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COMPARATIVE STUDY OF GENDER STEREOTYPES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK PAREMIOLOGY

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Abstract

Paremiology, the scientific study of proverbs and sayings, represents one of the richest sources of cultural knowledge and collective wisdom preserved through generations. Proverbs not only reflect moral values and traditional beliefs but also reveal the social roles assigned to men and women within a particular society. Gender stereotypes embedded in proverbs influence public attitudes toward masculinity and femininity, shaping behavioral expectations and cultural norms. This study aims to conduct a comparative analysis of gender stereotypes represented in English and Uzbek paremiology. Using comparative, semantic, descriptive, and discourse analysis methods, the research examines traditional proverbs that portray women and men in both linguistic cultures. The findings indicate that although English and Uzbek proverbs originate from different historical and cultural contexts, they exhibit several common patriarchal patterns, including the portrayal of men as leaders, providers, and decision-makers, while women are frequently associated with domestic responsibilities, obedience, beauty, and motherhood. Nevertheless, English paremiology demonstrates a gradual shift toward gender equality in modern interpretations, whereas Uzbek paremiology continues to preserve stronger traditional perspectives influenced by national customs and family values. The research contributes to gender linguistics, intercultural communication, cognitive linguistics, and comparative paremiology by highlighting similarities and differences in the conceptualization of gender roles across two distinct linguistic communities.

Keywords: paremiology, gender stereotypes, English proverbs, Uzbek proverbs, comparative linguistics, discourse analysis, cultural studies.

Introduction

Language functions not only as a means of communication but also as a repository of cultural memory and social ideology. Every nation transmits its worldview through linguistic units such as idioms, metaphors, and proverbs. Among these units, proverbs occupy a unique position because they preserve the practical wisdom accumulated over centuries while reflecting the moral principles and social expectations of a community. One of the most significant themes represented in paremiology is gender. Gender stereotypes are socially constructed beliefs concerning the characteristics, responsibilities, and behavioral patterns expected from men and women. These stereotypes are deeply rooted in historical traditions and frequently appear in proverbs, which reinforce cultural norms through concise and memorable expressions.

Methodology

The present study employs qualitative comparative research methods. A corpus of approximately one hundred English and Uzbek proverbs concerning gender, family, marriage, motherhood, fatherhood, leadership, and social responsibilities was selected from authoritative proverb dictionaries and academic publications.

The research methodology includes:

- comparative linguistic analysis;
- semantic analysis;

- descriptive analysis;
- discourse analysis;
- cultural interpretation.

Each proverb was categorized according to its dominant gender representation. Categories included women's social roles, men's social roles, family leadership, intelligence, morality, work ethics, emotional characteristics, and parental responsibilities.

Conclusion

The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek paremiology demonstrates that proverbs serve as important linguistic and cultural instruments for preserving and transmitting gender-related values across generations. Despite differences in historical development, religion, and social organization, both linguistic traditions share a number of common gender stereotypes. Men are predominantly portrayed as strong, rational, courageous, and responsible leaders, whereas women are commonly associated with domestic responsibilities, motherhood, beauty, patience, and emotional sensitivity. These representations reflect the patriarchal foundations of traditional societies and the social expectations placed upon each gender.

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