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LABOR PROVERBS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK: SEMANTIC, PRAGMATIC AND STYLISTIC PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract

Proverbs constitute an essential component of every nation's linguistic and cultural heritage. They preserve collective wisdom, social norms, ethical values, and practical experiences accumulated over generations. Among different thematic groups, labor-related proverbs occupy a significant place because work has always been regarded as one of the fundamental values in human civilization. Both English and Uzbek cultures highly appreciate diligence, responsibility, perseverance, and honesty, and thesevaluesarereflectedinnumerousproverbsconcerninlabor.

Keywords: laborproverbs, semantics, pragmatics, stylistics, linguoculture, English, Uzbek, comparative analysis.

Language reflects the worldview of a nation, while proverbs represent one of the richest sources of cultural knowledge. Proverbs are concise expressions that communicate social experience, moral principles, and traditional wisdom. Because of their figurative language and communicative effectiveness, they continue to play an important role in both spoken and written discourse. Labor has been recognized throughout history as a source of prosperity, dignity, and personal development. Consequently, many cultures have developed proverbs emphasizing the importance of hard work, patience, responsibility, and persistence. English and Uzbek societies, although geographically and historicallydifferent,bothconsiderlabortobeanessentiavirtue.

The purpose of this study is to investigate labor proverbs from three interconnected perspectives: semantic, pragmatic, and stylistic. Such an approach makes it possible to understand not only the literal meaning of proverbs but also their communicative intentions and artistic characteristics.

Semantics focuses on the meanings expressed by linguistic units. Labor proverbs generally convey ideas associated with diligence, effort, success, responsibility, patience, and productivity. These concepts form the semantic core of labor-related phraseology in both English and Uzbek. For example, the English proverb "No pain, no gain" emphasizes the direct relationship between effort and achievement. Another English proverb, "Many hands make light work," stresses cooperation and collective effort. Its semantic equivalent in Uzbek is reflected in proverbs encouraging unity and mutualassistanceduringwork.

However, semantic differences also exist. English labor proverbs often highlight personal initiative, independence, and self-reliance, whereas Uzbek proverbs frequently emphasize collective responsibility,familytraditions,andcommunitycooperation.

Pragmatics studies language in use and examines how meaning depends on communicative context. Proverbs rarely function merely as statements; instead, they perform specific communicative purposes.

Labor proverbs are commonly used to advise, motivate, persuade, criticize, warn, or educate. For instance, an English speaker may say "The early bird catches the worm" to encourage punctuality and initiative. In Uzbek communication, similar advice may be expressed through "Erta turganning rizqi ulug'",motivatingindividualstobeactiveandhardworking.

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The pragmatic force of labor proverbs depends on the relationship between speakers, the situation, and cultural expectations. Teachers use them to educate students, parents employ them to transmit moral values, and community leaders rely on them to encourage responsibility and discipline.

The semantic, pragmatic, and stylistic analysis of English and Uzbek labor proverbs demonstrates that proverbs are multifunctional linguistic units combining cultural knowledge with communicative effectiveness. Semantically, they express universal concepts related to work, responsibility, and success. Pragmatically, they serve as powerful instruments of advice, persuasion, education,andsocialregulation.

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