



METAPHORICAL SOMATISMS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH: LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL INTERPRETATION

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Abstract

This paper examines metaphorical somatisms in Uzbek and English, focusing on their linguistic structures and cultural implications. Somatisms, expressions that include body-part terms, are widely used in both languages to convey abstract meanings. This study explores the similarities and differences in their formation, syntactic structures, and cultural connotations. The findings highlight the role of historical, social, and cognitive factors in shaping metaphorical somatisms in these languages.

Keywords: Metaphorical Somatisms, Somatic Phraseology, Body Part Metaphors, Cognitive Linguistics, Linguistic Worldview, Culture-Specific Metaphors, Comparative Linguistics, Idiomatic Expressions, Uzbek Language, English Language, Ethnolinguistics, Conceptual Metaphor Theory, Cross-Cultural Analysis, Figurative Language

Introduction

Metaphorical somatisms are an integral part of linguistic expression in many languages. They involve the use of body-part terms to convey figurative meanings beyond their literal senses. In Uzbek and English, such expressions are deeply rooted in cultural traditions and cognitive perceptions. This study aims to analyze the structure and semantics of metaphorical somatisms in both languages and to investigate how cultural factors influence their usage.

Methodology

This research employs a comparative linguistic approach, analyzing a corpus of metaphorical somatisms in Uzbek and English. Data were collected from dictionaries, literature, and spoken language sources. The analysis focuses on syntactic structures, semantic fields, and cultural contexts in which these expressions are used.

Results and Discussion

Structural Characteristics

In both Uzbek and English, somatisms follow regular syntactic patterns, often involving possessive constructions (e.g., "hand of fate" in English, "taqdir qo'li" in Uzbek).





Some expressions exhibit direct word-for-word equivalence, while others differ due to grammatical constraints or idiomatic usage.

Semantic and Conceptual Similarities

Certain body parts are commonly associated with emotions and mental states in both languages (e.g., "heart" for emotions: "big-hearted" in English vs. "katta yurakli" in Uzbek).

Somatisms involving the head often relate to intelligence and thought processes (e.g., "use one's head" in English vs. "boshini ishlatmoq" in Uzbek).

Cultural and Contextual Differences

Some metaphorical somatisms are culture-specific. For instance, Uzbek has expressions tied to traditional customs (e.g., "qo'l berib ko'rishmoq" – symbolic of respect and greeting), whereas English has idioms derived from historical and literary sources (e.g., "cold feet" – fear of commitment).

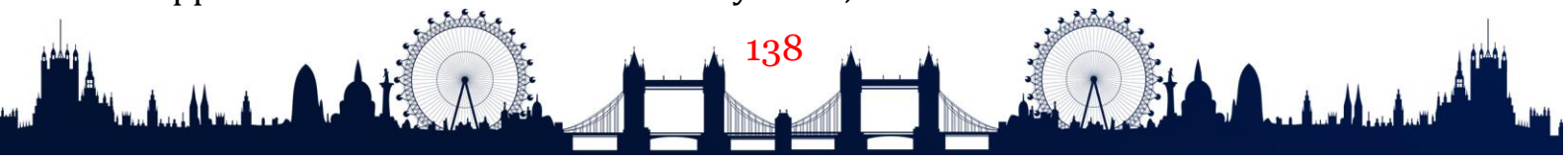
Differences in religious and societal values influence the connotations of certain somatisms. In Uzbek, expressions involving the eye often signify admiration or protection, whereas in English, they may emphasize scrutiny or jealousy (e.g., "evil eye").

Conclusion

Metaphorical somatisms in Uzbek and English reveal both universal cognitive tendencies and culture-specific variations. While certain expressions share structural and semantic parallels, cultural factors significantly shape their meanings and usage. This study underscores the importance of metaphorical language in cross-cultural communication and linguistic relativity.

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