

Comparison of food-related idioms in English and Uzbek

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Received: 28 January 2025; **Accepted:** 28 February 2025; **Published:** 31 March 2025

Abstract: This article delves into the intriguing realm of food-related idioms in both Uzbek and English. Through a comparative analysis of these expressions, we can learn more about the linguistic, cultural, and historical influences that mould language and communication. Even though many food-related idioms have metaphorical meanings and common themes, the particular foods that are utilised and their accompanying implications frequently represent the distinct cultural backgrounds of each language. This investigation shows how language, culture, and history interact to shape our use of idioms in self-expression.

Keywords: Colorful expression, culture, figurative meaning, hard work, ease, expressive way.

Introduction: Idiomatic Expressions: A Window into Culture.

Idioms are short or long phrases that do not always make literal sense. They are like secret codes that people in a particular culture or a country use to communicate ideas and feelings in an expressive way. For example, instead of saying "It's raining heavily," The English often use the idiom "It's raining cats and dogs." These colorful expressions are more than just fun phrases. They're a reflection of a culture's history, values, and experiences. They can reveal insights into how people think, feel, and interact with the world around them. So, by studying and exploring idioms, we can get a glimpse into the soul of any culture.

Food: A Universal Language

Food is a fundamental part of human existence, nourishing our bodies and bringing people together. It's not surprising that food-related words and imagery appear so frequently in our languages. From proverbs and sayings to metaphors and similes, food has a rich history of being used to express ideas and emotions.

Whether it's the simple form of sharing a meal with family members or the complex symbolism of certain foods in different cultures, food has an immense impact on our lives. And when it comes to idioms, food offers a delicious and relatable way to convey meaning. The goal of this article is to explore the fascinating world of food-related idioms in English and Uzbek. By

comparing and contrasting these expressions, we hope to gain a deeper understanding of the cultural nuances and shared experiences that underlie these linguistic units.

METHODS

Food plays a central role in both English and Uzbek cultures, and this is reflected in the abundance of food-related idioms. Some of the cultural nuances behind these expressions were explored in monolingual dictionaries, bilingual English-Uzbek /Uzbek-English dictionaries and idioms defined dictionaries in both languages.

English Idioms

A piece of cake: This idiom suggests something is easy or effortless. It reflects the English culture's association of cake with indulgence and pleasure. There is also one idiom in Uzbek that can be used as an equivalent – xamirdan qil sug'urganday. It means juda oson- really easy. Interestingly, the word xamir is also food-related word in Uzbek, means dough.

The apple of one's eye: This idiom expresses deep affection and love in both English and Uzbek culture. According to some studies, it is rooted in the biblical reference to the apple of the eye being a precious and protected part of the body. In Uzbek, "ko'zimning oq-u qorasi, ko'zimning qorachig'i" is the best equivalent. Axir ko'zimning oq-u qorasi bittagina o'g'lim bor, sadag'ang ketay. [1] Obviously, the words eye - ko'z,

apple – ko'z qorachig'i cane be translated word by word. Word by word translation of idioms is not always possible, indeed.

The icing on the cake - something extra and not essential that is added to an already good situation or experience and that makes it even better. It's an added bonus—the icing on the cake. In such situations, for conveying the very purpose, Uzbek people say: "Nur ustiga a'lo nur". "Ixtiyor o'zingizda, qutlayman desangiz aytib ko'ring, xo'p desa — nur ustiga a'lo nur". [2] It is optional, try saying if you want to congratulate. If he accepts, it is the icing on the cake.

Here are a few Uzbek idioms that convey the idea that effort is necessary for success. The point is that to achieve something or succeed, you have to put in hard effort. These idioms also contain words related to food. Indeed, such words carry figurative meaning of "success" in the context.

Toqqa chiqmasang do'lana qayda?! – No pain, no gain: This is perhaps the most common idiom expressing this concept. It suggests that one must endure hardship or discomfort to achieve success.

Bug'doy eksang bug'doy, arpa eksang, arpa o'rasan, ekaningni o'rasan – You reap what you sow: This idiom implies that the consequences of one's actions are proportionate to the effort put in.

Mehnatning mevasi shirin – hard work pays off: This straightforward idiom states that diligent effort will lead to rewards.

RESULT

It is clear that some similarities and differences are seen in English and Uzbek idioms. Both English and Uzbek idioms frequently employ food-related imagery to convey similar themes, such as effort, affection, and ease.

Cultural or geographical significance: Food plays a central role in both English and Uzbek cultures, and this is reflected in the abundance and diversity of food-related idioms. For example, "toqqa chiqmasang do'lana qayda?!" do'lana – haberry and tog' – mountain. These things are common in Uzbekistan, using geographical items, the folk came up this idiom. It is used to say without hard work, there is no success.

Bring home the bacon – 1) supply material provision or support, 2) achieve success. Bacon – is a typical breakfast food of the English people. But in Uzbekistan it is never consumed. In the last 2 idioms, cultural uniqueness is expressed, respectively.

Differences

Linguistic Features: The grammatical structures and linguistic features of food-related idioms can also differ

between the two languages. This can affect the nuances of meaning and the way the idioms are used in context. All in all, while food-related idioms in English and Uzbek share many similarities, there are also significant differences that reflect the unique cultural and linguistic characteristics of each language. By understanding these differences, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the rich tapestry of idioms that exist across cultures.

DISCUSSION

The comparison of food-related idioms in English and Uzbek reveals a fascinating interplay of cultural, historical, and linguistic factors. While many of these idioms share common themes and metaphorical meanings, the specific foods used and their associated connotations often reflect the unique cultural contexts.

One of the most striking similarities between English and Uzbek food-related idioms is the use of food imagery to convey abstract concepts. Both languages use various food metaphors to express ideas such as affection, hard work, and ease. For example, the English idiom "a piece of cake" and its Uzbek equivalent "pista qilib chaqib tashlamoq" both suggest something that is easy or effortless.

The historical relationships between English and Uzbek cultures may also have influenced the exchange and adaptation of idioms. While it is difficult to trace the exact origins of many of these expressions, it is clear that cultural contact has played a role in shaping the linguistic landscape of both languages.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the analysis of food-related idioms in English and Uzbek provides valuable insights into the cultural, historical, and linguistic factors that shape language and communication. By understanding these factors, we can enhance our ability to communicate effectively across cultures and appreciate the rich diversity of human expression. However, there is a still need to have a further research on the etymology of such phraseological units in both languages.

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