



## INTEGRATING CULTURE AND LANGUAGE THROUGH FOREIGN PROVERBS

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<b>Published:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	<p>The article focuses on the role of Uzbek and foreign proverbs as the source of folk wisdom, means of expressing national character and culture specificity; and peculiarities of their use at foreign language learning classes. In the research paper proverbs are presented as the language awareness product, which reflects people's customs, habits, behaviors, historical life experience, traditions and culture; the analysis of essence, content and structure of proverbs has been done, characterizing their expressiveness and brevity, which enable to reveal specifics of people mentality, their mind and identity. Special attention is paid to the use of proverbs at foreign language classes for improvement of learners' inter- cultural and socio cultural knowledge; development of students' foreign language communicative skills and habits, that are important for their intercultural communication with native speakers of the studied foreign language. Examples of language and speech activities on the use of proverbs, directed to the enhancement of learners' communicative skills in different aspects of the language, the role of proverbs in the development of students' oral and written foreign language communication are given in this research article</p>

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Studying proverbs is essential for understanding the culture of a nation. Proverbs and sayings reflect cultural values widely accepted in the society and contain widely used and accepted evaluations of human behavior and actions or deeds in various situations and in different circumstances. The knowledge of proverbs of the studied language leads to better understanding of culture and national identity. One of the ways of transmitting that cultural value is through the language of the people. Language is a very important identity tool of a people; through it, they communicate with one another and pass down knowledge from one generation to the next. This is why proverbs are very important because they form a part of that language.

Proverbs are culture-loaded. They are regarded as one of the most ancient and valuable manifestations of human culture. Proverbs and sayings reflect cultural values, traditions widely accepted in the society and contain widely used and accepted evaluations of human behavior and actions or deeds in various situations and in different circumstances. Surrounding phenomena often become part of proverbs. The most important function of proverbs is to teach and educate the audience. They often contain expert advice, with a role for educating the readers on what they may face if they do something. Hence, proverbs play a didactic role, as they play a universal role in teaching wisdom and sagacity to the common people.

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS.** Proverbs often make use of grammatical and rhetorical devices that help make them memorable, including alliteration, rhyme, and parallel structure, repetition of key words or phrases, and strong imagery. Below, we can give some example of proverbs by comparing Uzbek, English and Russian equivalents. In the process of learning a foreign language in the context of the development of foreign language communicative competence of students, become acquainted with customs, traditions, and peculiarities of the national character of the target language, which undoubtedly enrich them spiritually and provide to deeply understand the uniqueness of their culture.

S.S.Kuzmin compares Russian and English proverbs, trying to suggest their equivalents in both languages: **Волков (волка) боятся – в лес не ходят. Chumchuqdan qo'rqqan tariq ekmaydi. He that fears every bush must never go a birding.** He who is afraid of doing something necessary, desirable, will achieve nothing. He

that is afraid of the wagging of feathers must keep away from wild fowl. He that fears every bush must never go a – birding. He that is afraid of wounds must not come near a battle. [6]

As it can be seen from the above given examples, people tend to lean against their style of living and geographical position of their land while thinking of proverbs. Woodlands play a significant role in the life of Russian people, while Uzbek people's main activity is connected to peasantry. The main similarity in all the three equivalents of proverbs is that in all of them we can see reference to animals.

**He who is afraid of doing something necessary, desirable, will achieve nothing. Comparing three languages**

Uzbek	Russian	English
<b>Chumchuq –sparrow</b>	<b>Волк-wolf</b>	<b>bird- птица</b>

Uzbek and English proverbs are close in that they both mention birds: 'chumchuq'- a sparrow and 'birding'. However, Russian and English proverbs create the image of forest, while Uzbek one is connected to sowing.

*Axir o'zingiz bir o'ylab ko'ring-a, janoblar, -qandaydir bir junbushda xitob qildi Ferdishenko, -bir o'ylab ko'ring, keyin biz bir-birimizga qaysi ko'z bilan qaraymiz, ertaga, masalan, gap-so'zlardan keyin! - Chumchuqdan qo'rqqan tariq ekmaydi! - dedi kinoya bilan Nastasiya Fillipovna.*

*Да вы подумайте только, господа, - воскликнул вдруг в каком-то вдохновении Фердыщенко, - подумайте только, какими глазами мы потом друг на друга будем глядеть, завтра, например, после рассказов-то!.. - Волка бояться – в лес неходить! – с усмешкой заметила Настасья Филипповна<sup>1</sup>.*

*"But, you fancy, ladies and gentlemen," Ferdyschenko cried with a sudden inspiration, "only think with what eyes we shall look at one another tomorrow, for instance, after we have told our tales!" "Nothing venture, nothing has," Nastasya Philippovna observed derisively.*

<b>Soft fire makes sweet malt. Comparing three languages</b>		
Uzbek	Russian	English
Yaxshi so'zga ilon inidan chiqadi. <b>(Snake)</b>	Доброе (ласковое) слово и кошке приятно <b>(cat)</b>	Soft fire makes sweet malt. <b>(fire)</b>

From the comparison of the proverbs in the below given extracts, we can feel that the similarity of Russian and Uzbek proverbs is in the use of images of animals, which are, according to the beliefs of people, difficult to cheat. In English proverb the idea of 'careful approach for achieving the desired result' is given with the image of preparing beer.

-Доброе (ласковое) слово и кошке приятно. - Soft fire makes sweet malt. Yaxshi so'zga ilon inidan chiqadi. - A little sympathy goes along way. Soft fire makes sweet malt.

Надя: Большая роль или маленькая – в театре всё важно одинаково. Ухов: Если одинаково, что ж они тебе большую не дали? ...

Надя: Доброе слово и кошке приятно. [6]

Nadya: A big part to play or small one - all is equally important in the theatre.

Ukhov: If it is an equally important, why did not they offer you a big part then?

Nadya: Well... a word warmly said gives comfort even to a cat.

Nadya: Teatrda katta rolmi, kichkinami, hammasi muhim.

Ухов: Agar bir xil muhim bo'lsa, unda nega senga katta rol berishmadi? Nadya: Yaxshi so'zga ilon inidan chiqadi.

The following comparison of proverbs show that despite the diversity of the languages and the viewpoint of people, still there can be witnessed complete correspondence in the use of proverbs.

<b>One cannot correct someone else's bad habits or stupid convocations</b>		
<b>Comparing three languages</b>		
Uzbek	Russian	English
Bukrini go'r to'g'irlaydi <b>(grave)</b>	Горбатого (одна) могила исправит <b>(могила)</b>	The wolf may lose his teeth, but never his nature. <b>(wolf)</b>

Горбатого (одна) могила исправит. - The wolf may lose his teeth, but never his nature. - Bukrini go'r to'g'irlaydi.

Some other proverbs in English with the same meaning: One cannot correct someone else's bad habits or stupid convocations; a bad man will die a bad a man; Can the leopard change his sports? You cannot make silk powers out of sow's ear; What is bread in the bone will not go out of the flesh; The wolf may change his coat, but not his disposition; The thief is sorry his to be hanged, but not that a thief; He who is born a fool is never cured; Only the grave can straighten the hunchback.

Among other suggested above English proverbs with the same moral, there is the one that has the same image as Russian and Uzbek ones (Only the grave can straighten the hunchback.).

<sup>1</sup> С.С.Кузьмин *Русско – английский словарь пословиц и поговорок*, Москва “Русский язык”, 1989. Ф.Достоевский. “Идиом” стр 45

- У вас единственная возможность доказать суду, что вы ещё можете вернуться к честной жизни, это откровенное признание. Признайтесь во всём до конца. Мухаммадов угрюмо молчал, и только из угла, где сидел Арский, донеслось: - Горбатого могила исправит. [6]

"You have a chance to try and convince the court of justice that you are still able to live an honest life, and this only chance is your sincere confession and it must be complete and thorough. "Muxamlyadov" reply was grim silence. And one could hear that someone said in the corner where Arski was, "The wolf may lose his teeth, but never his nature."

"Sizning sud oldida halol hayotga qayta olishingizni isbotlashga yagona imkoniyatingiz aybingizga iqror bo'lish. Hammasiga to'liq iqror bo'ling" Muxamlyadov xo'mrayganicha jum o'tirar, faqat Arski o'tirgan burchakdan bir ovoz eshitildi: "Bukrini go'r to'g'rilaydi".

The most important function of proverbs is to teach and educate language learners. They often contain expert advice, with a role for educating the readers on what they may face if they do something. Proverbs play a didactic role, as they play a universal role in teaching wisdom and sagacity to the common people.

We started our proverb study with the simplest activity – a matching proverbs game. We found a free printable file for it at the end of the post, so we could try it with our students as well! In the game, we learnt wise, funny and quirky saying from around the world, while using their wit and imagination to complete little-known proverbs and tricking other players into thinking that they were the original sayings.

Yet, each culture has proverbs that are unique to it. The saying, "If you want to know a people, know their proverbs" illustrates this. For example, sayings from various Native American tribes often reflect their view of the land as sacred: "Take only what you need and leave the land as you found it" (Zona, 1994) and the importance of spirituality: "Wisdom comes only when you stop looking for it and start living the life the Creator intended for you" (Zona, 1994). Japanese proverbs often refer to morals: "An evil deed remains with the evildoer" (Zona, 1996) and discretion: "The tongue is like a sharp knife, it kills without drawing blood" (Zona, 1996). Many Mexican proverbs reflect the thinking and values of rural people or the average person on the street and hope is a common theme: "Hope dies last of all" (Sellers, 1994).

If you visit to different parts of the world, you had better keep Russian proverb in mind "**Не ходи в другой монастырь со своими правилами**". It means do not go to a different place and make your own rules. Always learn to adapt. With this saying, it can be used as a reminder that wherever you go, you should have the ability to adapt to their traditions and adjust - not the other way around.

With this saying, it encourages you to be very versatile and flexible. Meaning, that regardless of your status or position, if you are in a foreign place, adaptability is something that you should be able to do. Not just to be impressive towards the people you meet, but also to be respectful of the culture. There is an English equivalent of this proverb: "**When in Rome, do as Romans do**". The formation and understanding of proverbs is deeply rooted in the national culture. Proverbs express the truth through the social life of the special circumstances and life more common, common, specific concepts linked to highlight. In Uzbek "**When in Rome, do as Romans do**" is translated in this way. These proverbs are very close the meaning of above-mentioned proverb, but we cannot translate word-for-word translation. In Uzbek: "**Har gulning o'z isi bor, Har elning o'z tusi bor**", "**Har shaharning havosi boshqa**", "**Bir ko'zililar eliga borsang, Bir ko'zingni qisib yur**"

Language learners can get acquainted with the proverbs, which have a number of common characteristics that go beyond the cultural differences of various cultures. The most important thing is that the use of proverbs is often based on its metaphorical meaning rather than the literal meaning. The use of proverbs reflects the universal role of conceptual metaphor in people's understanding of the world. At the same time, specific national cultural backgrounds are one of the important factors that determine metaphor production, use and understanding.

Proverbs are a kind of ready-made words created by the masses of the people, reflecting and summing up the experiences and laws of history and modern life.

National character is the elusive phenomenon of ethnicity. Culture, history, living conditions and activities of any nation form a certain psychological features, peculiar to this nation (ethnic group), perceived as one of its characteristics. These psychological traits relate to certain phenomena. For example, the degree of conscious regulation of emotions and feelings of each nation is different: some people are more reserved others more emotional and direct in expressing their feelings and moods [5]. Proverbs, as a form of language, have developed with the development of society, and have distinctive characteristics of the times. They cover all aspects of social life, customs and habits and reflect people's voices in the real social life. Therefore, the comparative study of Chinese and English proverbs is helpful to the contrastive study of Chinese and English folklore.

#### Activity 1. Find equivalents of Uzbek proverbs

In this game, we asked our language learners to fill the blanks searching equivalents of the Uzbek proverbs from Internet source. This activity was given as a home task. We distributed the blanks to our students to fill in at home. Approximately 90 % our students did the task at home individually and learnt all the proverbs by heart.

Uzbek	Russian	Chinese	Indian
Qush uyasida ko'rganini qiladi	Стать отцом совсем легко. Быть отцом, напротив, трудно.	"If a son is uneducated, his dad is to blame."	A bad father has never a good son

Sabr tagi sari oltin	Есть терпение - будет <u>умение</u> .	"Patience is a bitter plant, but its fruit is sweet."	Patience is the most beautiful prayer.
Qo'ng'iz bolasini oppog'im derkan, tipratikan yumshog'im	Всякой матери своё дитя мило.	There is only one pretty child in the world, and every mother has it.	A bandicoot is lovely to his parents; a mule is pretty to its mate.
Suvni ko'rmasdan eticingni yechma	Не говори есть, пока рыба в реке, а скажи есть, когда она в руке.	Do not stand by the water and long for fish; go home and weave a net.	Do not bargain for fish, which are still in the water.
Yer qazimasang, oltin chiqmas, Qarmoq solmasang — baliq.	От трудов праведных не построишь палат каменных, а посадишь душу в ад, так и будешь богат	If you work hard enough at it, you can grind even an iron rod down to a needle.	Hard work can make anything happen
Do'st otini minib yur manzilinga yetasan	Не имей сто рублей, а имей сто друзей.	A friend without faults will never be found.	If you are going to live by the river, make friends with the crocodile.
Besabrning nafsi shoshar, Tusagani kuzda pishar.	Москва не сразу строилась	It takes more than one cold day for the river to freeze three feet deep.	Patience is the most beautiful prayer.
Qo'rqqanga ko'rinar qo'sh	Волка бояться - и от белки бежать	"Once bitten by a snake, he/she is scared all his/her life at the mere sight of a rope."	Not all the water in the sea even reaches the knees of the man who fears not death.
Qayiqni ikki tomonini ushlagan suvga g'arq bo'ladi	За двумя зайцами погонишься — ни одного не поймаешь	He who chases two rabbits catches neither.	If you are chasing two hares at once, you will not catch a single one.

**Activity 2. Search about 20 foreign proverbs related to women's habits and characters and explain with what they compare their women.**

1. "Boining qizi-sepi bilan, yo'qning qizi-ko'rki bilan." (**Uzbek proverb**) 2. "Who marries for love without money, hath good things and sorry days." (**English proverb**) 3. "Не бери жену богатую, бери непочатую." (**Russian proverb**) 4. "Flowers will bloom - the earth will be decorated; girls will grow up - aul will be decorated." (**Kazakh proverb**) 5. "The painstaking hidden assistance of the wife helps the husband to succeed" (**Japanese proverb**). 6. "A woman's work is worth more than the talk of a thousand men" (**Tajik proverb**) 7. "A home without a woman is like a barn without cattle." (**Ethiopian proverb**) 8. "A silent woman is a gift from God." (**French proverb**) 9. "A woman is like the moon – some nights it is silver others gold." (**Armenian proverb**) 10. "A woman is never old when it comes to the dance she knows." (**African proverb**) 11. "As changeable is the moon so is the opinion of the woman" (**French proverb**) 12. "Beauty is the wisdom of women. Wisdom is the beauty of men." (**Chinese proverb**) 13. "Flip the jar on its mouth, and the daughter comes out like her mother." (**Arab proverb**) 14. "If you educate a man you educate one individual, but if you educate a woman you educate a family." (**Ghanaian proverb**) 15. "It is easier to guard a bushel of fleas than a woman." (**German proverb**) 16. "Man, woman, and devil, are the three degrees of comparison." (**English proverb**) 17. "Men and women sleep on the same pillow, but they have different dreams." (**Mongolian proverb**) 18. "Never marry a woman who has bigger feet than you." (**Mozambican proverb**) 19. "No matter how big a child is; he cannot deny that he was once carried on the back of a woman." (**African proverb**) 20. "One who plants grapes by the road side, and one who marries a pretty woman, share the same problem." (**Ethiopian proverb**) 21. "So many little things make a man love a woman in a big way." (**Ghanaian proverb**) 22. "Who has a woman has an eel by the tail." (**English proverb**)

The discussion about the chosen topic was very interesting and fruitful. We were very satisfied with our students' progress in developing their integrated skills working with the proverbs.

### Activity 3. Here are examples of tasks using proverbs and sayings

1. Describe the picture using the appropriate proverbs. 2. Make a dialogue on the given situation with proverbs corresponding to the topic. 3. Which of the following proverbs can serve as the title of the text? Why? 4. What proverb matches the content of this picture? Why? 5. Make an outline for the text using proverbs. 6. Compose a story using the maximum number of proverbs. 7. Write a collective essay of a story (fairy tale) on the topic of a proverb or saying. 8. Create a situation from an illustration that would confirm the given proverb. [7]

**CONCLUSION.** We conclude that proverbs are essential and multi-functional methodological tool in teaching English. They are valuable training materials for improvement students' knowledge on Developing integrated language skills. They play an important role in the intensification of the educational process as well. The use of proverbs in the process of learning a foreign language helps improve all types of speech activity develops the imagination and creativity of students. Using proverbs in the classroom is beneficial, due to them favorable environment is created; the learning process becomes more enjoyable and interesting. Moreover, proverbs contribute to the development of communicative skills of students that are necessary for intercultural communication with native speakers of the studied foreign language and learning their culture. Thanks to proverbs, students become familiar with spiritual heritage, national character of representatives of the foreign culture, their way of thinking and expressing thoughts. Proverbs are a source of development of human values in a broad sense, as students become acquainted with the national values and characteristics of another culture, feel themselves as a part of the intercultural space, at the same time they preserve their own national identity. Systematic and purposeful use of proverbs in foreign language classroom greatly enhances the quality of teaching and learning process and promotes the formation of foreign language communicative competence of students.

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS:** As English teachers, we have some recommendations to all foreign language teachers to teach proverbs in their classes. Below, we can give the list of importance of proverbs:

1. Usage of proverbs help students learn not only the aspects of the language, namely, pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, but also the most important type of speech activities and speaking;
2. Through the study of Proverbs, learners receive the moral discipline needed to live one's life successfully. Proverbs is full of instructions about moral discipline.
3. Proverbs are wise sayings that give advice about life. They are the gems of wisdom.
4. They show what is important to the group of people, what is considered good behavior and what bad behavior is.
5. Proverbs and sayings develop creative initiative, enrich the vocabulary of students, and help to learn the structure of the language, develop memory and emotional expressiveness of speech.
6. Proverbs are essential language and speech material for any foreign language course. They are necessary both for the development of receptive skills in speaking and writing and for the formation of skills in speaking and writing.

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