

O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI  
OLIY TA'LIM, FAN VA INNOVATSIYALAR VAZIRLIGI  
FARG'ONA DAVLAT UNIVERSITETI

**FarDU.  
ILMIY  
XABARLAR-**

1995-yildan nashr etiladi  
Yilda 6 marta chiqadi

6-2024

**НАУЧНЫЙ  
ВЕСТНИК.  
ФерГУ**

Издаётся с 1995 года  
Выходит 6 раз в год

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## CONTEXTUAL-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF FIXED SIMILES IN ENGLISH

## INGLIZ TILIDAGI TURG'UN O'XSHATISHLARNING KONTEKSTUAL-SEMANTIK TAHLILI

## КОНТЕКСТНО-СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ УСТОЙЧИВЫХ СРАВНЕНИЙ В АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

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## Abstract

*This study explores the contextual-semantic features of fixed similes in English, focusing on their diverse structures, stylistic functions, and pragmatic characteristics. Fixed similes can convey a range of semantic nuances, from positive to negative connotations, and encompass qualities like rational or empirical comparison. This article examines specific examples, such as similes containing the verb "swim" and the adjective "red," highlighting their usage across different discourses. Additionally, it provides insights into the components that serve as the basis for comparisons, including objects, animals, and descriptive qualities. This research emphasizes the linguistic richness and cultural significance of English fixed similes.*

## Annotatsiya

*Ushbu tadqiqot ingliz tilidagi turg'un o'xshatishlarning kontekstual-semantik xususiyatlarini o'rganib, ularning xilma-xil tuzilmalari, stilistik funktsiyalari va pragmatik xususiyatlariga e'tibor qaratadi. Ruxsat etilgan o'xshatishlar ijobiydan salbiy ma'noga qadar bir qator semantik nuanslarni etkazishi va oqilona yoki empirik taqqoslash kabi fazilatlarini qamrab olishi mumkin. Ushbu maqolada "suzish" fe'li va "qizil" sifatleri mavjud bo'lgan o'xshatishlar kabi aniq misollar ko'rib chiqilib, ularning turli xil nutqlarda ishlatilishi ta'kidlangan. Bundan tashqari, u taqqoslash uchun asos bo'lib xizmat qiladigan komponentlar, jumladan, obyektlar, hayvonlar va tavsiflovchi sifatlar haqida tushuncha beradi. Ushbu tadqiqot ingliz tilidagi o'xshatishlarning lingvistik boyligi va madaniy ahamiyatini ta'kidlaydi.*

## Аннотация

*В данном исследовании исследуются контекстно-семантические особенности устойчивых сравнений в английском языке, акцентируя внимание на их разнообразной структуре, стилистических функциях и прагматических характеристиках. Фиксированные сравнения могут передавать ряд семантических нюансов, от положительных до отрицательных коннотаций, и охватывать такие качества, как рациональное или эмпирическое сравнение. В этой статье рассматриваются конкретные примеры, такие как сравнения, содержащие глагол «плавать» и прилагательное «красный», подчеркивая их использование в разных дискурсах. Кроме того, он дает представление о компонентах, которые служат основой для сравнений, включая объекты, животных и описательные качества. Это исследование подчеркивает лингвистическое богатство и культурную значимость английских фиксированных сравнений.*

**Key words:** *similes, contextual-semantic analysis, phraseological units, linguistic and cultural analysis, pragmalinguistic study, semantic changes, language units, discourse analysis*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *turg'un o'xshatishlar, kontekstual-semantik tahlil, frazeologik birliklar, lingvomadaniy tahlil, pragmalingvistik o'rganish, semantik o'zgarishlar, til birliklari, diskurs tahlili*

**Ключевые слова:** *статические сравнения, контекстно-семантический анализ, фразеологизмы, лингвокультурологический анализ, прагматическое исследование, семантические изменения, языковые единицы, дискурсивный анализ.*

## INTRODUCTION

Similes are a prevalent linguistic phenomenon in many languages, including English, serving as an expressive means to describe objects, actions, or characteristics by comparison. Fixed similes, in particular, are idiomatic expressions with stable structures and meanings, often reflecting cultural and linguistic particularities. This article aims to analyze the contextual-semantic features of fixed similes in English, focusing on how these expressions encapsulate cultural and linguistic nuances.



By examining the usage and semantics of selected similes, this study provides a deeper understanding of their communicative functions and stylistic diversity.

### METHODOLOGY

The analysis based on a qualitative examination of selected English fixed similes. Sources include literary texts, dictionaries, and idiom collections. The study focuses on similes containing specific components, such as the verb "swim" and the adjective "red," to explore their semantic variations and contextual applications. The examples categorized by their structural, semantic, and pragmatic properties, considering their positive or negative connotations, motivation, and cultural relevance.

### RESULTS

#### 1. Analysis of "Swim"-Related Similes

One group of fixed similes in English revolves around the verb "swim." These expressions convey various attitudes towards the subject's ability to float or move in water:

- **To swim like a cork:** This expression implies that a person can float effortlessly on the water, similar to how a cork floats. The emphasis here is not on the act of swimming but on the object's ability to remain afloat. This simile has two close alternatives: **"to swim like a duck"** and **"to swim like a fish."** Unlike the cork, which simply floats, ducks and fish have the ability to swim rapidly, indicating a higher degree of control over movement in water.

Example:

*Throw that madman into the sea; then we can pick him up. He swims like a cork.* This suggests that the person, despite adverse conditions, can remain above water.

- **To swim like a stone:** This simile conveys the opposite meaning—someone's inability to swim, likening them to a stone that sinks when placed in water. Variants include **"to swim like a button"** and the Russian equivalent **"плавать как топор"** ("to swim like an axe"). These expressions are often used humorously or to express criticism.

The choice of water-related similes in English reflects cultural factors, as the English-speaking world is often closely associated with maritime and aquatic environments. As a result, water-related vocabulary is more active in English than in languages with less emphasis on water.

#### 2. Color-Based Similes Involving "Red"

Fixed similes frequently employ color terms, especially the adjective "red," to depict vivid descriptions of objects or emotions. This study identifies six common similes based on the color red:

1. **Red as a cherry:** Refers to a healthy, rosy complexion, implying a lively and youthful appearance.

Example: *Today you see them bouncing, buxom, red as cherries.* This simile emphasizes a glowing, healthy look.

2. **Red as a lobster:** Suggests a deep red, often associated with sunburn or blushing.

3. **Red as a rose:** Represents a delicate, attractive shade of red, commonly linked to beauty and romance.

Example: *A fine old gentleman, with a face as red as a rose.* This example emphasizes a healthy and pleasant complexion.

4. **Red as a turkey cock:** Implies an intense red, indicating anger or embarrassment.

Example: *He was as red as a turkey cock.* This simile highlights a flushed face, typically due to strong emotion.

5. **Red as blood:** Conveys a deep, vivid red, often associated with intensity and vitality.

6. **Red as fire:** Suggests a bright, glowing red, akin to flames, emphasizing warmth or danger.

These similes demonstrate how a single color can evoke a wide range of emotions and associations, influenced by cultural connotations and context.

#### 3. Objects, Animals, and Adjectives in Fixed Similes

English similes draw upon a diverse set of objects, animals, and adjectives to create vivid comparisons. These elements serve as the basis for understanding the relationship between the target and the standard of comparison:

- **Objects:** Many fixed similes involve inanimate objects as the standard of comparison, such as **"to be in the red"** (indicating financial loss) or **"as flat as a pancake"** (describing a flat surface).



## TILSHUNOSLIK

- **Animals:** A rich source of similes, animals often used to highlight behavior, characteristics, or appearance. Examples include "as busy as a bee" (indicating industriousness) and "as proud as a peacock" (expressing vanity).
- **Adjectives:** Descriptive qualities frequently utilized to form similes, illustrating physical or emotional states. Examples include "as old as the hills" (signifying great age) and "as light as a feather" (indicating lightness).

The choice of comparison in these similes often reflects cultural values and familiar experiences, making them effective tools for communication.

**DISCUSSION**

The analysis reveals that English fixed similes are not merely linguistic expressions but cultural artifacts that reflect the worldview of the speakers. The choice of components, such as "swim" or "red," is often culturally motivated, highlighting shared experiences and common values within the language community. For instance, the prevalence of water-related similes in English reflects the cultural and geographical importance of water in English-speaking societies.

Moreover, the use of animals and objects as comparison standards provides insights into the symbolic meanings attributed to these elements. For example, the simile "as busy as a bee" draws on the cultural perception of bees as hard-working creatures, while "as red as blood" invokes the vitality and significance of blood in various contexts.

**CONCLUSION**

Fixed similes in English are a rich and complex linguistic phenomenon, encompassing a wide range of structural and semantic features. These expressions play a crucial role in conveying nuanced meanings, reflecting cultural values, and enhancing communication. By analyzing the contextual and semantic properties of specific similes, this study highlights the intricate relationship between language, culture, and cognition. Future research could explore the cross-linguistic comparisons of fixed similes further understand the cultural specificity and universality of these expressions.

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