



"SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS EXPRESSING  
INTELLECT IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK"

**Kunushova Munisa Abdunazar qizi**  
*Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages*  
*Faculty of Foreign Languages of Payariq*  
+998 94 120255  
[munisaqonishova@gmail.com](mailto:munisaqonishova@gmail.com)

**Annotation:** This study explores the semantic features of phraseological units that convey the concept of intellect in English and Uzbek. It aims to reveal how ideas such as intelligence, wisdom, cleverness, and mental capacity are linguistically represented through idioms and fixed expressions in both languages. The research applies a comparative linguo-semantic approach to analyze the meanings, structures, and contextual usage of selected phraseological units. The results indicate that although both English and Uzbek share common semantic elements related to intellectual ability, they differ in the ways these meanings are metaphorically structured and culturally interpreted.

**Keywords:** Phraseological units, intellect, semantic analysis, English and Uzbek languages, idiomatic expressions, cultural semantics, cognitive meaning.

**СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ ФРАЗЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ЕДИНИЦ,  
ВЫРАЖАЮЩИХ ИНТЕЛЛЕКТ, В АНГЛИЙСКОМ И УЗБЕКСКОМ ЯЗЫКАХ**

**Кунушова Муниса Абдуназар кизи**  
*Самаркандский государственный институт иностранных языков*  
*Факультет иностранных языков Пайарык*  
+998 94 120255  
[munisaqonishova@gmail.com](mailto:munisaqonishova@gmail.com)

**Аннотация:** Данное исследование посвящено изучению семантических особенностей фразеологических единиц, передающих понятие интеллекта в английском и узбекском языках. Его цель - выявить, каким образом такие понятия, как интеллект, мудрость, сообразительность и умственные способности, выражаются с помощью идиом и устойчивых выражений в обоих языках. В исследовании применяется сравнительный лингвосемантический подход для анализа значений, структуры и контекстуального употребления отобранных фразеологических единиц. Результаты показывают, что, несмотря на наличие общих семантических элементов, связанных с интеллектуальными способностями, в английском и узбекском языках существуют различия в метафорическом структурировании и культурной интерпретации данных значений.

**Ключевые слова:** Фразеологические единицы, интеллект, семантический анализ, английский и узбекский языки, идиоматические выражения, культурная семантика, когнитивное значение.

## INGLIZ VA O‘ZBEK TILLARIDAGI INTELLEKTNI IFODALOVCHI IBORAVIY BIRLIKLARNING SEMANTIK TAHLILI

**Kunushova Munisa Abdunazar qizi**

*Samarqand davlat chet tillar institute*

*Payariq xorijiy tillar fakulteti*

+998 94 120255

[munisagonishova@gmail.com](mailto:munisagonishova@gmail.com)

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu tadqiqot ingliz va o‘zbek tillarida intellekt tushunchasini ifodalovchi frazeologik birliklarning semantik xususiyatlarini o‘rganadi. Uning maqsadi aql, donolik, ziyraklik va aqliy salohiyat kabi tushunchalarning har ikkala tilda idiomalar va barqaror ifodalar orqali qanday lingvistik tarzda ifodalanishini aniqlashdan iborat. Tadqiqot tanlangan frazeologik birliklarning ma’nolari, tuzilishi va kontekstual qo‘llanilishini tahlil qilish uchun qiyosiy lingvosemantik yondashuvni qo‘llaydi. Natijalar shuni ko‘rsatadiki, ingliz va o‘zbek tillari intellektual qobiliyatga oid umumiy semantik elementlarga ega bo‘lsa-da, ushbu ma’nolarning metaforik tuzilishi va madaniy talqin qilinishida farqlar mavjud.


**Kalit so‘zlar:** Frazеologik birliklar, intellekt, semantik tahlil, ingliz va o‘zbek tillari, idiomatik ifodalar, madaniy semantika, kognitiv ma’no.

### Introduction

The concept of intellect occupies a central position in human cognition and linguistic expression, reflecting how individuals perceive, evaluate, and describe mental abilities. In language, this concept is often represented not only through single lexical items but also through phraseological units, which encapsulate culturally specific interpretations of intelligence, wisdom, and reasoning. Phraseological units, including idioms, proverbs, and fixed expressions, serve as important carriers of semantic and cultural information, providing insight into how different societies conceptualize intellectual capacity. These expressions often rely on figurative language, drawing from everyday experiences, physical perception, and social interaction to describe abstract mental processes. As a result, the study of such units allows researchers to explore the relationship between language, thought, and culture.

### Literature Review

The study of phraseological units has long been an important area of linguistic research, particularly in the fields of phraseology, semantics, and cognitive linguistics. Scholars such as V. V. Vinogradov laid the foundation for the classification and analysis of phraseological units, emphasizing their stability, idiomaticity, and semantic integrity. His work established



phraseology as a distinct branch of linguistics concerned with fixed expressions and their meanings [2, 312].

In Western linguistics, researchers like John Lyons have contributed to the development of semantic theory, including the concept of semantic fields, which helps explain how lexical and phraseological units are organized around shared meanings [3, 897]. This approach is particularly useful in analyzing expressions related to intellect, as it allows for the identification of core semantic components and their variations.

Cognitive linguistics has further expanded the understanding of phraseological meaning. George Lakoff and Mark Johnson demonstrated that metaphor plays a crucial role in shaping human thought and language. According to their theory, abstract concepts such as intellect are often understood through concrete and embodied experiences. This perspective is essential for interpreting idiomatic expressions that describe mental abilities through physical or sensory metaphors [5, 256].

In the field of linguoculturology, Anna Wierzbicka emphasized the importance of cultural context in understanding meaning. Her work on semantic primitives and cultural scripts shows that language reflects culturally specific ways of thinking and evaluating the world. This is particularly relevant when comparing English and Uzbek phraseological units, as each language encodes different cultural attitudes toward intellect [6, 313]. Uzbek linguists have also made significant contributions to the study of phraseology and cultural semantics. Scholars such as Sh. Safarov and N. Mahmudov have explored the cognitive and cultural dimensions of language, highlighting the role of phraseological units in expressing national values and worldview. Their research indicates that Uzbek expressions often integrate intellectual qualities with ethical and social considerations [4, 276].


Despite the extensive research on phraseology and semantics, comparative studies focusing specifically on phraseological units expressing intellect in English and Uzbek remain relatively limited. This study aims to address this gap by providing a systematic linguo-semantic analysis of such expressions in both languages.

### ***Methodology***

This research is based on a qualitative and comparative methodological framework aimed at analyzing the semantic properties of phraseological units expressing intellect in English and Uzbek.

The first stage of the study involved the collection of linguistic data from various sources, including phraseological dictionaries, literary texts, and authentic language corpora in both languages. The selected units include idioms, proverbs, and fixed expressions that directly or indirectly relate to intellectual abilities such as intelligence, wisdom, and quick thinking [8,384 ].

The second stage consisted of a linguo-semantic analysis of the collected data. This process involved identifying the core meanings, metaphorical structures, and evaluative connotations of each phraseological unit. Special attention was given to the figurative mechanisms through which abstract concepts of intellect are represented.



The third stage involved a comparative analysis, in which English and Uzbek phraseological units were examined in relation to each other. This analysis focused on identifying similarities and differences in semantic structure, metaphorical patterns, and cultural interpretations.

In addition, elements of cognitive and cultural analysis were applied to understand how these expressions reflect broader cultural values and conceptual frameworks. The study also considers the role of phraseology as a means of encoding collective experience and cultural knowledge.

Overall, the chosen methodology ensures a comprehensive and systematic investigation of the research topic, allowing for a deeper understanding of the interaction between language, culture, and cognition in the expression of intellect.

### **Results and Discussion**


The analysis of phraseological units expressing intellect in English and Uzbek reveals both shared semantic patterns and significant cross-cultural differences. The findings demonstrate that in both languages, intellect is conceptualized through a variety of metaphorical and associative mechanisms, reflecting universal cognitive processes as well as culture-specific interpretations.

From a semantic perspective, English phraseological units tend to emphasize intellectual efficiency, mental sharpness, and analytical thinking. Expressions such as “sharp as a tack,” “have a good head on one’s shoulders,” and “quick-witted” illustrate how intellect is metaphorically associated with physical sharpness, speed, and functionality. These metaphors are largely grounded in sensory and bodily experience, aligning with the principles of cognitive linguistics, where abstract concepts are understood through concrete imagery.

Uzbek phraseological units demonstrate a broader and more integrative interpretation of intellect. While cognitive ability is certainly present, it is often intertwined with moral values, social behavior, and life experience. Expressions that describe a person as “aql-idrokli,” “donishmand,” or those embedded in proverbs frequently highlight wisdom, prudence, and ethical judgment rather than mere intellectual performance. This indicates that in Uzbek linguoculture, intellect is not viewed in isolation but as part of a holistic system that includes morality and social responsibility [9, 240].

Another important finding concerns the evaluative dimension of phraseological units. In English, idioms related to intellect often carry neutral or mildly positive connotations, focusing on competence and effectiveness. However, they may also include negative or ironic expressions such as “not the brightest bulb” or “slow on the uptake,” which evaluate intellectual ability in a more direct and sometimes humorous manner. This reflects a tendency toward explicit and individualized evaluation.

In Uzbek, evaluative meanings are often more nuanced and context-dependent. Positive expressions emphasize respect, honor, and social value associated with intelligence, while negative evaluations are frequently conveyed indirectly through proverbs or metaphorical



language. This suggests a cultural preference for implicit communication and a greater sensitivity to social harmony.

Furthermore, the comparative analysis reveals differences in metaphorical structuring. English phraseological units commonly rely on metaphors related to mechanics, vision, and speed, reflecting a more pragmatic and functional view of intellect. Uzbek expressions, on the other hand, frequently draw on metaphors of light, depth, and experience, which convey a more philosophical and value-oriented understanding.

### **Conclusion**

The present study has examined the semantic features of phraseological units expressing intellect in English and Uzbek from a comparative linguo-semantic perspective. The findings confirm that phraseological units play a crucial role in representing complex cognitive concepts and serve as a bridge between language, culture, and thought.


The analysis demonstrates that both English and Uzbek languages share universal elements in the conceptualization of intellect, such as the association with knowledge, reasoning, and mental ability. However, significant differences emerge in terms of metaphorical representation, evaluative meaning, and cultural interpretation. English phraseological units tend to reflect a more individualistic and pragmatic approach, focusing on cognitive efficiency and problem-solving skills.

Uzbek expressions emphasize a holistic understanding of intellect, integrating moral values, social norms, and life experience. These findings highlight the importance of considering cultural context in semantic analysis, as meanings are not only linguistically constructed but also culturally embedded. The study also underscores the value of comparative research in revealing both commonalities and distinctions between languages, contributing to a deeper understanding of cross-cultural communication.

In conclusion, the semantic analysis of phraseological units provides valuable insights into how different linguistic communities conceptualize intellect. The results of this research contribute to the fields of phraseology, cognitive linguistics, and linguoculturology, and may serve as a basis for further studies on the interaction between language, culture, and cognition.

### **Reference:**

- Sharipov, D. O‘zbek frazeologiyasining lingvokognitiv tahlili. – Toshkent: O‘zbekiston Milliy universiteti nashriyoti, 2016. – 198 b.
- Vinogradov, V. V. Russian phraseology: Basic types of phraseological units. – Moscow: Nauka, 1977. – 312 p.
- Lyons, J. Semantics (Vol. 1–2). – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977. – 897 p.
- Safarov, Sh. Kognitiv tilshunoslik. – Toshkent: Fan nashriyoti, 2006. – 256 b.
- Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. Metaphors we live by. – Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980. – 276 p.

- 
- Wierzbicka, A. Understanding cultures through their key words. – New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. – 317 p.
  - Mahmudov, N. Til va madaniyat. – Toshkent: O‘zbekiston Milliy Ensiklopediyasi nashriyoti, 2012. – 220 b.
  - Rahmatullayev, Sh. O‘zbek tilining frazeologik lug‘ati. – Toshkent: O‘qituvchi, 1992. – 384 b.
  - Yo‘ldoshev, B. O‘zbek frazeologiyasining asoslari. – Toshkent: Fan, 1998. – 240 b.

