

CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF PHRASES WITH THE CONCEPT “BOOK” IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract

This article analyzes the linguistic and cultural features of phrases containing the concept “book” in English and Uzbek languages. The study explores how both languages conceptualize and express the notion of a book through idioms, proverbs, and stable word combinations. While English expressions often emphasize knowledge, individuality, and intellect, Uzbek phrases highlight spirituality, morality, and lifelong respect for learning. The findings reveal that the concept of book serves as a cultural symbol of wisdom, morality, and civilization in both languages, though framed through distinct worldviews.

Keywords: Book, contrastive analysis, linguocultural concept, semantics, proverb, idiom, English, Uzbek.

Introduction

The concept “*book*” is one of the most universal and culturally significant symbols across human civilizations. Books represent not only written knowledge but also wisdom, experience, and spirituality. In both English and Uzbek cultures, the *book* occupies a special place in moral, intellectual, and social life. However, the meanings and associations of this concept vary depending on cultural and historical contexts. This study aims to conduct a contrastive analysis of English and Uzbek phrases containing the concept *book*, revealing their linguistic structures and cultural implications.

Contrastive linguistics allows researchers to compare two languages to uncover semantic and cultural correspondences. According to Wierzbicka (1997), cultural concepts like *book* embody “shared human values expressed through language.” Similarly, Uzbek scholar Xudoyberganova (2019) emphasizes that linguistic units reflect the nation’s worldview and traditions. In both English and Uzbek, the *book* serves as a metaphorical tool to represent knowledge, morality, and the transmission of cultural heritage.

In English, the word *book* often symbolizes knowledge, rules, and moral order. It appears in idioms that express intellectual, emotional, and social ideas:

- *Don’t judge a book by its cover* – Do not judge people or things by appearance.
- *An open book* – Someone easy to understand.
- *By the book* – Following the rules strictly.
- *Cook the books* – To falsify financial records.
- *To read someone like a book* – To understand someone easily.
- *The oldest trick in the book* – A well-known or predictable deception.

These expressions demonstrate the English cultural association between *books* and **honesty, transparency, knowledge, and morality**. The idiom *by the book* reflects the value placed on



following written laws or systems, indicating the importance of order and discipline in Western culture.

In Uzbek culture, *kitob* (book) represents **divine wisdom, education, and moral guidance**. The book is not merely an object of knowledge but a sacred source of enlightenment. Common phrases and proverbs include:

- *Kitob – aql manbai* (A book is the source of wisdom).
- *Kitob – bilim kaliti* (A book is the key to knowledge).
- *Kitobsiz inson – qanotsiz qush* (A person without a book is like a bird without wings).
- *Yaxshi kitob – sadoqatli do'st* (A good book is a faithful friend).
- *Kitob o'qigan xalq orqada qolmaydi* (A nation that reads does not fall behind).
- *Kitob – ma'naviyat chirog'i* (A book is the light of spirituality).

These proverbs reflect a **deep moral and spiritual respect for books**. The *book* in Uzbek culture is not only a source of learning but also a sacred object that connects human beings with truth, morality, and enlightenment. This stems from historical and religious influences, particularly Islamic traditions that revere the *Qur'an* as the “Book of Life.”

In English-speaking societies, books represent rationality, literacy, and professionalism. Phrases like *by the book* and *an open book* reflect Western values of transparency and legality. In Uzbek linguistic culture, however, *kitob* is deeply intertwined with *faith, morality, and enlightenment*. The proverb *Kitobsiz inson – qanotsiz qush* symbolizes the idea that without knowledge, a person cannot progress spiritually or socially. Hence, the *book* functions as a bridge between intellect and morality.

The contrastive analysis of English and Uzbek phrases with the concept “*book*” reveals that both languages treat books as central to intellectual and moral life. However, the English view of the *book* is rooted in rationalism, discipline, and intellectual development, whereas the Uzbek view emphasizes spirituality, purity, and collective enlightenment. These linguistic reflections of culture demonstrate how the same concept can carry different symbolic meanings depending on national mentality and worldview.

Understanding these differences is crucial in translation, cross-cultural communication, and linguocultural studies, as it reveals how deeply intertwined language and culture are in shaping human thought.

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