



THE GENESIS OF BASIC LEXICAL-SEMANTIC UNITS OF “CULTURE” IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

Yigitalieva Mohinur Soyibjon kizi

Independent researcher, specializing in comparative linguistics

Lady_m0n1ca0710@gmail.com

Abstract. *This article investigates the genesis of culture-related lexical-semantic units in English and Uzbek languages. It examines how historical, social, and cultural factors have influenced the formation of these lexical items and highlights their isomorphic and allomorphic features. The findings indicate that while English cultural terminology reflects Western philosophy, modernization, and popular culture, Uzbek emphasizes Eastern traditions, spirituality, and national values. This comparative analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of the interaction between language and culture and the dynamics of lexical development across different linguistic environments.*

Keywords: *culture, lexical-semantic units, genesis, English language, Uzbek language, isomorphism, allomorphism, globalization, traditions, values.*

INTRODUCTION

Culture and language are inseparable concepts. Every language reflects its cultural environment through its lexical-semantic units. The genesis of words and terms related to culture in English and Uzbek is closely connected with the processes of language development, historical factors, social life, and the formation of cultural values.


Culture is the totality of the spiritual and material wealth of society, and it is reflected in various aspects of social life, including the language system. Every nation expresses its historical and cultural characteristics through lexical units. Lexical units related to culture in Uzbek and English largely express national features. Therefore, studying the genesis of these units helps to deeply understand the connections between language and culture.

To understand culture, it is necessary to pay attention to its components. As we know, culture, by its essence, is divided into material and spiritual culture. This can be explained as follows:

1. Spiritual culture – includes literature, art, customs, and traditions.
2. Material culture – includes architecture, clothing, household items, and everyday objects.

The process of creating material and spiritual wealth throughout human history is characterized by movement from the lower to the higher, from the simple to the complex, and from the particular to the general. It should be emphasized that all stages in the creation of cultural wealth have always complemented each other.

The genesis (origin) of basic lexical-semantic units related to culture in English and Uzbek is based on specific historical, social, and linguistic factors. Moreover, they are



closely connected with profound historical and cultural processes in both languages, and the formation of these words has been influenced by history, intercultural relations, as well as religious and social factors.

METHODS

In English, words and concepts related to culture have been shaped over centuries under the influence of various languages, cultures, and social processes. To understand this genesis, we can consider the following main stages:

Latin and Greek roots. Many words connected with culture in English were borrowed from Latin and Greek. This reflects the influence of Latin and Greek culture, which formed the intellectual and philosophical foundation of Western civilization. These two languages significantly contributed to the enrichment of English vocabulary. For example:

- The word *culture* is derived from the Latin *cultura*, which originally referred to tilling the land or agriculture. Later, it acquired the meaning of spiritual and intellectual development.
- The word *civilization* comes from the Greek *civis* (city), denoting an urban society and an advanced way of life.

French influence. The Norman Conquest of 1066 introduced a large number of cultural concepts and words from French into English. This stage marked a period in which English vocabulary expanded and new layers of culture-related terminology were formed. Examples include:

- *Tradition* – borrowed from the French *tradition*, referring to customs and practices passed down through generations.
- *Heritage* – from the French *heritage*, denoting historical and cultural legacy.


What is particularly significant is that many of the cultural concepts of this period were associated with social stratification and the values of the nobility.

The Renaissance and Early Modern developments. Starting from the European Renaissance (14th–17th centuries), scientific and philosophical terminology related to the development of culture expanded, leading to the creation of new words in English. During this period, philosophy, science, and art contributed to the emergence of new lexical units. For example:

- *Identity* – the concept of self-awareness became widely developed during the Renaissance.
- *Multiculturalism* – denoting the coexistence of different cultures, particularly associated with the development of American society.

In the 20th century, due to industrialization and colonialism, terms such as *modernism* (modernization), *globalization*, and *consumerism* (the ideology of mass consumption) entered the language.

Globalization and Contemporary Influences. In the 19th–20th centuries, industrialization, technological progress, and globalization brought new culture-related concepts into English. Furthermore, as English became the international language of culture,



and science, many terms linked to global culture spread widely, including *pop culture* (popular culture), *subculture*, and *cultural appropriation*.

Examples include:

- *Pop culture* – popular culture, mainly spread through cinema, music, and fashion.
- *Consumerism* – describing a society based on consumer needs and desires.

The genesis of culture-related terms in the Uzbek language. As for the genesis of cultural terminology in Uzbek, culture-related concepts developed largely on the basis of Eastern traditions, Turkic values, and religious influences. The Soviet era and the independence period also left significant marks. Uzbek is rich in words expressing culture, many of which originate from Arabic, Persian, and ancient Turkic languages, reflecting the social life and cultural values of society.

Turkic roots. Many culture-related words in Uzbek are inherited from ancient Turkic languages, reflecting the social structure and lifestyle of Turkic peoples. For instance:

- *Urug'* – denoting a clan or tribe, one of the basic social units among ancient Turkic peoples.
- *Odat* – a widely used concept among Turkic peoples, referring to traditional rules of society.

These words were mainly shaped around values regulating clan, tribe, and community life.

Influence of Arabic and Persian. With the spread of Islam and Islamic culture, many cultural terms were borrowed from Arabic and Persian, creating new semantic layers in Uzbek related to enlightenment and culture. For example:

- *Ma'naviyat* – denoting spiritual and moral development, rooted in Eastern philosophy and religious thought.
- *Ma'rifat* – expressing knowledge and enlightenment.

The Soviet period. From the first half of the 20th century, during the Soviet era, a new layer of cultural terminology emerged in Uzbek. Numerous ideologically motivated terms came into use, enriching the lexicon. For instance:

- *Kommunizm* – associated with the ideology of the Soviet Union.
- *Xalqaro do'stlik* (international friendship) – a concept promoting intercultural relations.

During this period, national identity was often viewed through the prism of collective values.

The independence period. After independence in 1991, concepts reflecting national values developed rapidly, giving rise to a new layer of culture-related terminology linked to national revival. Along with this, several terms enriched the

Uzbek lexicon:

- *Milliy qadriyatlar* – expressing the historical and cultural heritage of the people.

- *Ma'naviy tiklanish* – denoting the process of focusing on spirituality in the independence era.

Additionally, terms borrowed from English such as *globalizatsiya* (globalization), *brend* (brand), and *modernizatsiya* (modernization) expanded the vocabulary.

RESULTS


Studying the common (isomorphic) and distinctive (allomorphic) factors that shape cultural units in English and Uzbek provides an opportunity to better understand the process of formation of culture-related lexical units in both languages. The following tables highlight their isomorphic and allomorphic aspects.

Isomorphic Features:		
Aspect	English	Uzbek
Historical-cultural contacts	Borrowed from Greek, Latin, French. Examples: <i>Democracy</i> , <i>Cuisine</i> , <i>Renaissance</i> .	Borrowed from Arabic, Persian, Russian. Examples: <i>Adabiyot</i> , <i>Urfon</i> , <i>Me'morchilik</i> .
Globalization	Introduced modern cultural terms such as <i>Globalization</i> , <i>Pop culture</i> , <i>Influencer</i> .	Adopted global/English borrowings such as <i>Brend</i> , <i>Startap</i> , <i>Multikulturalizm</i> .

Allomorphic Features		
Aspect	English	Uzbek
Philosophical and social background	Rooted in Western philosophy, social institutions, and technological development.	Rooted in Eastern traditions, Turkic culture, and religion.
Focus of cultural concepts	Emphasizes <i>modernity</i> and <i>popular culture</i> . Examples: <i>Identity</i> , <i>Cultural diversity</i> , <i>Modernism</i> .	Emphasizes <i>national values</i> and <i>spirituality</i> . Examples: <i>Milliy qadriyatlar</i> , <i>An'ana</i> , <i>Ma'naviyat</i> .

DISCUSSION

The comparative analysis of cultural units in English and Uzbek reveals both convergence and divergence in the formation of culture-related lexical items. The isomorphic features demonstrate that historical-cultural contacts and globalization have served as major driving forces in shaping the cultural lexicon of both languages. In English, borrowings from Latin, Greek, and French introduced fundamental concepts such as



democracy, cuisine, and renaissance, while in Uzbek, cultural development was strongly influenced by Arabic, Persian, and Russian contributions, producing terms such as *adabiyot*, *urfon*, and *me'morchilik*. Globalization has further unified the lexicons of both languages, bringing about shared terms like *brand*, *start-up*, and *multiculturalism*.

At the same time, the allomorphic aspects illustrate how each language reflects its unique historical and socio-cultural background. English tends to foreground concepts related to Western philosophy, modernity, and popular culture, including *identity*, *cultural diversity*, and *modernism*. In contrast, Uzbek emphasizes national traditions, spirituality, and moral values, exemplified by *milliy qadriyatlar*, *an'ana*, and *ma'naviyat*. These differences highlight the deep-rooted connections of English with secular and institutional dimensions of culture, whereas Uzbek preserves a stronger link with Eastern traditions, collective identity, and ethical development.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the genesis of cultural lexical units in English and Uzbek reflects the unique cultural and historical processes of each language. While English has been shaped under the influence of Western philosophy and global trends, Uzbek embodies Turkic traditions, Eastern culture, and the impact of the independence period. Although both languages possess distinctive features, today their vocabularies demonstrate growing similarities due to international cultural interactions. The study of these units contributes to a deeper understanding of cultural and linguistic characteristics.

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