

## REPRESENTATION OF NATIONALLY SPECIFIC PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN LITERARY TEXTS (BASED ON ENGLISH AND UZBEK LITERATURE)

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**Abstract:** *This article explores the representation and translation of nationally specific phraseological units (NSPUs) in literary texts, based on English and Uzbek literature. NSPUs reflect cultural values, historical background, social norms, and linguistic worldview of a nation. By comparing phraseological units in selected English and Uzbek literary works, this study analyzes how authors utilize idioms and fixed expressions to enhance narrative meaning, express cultural identity, and convey emotional undertones. Strategies for interpreting and translating NSPUs are also discussed.*

**Annotatsiya:** *Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o‘zbek adabiyotidagi milliy o‘ziga xos frazeologik birliklarning ifodalanishi va tarjimaviy xususiyatlari tahlil qilinadi. Frazeologik birliklar tillarning madaniy merosi bo‘lib, adabiyot orqali qahramonlarning tiliga, ruhiga va jamiyatning qadriyatlariga boy ma‘no beradi.*

**Keywords:** *phraseological units, nationally specific units, literary translation, cultural linguistics, English literature, Uzbek literature.*

**Kalit so‘zlar:** *frazeologik birliklar, milliy o‘ziga xos birliklar, adabiy tarjima, madaniy lingvistika, ingliz adabiyoti, o‘zbek adabiyoti.*

### Introduction

Language is a mirror of culture, and phraseological units are among its most vivid reflections. Nationally specific phraseological units represent cultural heritage, values, worldview, beliefs, and historical experiences of a linguistic community. In literary texts, NSPUs perform not only pragmatic and stylistic functions but also enrich characterization and deepen thematic layers.

Phraseological units include idioms, proverbs, sayings, set expressions, and collocations that have fixed lexical and semantic structure. They are semi-idiomatic in meaning and cannot be fully explained by the sum of their parts. Phraseological units constitute an essential part of any language, reflecting the cultural heritage, historical experience, and national worldview of its speakers. As V.V. Vinogradov noted, phraseology embodies the cultural memory of a nation and preserves meanings that go beyond the literal interpretation of words. Similarly, A.V. Kunin emphasized that phraseological units are closely connected with national traditions and mentality, making them a valuable object of linguistic and cultural analysis. Literary texts provide a particularly rich environment for the use of nationally specific phraseological units. According to M. Bakhtin, fiction allows language to function in its most expressive and culturally saturated form. In this context, phraseological units serve not only

as stylistic devices but also as carriers of national identity, enabling authors to convey culturally embedded meanings, emotions, and values.

The comparative study of English and Uzbek phraseological units is especially relevant due to the cultural and typological differences between the two languages. As Edward Sapir observed, language reflects the way a community perceives reality, which implies that phraseological units in different languages encode distinct cultural models. English phraseology often reflects social pragmatism and historical experience, whereas Uzbek phraseological units are deeply influenced by folklore, moral values, and collective cultural traditions. Despite extensive research in phraseology, the representation of nationally specific phraseological units in literary texts remains an underexplored area, particularly in English–Uzbek comparative studies. This article addresses the problem of how such units function in literary discourse and how they contribute to the preservation and expression of national specificity.

The aim of the present study is to analyze nationally specific phraseological units in selected English and Uzbek literary texts, focusing on their cultural and stylistic functions. The article is intended for linguists, literary scholars, translators, and students of philology interested in phraseology, comparative linguistics, and intercultural communication.

### **Main body**

NSPU are phraseological units with elements rooted in specific historical, cultural, or environmental characteristics of a nation (e.g., culturally bound references, folklore, national customs, institutions).

The study uses comparative analysis and textual interpretation. Literary texts from both English and Uzbek literature were selected, including classical and contemporary novels, short stories and plays. Phraseological units were extracted, categorized, and interpreted in cultural context. Translation strategies were examined through existing translations and bilingual analysis.

In English literature, phraseological units reflect cultural concepts such as class, tradition, religion, and humor. For example:

“to turn the other cheek” (Biblical, meaning to show forgiveness)

“once in a blue moon” (rarely)

“a stitch in time saves nine” (importance of prompt action)

These units add depth to narration and often carry symbolic meaning understood within Anglo-Saxon cultural background.

In Uzbek literature, NSPUs often convey traditional wisdom, community values, and socio-cultural practices. For example:

“Baliq boshidan (wrong from the beginning)

“Ko‘p soz, kam ish” (much talk, little action)

“Og‘ir yukni oshkora ko‘tarmoq” (to bear a heavy burden openly)

These expressions reveal Uzbek historical lifestyle, communal norms, and worldview.

Both literatures employ NSPUs but reflect different cultural backgrounds. English NSPUs often derive from Judeo-Christian tradition, agricultural imagery, and proverb

tradition, while Uzbek units spring from Central Asian nomadic life, Islamic culture, and folk wisdom.

The translation of nationally specific phraseological units (NSPUs) presents a significant challenge due to their deep cultural embeddedness and semantic complexity. Such units often carry meanings that extend beyond their lexical components, reflecting traditions, historical experience, and cultural symbolism unique to a particular linguistic community. Therefore, the choice of an appropriate translation strategy plays a crucial role in preserving both semantic accuracy and cultural authenticity in the target text.

One of the most straightforward approaches is literal translation, which is applied when a phraseological unit in the source language has a direct structural and semantic equivalent in the target language. In such cases, the literal rendering does not distort meaning and allows the translator to maintain the original imagery and stylistic effect. However, this strategy is only effective when the cultural connotations of the unit are similarly understood in both languages. In English–Uzbek translation, literal translation is relatively limited, as many phraseological units are culture-bound and lack direct counterparts.

When literal translation is not feasible, translators often resort to functional equivalence. This strategy prioritizes the communicative meaning of the phraseological unit rather than its formal structure. The aim is to convey the same idea, emotional impact, or pragmatic function in the target language, even if the imagery changes. For instance, the English idiom “once in a blue moon” is rendered in Uzbek as “juda kam uchraydi,” which successfully transmits the meaning of rarity without preserving the original metaphor. Functional equivalence is particularly effective in maintaining the naturalness and readability of the translated literary text. Another important strategy is explicitation, which involves adding explanatory elements to the translation in order to clarify culturally specific references that may be unfamiliar to the target audience. This approach is often used when a phraseological unit is closely tied to national customs, historical events, or symbolic concepts that have no parallel in the target culture. By providing additional explanation, either within the text or implicitly through reformulation, the translator ensures that the reader fully understands the intended meaning, although some stylistic compactness may be lost.

Replacement is also a widely used strategy in the translation of NSPUs, especially in literary texts where stylistic effect is essential. This method involves substituting the source language phraseological unit with an idiom or fixed expression from the target language that performs a similar function and evokes a comparable emotional or stylistic response. While the original image may change, the communicative purpose and expressive value of the unit are preserved. Replacement allows the translated text to sound natural and culturally appropriate, making it particularly valuable in artistic and narrative contexts. The translation of nationally specific phraseological units requires a flexible and context-sensitive approach. The effective use of literal translation, functional equivalence, explicitation, and replacement enables translators to balance linguistic accuracy with cultural representation. The selection of a strategy depends on the nature of the phraseological unit, the cultural distance between the languages involved, and the communicative goals of the literary text.

### Conclusion

The study of nationally specific phraseological units in English and Uzbek literary texts demonstrates that such units play a crucial role in preserving and conveying cultural identity through language. Their translation requires more than lexical accuracy, as phraseological units often reflect culturally bound meanings and national worldviews. Nationally specific phraseological units are indispensable elements of literary texts. They enrich narrative, communicate cultural worldview, and deepen emotional impact. Comparative analysis of English and Uzbek literature highlights both shared communicative functions and unique cultural features. Translation must balance fidelity to literal form with conveying cultural meaning. The analysis shows that no single translation strategy can be universally applied; instead, translators must flexibly employ literal translation, functional equivalence, explicitation, or replacement depending on the context and communicative purpose. An appropriate choice of strategy allows for the preservation of semantic meaning, stylistic effect, and cultural nuance in the target text. Therefore, a culturally informed and context-sensitive approach is essential for the effective translation and interpretation of nationally specific phraseological units in literary discourse.

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