

The Associative Potential of Animal-Related Symbols in English and Uzbek Oneirosphere

ZAFAR ALLAYEV

Termez University of Economics and Service, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

This article explores the associative potential of dream symbols that include zoonymic components. Animal-associated dream interpretations from English and Uzbek dream interpretation books are selected as materials for analysis. The reason is that dream symbols related to this thematic group have wide associative meanings in the minds of both language speakers, and metaphorical meanings of those symbols are conveyed based on the mythical worldviews of those societies. In this article, research methods, such as comparative, descriptive, component, statistical, and cross-cultural, are employed.

Keywords: Dream symbols, associative meaning, lexical meaning, associative dominant, situational meaning

1. INTRODUCTION

As a complex product of the human unconscious realm, dreams and their interpretations are considered a subject of wide-ranging study, not only in psychology but also in other disciplines such as philosophy, cultural studies, and linguistics. Scholars have different views about the concept of “dream interpretation.” According to Lurye (2002), “Interpretation is an operation that identifies semantic relations between chains of objects and events with different ontological statuses; it not only decodes the text of a sign, but also ‘assigns meaning’ to the figurative text of a dream”. Tolstoy (2003) says “The key issue in studying dream

interpretation as a special interpretive structure is the ‘nature of the connection between the symbol that appears in a dream and the expected outcome associated with its appearance.’ In linguistic research of this field, lexemes describing dream interpretation are called “symbols”, and all of those lexemes have their associated domain. Ivanov (2002) says “A symbol is always a concrete, phenomenologically presented sign, in which all aspects of its existence, including linguistic ones, are taken into account.” According to Ivanilov (2006), “the associative potential of symbols denotes how a symbol emerging in the dreaming process has correlations with diverse meanings, concepts or emotions within human consciousness and culture” (p. 42). Gridina says “The nature of verbal association is twofold, just like the nature of the word: on the one hand, it is based on the connections between real phenomena, that is, among objects; on the other hand, it relies on the connections between the signs (lexical units) that represent this set of objects within the nominative system of the language.” This notion introduced by Swiss linguist Ch. Bally. He says “Associative field is the set of associative representations connected in some way with a particular word” (1955). The peculiarity of verbal associations is that they reflect the uniqueness of the human psyche and, at the same time, are connected with the characteristics of language, that is, with the way a person thinks through linguistic forms. The associative potential of dream symbols incorporates these five components:

- The lexical analysis of the symbol,
- The cultural meaning of the symbol;
- The analysis of the lexical background of the symbol;
- Distinguishing dominant meanings of the symbol in dream interpretations;
- The situational meaning of the symbol in dreams.

In the lexical analysis, the definition or explanation of the word in dictionaries are provided.

Tolstoy (2003) notes that “animals are among the most mythologized and symbolized elements in folk mythology and symbolism” (p. 102). Therefore, in this article, animal-related dream symbols are analyzed based on the above-mentioned five components in order to conduct contrastive research in English and Uzbek dream interpretations.

2. METHODOLOGY

This research aims to analyze the associative potential of animal-related symbols in English and Uzbek dream interpretations. In this article, symbols and their scope of meaning are discussed in a cultural context within the framework of comparative approach. The primary corpus of this research consists of dream interpretation books in English and Uzbek language. In particular, “Ten thousand dream interpretations” by Gustavus Hinman Miller in English, and “A comprehensive dream interpretation manual” by Khusayn ibn Ibrohim Muhammad at-Taflisiy in Uzbek, and other written or verbal collections of dream interpretation were selected as sources for this paper. Having selected several animal-dream symbols from both languages, each of those lexemes was analyzed from lexical-semantic, associative, and symbolic perspectives. In this analysis, lexical-semantic, associative, and symbolic meanings are identified, and similarities and differences between those meanings are shown. This research relies on theories related to cultural studies and linguoculturology to analyze the above-mentioned aspects of symbols.

3. RESULTS

Within the scope of this research, at least 50 animal-related dream symbols were analyzed from English and Uzbek dream books, and among them 10 the most common ones, particularly *dog/it*, *wolf/bo'ri*, *horse/ot*, were selected for deeper analysis. Below, their associative potential are analyzed in sequence relying five components suggested by V. M. Ivanilov.

3.1. *Wolf/bo'ri*

The lexical analysis of the symbol

- In English: Wolf is a wild animal similar to a large dog that lives in large groups (Rundel 2007).
- In Uzbek: Wolf is a predatory mammal belong to the Canidae family (Madvaliyev 2020).

The cultural meaning of the symbol

- In English culture, the word “wolf” is culturally associated with symbolic meaning such danger and strengths.
- In Uzbek culture it is symbol of luck and protective power.

The analysis of lexical background of the symbol

- In English, this word generates associative correlations with notions such as “danger,” “strengths,” “cunning,” “ferocious,” “cruel,” “wild,” and “fear.”
- In Uzbek, the words like “blessing,” “luck,” “defiance,” “pride,” “protective power,” “freedom,” and “limitless strengths” and “might” constitute its lexical background.

Distinguishing dominant meanings of the symbol in dream interpretations

- In English dream interpretation it is mainly symbols of betrayer and enemy, but
- In Uzbek, it symbolizes “a liar” and “a cruel king.”

The situational meaning of the symbol in dream interpretation

- In English dream interpretations: To dream a wolf denotes a person who betrays you revealing your secrets. Killing one in a dream means a sly enemy who is going to overshadow you with disgrace. Hearing its howl signifies a secret alliance that is planning to beat you in a competition (Miller 2006).
- In Uzbek dream interpretations: To see a wolf entering in a dream – indicates a deceitful and oppressive ruler, to see oneself finding its head – symbolizes gaining honor and greatness, to eat its meat – suggests acquiring wealth from a tyrannical ruler, to see oneself entering a wolf’s den –

signifies suffering harm from a ruler (Muhammad at-Taflisiy 2011).

As can be seen, although the image of the wolf holds negative connotations in the dream interpretations of both cultures, in English dream lore the symbol is more often associated with personal relationships and betrayal, while in Uzbek dream interpretations, the wolf is viewed as a symbol connected to authority and power.

3.2. *Fox/tulki*

The lexical analysis of the symbol

- In English: Fox is a wild animal like a small dog with reddish-brown fur, a pointed nose and a thick tail (Bull 2012).
- In Uzbek: Fox is a carnivorous mammal belonging to the Canidae family, characterized by a long snout, a bushy tail covered with soft fur, and known for its extreme sensitivity and cunning nature (Madvaliyev 2020).

The cultural meaning of the symbol

- In English culture is symbol of “slyness” (as sly as a fox) and “attractiveness” (she is a real fox).
- In Uzbek culture this animal symbolizes “cunning and crafty people.”

The analysis of lexical background of the symbol

In both languages, the associative circle of word “fox” includes these notions “cunning,” “sly,” “clever,” “deceitful,” “trickster,” “manipulation,” “survival,” “deception,” “dangerous beauty,” “red fur,” “bush tail,” “sharp eyes.”

Distinguishing dominant meanings of the symbol in dream interpretations

- In English dream books, mostly, “fox” is a symbol of “envious friendship,”
- In Uzbek, it is a symbol of “cunning and deceitful woman.”

The situational meaning of the symbol in dream interpretation

To dream of chasing a fox, denotes that you are engaging in doubtful speculations and risky love affairs. If you see a fox slyly coming into your yard, beware of envious friendships, your reputation is being slyly assailed. To kill a fox, denotes that you will win in every engagement (Miller 2006). In dream interpretation, a fox symbolizes a deceitful woman. If one catches a fox in a dream or someone gives it to him, it indicates that he will marry a dishonest and deceptive woman. If a person sees a fox entering his house in a dream, it signifies that he will marry a woman he is in love with (Muhammad at-Taflisiy 2011).

*3.3. Dog/it**The lexical analysis of the symbol*

- In English: Dog is a very common animal with four legs that is often kept as a pet or guarding buildings (Longman 2009).
- In Uzbek: Dog is a four-legged domesticated mammal kept for guarding the household and for hunting (Madvaliyev 2020).

The cultural meaning of the symbol

- In English culture this animal is considered the symbol of loyalty, friendship and protection.
- In Uzbek culture it has both positive and negative meaning. In terms positive sides, it symbolizes kindness, loyal companion and guard. In terms of negative sides, dog is regarded as a symbol of meanness and wickedness.

The analysis of lexical background of the symbol

- In English language, lexemes such as “loyalty,” “companionship,” “protection,” “alertness,” “good service,” “fierce competition” (dog eat dog world), “awful condition” (to be in the doghouse), “meanness” (a dirty dog), “extreme fatigue” (dog tired), “very determined” (like a dog with a bone), “very hard/cruel way” (like a dog), “messy work” (a dog’s breakfast/dinner) actively participate to form associative background of the word “dog.”

- In Uzbek language, this word also makes up associative correlation with notions, especially “loyalty,” “bark,” “bite,” “aggressive,” “ferocious,” “wickedness,” “filth,” “dirt,” “impurity,” “torture somebody” (*boshiga it kunini solmoq*), “difficult situation” (*it azobi*), “reluctance” (*bo’ynidan bog’langan it ovga yaramas*), “neglected” (*it boqmaydi*), “raped” (*it tekkan*), “extremely rich” (*itning tuvagi oltindan*), “very inactive” (*itning orqa oyog’i*), “very anxious” (*ichini it tirnamoq*), and “ill-fated” (*kambag’alni tuyaning ustida ham it qopadi*).

Distinguishing dominant meanings of the symbol in dream interpretations

Both nations accept the dog in dreams as an enemy. It is a universal symbol in English and Uzbek dream interpretation since both nations accept dog in dreams as an enemy and unlucky fate.

The situational meaning of the symbol in dream interpretation:

To dream that a blood-hound is tracking you, you are likely to fall into some temptation, in which there is much danger of your downfall. To dream of small dogs, indicates that your thoughts and chief pleasures are of a frivolous order. To dream of dogs biting you, foretells for you a quarrel some companion either in marriage or business (Miller 2006). To see a dog in a dream symbolizes a vile enemy; a female dog represents a vile woman. Drinking its milk signifies impending danger, while seeing yourself giving it bread or food means being generous (Muhammad at-Taflisiy 2011).

3.4. *Horse/ot*

The lexical analysis of the symbol

- In English: Horse is a large animal that people ride (Rundel 2007).
- In Uzbek: Horse is a large, herbivorous, hoofed mammal belonging to the odd-toed ungulates, used for work and riding (Madvaliyev 2020).

The cultural meaning of the symbol

In English culture, the horse is regarded as a symbol of freedom and boundless beauty, whereas in Uzbek culture, it represents a loyal companion.

The analysis of lexical background of the symbol:

The associative background of the lexeme "horse":

- In English includes "freedom," "power," "nobility," "nights," "companionship," "honor," "hoof," "horseshoe," "mane," "foal," "stallion," "tail," "ride," "transport," "horse racing," "battle," "herbivore," "patience" (hold your horse), and "greedy" (eat like a horse).
- In Uzbek, the associative domain of this animal incorporates these words: "friend," "companion," "loyalty," "labor," "transport," "pride," "barley," "mane," "horseshoe," "saddle," "ride," "gallop," "obstinate" (*otdan tushsa ham egardan tushmaydi*), "crafty" (*otni qamchilab qolmoq*), "continuation of generation" (*ot o'rmini toy bosar*), and "get better from illness" (*otday bo'lib ketmoq*).

Distinguishing dominant meanings of the symbol in dream interpretations

In English dream interpretation, the horse is often associated with joy, freedom, and prosperity, whereas for Uzbek people, it carries connotations of honor, impending misfortune, and the prospect of marriage.

The situational meaning of the symbol in dream interpretation

Seeing a horse in dreams denotes wealth. To dream killing a horse means you will injure your friends because of your selfishness. If you own a spotted horse, you will gain profit through your business. If you are kicked by a horse in a dream, it signifies you will suffer from ill health. To dream a dead horse means disappointment (Miller 2006). In dreams, seeing a horse is a symbol of honor; riding a bare-backed horse signifies

impending misfortune, while riding a pacing horse indicates marrying a virtuous woman (Muhammad at-Taflisiy 2011).

3.5. *Deer/ohu*

The lexical analysis of the symbol

- In English: “deer” is a large wild animal that eats grass. The male has antlers (=large horns shaped like branches) on its head (Bull 2012).
- In Uzbek: A wild animal resembling a deer, with a slender body, long legs, and typically distinguished by its beautiful eyes (Madvaliyev 2020).

The cultural meaning of the symbol

- In English culture, the “deer” is regarded as a symbol of gentleness and innocence, embodying purity, moral virtue, and a serene disposition.
- In Uzbek culture, it is revered as a image of elegance, refined beauty, and delicate charm.

The analysis of lexical background of the symbol

- In English, the associative background of the word “deer” is manifested through concepts such as gentleness, friendship, loyalty, grace, elegance, vulnerability, and swiftness.
- In Uzbek, the associative background of this word is shaped by concepts such as grace, beauty, innocence, love, romance, freedom, and swiftness.

Distinguishing dominant meanings of the symbol in dream interpretations

- In English dreams interpretations, the deer is regarded as a symbol of genuine friendship and loyalty.
- In Uzbek, it is revered as an image of enchanting maiden or attractive woman.

The situational meaning of the symbol in dream interpretation

This is a favorable dream, denoting pure and deep friend ships for the young and a quiet and even life for the married. To kill a deer, denotes that you will be hounded by enemies. For farmers, or

business people, to dream of hunting deer, denotes failure in their respective pursuits (Miller 2006). Catching a deer in a dream is a sign of gaining a beautiful maiden. If one sees that they possess deer skin, it indicates benefiting from a beautiful woman. Killing a deer in a dream signifies misfortune that will come from a woman. If one catches a deer with their own hands, it is a sign of having a child from the maiden (Muhammad at-Taflisiy 2011).

3.6. *Leopard/qoplon*

The lexical analysis of the symbol

- In English: Leopard is a wild animal from Afrika and Southern Asia that has golden fur with black spots (Rundel 2007).
- In Uzbek: Leopard is a large mammal belonging to the felid family, with thick yellowish fur covered in black rosette-shaped spots (Madvaliyev 2020)

The cultural meaning of the symbol

- In English culture, the leopard symbolizes qualities such as allure, elegance, and power, often associated with a sense of exotic beauty and dominance.
- In Uzbek culture, however, the leopard embodies bravery, fearlessness, might, heroism, and captivating charm, serving as a powerful emblem of strength and prestige.

The analysis of lexical background of the symbol

- In English, the word “leopard” carries lexical associative meanings such as power, freedom, courage, stability, and charisma.
- In Uzbek, however, the word “leopard” evokes an associative field that includes agility, bravery, strength, instability, and danger.

Distinguishing dominant meanings of the symbol in dream interpretations

- In English dream interpretations, this image is mainly associated with challenges, victory, the failure of one’s enemies, and overcoming difficulties.

- In Uzbek dream interpretations, however, the leopard symbolizes a powerful enemy, honor and prestige, and is considered a symbol of a ruler.

The situational meaning of the symbol in dream interpretation

To see a leopard attacking you in your dreams means you will go through challenges. Killing a leopard denotes victory in your personal affairs. Seeing them in a cage signifies you will be surrounded by your enemies but they may not manage to harm you. To see one trying to escape from you denotes you will successfully overcome difficulties (Miller 2006). Seeing a leopard in a dream indicates facing a strong and powerful enemy. Riding on a leopard signifies gaining honor and prestige. Eating leopard meat means being involved in conflict or battle. Killing a leopard symbolizes turning away from Islam, while seeing oneself fighting a leopard and being defeated means suffering harm from a ruler (Muhammad at-Taflisiy 2011).

3.7. *Snake/ilon*

The lexical analysis of the symbol

- In English: “Snake” is an animal with a long thin body and no legs (Longman 2009).
- In Uzbek: “Snake” is a reptile with no legs, a slender and elongated body, and eyes covered with transparent eyelids (Madvaliyev 2020)

The cultural meaning of the symbol

In both culture, the snake is regarded as *danger* and *wisdom*.

The analysis of lexical background of the symbol

- In English, the associative field of the word “snake” is formed by concepts such as danger, threat, venom, bite, wisdom, knowledge, evil temptation, rebirth, mystery, and reptile.
- In Uzbek it is associated with notions such as calamity, disaster, treachery, deceit, cunning, astuteness, secrecy, evil, sensitivity (*yer tagida ilon qimirlasa biladigan*), unbearable

insult (*ilon po'st tashlaydigan*), and extreme craftiness (*ilonni yog'ini yalagan*).

Distinguishing dominant meanings of the symbol in dream interpretations

In the dream interpretations of both ethnic groups, the negative connotations of the snake image outweigh the positive ones. In particular, among the English it symbolizes evil, while among the Uzbeks it represents an enemy.

The situational meaning of the symbol in dream interpretation

For a woman to dream that a dead snake is biting her, foretells she will suffer from malice of a pretended friend. To see them wriggling and falling over others, foretells struggles with fortune and remorse. To kill them, you will feel that you have used every opportunity of advancing your own interests, or respecting that of others. You will enjoy victory over enemies. To walk over them, you will live in constant fear of sickness, and selfish persons will seek to usurp your place in your companion's life. If they bite you, you will succumb to evil influences, and enemies will injure your business (Miller 2006). A snake in a dream symbolizes a foe harboring hidden malice. Seeing a snake in one's house in a dream indicates an enemy within the family. Dreaming of fighting with a snake signifies a quarrel with an enemy. If the snake clings to the dreamer, it is a sign that they will be unable to defeat the enemy (Muhammad at-Taflisiy, 2011).

3.8. *Sheep/Qo'y*

The lexical analysis of the symbol

In English, "sheep" is an animal that is kept on farms and used for its wool and meat (Bull 2012). Sheep is a domesticated, even-toed, ruminant mammal kept for its wool, meat, and milk (Madvaliyev 2020).

The cultural meaning of the symbol

In English culture, this animal is regarded as a symbol of purity, innocence, and meekness, whereas in Uzbek culture, the "sheep" is considered a symbol of peace, prosperity, and integrity.

The analysis of the lexical background of the symbol

In English, the associative background of the word “sheep” is primarily formed by such lexical items as quiet, meek, docile, innocent, herd, white, wool, pasture, shepherd, ram, ewe, lamb, meat, mutton, and farm. In Uzbek, the associative background of the word “qo‘y/sheep” is shaped through notions such as tame, skittish, harmless, honest, prosperity, wool, flock, shepherd, pasture, meat, ram, ewe, and lamb.

Distinguishing dominant meanings of the symbol in dream interpretations

In English dream interpretations, the sheep is regarded as a symbol of profitable business, whereas Uzbek dream interpreters emphasize that in dreams the sheep represents greatness, a noble woman, wealth, honor, and benefit.

The situational meaning of the symbol in dream interpretation

To dream of shearing them, denotes a season of profitable enterprises will shower down upon you. To see flocks of sheep, there will be much rejoicing among farmers, and other trades will prosper (Miller 2006). In dreams, a sheep signifies military booty. Seeing oneself herding sheep indicates attaining leadership and authority over a group. Dreaming of owning sheep is a sign of acquiring great wealth. In dream symbolism, a ram represents a distinguished man, while an ewe symbolizes a generous woman (Muhammad at-Taflisiy 2011).

*3.9. Fish/baliq**The lexical analysis of the symbol*

In English, fish is an animal that lives in water and uses its fins and tail to swim (Longman 2009). In Uzbek, fish is an aquatic creature belonging to the subphylum Vertebrata, which breathes through its gills and has fins (Madvaliyev 2020).

The cultural meaning of the symbol

In the cultural life of both nations, the fish holds a positive symbolic meaning, representing prosperity, abundance, and good fortune.

The analysis of the lexical background of the symbol

- In English, the associative field of the lexeme “fish” is primarily formed through words such as water, river, sea, ocean, swimming, fish net, fishing rod, fisherman, catch, scale, gill, hook, shoal, slippery, goldfish, salmon, trout, and fish market.
- In Uzbek, it is actively shaped by words like *suv* (water), *daryo* (river), *ko'l* (lake), *qarmoq* (fishing rod), *tuzoq* (fishing net), *baliqchi* (fisherman), *dum* (tail), *tanga* (scale), *baliqchi* (fisherman), and *baliqxon*a (a place where different types of fish are cooked in various ways).

Distinguishing dominant meanings of the symbol in dream interpretations

- In English dream interpretations, the fish is viewed as a symbol of good fortune.
- In Uzbek dream interpretations, this creature is considered a symbol of blessed wealth and abundance.

The situational meaning of the symbol in dream interpretation

To dream that you see fish in clear water streams, denotes that you will be favored by the rich and powerful. Dead fish signify the loss of wealth and power through some dire calamity. For a young woman to dream of seeing fish, it portends that she will have a handsome and talented lover (Miller 2006). A clean and fried fish in a dream symbolizes wealth and blessings. Seeing oneself selling fish in a dream indicates that good fortune and benefits will come to the dreamer and their people (Madvaliyev 2016).

3.10. *Monkey/Maymun*

The lexical analysis of the symbol

- In English, monkey is an animal with long tail that lives in hot countries and can climb trees (Bull 2012).
- In Uzbek, monkey is an animal whose body structure and appearance resemble those of a human, belonging to the highly developed group of mammals (Madvaliyev 2020).

The cultural meaning of the symbol

The monkey holds similar core cultural and symbolic meanings in both English and Uzbek cultures, representing playfulness, agility, cunning, and occasionally mischievous behavior. While English culture often associates the monkey with deceit and suspicious activities, in Uzbek culture it is more commonly seen as a symbol of humor and a cautionary figure.

The analysis of the lexical background of the symbol

In both English and Uzbek, the associative field of the word “monkey/maymun” emerges through largely similar concepts. These include terms such as cheeky, playful, agile, clever, mischievous, funny, prankster, imitator, wild, jungle, monkey business, circus, climbing, forest, swinging, and banana.

Distinguishing dominant meanings of the symbol in dream interpretations

In English dream interpretations, the “monkey” is viewed as a symbol of deceitful and flattering people, whereas in Uzbek dream interpretations, it represents a treacherous enemy.

The situational meaning of the symbol in dream interpretation

To dream of a monkey, denotes that deceitful people will flatter you to advance their own interests. To see a dead monkey, signifies that your worst enemies will soon be removed. If a young woman dreams of a monkey, she should insist on an early marriage, as her lover will suspect unfaithfulness. For a woman to dream of feeding a monkey, denotes that she will be betrayed by a flatterer. Monster. To dream of being pursued by a monster, denotes that sorrow and misfortune hold prominent places in your immediate future (Miller 2006). A monkey in a dream symbolizes a deceitful enemy. If one sees themselves sitting with a monkey that is obedient to them, it signifies victory over the enemy. Dreaming of killing a monkey indicates taking revenge on the enemy. If one sees themselves eating monkey meat, it foretells encountering difficulties (Hamdamova 2014).

4. DISCUSSION

In this article the associative potential of animal-related symbols in English and Uzbek dream interpretation are discussed. The results indicate that although the associative potential of animal symbols in English and Uzbek cultures shows notable similarities, significant cultural and contextual differences exist between them. These differences are deeply rooted in the respective worldviews, values, and historical experiences of the people. The findings provide a valuable foundation for further in-depth research on the role and function of animal symbols in linguocultural and intercultural studies. The primary distinction of this study from previous research on dream interpretations lies in its comparative analysis of the associative potential of animal symbols within English and Uzbek cultures from a linguocultural perspective. While many earlier studies have focused solely on dream interpretations or general symbols within a single cultural framework, this work aims to explore these symbols across cultures, providing an in-depth examination of their cultural and spiritual dimensions. Moreover, this research goes beyond analyzing just the meanings and interpretations of the symbols by also investigating their associative fields – that is, the emotions, perceptions, and cultural codes linked to these symbols. This approach allows for an integrative study of dream interpretations that encompasses linguistics, cultural studies, and psychology. The scientific significance of the findings lies in providing a cross-cultural linguocultural comparison of animal symbols, enabling a deeper exploration of the semantic and associative layers within dream interpretations. Its practical significance is reflected in its potential application for accurately understanding and interpreting the cultural contexts of dream symbols in fields such as intercultural communication, translation, and dream analysis. In the future, it will be possible to conduct more in-depth research using linguocultural and anthropological approaches to understand how dream symbols have formed, how they have adapted to cultures, and how they have evolved over time.

5. CONCLUSION

This study focuses on a comparative linguocultural analysis of the associative potential of animal symbols in English and Uzbek cultures. The findings reveal that, although animal symbols share similar core meanings across many cultures, their interpretations and associative backgrounds exhibit notable cultural and contextual differences. Moreover, this research contributes significantly not only to linguocultural studies but also has practical applications in intercultural communication, translation, and dream interpretation. Future research should further explore dream symbols through linguocultural and anthropological approaches, which will enhance cross-cultural understanding and promote more effective intercultural dialogue.

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ZAFAR ALLAYEV

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES,
TERMEZ UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND SERVICE,
TERMEZ, UZBEKISTAN.