasi ko‘p bo‘ladi.”

“Honesty is the best policy.”

“Sabr qilsang, sabrning mevasi shirin bo‘ladi.”

“Patience is a virtue.”

The language of every nation is the clearest expression of its way of thinking, culture, and historical experience. Through language, people not only communicate in everyday life but also convey their worldview, values, and moral principles. In this regard, folk proverbs stand out as one of the oldest and richest layers of language. Proverbs are short yet meaningful expressions that reflect a people’s centuries-old experience, wisdom, and practical knowledge. One of the most common concepts in Uzbek proverbs is the idea of *labor*. For example, the proverb “*Mehnat qilgan to‘yadi*” (“He who works will be satisfied”) encourages people to work tirelessly and achieve results through effort. It shows that, in the national mindset, labor is a core value and that a person can improve their life through their own hard work. Similarly, English proverbs also highlight this idea, such as “*No pains, no gains.*” Both proverbs emphasize the importance of effort in human life, though each reflects the unique cultural and historical context of its nation in its wording and style.

Another widely expressed concept in proverbs is *homeland*. Uzbeks say “*Ona yurting — oltin beshiging*” (“Your motherland is your golden cradle”), which underscores a deep emotional attachment to one’s land and regards the homeland as a sacred and irreplaceable place. The English proverb “*East or West, home is best*” conveys a similar idea, stressing that home,

family, and homeland are the most important anchors in a person's life. While both cultures place the homeland at the center of their worldview, Uzbek proverbs typically frame it in terms of collective identity and national spirit, whereas English proverbs tend to emphasize personal feelings and individual experience.

In addition to these, the concept of *intellect and wisdom* also holds a significant place in the worldview of both cultures. The Uzbek proverb "*O'ylab gapirgan, o'kinmas*" ("One who speaks thoughtfully will not regret it") encourages careful thinking and wise decision-making. In English, the proverb "*Actions speak louder than words*" highlights the importance of responsibility, consistency, and the harmony of words and actions. These examples show that although different cultures may have distinct expressions and linguistic forms, their moral and philosophical perspectives often align.

Family and family values also occupy an important place in Uzbek proverbs, reflecting the central role that kinship and togetherness play in the national mentality.

For example, the Uzbek proverbs "*Ota-onani hurmat qilmagan, dunyoda hurmat topolmaydi*" ("One who does not respect their parents will not earn respect in the world") and "*Bola ota-onasiz o'rmoning yog'ochi kabi*" ("A child without parents is like a tree in the forest") emphasize the importance of family, respect for parents, and the value of familial unity. In English, the proverb "*Blood is thicker than water*" conveys the significance of family ties and close kinship. These examples show that both Uzbek and English cultures value the family, yet Uzbeks tend to express this within the context of social and collective responsibility, whereas English speakers highlight individual experience and emotional attachment.

Studying a nation's worldview through its proverbs is important not only for linguistics, but also for cultural studies, psycholinguistics, translation theory, and even social psychology. For instance, the English proverb "*A stitch in time saves nine*" is semantically close to the Uzbek proverb "*Vaqtida qilgan ish ikki barobar foyda*," yet the expressions differ in form and context. Each proverb reflects the historical experience, economic conditions, and social values of the culture that produced it.

The main goal of this study is to examine the national concepts expressed in Uzbek and English proverbs, analyze their similarities and differences, and reveal the cultural and semantic layers of national thinking as reflected in these sayings. The key concepts selected for analysis include "labor," "homeland," "intellect and wisdom," and "family and family values." Through these concepts, it becomes possible to compare the shared elements and distinctive features of the two nations' worldviews.

The relevance of this topic lies in the fact that, in the process of globalization, preserving national values and fostering communication between different cultures have become increasingly important. By analyzing proverbs, it is possible to study not only a language and its culture, but also a people's historical experience, moral values, and attitudes toward life. For this reason, a comparative investigation of the national conceptual foundations of Uzbek and English proverbs is scientifically significant and highly relevant.

"Do'st ko'p bo'lsa, hayot yengil."

"A friend in need is a friend indeed."

"Vaqtida qilgan ish – ikki barobar foyda."

"A stitch in time saves nine."

"Qiyinchiliksiz yutuq bo'lmaydi."

"No pain, no gain."

"Qon suvdan qalin."

“Blood is thicker than wate.”

Through these concepts, it becomes possible to compare the shared and distinctive features of the two nations’ worldviews. The relevance of this topic lies in the fact that, in an era of globalization, preserving national values and fostering communication among different cultures have gained significant importance. Analyzing proverbs allows researchers to explore not only language and culture, but also a people’s historical experience, moral values, and overall attitude toward life. Therefore, a comparative study of the national conceptual foundations of Uzbek and English proverbs is scientifically important and highly relevant.

English proverbs embody a wide range of values: labor, wisdom, homeland, family, patience, and honesty are among the key concepts that hold an essential place in the English worldview. One of the major distinctions between English and Uzbek proverbs lies in their emphasis—English proverbs tend to highlight individualism, personal experience, and practical outcomes to a greater extent than Uzbek ones.

In English culture, the value of hard work is expressed through numerous proverbs.

“No pains, no gains” — mehnatsiz muvaffaqiyatga erishib bo‘lmaydi.

“Hard work pays off” — tinimsiz ishlash natija beradi.

“Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise” ertalab uyg‘onib mehnat qilish orqali inson sog‘lom, boy va dono bo‘ladi.

These proverbs are semantically similar to the concept of labor in Uzbek proverbs; however, English proverbs place greater emphasis on personal discipline and individual responsibility. This highlights that, in English cultural thinking, the value of labor is often linked not to societal benefit, but to personal success. In English proverbs, the concepts of home and homeland are closely associated with individual feelings and personal attachment:

“East or West, home is best” — uyning shaxsiy ahamiyati, odamning o‘z joyini qadrlashi.

“Charity begins at home” — yordam va mehr avvalo oila va yaqinlardan boshlanishi kerakligini bildiradi.

“A man’s home is his castle” — uy — insonning shaxsiy hududi, xavfsizlik va qulaylik markazi.

Compared to the concepts of homeland and home in Uzbek proverbs, English proverbs tend to emphasize individuality and personal experience, whereas in Uzbek proverbs these concepts are more closely tied to collective and national values. In English proverbs, the concept of wisdom is often practical and oriented toward everyday life, with many sayings focusing on personal growth and self-improvement.

“Actions speak louder than words” — so‘zlardan ko‘ra amallar muhim.

“Look before you leap” — harakat qilishdan oldin yaxshilab o‘ylash zarur.

“A stitch in time saves nine” — vaqtida qilingan ish katta muammolarni oldini oladi.

Although these proverbs are similar to the concept of wisdom and intellect in Uzbek proverbs, English proverbs place a stronger emphasis on individual decision-making and attention to practical outcomes.

In Uzbek proverbs, attention to family is often expressed within the context of social obligation and respect, whereas in English proverbs it is conveyed through personal experience and emotional connection. A comparative analysis of the key concepts in Uzbek and English proverbs reveals both similarities and differences.

There are notable similarities: in both cultures, the values of labor, homeland, wisdom, and family occupy a central place. Proverbs are short but meaningful expressions that reflect a people's moral and practical values. Through examples and metaphors, these values are transmitted from generation to generation.

However, differences are also apparent. English proverbs tend to emphasize individualism and personal experience, while Uzbek proverbs place greater emphasis on collectivism and national spirit. English sayings often focus on practical outcomes and personal responsibility, whereas Uzbek proverbs highlight moral responsibility and communal values. In terms of language and stylistic expression, English proverbs are usually simple and practical, while Uzbek proverbs frequently employ rich metaphors and historical imagery.

Based on these observations, the purpose of this study becomes clear: to analyze the similarities and differences of national concepts in Uzbek and English proverbs, and to uncover their semantic and cultural distinctions. The object of the study is the proverbs themselves and their national concepts, while the subject includes key concepts such as "labor," "homeland," "wisdom and intellect," and "family and family values."

This research contributes to the preservation of cultural identity in the context of globalization, fosters intercultural communication, and deepens the linguocultural approach. Furthermore, the analysis of proverbs is valuable not only for linguistics, but also for cultural studies, psycholinguistics, and translation theory.

Studying Uzbek and English proverbs reveals not only the similarities but also the differences in their national concepts. In both cultures, key values such as labor, homeland, wisdom and intellect, and family occupy a central place, reflecting each nation's historical experience and moral principles. For example, although the proverbs "*Mehnat qilgan to'yadi*" ("He who works will be satisfied") and "*No pains, no gains*" are expressed in different languages, they convey the same idea about the importance of labor in life. Similarly, the proverbs "*Ona yurt — oltin beshiga*" ("Your motherland is your golden cradle") and "*East or West, home is best*" express love and loyalty to one's homeland, but in Uzbek proverbs this is more closely linked to collective spirit and national values, whereas in English proverbs it is associated with individual experience and personal feelings.

Moreover, the concepts of wisdom and intellect, as well as family values, are important in both cultures, though their expression reflects national characteristics. In Uzbek proverbs, wisdom and family values are often connected to collective and moral responsibility, while in English proverbs they emphasize individual decision-making and personal experience.

Overall, comparing the national concepts in Uzbek and English proverbs allows for a deeper understanding of a nation's semantic and cultural layers, its system of values, and historical experience. The significance of this research lies in its contribution not only to linguistics and cultural studies, but also to psycholinguistics, translation theory, and international cultural communication. It is important to note that proverbs are a vital source reflecting a people's historical experience, moral values, and worldview. Therefore, a comparative study of Uzbek and English proverbs plays a crucial role in preserving national culture, promoting intercultural dialogue, and deepening linguocultural approaches.

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