

# PAREMIOLOGICAL TEXTS AND THE LINGUO-COGNITIVE ANALYSIS OF ZOONYMIC COMPONENTS

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## Abstract

This study examines the linguo-cognitive aspects of zoonymic components in paremiological texts, focusing on English and Uzbek proverbs. Proverbs, as an essential part of linguistic and cultural heritage, often contain animal references that reflect societal values, traditions, and cognitive perceptions. By analyzing selected proverbs, this paper explores the similarities and differences in how these two languages use zoonymic elements to convey wisdom and moral lessons. The study reveals that while some proverbs exhibit cross-cultural parallels, others reflect distinct cultural beliefs and environmental influences. This research highlights the role of language in shaping cognition and underscores the importance of understanding cultural perspectives through proverbial expressions.

**Keywords:** Paremiology, linguo-cognitive analysis, zoonymic components, proverbs, English, Uzbek, cultural cognition, metaphorical meaning.

## Introduction

Language is a reflection of cultural identity, encapsulating traditions, beliefs, and cognitive patterns of different societies. A crucial element of language is its paremiological layer, which consists of proverbs and sayings that carry collective wisdom. Within these proverbial expressions, zoonymic components—words referring to animals—play a vital role in conveying metaphorical and symbolic meanings. This article aims to provide a clear and precise linguo-cognitive analysis of zoonymic components in English and Uzbek proverbs, emphasizing their cultural and cognitive implications.

## Theoretical Background

Paremiology, the study of proverbs, explores their linguistic, cultural, and cognitive aspects. Proverbs are fixed expressions that encapsulate moral lessons, warnings, or wisdom passed down through generations. The use of zoonymic components in proverbs reflects how different societies perceive and associate meanings with animals.

Linguo-cognitive analysis examines how language encodes thought processes and cultural conceptualizations. By comparing English and Uzbek proverbs containing animal references, we can uncover similarities and differences in cognitive patterns and societal values.

## Comparison of English and Uzbek Proverbs with Zoonymic Components

Both English and Uzbek languages contain numerous proverbs with references to animals, often serving as metaphors for human characteristics or behaviors. Below are examples demonstrating similarities and differences:

### 1. Dog-related proverbs:

- English: "A barking dog seldom bites."
- Uzbek: "Hurayotgan it tishlamaydi." (A barking dog does not bite.)
- Analysis: Both proverbs convey the idea that those who make the most noise or threats are often not dangerous, reflecting a shared cognitive perspective.

### 2. Horse-related proverbs:

- English: "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth."
- Uzbek: "Sovg'a o'tning tishini tekshirishmaydi." (They don't check a gift horse's teeth.)
- Analysis: These proverbs emphasize the importance of accepting gifts without criticism, illustrating a common cultural understanding of gratitude.

### 3. Fox-related proverbs:

- English: "A fox may grow grey, but never good."
- Uzbek: "Tulkiga ming marta ho'kiz desang ham, u baribir tulkidir." (Even if you call a fox an ox a thousand times, it remains a fox.)
- Analysis: In both languages, the fox symbolizes cunning and untrustworthiness, indicating similar cultural perceptions of this animal.

## Cognitive and Cultural Aspects

While English and Uzbek share metaphorical associations for some animals, cultural and environmental factors influence the choice and meaning of zoonymic components. For example:

- Uzbek proverbs frequently reference livestock such as horses, sheep, and camels, reflecting the region's nomadic and agrarian heritage.
- English proverbs often feature animals like foxes, cats, and owls, influenced by European folklore and hunting traditions.
- Symbolism varies: in English, an owl represents wisdom, whereas in Uzbek culture, it is often considered a bad omen.

These variations highlight how language and culture shape cognitive frameworks, reinforcing unique societal values and perspectives.

## Conclusion

The comparative study of zoonymic components in English and Uzbek proverbs reveals both universal and culturally specific cognitive patterns. While some proverbs exhibit cross-cultural similarities, others reflect distinct societal norms and beliefs. Understanding these linguistic

and cognitive dimensions enhances cross-cultural appreciation and provides deeper insight into the intricate relationship between language and thought.

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