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H.B.Nuriddinova	
Linguistic feature of english riddles	. 129
S.S.Qozaqova	
"Boburnoma" kompozitsiyasining struktural tahlili	133
A.M.Abjalov	400
Jamoat xavfsizligi tizimida axborot texnologiyalarıni joriy etishning ijtimoiy-siyosiy mohiyati	. 139
N.B.Xudayberganova, D.M.Yuldasheva	110
Bolalar bogʻchasida nutqiy oʻyinlar yordamida muloqot koʻnikmalarini rivojlantirish	. 143
G.Sh.Ergasheva Doʻstlik va dushmanlik konseptlarining leksik-semantik tahlili: oʻzbek va ingliz tillari misolida	147
M.A.Abduqodirova	. 147
A comparative semantic study of the mechanisms of expressing "Irony" in English and Uzbek .	153
M.A.Sayidova	
Xorijiy tillarni oʻrganishda sun'iy intellektning ahamiyati	159
А.Х.Шукурова	
Таҳлили қиёсии вожаҳои ифодагари расму оинҳои миллӣ дар гӯйишҳои тоҷикони	
Сариосиё ва Самарқанд	. 163
M.N.Xamdamova	
Yangi Oʻzbekiston qonunchiligida til masalasi va yurislingvistika	. 172
K.T.Sindorov	
She'riy matnning lingvopoetik tadqiqi masalalari	176
Х.С.Шукурова	
Таҳлили баъзе вожаҳои лексикаи заргарӣ ва ороишӣ дар "Шоҳнома"-и Фирдавсӣ	. 180
Г.Р.Ташматова	
Стратегии интеграци обучения языку и предметному содержанию в развитии	405
профессиональной коммуникативной компетенции	. 187
N.K.Abbasova, M.I.Abduvaliyeva	103
Weather and natural phenomena in english and russian proverbs: a structural analysis	. 190
Integrating Al into esp course to improve language learning through smart and	
effective strategies	197
I.I.Poʻlatova	
Oʻzbek tilidagi evfemizmlarning badiiy asarlarda qoʻllanilishi	205
O.Q.Xasanova	
Soʻz boyligi bilan ishlashda didaktik tamoyillarni joriy etish	. 209
K.A.Abdurashidova	
Образы в народных легендах: особенности, роль и поэтика в узбекской и	
английской традициях	. 213
N.A.Abdullayeva	
Implementing flipped classroom method in teaching phrasal verbs	219
D.Y.Kambarova	
Cutting-edge approaches to effective language teaching in the digital era	222
G.T.Khaitova	
Oʻzbek va ingliz tillaridagi "yaqin-uzoq" oppozitsiya komponentli frazeologik birliklar tahlili	. 229
M.O.Batirkhanova	000
Linguocultural analysis of somatic phraseologisms in proverbs	. 233
J.A.Egamnazarov "Behurneme"ning ush vil teriimeeide herbiy hereketlerni ifedeleyebi fe'llerning giyeeiy teblili	220
"Boburnoma"ning uch xil tarjimasida harbiy harakatlarni ifodalovchi fe'llarning qiyosiy tahlili K.T.Israilova	. 230
ijtimoiy tarmoqlar tilida muloqotning dinamik evolyutsiyasi	2/12
M.M.Botirova, Z.G.Qodirova	. 442
Ta'limiy korpus lingvistikasi boʻyicha olib borilgan tadqiqotlar tahlili	246
F.K.Aminov	. 470
Multimodal characteristics of women's language on instagram: a discourse analysis of digital	
identity and engagement strategies	. 250
Z.M.Sobirova	_50
Nutgiv tafakkurning nevropsixolingvistik tavsifi	254

4 2025/ №2

TILSHUNOSLIK



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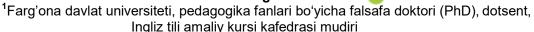
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WEATHER AND NATURAL PHENOMENA IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN PROVERBS: A STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

ПОГОДНЫЕ И ПРИРОДНЫЕ ЯВЛЕНИЯ В АНГЛИЙСКИХ И РУССКИХ ПОСЛОВИЦАХ: СТРУКТУРНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ

INGLIZ VA RUS MAQOLLARIDA OB-HAVO VA TABIAT HODISALARI: STRUKTURAL **TAHLIL**

Abbasova Nargiza Kabilovna¹



Abduvaliyeva Mushtariybegim Ilxomjon qizi²



²Farg'ona davlat universiteti, Lingvistika: ingliz tili yoʻnalishi magistranti

Abstract

This study provides a structural analysis of English and Russian proverbs related to weather and natural phenomena. It explores syntactic, lexical, and semantic patterns in both languages and examines their cultural and cognitive significance. The study identifies key metaphorical frameworks, compares the structural composition of proverbs, and highlights linguistic similarities and differences. The findings contribute to the broader understanding of proverbial discourse in comparative linguistics.

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматриваются структурные особенности английских и русских пословиц, связанных с погодой и природными явлениями. Исследование раскрывает лексические синтаксические и семантические повторяющиеся модели, сравнивает структурные связи и рассматривает культурнокогнитивные особенности.

Annotatsiya

Ushbu tadqiqot ingliz va rus maqollarining ob-havo va tabiat hodisalari bilan bogʻliq tarkibiy tahliliga bagʻishlangan. Maqolada sintaktik, leksik va semantik jihatlar koʻrib chiqilib, ularning metaforik xususiyatlari tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot natijalari maqollar tarkibining lingvistik xususiyatlarini aniqlash va ularning madaniy kognitiv ahamiyatini ochib berishga xizmat qiladi.

Key words: proverb, weather, natural phenomena, structural analysis, English, Russian, semantics, syntax, cognitive linguistics, discourse, folk wisdom, metaphor, phraseology, comparison, cultural perception.

Ключевые слова: пословица, погода, природные явления, структурный анализ, английский язык, русский язык, семантика, синтаксис, когнитивная лингвистика, дискурс, народная мудрость, метафора, фразеология, сравнение, культурное восприятие.

Kalit soʻzlar: maqol, ob-havo, tabiat hodisalari, struktural tahlil, ingliz tili, rus tili, semantika, sintaksis, kognitiv lingvistika, nutq, xalq donoligi, metafora, frazeologiya, taqqoslash, madaniy tasavvur.

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs serve as a linguistic representation of a nation's worldview, encapsulating folk wisdom, experiences, and cultural values. Weather and natural phenomena are among the most frequent themes in proverbs due to their direct influence on human life. The study of proverbial structures from a comparative perspective allows us to identify common cognitive models and structural patterns that shape proverbial discourse in different linguistic communities.

The modern era combines the trends of globalization and the interaction of cultures, so the ever-increasing scientific interest in linguistic phenomena, reflecting the cultural specifics of peoples, and provides the relevance of choosing proverbial material as an object of research. "Many proverbs characterize the basic values of the national culture, combining them within the laconic text, and explain the essence of one phenomenon by comparing it with another" [1. P. 312].

2025/Nº2 193

TILSHUNOSLIK

The cultural significance of proverbs, thus, stimulates interest in intercultural comparison [2. P. 7], which provides the richest material for the researchers; this material, on the one hand, reflects the culturally specific heritage of the peoples under study, on the other hand, it allows to track linguistic patterns that more fully reveal social phenomena affected by them.

This article aims to analyze the structural composition of English and Russian proverbs related to weather and natural phenomena, focusing on syntactic patterns, metaphorical frameworks, and semantic features. By applying structural and cognitive-discursive approaches, this research seeks to uncover the deeper mechanisms governing the organization of these proverbs.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of proverbs as a linguistic and cultural phenomenon has been extensively explored in paremiology. Researchers such as Mieder (2004) and Norrick (1985) have highlighted the significance of proverbs in understanding societal values and collective wisdom.

In structural paremiology, Permyakov (1979) and Mokienko (2009) emphasize that proverbs follow specific syntactic, lexical, and semantic models that determine their memorability and usage. Taylor (1962) discusses the cross-linguistic nature of proverbial structures, while Dundes (1981) focuses on the symbolic and metaphorical representations in proverbs.

Recent studies by Hrisztova-Gotthardt and Varga (2015) argue that weather-related proverbs serve as cognitive and cultural reflections of human adaptation to nature. Similarly, Burke (2019) explores the intersection of proverbs and cultural imagination, showing how weather metaphors shape human perception of fate and behavior.

Additionally, comparative paremiological studies (Bühler, 2017; Grzybek, 2021) suggest that natural phenomena play a pivotal role in shaping proverbial structures across languages. These studies provide an essential framework for analyzing how English and Russian proverbs reflect different environmental, historical, and social realities.

This study builds on previous research by applying structural and comparative analysis to English and Russian proverbs, identifying recurring patterns and highlighting cultural differences. It aims to contribute to both paremiology and comparative linguistics by deepening our understanding of how weather metaphors shape language and cognition.

METHOD AND MATERIALS

This study employs a qualitative comparative analysis of 200 proverbs (100 English and 100 Russian) related to weather and natural phenomena. The proverbs were collected from lexicographic sources, folklore archives, linguistic databases, and spoken discourse. The methodology includes:

Structural Analysis: Examining syntactic, morphological, and lexical patterns in the selected proverbs.

Semantic Categorization: Identifying recurring themes such as weather as a metaphor for human fate, resilience, unpredictability, and divine will.

Cross-Linguistic Comparison: Highlighting similarities and differences in proverb construction and meaning between English and Russian.

Cognitive Analysis: Investigating how weather-related proverbs reflect cultural beliefs, fears, and expectations.

Quantitative Frequency Analysis: Determining the prevalence of specific structural and thematic patterns in both languages.

Contextual Analysis: Examining the use of weather-related proverbs in modern discourse, including literature, media, and everyday speech.

Diachronic Analysis: Tracing the historical development of selected proverbs to understand how their meanings and structures have evolved over time.

Research Questions

- 1. What structural features define weather-related proverbs in English and Russian?
- 2. How do these proverbs reflect cultural attitudes toward nature?
- 3. What similarities and differences exist in their syntactic and semantic organization?

194 | 2025/№2

RESULTS

The analysis reveals several common structural features across English and Russian proverbs:

Parallelism and Antithesis: "Red sky at night, shepherd's delight; red sky in the morning, shepherd's warning." (Красный закат - добрая погода, красный рассвет - к худу.)

Conditional Sentences: "If March comes in like a lion, it goes out like a lamb." (Если март входит как лев, он выйдет как ягнёнок.)

Elliptical Constructions: "No rain, no grain." (Без дождя нет урожая.)

Rhyming Structures: "April showers bring May flowers." (Апрельские дожди приносят майские цветы.)

Metaphoric Representations: "A fair day in winter is the mother of a storm." (Тёплая зима ведёт к холодному лету.)

Lexical analysis shows that both languages use natural elements such as wind, rain, and sun as metaphors for fortune and struggle. However, Russian proverbs more frequently reference frost and severe winters, reflecting the country's climatic conditions. Diachronic analysis suggests that many weather-related proverbs have undergone semantic shifts, adapting to new cultural and environmental contexts.

DISCUSSIONS

Weather, being a constant and often unpredictable force, has naturally played a significant role in shaping human thought and language. Proverbs frequently use weather patterns – from scorching heat to torrential rain – as metaphors for human traits, societal conditions, and even the course of life. This section examines how both English and Russian proverbs employ weather as a symbolic device. Consider the English proverb "A change in the weather, a change in the mind." This highlights the volatility of human emotions, mirroring the unpredictable nature of weather. Similarly, the Russian proverb "Дождь идёт – и урожай растёт" ("It rains – and the harvest grows") emphasizes the essential role of weather in agriculture and, by extension, the importance of natural processes.

Analyzing the structure of proverbs reveals deeper cultural insights. English proverbs often employ parallelism, as seen in "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise." This balanced structure emphasizes the interconnectedness of actions and results. Russian proverbs, while sometimes employing similar structures, frequently incorporate more complex grammatical constructions and multi-layered meanings, reflecting a more nuanced understanding of cause and effect. For instance, the proverb "Солнце встаёт – и день приходит" ("The sun rises – and the day comes") is straightforward et carries an inherent understanding of cyclical natural patterns.

While both cultures use weather as a source of metaphorical expression, the specific imagery and underlying values differ. English proverbs often focus on the practical effects of weather, such as its impact on work or travel. "Rain before seven, clear before eleven" reflects a practical concern for the weather's influence on daily life. Russian proverbs, however, frequently incorporate a more philosophical or spiritual dimension. "Не надейся на завтрашний день" ("Don't rely on tomorrow") is less about the weather and more about the unpredictability of life and the need for present-day action. This difference in emphasis reveals contrasting cultural priorities.

Proverbs aren't limited to weather; they also encompass other natural phenomena. English proverbs often use the sea, for example, to represent vastness or danger. "A storm in a teacup" highlights the disproportionate reaction to a minor issue. Russian proverbs utilize natural phenomena like the forest or the moon to convey deeper meanings. The proverb "Лес рубят – щепки летят" ("They're cutting down the forest – the chips fly") highlights the unavoidable consequences of significant actions. The use of these diverse natural elements in proverbs reveals the importance of nature in both cultures.

Proverbs often use metaphors and symbolism to convey complex ideas. The English proverb "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" uses the imagery of birds to represent opportunities and caution against risk-taking. The Russian proverb "Кто рано встаёт, тому Бог подаёт" ("He who rises early, God gives to") uses the sun's rising to symbolize diligent effort

2025/№2

TILSHUNOSLIK

rewarded by divine providence. These metaphors demonstrate the creative use of natural imagery to convey abstract concepts.

Proverbs related to weather and natural phenomena often serve as metaphors for human life, fate, and social behavior. Common metaphorical models include:

Weather as a Symbol of Life's Challenges and Fortunes

"Every cloud has a silver lining." (Нет худа без добра.)

"After a storm comes a calm." (После бури наступает затишье.)

Seasons as a Reflection of Life Stages

"As the day lengthens, so the cold strengthens." (Чем длиннее день, тем сильнее холод.)

"The darkest hour is just before the dawn." (Перед рассветом самая тёмная ночь.)

Natural Phenomena as Indicators of Fate

"When the wind is in the east, 'tis neither good for man nor beast." (Восточный ветер – ни человеку, ни зверю не на пользу.)

"A rainbow in the morning gives you fair warning." (Утренняя радуга – к ненастью.)

The research highlights the importance of environmental, historical, and socio-cultural influences in shaping proverbial structures and meanings.

CONCLUSION

English and Russian proverbs, rich in their portrayal of weather and natural phenomena, offer a fascinating window into the cultural values and experiences of their respective societies. Their structural analysis reveals distinct et interconnected ways of understanding the relationship between humanity and nature. From the practical to the philosophical, the metaphorical to the symbolic, these concise expressions provide a timeless lens through which to view the human experience. By understanding these proverbs, we gain a deeper appreciation for the diverse perspectives and wisdom accumulated over centuries.

This study highlights the structural parallels and cultural distinctions in English and Russian proverbs about weather and natural phenomena. While both languages employ similar syntactic and metaphorical frameworks, their cultural interpretations differ. These findings contribute to the broader understanding of proverbs as cognitive-linguistic units and their role in reflecting national worldviews.

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196 2025/ №2