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LINGUOCULTURAL ANALYSIS OF THE CONCEPT OF DILIGENCE IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH PROVERBS

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Abstract

This article presents a linguocultural and comparative analysis of the concept of diligence as reflected in Uzbek and English proverbs. Proverbs are regarded as valuable linguistic units that encapsulate the cultural values, worldview, and historical experience of a nation. The study focuses on how diligence, hard work, perseverance, and attitudes toward labor are conceptualized in the proverbial heritage of Uzbek and English cultures. Through semantic, pragmatic, and cultural analysis, similarities and differences between the two linguistic traditions are identified. Numerous examples from both languages are analyzed to reveal national mentality, social priorities, and moral values associated with labor.

Keywords: Diligence, proverbs, linguocultural studies, concept, Uzbek proverbs, English proverbs, comparative analysis.

Introduction

Language is not only a means of communication but also a reflection of culture, history, and national mentality. One of the most vivid manifestations of this relationship can be found in folklore, particularly in proverbs. Proverbs represent centuries of collective experience and convey moral norms, ethical values, and practical wisdom in a concise and metaphorical form.

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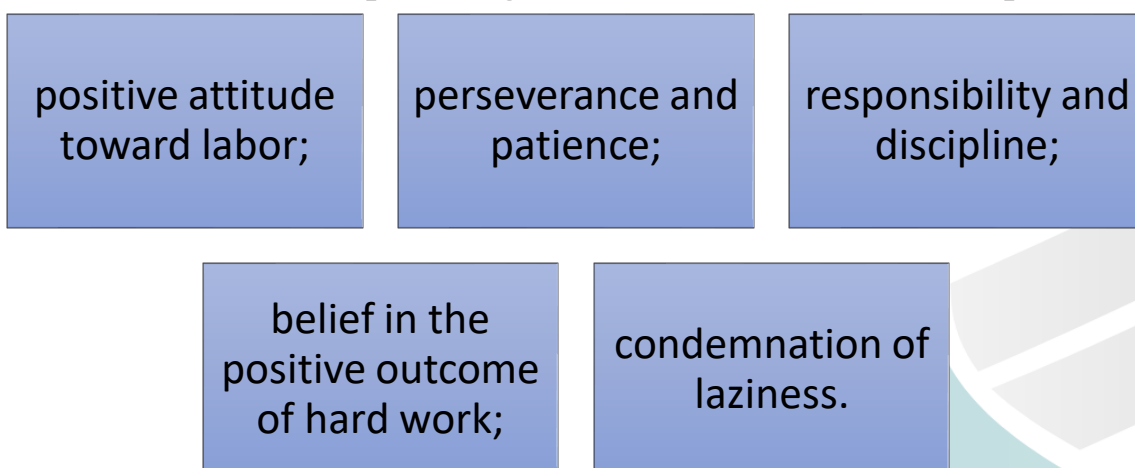
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Among universal human values, diligence occupies a central place. Respect for labor, hard work, perseverance, and responsibility is deeply rooted in the cultural consciousness of many nations. Both Uzbek and English cultures highly value diligence, yet the ways this concept is expressed and interpreted through proverbs differ due to historical, economic, and social factors.

The aim of this article is to conduct a linguocultural analysis of the concept of diligence in Uzbek and English proverbs, identifying common features and culture-specific characteristics. The objectives include analyzing semantic components, metaphorical imagery, and pragmatic functions of proverbs related to diligence.

Linguocultural studies examine the interaction between language and culture, focusing on how cultural meanings are encoded in linguistic units. One of the key notions in this field is the concept, understood as a culturally significant mental formation reflected in language.

Table-1. The concept of diligence includes several core components



Proverbs serve as an effective medium for verbalizing these components, making them an ideal object for linguocultural analysis.

Uzbek proverbs reflect an agrarian way of life and a collectivist worldview, where labor is seen as the foundation of prosperity, social harmony, and moral integrity.

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Many Uzbek proverbs emphasize the direct connection between labor and well-being:

- ✓ He who works will eat.
- ✓ The root of labor is comfort.
- ✓ If you plow the land, you will harvest grain.

These proverbs convey the idea that honest labor inevitably leads to prosperity and comfort. The metaphor of land cultivation reflects traditional agricultural practices.

Laziness is strongly criticized in Uzbek proverbial discourse:

- ✓ A lazy man dreams when he is hungry.
- ✓ No fire comes from a lying stone.

Here, inactivity is metaphorically associated with sterility and futility, reinforcing the moral necessity of diligence. Uzbek culture places great importance on collective effort:

- ✓ Many hands make the work light.
- ✓ Unity in labor brings abundance.

These proverbs highlight cooperation and mutual support as essential aspects of productive labor.

English proverbs reflect an individual-oriented worldview shaped by industrial development, urbanization, and the Protestant work ethic. In English proverbs, diligence is closely linked to personal success and achievement:

- Hard work pays off.
- No pain, no gain.
- Industry is the mother of success.

These expressions emphasize effort as a prerequisite for individual accomplishment. Time management is a crucial element of diligence in English culture:

- ✓ Time is money.
- ✓ Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.

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Such proverbs reflect a pragmatic attitude toward time as a valuable and limited resource.

English proverbs often stress personal responsibility:

- ✓ He who does not work shall not eat.
- ✓ A lazy man's work is never done.

These proverbs underscore the moral obligation to work and the consequences of idleness.

Table-2. A comparative analysis reveals both universal and culture-specific features of the diligence concept.

Aspect	Uzbek Proverbs	English Proverbs
Dominant worldview	Collectivist	Individualist
Main value	Prosperity and harmony	Success and efficiency
Attitude to time	Implicit	Explicit
Imagery	Nature, agriculture	Abstract, pragmatic

Both cultures value diligence positively, but the cultural framing and metaphorical representation differ significantly. Table-2 presents the results of a comparative linguacultural analysis of the concept of industriousness in Uzbek and English proverbs. It systematizes the main aspects of this concept's representation in the two linguistic cultures: dominant worldview, key values, attitude toward time, and imagery. As the table-2 shows, a collectivist worldview predominates in Uzbek proverbs, manifested in a focus on teamwork, social harmony, and well-being. Prosperity and social harmony are the primary values, while the attitude toward time is implicit, meaning it is not directly expressed. The imagery of Uzbek proverbs is primarily related to nature and agricultural activity, reflecting the agrarian way of life and the traditional way of life of the people.

In contrast, an individualistic worldview predominates in English proverbs, within which industriousness is viewed as a means of achieving personal success

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and effectiveness. The attitude toward time is expressed explicitly, demonstrating the high value of time as a resource. The figurative language of English proverbs is more abstract and pragmatic, consistent with an industrially oriented culture. Thus, the table presented clearly demonstrates both the universal features of the concept of hard work and its national and cultural specificity in the Uzbek and English linguistic worldviews.

Table-3. Semantic and Pragmatic Features of Diligence Proverbs

Semantically, diligence proverbs form oppositional pairs:	Pragmatically, these proverbs perform several functions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ diligence vs. laziness; ✓ labor vs. poverty; ✓ effort vs. failure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ educational and moralizing; ✓ motivational; ✓ warning and advisory.
THEY ARE WIDELY USED IN EVERYDAY SPEECH TO REGULATE BEHAVIOR AND REINFORCE SOCIAL NORMS	

Uzbek proverbs often employ natural and agricultural symbols such as land, grain, and fire, reflecting rural life. English proverbs tend to use abstract notions like time, money, and success, illustrating an economically driven worldview. These metaphorical models reveal deep-rooted cultural values and historical experiences embedded in language.

Table-4. Uzbek Proverbs Expressing the Concept of Diligence

№	Uzbek	English
1	Mehnat qilgan to‘yar	Diligent work ensures sustenance
2	Mehnatning tagi — rohat	Labor leads to comfort
3	Yer haydasang, don olasan	Hard work brings tangible results
4	Ko‘p qo‘l ishni bitirar	Collective effort facilitates success
5	Yotgan toshdan o‘t chiqmas	Laziness yields no outcome

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Table-4 presents a selection of Uzbek proverbs related to the concept of diligence. These examples demonstrate how labor, perseverance, collective effort, and the condemnation of laziness are expressed through culturally specific imagery rooted in agrarian life and traditional values.

Table-5. Comparative Table of Key Semantic Features

Feature	Uzbek Proverbs	English Proverbs
Dominant imagery	Nature, agriculture	Time, money, effort
Social orientation	Collective	Individual
Moral focus	Prosperity and harmony	Success and efficiency
Attitude to laziness	Strong condemnation	Moral responsibility

Table-5 provides a comparative table summarizing the key semantic and cultural features of diligence in Uzbek and English proverbs. This table allows for a clearer comparison of dominant imagery, social orientation, moral focus, and attitudes toward laziness in both cultures.

Overall, the tables contribute to a deeper understanding of the similarities and differences in the linguocultural representation of diligence and reinforce the conclusions drawn in the main body of the article.

Conclusion

The linguocultural analysis of Uzbek and English proverbs demonstrates that the concept of diligence is a universal value expressed through culturally specific linguistic forms. Uzbek proverbs emphasize collective labor, harmony, and prosperity rooted in agrarian traditions, while English proverbs highlight individual effort, time management, and personal success.

Understanding these similarities and differences contributes to cross-cultural awareness and enriches comparative linguistic studies. Proverbs, as carriers of

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cultural memory, continue to play an important role in shaping attitudes toward labor in both societies.

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