

LEXICOGRAPHICAL APPROACH: DIFFERENCES IN RENDERING THE MEANINGS OF “SADOQAT” AND “LOYALTY” IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH DICTIONARIES

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Annotation: The Uzbek term sadoqat and its English equivalent, loyalty, are compared lexicographically in this study using Uzbek Wiktionary, O‘zbek tilining izohli lug‘ati, and Oxford Learner’s Dictionary. The study delineates semantic and cultural divergences, structuring its inquiry across definitions, a comparative table, and implications, revealing that sadoqat emphasizes emotional-ethical commitment rooted in Arabic origins and collectivist values, while loyalty extends to pragmatic domains like commerce and politics and establishes the purpose: to uncover nuanced differences in conceptual expression between the languages. Tasks include obtaining dictionary definitions and actual discourse, with technique incorporating comparative linguistics, semantic field theory, and corpus analysis from materials including the British National Corpus, media texts, political speeches, and literary works.

Results divide loyalty statements into personal, professional, socio-political, moral, religious, and commercial realms, highlighting Uzbek’s semantically deeper, ethically charged phrases vs English’s broader, context-specific lexicon (e.g., dedication, commitment). These findings apply to cross-cultural pragmatics, translation studies, and linguistics education, underlining collectivist vs individualistic tendencies. The conclusion affirms universal trust and steadfastness but underlines culturally driven differences, suggesting quantitative frequency analysis for greater robustness.

Key words: lexicography, sadoqat, loyalty, Uzbek dictionaries, English dictionaries, semantic differences, cultural nuances, comparative linguistics.

Introduction: Lexicographical approaches to value-laden concepts like “sadoqat” (Uzbek) and “loyalty” (English) reveal cultural-semantic divergences, as bilingual dictionaries often prioritize formal equivalence over pragmatic depth. In Uzbek dictionaries, “sadoqat” clusters with emotionally and ethically charged terms like “vafo,” “sodiqlik,” and “vafodorlik,” emphasizing moral steadfastness, while English monolingual sources portray “loyalty” across broader domains including commercial and institutional uses, alongside synonyms such as “faithfulness,” “allegiance,” and “devotion.” Moreover, The term “loyalty” in English encompasses six lexically diverse domains: personal (loyalty in relationships), professional (loyalty of employees), socio-political (oaths to nation), moral (ethical steadfastness), religious (faithfulness), and commercial (brand loyalty). Collectivist emphasis on collective honor above individualistic or market-driven usage is reflected in Uzbek sadoqat, which focuses on moral,

religious, and sociopolitical domains and frequently blends with *vafo* (fidelity) and *fidoyilik* (self-sacrifice).

This study analyzes rendering differences in Uzbek-English bilingual dictionaries, addressing equivalence types, semantic asymmetries, and cultural adequacy to inform improved lexicographic practices. (Jumanova, 2024)

Prior research underscores that dictionary equivalents reflect cultural scripts rather than exact matches, with English favoring nuanced distinctions and Uzbek consolidating richer connotations in fewer lexemes. The central question examines how these renderings handle domain shifts, such as “customer loyalty” versus patriotic “*Vatanga sadoqat*.” As demonstrated by proverbs like *Yaxshi ot jonini egasiga fido qiladi* (A good horse sacrifices its life for its owner), Uzbek interpretations of *sadoqat* prioritize self-sacrifice and communal peace. Anglo-Saxon pragmatism is reflected in English counterparts, which accommodate conflicting allegiances and contractual obligations. Corpus data indicates that commercial domination predominates in contemporary usage. This is where bilingual dictionaries fall short, providing one-to-one glosses such as “loyalty” without collocational or cultural annotations, resulting in partial equivalency.

Methods: The study employs comparative lexicography grounded in equivalence theory (Zgusta, 1971) and cultural semantics (Wierzbicka, 1997), categorizing equivalents as full, partial (one-to-many), or descriptive. Data sources include contemporary online Uzbek-English and English-Uzbek dictionaries (e.g., learner tools, Cambridge/Oxford integrations), supplemented by monolingual entries from Oxford and Cambridge for “loyalty” semantic ranges.

Entries were systematically coded for core equivalents, domain coverage (personal, professional, socio-political, moral, religious, commercial), and connotative notes. Asymmetries were quantified via thematic mapping, drawing on corpus-informed patterns from British National Corpus analyses adapted to dictionary microstructures.

Results: English-Uzbek renderings predominantly list “loyalty” as “*sadoqat*,” “*sodiqlik*,” or “*vafo*,” capturing personal and patriotic senses but underrepresenting commercial extensions like “loyalty programs,” which lack direct single-word Uzbek parallels. Uzbek-English entries reverse this, translating “*sadoqat*” primarily as “loyalty” with occasional “devotion” or “faithfulness,” compressing religious-patriotic phrases (e.g., “*Vatanga sadoqat*”) into broader terms and diluting ethical depth.

English sources delineate six domains (personal, professional, etc.), while Uzbek equivalents consolidate moral-religious nuances, yielding partial equivalence overall. Key asymmetries appear in utilitarian contexts. English “loyalty” collocates productively with programmatic and transactional nouns: loyalty program, loyalty points, loyalty card, brand loyalty, customer loyalty, employee loyalty (Oliver, 1999; Cambridge Dictionary; OED). In Uzbek, native moral-affective collocates dominate: *Vatanga sadoqat*, *do‘stga sadoqat*, *oilaga sadoqat*, *vafo qilmoq*, *sodiq do‘st* (O‘zbek tilining izohli lug‘ati).

The Uzbek triplet splits connotations:

sadoqat: high-register, ethically charged fidelity (often patriotic/religious/domestic) [O‘zTL].

sodiqlik: steadiness/faithfulness of a person or stance, slightly less elevated than *sadoqat* [O‘zTL].

vafo: keeping one’s word/promise; often poetic or idiomatic (*vafo qilmoq*) [O‘zTL].

English “brand/customer loyalty” foregrounds repeat behavior and attitudinal commitment; Uzbek sadoqat foregrounds virtue and moral duty. Hence literal calques can sound solemn or misaligned in commercial contexts (Oliver, 1999; OED; Merriam-Webster).

Domain mapping and partial equivalence: Personal/relational: loyalty = sadoqat/sodiqlik/vafo depending on nuance (ethical fidelity vs. promise-keeping vs. steadfastness) [O’zTL; OED].

Civic/patriotic: loyalty = Vatanga sadoqat (close equivalence; ethical depth is preserved) [O’zTL].

Religious: loyalty = e’tiqodiy sadoqat/ixlos (English often compresses this into “devotion/faithfulness,” potentially flattening the ethical-spiritual layer) [OED; Merriam-Webster].

Professional/organizational: loyalty = sodiqlik (ish beruvchiga sodiqlik), sometimes sinonimized with fidoyilik (“dedication”), though the latter tilts toward self-sacrifice rather than allegiance (Cambridge; O’zTL).

Commercial/consumer: loyalty (brand/customer) rarely maps to a single inherited Uzbek lexeme; functional renderings prevail: mijoz sodiqligi, brendga sodiqlik, mijozlarni ushlab qolish, qayta xaridga rag‘bat. Programmatic uses are typically descriptive: “loyalty program” → sodiqlik dasturi, bonus dasturi, mijozlar uchun mukofot dasturi; “loyalty points” → bonus ballari/loyalti ballari; “loyalty card” → bonus karta/klub karta (Oliver, 1999; Cambridge; industry usage in Uzbek marketing discourse).

Asymmetries and translation risk: Ethical dilution in EN→UZ: rendering “loyalty program” as “sadoqat dasturi” can evoke moral–virtue resonance foreign to retail contexts; “sodiqlik/bonus/mukofot dasturi” is clearer and culturally neutral (Oliver, 1999).

Ethical compression in UZ→EN: Vatanga sadoqat → “loyalty to the Motherland” risks sounding bureaucratic or flat; alternatives like “devotion to the homeland,” “steadfast patriotism,” or “patriotic fidelity” retain rhetorical weight (OED; Merriam-Webster).

Polysemy management: English distinguishes attitudinal vs. behavioral loyalty (e.g., attitudinal commitment vs. repeat purchase); Uzbek often encodes these via different constructions: ichki ishonch/ixlos vs. amaliy sodiqlik/qayta xarid odati (Oliver, 1999).

Functional equivalence in commercial contexts:

loyalty program → bonus dasturi / sodiqlik dasturi / mijozlar klubi (choose by brand voice: formal vs. promotional).

brand loyalty → brendga sodiqlik / brendga murosasiz sadoqat (the latter is emphatic/advertising-heavy).

customer loyalty → mijoz sodiqligi / mijozlarni ushlab qolish darajasi (analytics/reporting).

Register alignment in ethical domains: Vatanga sadoqat → devotion to the homeland / steadfast patriotism (avoid flattening to mere “loyalty” in ceremonial or rhetorical texts).

vafo qilmoq → keep one’s promise / remain true / stay faithful (choose by idiom and tone).

Explanatory glossing when necessary: “sodiqlik dasturi (loyalty program)” → subsequent mentions can use sodiqlik/bonus dasturi.

Collocational naturalness: Prefer Uzbek nouns that already collocate: bonus ballari (not overly literal “loyalty points”), klub karta/bonus karta (rather than heavy calques).

Overall equivalence is best in ethical-patriotic registers and weakest in utilitarian-commercial ones. English extends “loyalty” successfully into behavioral/marketing frameworks; Uzbek depends on descriptive, culturally neutral constructs to prevent inadvertent moral elevation.

Direction-sensitive strategies—functional paraphrasing for commerce, register-preserving



options for ethical discourse—yield the most faithful, idiomatic results (Oliver, 1999; OED; O‘zTL; Merriam-Webster; Cambridge).

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