

# SYNONYMIC PECULIARITIES OF BLESSING AND CURSE PHRASES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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## Abstract

Blessing and curse phrases constitute an important layer of expressive and evaluative language, reflecting speakers' emotional attitudes and cultural values. This article examines the synonymic peculiarities of blessing and curse phrases in English and Uzbek, focusing on semantic proximity, functional equivalence, and structural variation. The study identifies core synonymic groups, analyzes their semantic intensity and stylistic coloring, and highlights both universal and language-specific features. The findings demonstrate that synonymy in blessing and curse phrases is shaped not only by lexical meaning but also by cultural norms, pragmatics, and ritual usage.

**Keywords:** Blessing phrases, curse phrases, synonymy, semantic field, expressive language, English, Uzbek, linguoculture.

## Introduction

Blessings and curses are among the most emotionally charged linguistic units, functioning as expressive speech acts that convey goodwill or malediction. In both English and Uzbek, these phrases form synonymic sets, where different expressions share a common core meaning but vary in intensity, imagery, stylistic register, and pragmatic force. The study of synonymy in blessing and curse phrases is significant because it reveals how languages encode emotional evaluation, social relations, and cultural beliefs through alternative lexical and structural means. This article aims to conduct a contrastive analysis of synonymic relations within blessing and curse phrases in English and Uzbek.

It should be noted that although the phenomenon of synonyms and antonyms has been thoroughly studied in linguistics, not enough research has been conducted on the meaning of proverbial phraseology. Similarly, in English and Uzbek linguistics, the works in this regard can be counted on the fingers. In our opinion, one of the main reasons for this is that, not only in Turkish linguistics, but also in Russian and English linguistics in general, there is no definite opinion about the place of phraseological units in the language. For this reason, there is a need to conduct research on the synonymy of idioms today. Because the wide range of content in phraseological units makes it possible for various changes in the nature of each phrase, especially in its meaning, to occur over time. This, in turn, opens the way to the use of some params within several topics, and this feature gives life to each parm. According to the results of the analyzed examples, in the Uzbek language, up to fifteen proverbial phraseological units were identified in the field-related phraseological units, while in English, up to 5 proverbial

phraseological units were identified. The result of this can be observed in the following examples:

In linguistics, **synonymy** is understood as a semantic relationship between units with similar or closely related meanings. In expressive formulae such as blessings and curses, synonymy is: English blessings frequently form synonymic clusters expressing **good wishes, protection, or prosperity**:

- *May God bless you*
- *Bless you*
- *All the best*
- *Wishing you well*
- *May you have a long life*

These phrases share a **common semantic nucleus**: positive intention toward the addressee. However, they differ in:

- **Formality** (*May God bless you* – formal/religious; *All the best* – neutral)
- **Ellipsis** (*Bless you* – shortened, pragmatic)
- **Semantic scope** (general goodwill vs. specific wish)

Thus, English blessing synonymy is characterized by **periphrastic variation** and stylistic flexibility.

Uzbek blessings demonstrate rich synonymic diversity rooted in **oral tradition and religious worldview**:

- *Xudo seni asrasin*
- *Omon bo'l*
- *Baxtli bo'l*
- *Umring uzoq bo'lsin*
- *Baraka top*

All these phrases express benevolence, yet they differ semantically:

- *Omon bo'l* → safety and survival
- *Baxtli bo'l* → happiness
- *Baraka top* → prosperity and abundance

Uzbek synonymic blessings are often **semantically specialized**, focusing on particular life values (health, longevity, honor), whereas English blessings tend to remain more **generalized**.

English curse phrases form synonymic groups expressing anger, rejection, or ill will:

- *Go to hell*
- *Damn you*
- *May you rot in hell*
- *To hell with you*

Uzbek curses display **high imagery and metaphorical richness**, forming expressive synonymic chains:

- *Ko'zing ko'r bo'lsin*
- *Tiling qurisin*
- *Xudoning qahriga uchra*



- *Joning chiqsin*

Uzbek curse synonymy is deeply connected with **metaphorical embodiment** and **religious belief**, which makes synonymic variation more vivid and culturally marked.

The synonymic peculiarities of blessing and curse phrases in English and Uzbek reveal important differences in **semantic organization**, **expressive intensity**, and **cultural orientation**. English synonymy tends to rely on stylistic and modal variation, while Uzbek synonymy is characterized by metaphorical richness, semantic specialization, and strong cultural embedding. These findings confirm that synonymy in expressive phraseology is shaped by both linguistic structure and national worldview.

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