

Semantic Analysis of Proverbs with the Somatic Component “Hand”

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ABSTRACT

This article explains the rich cultural and semantic nuances of proverbs in two distinct languages, Uzbek and English, focusing on those where the meanings are equivalent but expressed with different words. Through a comparative analysis, the study explores five pairs of proverbs, highlighting the common themes and values shared between the two cultures while considering the unique linguistic expressions employed. The research employs linguistic theories, including Conceptual Metaphor Theory, Comparative Linguistics, and Pragmatics, to unravel the layers of meaning embedded in these proverbs.

Keywords: Intercultural linguistics, proverbs, comparative analysis, semantic equivalents, conceptual theory of metaphors, cultural linguistics.

INTRODUCTION

Analyzing proverbs with the somatic component "hand" in both English and Uzbek languages involves considering the semantic nuances, cultural context, and metaphorical meanings attributed to the concept of "hand. Comparative linguistics involves comparing linguistic features of different languages to identify similarities and differences. It helps in understanding how concepts are represented across languages. Compare English and Uzbek proverbs with the somatic component "hand" to identify linguistic patterns, word choices, and metaphorical

representations. Note any direct translations and variations in meaning. Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) suggests that abstract concepts are often understood in terms of more concrete concepts. The hand can symbolize various abstract concepts such as power, assistance, cooperation, or control. Analyze how the concept of "hand" is metaphorically used in proverbs in both languages. Identify common metaphors and underlying conceptual mappings that convey abstract meanings through the notion of "hand." Cultural Linguistics explores how language reflects cultural perspectives and values. Proverbs are rich sources of cultural insights, and analyzing them through this framework involves understanding the cultural nuances embedded in language [5; P.87]. Examine English and Uzbek proverbs to uncover cultural attitudes towards cooperation, effort, and social roles represented by the hand. Consider how cultural beliefs and practices influence the metaphorical use of "hand" in proverbs. Cognitive Linguistics emphasizes the relationship between language and thought processes. It explores how conceptual metaphors and image schemas influence linguistic expressions. Investigate how the somatic component "hand" triggers specific image schemas and mental representations in English and Uzbek speakers. Examine how these schemas influence the creation and understanding of proverbs in both languages. Pragmatics studies how context influences language interpretation. Speech Act Theory focuses on the intentions behind utterances. Analyze the pragmatic context in which proverbs with the somatic component "hand" are used. Consider the speech acts and intentions behind these proverbs in both languages, examining how context shapes their meaning and interpretation. By applying these theoretical frameworks to English and Uzbek proverbs incorporating the concept of "hand," researchers can gain a comprehensive understanding of the semantic, cultural, and cognitive dimensions of these expressions in both linguistic contexts. This analysis would provide valuable insights into how the concept of "hand" is metaphorically used to convey abstract meanings and cultural wisdom in these languages.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Analyzing proverbs with a specific somatic component like "hand" can provide valuable insights into the cultural and social contexts in which these proverbs originated. In the case of proverbs related to the hand, this somatic component often symbolizes power, control, work, or action. Let's explore the semantic analysis of a few proverbs incorporating the somatic component "hand":

1. **"Many hands make light work."** This proverb suggests that tasks become easier when many people contribute. The hand symbolizes action and cooperation. It conveys the idea that collective effort can make a difficult task seem lighter.
2. **"The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."** In this proverb, the hand symbolizes nurturing and care. It implies that those who influence and shape the upbringing of children (traditionally mothers) have a significant impact on society and future generations.
3. **"Caught red-handed."** This proverb signifies someone being caught in the act of doing something wrong or illegal. The red color symbolizes guilt or evidence. The hand represents action and, in this context, wrongdoing or crime.
4. **"The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing."** This proverb implies a lack of coordination or communication within an organization or group. The hands symbolize different, uncoordinated actions or efforts, highlighting a situation where people are not aware of each other's activities or intentions.
5. **"A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."** This proverb advises valuing what you have now (represented by the bird in hand) instead of risking it for something potentially better but uncertain (the two in the bush). The hand symbolizes possession, security, and practicality in decision-making.

By analyzing these proverbs, we can see how the somatic component "hand" is used metaphorically to convey various

meanings related to action, cooperation, power, responsibility, and morality in different cultural contexts.

6. **"The hand that gives, gathers."** This proverb emphasizes the positive outcomes of generosity and kindness. When you help others (symbolized by the giving hand), you are likely to receive help and support in return (symbolized by the gathering hand).
7. **"Every hand finds work to do."** This proverb suggests that there is always something productive for people to do. It emphasizes the value of industriousness and the availability of opportunities for those who are willing to work (symbolized by the hand doing work).
8. **"One hand washes the other."** This proverb conveys the idea of mutual cooperation and interdependence. It signifies that people can help each other, and through collaboration, both parties benefit (symbolized by the hands washing each other).
9. **"A heavy hand makes a weary horse."** This proverb warns against using excessive force or authority. It suggests that too much pressure or control can lead to exhaustion or resistance, whether in relationships, work, or any other situation (symbolized by the heavy hand and the tired horse) [1; P. 56,68,72].

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The hand is semantically associated with such objects and phenomena that accompany a person throughout his life: work, vices, faith, relationships between people, power, life and others. The concept of the hand is most widely reflected in the proverbial pictures of the world of the Uzbek and English peoples. Friendship has always played a huge role for Uzbek people. People begin to become friends on the basis of similar value orientations and lifestyles, and this is an important fact in human relations. In Uzbek and English consciousness, it is the hand that reflects this aspect. For example: **Qo'lqo'lnitaniydi; Kiss the hand that you cannot bite** [2; P. 250].

The semantic meanings of the given Uzbek and English proverbs where the meanings are equivalent, but the words used in the proverbs are different:

1. **Ro‘zg‘ortushdiboshga, Qo‘l tegmadioshga; It is hard to wive and thrive both in a year.** Both proverbs convey the idea that it is challenging to achieve multiple significant goals or tasks simultaneously. The Uzbek proverb emphasizes the difficulty of managing family affairs (wiving) and financial matters (thriving) concurrently, while the English proverb uses the metaphor of marriage and prosperity to express a similar concept.
2. **Birovniqo ‘lidaulbo’ lguncha, o‘zuyingdaqulbo ‘l-Jump through a hoop.** Both proverbs highlight the idea of conforming to someone else's demands or expectations. The Uzbek proverb uses the imagery of being in someone else's hands, while the English proverb uses the metaphor of jumping through a hoop, both indicating compliance with difficult or unreasonable requests.
3. **A crack hand at smth. Hunarliqo‘lochqolmas.** Both proverbs praise someone's skill or expertise in a particular field. The Uzbek proverb refers to a skilled hand that does not open easily, indicating someone highly proficient. The English proverb, "A crack hand at something," implies being highly skilled or expert in a specific activity.
4. **Ko‘zingyetmaganishgaqo‘lurma. When in doubt, leave out.** Both proverbs advise caution and suggest refraining from engaging in something if uncertain. The Uzbek proverb literally means "do not put your hand in what your eyes have not seen," indicating one should not get involved in situations they are unfamiliar with. The English proverb advises omitting something when unsure, emphasizing prudence.
5. **Qo‘lingko‘taraolmasa, Cho‘qmorniboshinggaboylama. Teeth, If you cannot bite, never show your [4; P.480].** Both proverbs caution against displaying aggression or threat if one lacks the ability to back it up. The Uzbek proverb

advises against reaching for something (or someone) you cannot grasp, while the English proverb warns against threatening someone when you cannot enforce your threats.

In these proverbs, the semantic analyses reveal common themes of caution, skill, compliance, and managing multiple tasks, demonstrating how different cultures express similar concepts using their unique linguistic and metaphorical structures.

CONCLUSION

In the intricate tapestry of human language and culture, proverbs serve as invaluable threads, weaving together universal themes with unique linguistic expressions. This comparative analysis of Uzbek and English proverbs has not only shed light on the semantic equivalences between these languages but has also revealed the deep cultural wisdom shared by diverse societies. Our findings underscore the profound connections that exist beneath linguistic disparities. The proverbs, whether originating in Uzbek or English, mirror fundamental aspects of human existence – caution, skill, compliance, and prudence. While the words may change, the wisdom they impart transcends linguistic boundaries, resonating with readers across cultures.

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