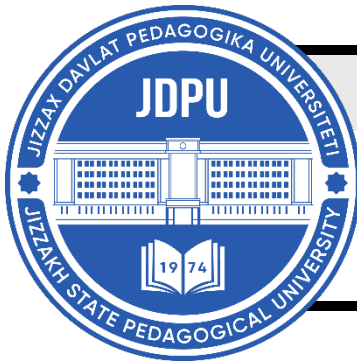


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SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDYING ANTHROPOCENTRIC PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH

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ABOUT ARTICLE

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Abstract: This article explores the significance of studying anthropocentric phraseological units in Uzbek and English, emphasizing their role in reflecting cultural values, beliefs, and social norms. Anthropocentric phraseological units—expressions that center around human experiences and characteristics—are linguistic artifacts deeply embedded in the cultural contexts from which they arise. By analyzing these units in both Uzbek and English, the study highlights the cultural insights they provide, the linguistic comparisons they facilitate, and the challenges they present in translation and interpretation. The article underscores the importance of understanding these expressions not only for accurate communication between languages but also for fostering cross-cultural appreciation and preserving linguistic diversity. Through a comparative analysis, the study reveals how these phraseological units serve as windows into the human experience, shaped by distinct cultural perspectives.

INTRODUCTION

Anthropocentric phraseological units are idiomatic expressions, proverbs, or set phrases that center around human experiences, qualities, behaviors, or characteristics. These units reflect the way humans perceive the world, often using human traits or actions as the basis for metaphorical or symbolic meaning. In language, these expressions are deeply rooted in the

cultural and social context, providing insight into how a society views human nature and the human condition.

For example, in English, phrases like “to lend a hand” (to help someone) or “a man of his word” (a trustworthy person) are anthropocentric because they revolve around human actions and qualities. Similarly, in Uzbek, expressions like "qo'l uzatmoq" (to extend a hand, meaning to help) or "so'zining ustida turmoq" (to stand by one's word) reflect similar anthropocentric perspectives.

Studying anthropocentric phraseological units in both Uzbek and English is significant for several reasons:

1. **Cultural Insights:** These expressions often encapsulate cultural values, norms, and beliefs. By comparing them, we can gain a deeper understanding of the cultural priorities and worldviews in Uzbek and English-speaking societies. For instance, the emphasis on certain human qualities (like honor, honesty, or cooperation) in these expressions can reveal what is culturally esteemed in each language group.

2. **Linguistic Comparisons:** Analyzing these units can highlight similarities and differences in the way the two languages structure meaning around human experiences. This comparison can help linguists understand how different linguistic systems convey similar concepts and how language influences thought processes in different cultures.

3. **Translation and Interpretation:** Understanding the anthropocentric elements of phraseological units is crucial for accurate translation and interpretation. These expressions often carry connotations that are deeply rooted in culture, making direct translation challenging. A study of these units can assist translators in finding equivalent expressions that maintain the original meaning and cultural resonance.

4. **Language Learning and Teaching:** For language learners, mastering phraseological units is key to achieving fluency and cultural competence. By focusing on anthropocentric expressions, educators can help students better understand and use idiomatic language, which is often a marker of advanced proficiency.

5. **Preservation of Language and Culture:** In the context of globalization, languages can lose some of their unique phraseological richness. Studying and documenting these expressions in both Uzbek and English contributes to preserving linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.

By examining these units in Uzbek and English, we not only deepen our understanding of each language but also foster cross-cultural communication and appreciation. Translation and interpretation are not merely about converting words from one language to another; they involve conveying meaning, emotion, and cultural context. When dealing with phraseological

units, particularly those with anthropocentric elements, this task becomes even more complex. Anthropocentric phraseological units are deeply embedded in the cultural and social fabric of a language, often reflecting specific human experiences, values, and behaviors that may not have direct equivalents in other languages. Therefore, understanding these elements is crucial for accurate translation and interpretation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Anthropocentric phraseological units often draw on culturally specific notions of what it means to be human. These notions include societal roles, relationships, emotions, and values, all of which can vary significantly between cultures. For example, the English phrase “to keep someone at arm’s length” suggests maintaining a cautious distance, particularly in relationships. This phrase relies on a metaphor that may not have an equivalent in Uzbek, where the same concept might be expressed differently, perhaps with a focus on social or familial boundaries.

When translating such units, it’s important to understand the cultural connotations behind them. A literal translation may fail to capture the intended meaning and might even confuse the reader. Instead, translators must find a culturally appropriate equivalent that conveys the same underlying human experience. This requires a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures, as well as the ability to interpret the metaphorical and symbolic aspects of language.

One of the primary challenges in translating anthropocentric phraseological units is the potential lack of direct equivalents between languages. While some human experiences are universal, the way they are expressed can differ widely. For instance, the English idiom “a chip on one’s shoulder” describes someone who is resentful or looking for a fight. In Uzbek, this concept might be expressed using a completely different image or metaphor, reflecting a different cultural perspective on anger or defensiveness.

Another challenge is preserving the tone and nuance of the original phrase. Anthropocentric phraseological units often carry emotional weight or convey a particular attitude, such as sarcasm, humor, or affection. In translation, it’s crucial to maintain this nuance to ensure that the target text resonates with the same emotional intensity as the original. This can be especially difficult when the target language lacks a comparable expression, requiring the translator to creatively adapt the phrase while staying true to its original meaning.

To overcome these challenges, translators and interpreters can employ several strategies:

- **Cultural Adaptation:** When a direct translation is not possible, cultural adaptation involves finding an equivalent expression in the target language that conveys the same meaning

and emotional impact. For example, if there's no direct Uzbek equivalent for an English phrase, the translator might choose a different phrase that reflects a similar human experience or cultural value in Uzbek.

- **Explanatory Translation:** In cases where no suitable equivalent exists, an explanatory translation might be necessary. This involves translating the phrase and then providing additional context or explanation to convey the full meaning. While this approach can make the translation longer, it ensures that the reader or listener fully understands the original concept.

- **Retention of Original Phrase with Explanation:** Sometimes, especially in literary or academic contexts, it may be appropriate to retain the original phrase in the source language, accompanied by an explanation in the target language. This approach can help preserve the cultural specificity of the phrase while making it accessible to the target audience.

- **Use of Footnotes or Glossaries:** For texts where maintaining the original phraseological unit is important, such as in literature or scholarly works, footnotes or glossaries can be used to provide the reader with additional information. This allows the translator to preserve the integrity of the original expression while ensuring that the reader understands its meaning and context.

Case Studies: Translating Anthropocentric Phraseological Units between Uzbek and English

Let's consider a few examples to illustrate the complexities of translating anthropocentric phraseological units between Uzbek and English:

- **Example 1: "Walking on eggshells"**

- **English:** This phrase means to act very carefully to avoid offending or upsetting someone.

- **Uzbek Equivalent:** While there may not be a direct equivalent, an Uzbek translator might choose an expression that conveys extreme caution or the need to be tactful, perhaps something related to avoiding conflict or maintaining harmony in relationships.

- **Translation Strategy:** Cultural adaptation could involve finding a phrase that reflects a similar caution in Uzbek culture, even if it doesn't involve eggshells.

- **Example 2: "Qo'l uzatmoq"**

- **Uzbek:** This phrase literally means "to extend a hand," but it is often used metaphorically to mean offering help or support.

- **English Equivalent:** The English equivalent would be "to lend a hand."

○ **Translation Strategy:** This is a relatively straightforward translation, but understanding the anthropocentric nature of both expressions ensures that the meaning is preserved in both languages.

• **Example 3: “A chip on one’s shoulder”**

○ **English:** This idiom refers to someone who harbors resentment or is quick to take offense.

○ **Uzbek Translation Challenge:** The concept of carrying a physical chip might not resonate in Uzbek, requiring the translator to find a different metaphor that conveys the idea of lingering resentment.

○ **Translation Strategy:** A creative adaptation might involve finding a culturally relevant image that evokes the same feelings of defensiveness or unresolved anger.

Anthropocentric phraseological units are linguistic expressions that focus on human traits, behaviors, and experiences. These units are deeply embedded in the cultural contexts from which they originate, reflecting the values, norms, and beliefs of the society that uses them. The cultural specificity of these expressions means that they often carry meanings that are not easily transferable between languages, posing unique challenges for translation and interpretation.

Language is a cultural artifact, and phraseological units are among its most culturally rich components. Anthropocentric expressions, in particular, often draw on culturally specific understandings of human nature, social roles, and interpersonal relationships. For instance, the English phrase “to break the ice” refers to making people feel more comfortable in a social setting, often at the start of a conversation or event. This metaphorical use of “ice” to symbolize social awkwardness or tension may not have a direct equivalent in other languages, as the concept of breaking ice to ease social interactions is rooted in specific cultural experiences.

In Uzbek, the phrase “ko’nglini ochmoq” (literally, “to open one’s heart”) can be used to describe someone who begins to speak freely or shares personal thoughts and feelings. While this phrase shares a similar function with “to break the ice” in terms of facilitating open communication, the cultural imagery is different. The focus on the heart in the Uzbek phrase reflects a cultural emphasis on emotional expression and sincerity, which may not be conveyed by the English metaphor of breaking ice.

Anthropocentric phraseological units often encapsulate the core values and beliefs of a culture. These values may relate to social conduct, morality, relationships, and the ideal qualities of a person. For example, in English, the phrase “the early bird catches the worm”

emphasizes the value placed on punctuality, diligence, and proactive behavior. This phrase encourages the idea that those who act early or are more prepared will succeed.

In contrast, an Uzbek equivalent might emphasize patience or endurance as key virtues. The phrase “sabrlining sarasi chiqadi” (literally, “the patient one’s butter comes out”) suggests that those who are patient will eventually achieve their goals. While both expressions highlight pathways to success, they do so through different cultural lenses—one through initiative and promptness, and the other through patience and persistence.

The interpretation of anthropocentric phraseological units is highly context-dependent, influenced by cultural norms and societal expectations. In English, calling someone “a dark horse” refers to a person whose abilities or intentions are unknown or who surprises others with an unexpected achievement. This phrase may be used in contexts ranging from politics to sports, where unpredictability is seen as a notable trait.

In Uzbek, a similar concept might be expressed through different imagery or not exist at all, depending on how the culture views unpredictability or hidden talent. Understanding the cultural context behind such expressions is crucial for accurate interpretation. For instance, while English may use animal imagery to describe people’s characteristics (e.g., “a lone wolf” for someone who prefers solitude), Uzbek expressions might use different animals or rely on other symbols, reflecting the unique relationship between the culture and its natural environment.

Historical and social contexts play a significant role in shaping anthropocentric phraseological units. Many of these expressions are rooted in historical events, traditional practices, or long-standing social norms that are unique to a particular culture. For example, the English phrase “a knight in shining armor” evokes the image of a heroic, chivalrous person, drawing on the historical concept of medieval knights. This expression reflects the cultural significance of chivalry and heroism in English-speaking societies.

In Uzbek, historical and social contexts might produce different metaphorical expressions. A phrase like “sipohiy ruhida” (in the spirit of a warrior) might be used to describe someone who approaches challenges with bravery and determination, reflecting the cultural and historical importance of warriors in Uzbek history. The cultural specificity of such expressions makes them difficult to translate directly, as their meanings are deeply tied to the historical and social experiences of the people who use them.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The cultural specificity of anthropocentric phraseological units presents challenges in cross-cultural communication. When speakers of different languages interact, these

expressions can lead to misunderstandings if the cultural context is not shared or understood. For example, if an English speaker uses the phrase “to pull oneself up by one’s bootstraps” in conversation with someone from a different cultural background, the metaphor might be confusing or misunderstood if the concept of bootstraps is unfamiliar or if the culture does not value self-reliance in the same way.

In translation, maintaining the cultural specificity of these expressions while ensuring that the meaning is accessible to the target audience is a delicate balance. Translators must be aware of the cultural connotations and find ways to convey them, even if this requires rephrasing or providing additional context. For instance, an English phrase that relies on a specific cultural reference might be translated into an Uzbek phrase that conveys the same underlying human experience but through different cultural imagery.

Anthropocentric phraseological units are expressions that focus on human experiences, traits, and behaviors. These units are not only linguistic constructions but also cultural artifacts that carry meanings specific to the contexts in which they are used. The interpretation of these units is highly dependent on the cultural, social, and situational context, making them both rich in meaning and challenging to translate or interpret across different languages and cultures.

Context plays a crucial role in interpreting anthropocentric phraseological units. The same phrase can have different meanings depending on the situation, the relationship between the speakers, and the cultural background. For example, in English, the phrase “to bite the bullet” means to endure a painful or difficult situation with courage. This expression may be used in various contexts, from advising someone to face a challenging task at work to encouraging someone to undergo a medical procedure.

However, without the proper context, the phrase might be confusing to someone unfamiliar with its usage. The historical origin of the phrase—where soldiers would bite on a bullet during surgery without anesthesia—adds another layer of meaning that is tied to a specific cultural and historical context. Understanding this background helps clarify why the phrase is associated with courage and endurance, but such nuances may be lost in translation if the context is not fully conveyed.

Cultural nuances are central to the interpretation of anthropocentric phraseological units. These expressions often reflect the values, beliefs, and social norms of a particular culture, and their meanings can vary significantly across different cultural contexts. For instance, in English, the phrase “a wolf in sheep’s clothing” describes someone who appears harmless but is actually dangerous or deceitful. This expression is rooted in a biblical parable and carries connotations of betrayal and hidden danger.

In a different cultural context, the same idea might be expressed using entirely different imagery, reflecting the unique cultural symbols and stories of that society. In Uzbek, for example, a phrase like “ilonni oyoq ostidan izlash” (literally, “to look for a snake underfoot”) might be used to describe someone who is searching for trouble or deceit. While the underlying human experience of dealing with deception is universal, the specific metaphor used to convey this idea is culturally specific, requiring careful interpretation to ensure that the intended meaning is understood.

The social context and register of speech also influence the interpretation of anthropocentric phraseological units. The way a phrase is used can vary depending on factors such as the relationship between the speakers, the formality of the situation, and the social norms governing language use. For example, the English phrase “to have a chip on one’s shoulder” suggests that someone is resentful or easily offended. This phrase might be used in casual conversation among friends to describe someone who is overly sensitive.

However, in a more formal or professional setting, the same phrase might be considered inappropriate or too colloquial. The social context dictates not only whether the phrase is used but also how it is understood by the participants in the conversation. In translation, understanding the appropriate register for using a particular phrase is essential for ensuring that the expression is interpreted correctly in the target language and culture.

Situational context is another important factor in the interpretation of anthropocentric phraseological units, especially when dealing with polysemous expressions—phrases that have multiple meanings depending on the context. For example, the English phrase “to break the bank” can mean spending more money than one can afford, but in a different context, it might be used figuratively to describe a situation where someone has gone to extreme lengths to achieve something, often at great personal cost.

In translation, capturing the correct meaning of such polysemous expressions requires an understanding of the specific situation in which they are used. In Uzbek, an equivalent phrase might not exist, or it might vary significantly depending on the context. Translators must be aware of these situational nuances to accurately convey the intended meaning, whether it involves financial expenditure or a broader sense of overextension.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the accurate translation and interpretation of anthropocentric phraseological units require a deep understanding of the cultural and linguistic nuances of both the source and target languages. Translators must navigate the challenges of finding equivalent expressions, preserving tone and nuance, and conveying culturally specific meanings. By

employing strategies such as cultural adaptation, explanatory translation, and the use of footnotes, translators can ensure that these rich, human-centered expressions are effectively communicated across languages, fostering better understanding and appreciation of different cultures. This process not only preserves the integrity of the original text but also enriches the target language with new insights into the human experience.

Anthropocentric phraseological units are a rich source of cultural knowledge, reflecting the values, beliefs, and historical experiences of the societies that use them. The cultural specificity of these expressions means that they often cannot be directly translated without losing some of their meaning or significance. Understanding the cultural context in which these units are used is essential for accurate translation, interpretation, and cross-cultural communication. By exploring the cultural underpinnings of these expressions, we can gain a deeper appreciation of the ways in which language shapes and is shaped by human experience across different cultures.

The contextual interpretation of anthropocentric phraseological units is essential for understanding their full meaning and significance. These expressions are deeply rooted in the cultural, social, and situational contexts in which they are used, and their meanings can vary widely depending on these factors. Translators, interpreters, and language learners must be attuned to these contexts to accurately convey the intended meaning and cultural nuances of these expressions. By considering the role of context in interpretation, we can gain a deeper understanding of how language reflects human experiences across different cultures and situations

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