

Representation of National Mentality through Phraseological Units Related to Age Groups and Gender

Abdurazzakov Yusufjon Usmoilovich

FarDU., katta o`qituvchi

Abstract: This article explores how phraseological units related to age and gender reflect the national mentality and cultural values of different societies. Phraseological units, as stable expressions with meanings often divergent from their literal components, serve as cultural markers of traditions, worldviews, and societal norms. By analyzing age-related expressions, such as those signifying childhood inexperience or the wisdom of old age, and gender-related phrases that depict stereotypical roles of men and women, the study reveals underlying social attitudes and stereotypes. Comparative analysis between languages like Uzbek, Russian, German, and English highlights cultural nuances, emphasizing themes such as respect for elders in Eastern cultures versus individualism in Western societies. The findings underscore the importance of phraseological units as tools for understanding cultural identity and intercultural differences, offering valuable insights into how language encapsulates societal values and mentalities.

Keywords: Phraseological units, age-related expressions, gender stereotypes, national mentality, cultural values, comparative analysis, linguistic worldview, social roles, Uzbek language, Russian language, German language, English language.



This is an open-access article under the [CC-BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license

Introduction

Language is the most significant tool for reflecting the culture and worldview of humanity. Phraseological units—stable expressions whose meanings often differ from the literal meanings of their components—reveal the culture, traditions, and mentality of the speakers of a language. Specifically, phraseological units related to age groups and gender serve as vivid examples of national mentality and social stereotypes. This article examines how phraseological units related to age and gender in different languages reflect national mentality.

Phraseological units are key factors shaping national culture and worldview. They provide insights into a society's social values, historical background, stereotypes, and traditions. For example:

- **Age-related phraseological units:** These units express stages of life, levels of experience, or stereotypes associated with age. For instance, the Uzbek phrase "sut qulog'idan ketmagan"

(literally, "milk hasn't dried behind the ears") refers to an inexperienced person who has not yet grown out of youthful naivety.

- **Gender-related phraseological units:** These units reflect gender roles and stereotypes in society. For example, the Russian phrase "железная леди" ("iron lady") describes a strong and resolute woman.
- Phraseological units related to age in various languages reflect societal attitudes towards different life stages:
- **Childhood:** Expressions associated with childhood often convey innocence, inexperience, and simplicity. For instance, the English phrase "greenhorn" ("newcomer") and the German phrase "Grün hinter den Ohren sein" ("to be green behind the ears") both refer to inexperience and youthfulness.
- **Old age:** Expressions related to old age often signify wisdom, experience, and respect. For example, the Uzbek phrase "oq sochli onaxon" ("white-haired grandmother") describes elderly individuals deserving respect.

Age-related phraseological units highlight societal perceptions of respect or disregard for different age groups. For instance, Eastern cultures often feature phrases that reflect a high regard for the elderly, whereas Western cultures emphasize youth independence and activity.

Gender-related phraseological units reveal the roles and stereotypes of genders within national mentality:

- **Male imagery:** Expressions related to men often depict strength, determination, and courage. For example, the Uzbek phrase "tog'ni talqon qilish" ("to grind mountains into powder") describes a man's strength and perseverance. Similarly, the English phrase "as strong as an ox" conveys comparable meaning.
- **Female imagery:** Expressions about women often emphasize beauty, delicacy, or resilience. For instance, the Russian phrase "слабый пол" ("weaker sex") portrays women as delicate and in need of protection, though such expressions are often rooted in gender stereotypes.

Gender-related phraseological units enable an analysis of societal gender roles, stereotypes, and cultures. Eastern cultures frequently highlight women's patience and family responsibilities, while Western cultures emphasize their independence and activity. The meanings and roles of age and gender-related phraseological units vary across languages, reflecting their respective national mentalities:

- **Uzbek and Russian:** Both languages incorporate stereotypes related to age and gender in their phraseology. However, Uzbek phraseology places greater emphasis on respect for age, while Russian expressions often highlight social roles.
- **German and English:** Western languages emphasize values of individualism and independence. For example, the phrase "self-made man" describes a person who achieves success through their own efforts.

Conclusion

Age and gender-related phraseological units reflect not only linguistic features but also the socio-cultural distinctiveness of languages. Through these units, we can gain insights into key aspects of national mentality, stereotypes, and societal roles. Comparative analysis of phraseological units in different languages serves as a valuable tool for understanding cultural differences and similarities across nations.

References

1. Baker, M. (1992). *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*. Routledge.
2. Baranov, A. N., & Dobrovol'skij, D. O. (2008). *Cognitive Modeling of Phraseological Meaning in Modern Linguistics*. John Benjamins.
3. Cowie, A. P. (1998). *Phraseology: Theory, Analysis, and Applications*. Oxford University Press.
4. Kunin, A. V. (1996). *A Course on English Phraseology*. Vysshaya Shkola.
5. Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. (1980). *Metaphors We Live By*. University of Chicago Press.
6. Moon, R. (1998). *Fixed Expressions and Idioms in English: A Corpus-Based Approach*. Oxford University Press.
7. Newmark, P. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation*. Prentice Hall.
8. Wierzbicka, A. (1997). *Understanding Cultures Through Their Key Words: English, Russian, Polish, German, and Japanese*. Oxford University Press.