

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF METAPHORS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Abstract *This thesis compares metaphors in Uzbek and English, focusing on emotions, time, and life concepts. Using Conceptual Metaphor Theory, it shows how metaphors reflect cultural values and worldviews. While both languages share some universal patterns, English metaphors often emphasize material values, whereas Uzbek metaphors highlight spiritual and emotional aspects. The study also stresses the importance of cultural awareness in translation and communication.*


Keywords: *Metaphor, Conceptual Metaphor Theory, Uzbek language, English language, cultural differences, emotions, time, life, worldview, translation*

Introduction: Metaphors are an essential part of human language and cognition. They enable speakers to express abstract ideas through more concrete terms, thus enriching communication. In both Uzbek and English, metaphors reflect cultural values, social norms, and worldview. This thesis explores the similarities and differences between metaphors in Uzbek and English, focusing on conceptual domains such as emotions, time, and life. Through this comparative analysis, we aim to identify how culture shapes metaphorical expressions in these two languages.

Theoretical Background: According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980), metaphors are not just linguistic decorations but fundamental to our thought processes. They introduced the Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT), which views metaphor as understanding one conceptual domain in terms of another (e.g., “**TIME IS MONEY**”). This framework serves as the basis for analyzing metaphors in both languages.

Emotions in Metaphors: Emotions are universally experienced but culturally expressed. In English, anger is often metaphorically described as “**heat**” or “**pressure**” (e.g., He was boiling with anger). Uzbek uses similar imagery: U jahldan qaynadi (He boiled with anger). However, cultural nuances appear in metaphor usage. For example, English uses “heart” frequently (e.g., broken heart), while Uzbek often uses “jigar” (liver) to express deep emotion, such as jigarim ezildi (my liver ached), which denotes sadness or suffering.

Time Metaphors: Time is a deeply metaphorical concept. In English, time is treated as a resource: spend time, save time, waste time. This aligns with the Western capitalist value of productivity. In Uzbek, time is also personified or seen as a moving entity, but expressions like vaqt daryoday oqadi (time flows like a river) emphasize its transient nature rather than economic value.



Another difference is the orientation of time. In English, the future is ahead and the past is behind (e.g., looking forward to the future). In Uzbek, while similar expressions exist, some dialects view the past as being in front (visible) and the future as behind (unknown), reflecting a different cognitive orientation toward time.

Life and Death Metaphors: In English, life is often metaphorically described as a journey (e.g., life path, crossroads). Uzbek uses similar expressions, such as hayot yo‘li (life’s path). However, Uzbek metaphorical language often includes religious or spiritual elements due to Islamic cultural influence. For instance, death is metaphorically described as olamdan ko‘z yumdi (closed one’s eyes to the world), while English might say passed away.

These expressions illustrate not only linguistic creativity but also differing worldviews: English metaphors are often secular, while Uzbek ones are imbued with spiritual or poetic imagery.

Cultural Implications: Metaphors reflect and reinforce cultural beliefs. The metaphor TIME IS MONEY promotes efficiency and economic rationality in English-speaking cultures. In contrast, Uzbek metaphors often prioritize relational or spiritual values. These differences influence how speakers perceive reality and interact with the world. Moreover, translating metaphors between these languages can lead to misunderstandings if cultural context is not considered. For instance, jigarim as a term of endearment may sound odd if literally translated as my liver in English.

This comparative study demonstrates that while Uzbek and English share some universal metaphorical structures, such as bodily-based metaphors, their usage reflects distinct cultural values. Understanding these metaphors offers deeper insight into the linguistic and cultural identities of each society. For language learners and translators, awareness of metaphorical thinking is crucial for effective communication.

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