

Linguocultural Aspects of Expressing Human Age: A Comparative Study of the English and Uzbek Languages

Khamrakulova Sabina Feyruzkhonovna

Fergana Branch of the Tashkent University of Information Technologies named after Muhammad al-Khwarizmi, Assistant teacher of the department of the Uzbek language and humanities

Abstract: This article explores the linguocultural aspects of expressing human age in the English and Uzbek languages. Through a comparative analysis, we examine how age is represented linguistically and culturally in both languages, highlighting the implications for understanding societal attitudes towards aging. The study employs qualitative methods, including discourse analysis and cultural examination, to uncover the nuances of age expression in both linguistic contexts. Findings reveal distinct cultural attitudes that shape language use, which can enhance cross-cultural communication and inform linguistic research.

Keywords: linguocultural aspects, human age, comparative analysis, age representation, discourse analysis, cultural examination, cross-cultural communication, linguistic contexts, cultural attitudes, linguistic research.



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Introduction

The expression of human age is a significant aspect of language that reflects cultural values, social structures, and individual identity. This study aims to investigate how age is represented in the English and Uzbek languages, focusing on the linguocultural implications of these expressions. Understanding how different cultures articulate age can provide insights into their societal attitudes towards aging, youth, and maturity.

Background

Age-related expressions can vary significantly across languages, influenced by cultural norms and values. English, as a widely spoken global language, has its unique ways of expressing age that often reflect a more individualistic approach. In contrast, Uzbek, rooted in Central Asian traditions, may exhibit collectivist values that shape its linguistic expressions. This comparative study contributes to the field of linguistics by elucidating the intersection of language, culture, and age.

Methods

Research Design

This qualitative study employs a comparative analysis of age expressions in English and Uzbek. Data was collected from various sources, including literature, dictionaries, media, and conversational texts, to capture a wide range of age-related expressions.

Data Collection

1. **Dictionary review:** Analysis of relevant dictionaries on age expressions in both languages
2. **Literature review:** Analysis of existing literature on age expressions in both languages.
3. **Discourse analysis:** Examination of contemporary media, including articles, social media, and films.
4. **Interviews:** Conducting interviews with native speakers of both languages to gather personal insights on age-related expressions.

Data Analysis

The collected data was analyzed thematically, focusing on patterns of age expression, cultural connotations, and contextual usage. Comparative linguistic analysis was employed to highlight differences and similarities between the two languages.

Results

The English language contains 56 phraseological units related to the concept of youth, while Uzbek has 48. Key lexemes like "youth," "young," "yigit," "qiz," and "yoshlik" signify this stage of life. Both languages feature a variety of phraseological structures: noun phrases (e.g.: "a golden girl", "the salt of youth," "bo'z bola", "yosh bo'g'in"), verb phrases (e.g.: "sow one's wild oats", "be under age", "bo'yi yetmoq", "yoshlik qilmoq"), adverbial phrases (e.g.: "in the first flush of", "just out of one's teens", "yoshlik qilib"), adjective phrases (e.g.: "still in the swaddling clothes", "balog'atga yetgan"), and complete sentences (e.g.: "wine and youth are flax upon fire", "ketini mo'ychinak tishlamagan").

Some phraseological units are central to this age group, such as "young thing," "a young shaver," "just out of one's teens," "yosh narsa," and "bo'z yigit," referring specifically to young males. Many units also incorporate additional meanings that reflect various aspects of youth. Youth is characterized by inexperience and immaturity, illustrated by expressions like "a spring chicken" and "still in swaddling clothes." In contrast, Uzbek includes terms like "ena/ona xotin," which negatively describes a young but untrustworthy and cunning person. Both languages have numerous expressions indicating that adolescents have reached legal age, such as "come of age" and "the full age" in English, and "balog'atga yetgan" in Uzbek. This is also reflected in cultural references to early marriage in Uzbek, with phrases like "haddi kamol qiz," meaning a girl of marriageable age.

English uniquely features phrases like "silver jubilee" for twenty years and "just out of one's teens." The adolescent phase is often regarded as the happiest time, evident in phrases like "sweet seventeen" and "yoshlik - beboshlik."

The rich variety of phraseological units in both languages highlights different facets of youth, such as the "jet set," which is criticized for laziness. English phrases like "curled darlings" and the Uzbek "buvachcha" capture this sentiment.

English also has phrases that describe youth in terms of physical appearance and relationships, ranging from "sweater girl" to "one's best girl." In contrast, Uzbek phrases denoting purity and

innocence, like "onasi o'pmagan qiz," are viewed positively, while English equivalents like "canned goods" carry disdain.

The following phraseological units are considered original to English:

- **"May Queen"**: Referring to a girl chosen as queen during May celebrations, crowned with flowers.
- **"Angry young men"**: Originating from the works of 20th-century writers known for their critical views of society.
- **"The hell-fire club"**: A historical reference to exclusive social clubs in 18th-century England.
- **"Carnaby Street"**: Named after a famous shopping area in London, representing youth fashion.

In Uzbek, the phrase **"yerga yetilgan ekan"** refers to young individuals who have died young.

Notably, English phrases about youth often include "youth" or "young," while in Uzbek, these terms appear in only a few units. Overall, both languages emphasize the value of youth and its associated characteristics, including inexperience and emotional depth, with expressions highlighting the importance of youthful relationships and experiences. Additionally, both languages draw parallels between youth and wealth, suggesting that money can negatively affect young people.

Discussion

The findings suggest that linguistic expressions of age are deeply intertwined with cultural values. In English, the individualistic approach to age may reflect broader societal trends towards autonomy and achievement. In contrast, Uzbek expressions reveal a collectivist culture that values community and familial ties, which may shape how aging is perceived and expressed.

Implications for Linguistic Research

This study underscores the importance of considering cultural context when examining linguistic expressions. Understanding how different cultures articulate age can enhance cross-cultural communication and inform language education. Moreover, it highlights the need for further research into how language evolves in response to changing societal attitudes towards aging.

Conclusion

The comparative analysis of age expression in English and Uzbek reveals significant linguocultural differences that reflect broader societal values. Understanding these differences can enhance cross-cultural communication and provide valuable insights for linguistics scholars. Future research should explore the implications of these findings for language education and intercultural relations.

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