

SEMANTIC FEATURES OF TONGUE TWISTERS FORMED ON THE RAIN LEXICON IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Abstract

This article examines the semantic characteristics of tongue twisters constructed on the basis of the rain lexicon in Uzbek and English languages. By analyzing lexical-semantic fields, metaphorical extensions, phonetic patterns, and cultural connotations, the study reveals how weather-related vocabulary—specifically lexemes denoting rain—functions within tongue twisters. A contrastive analysis demonstrates similarities in alliteration, onomatopoeia, and sound symbolism, as well as unique cultural elements present in each language. The findings highlight how rain-related lexemes enrich the expressive, phonetic, and cognitive dimensions of tongue twisters.

Keywords: Tongue twisters, rain lexicon, semantics, English, Uzbek, sound symbolism, linguoculture.

Introduction

As one of the key branches of global linguistics, paremiology focuses on the study of paremiological units. In this regard, the investigation of tongue twisters as paremiological units is particularly significant, as they emerge as a product of human cognition and enhance speech expressiveness when used in language resulting in developing intercultural communication. Therefore, highlighting the role, genesis, national character, and poetics of tongue twisters in Uzbek and English folklore; addressing the issues that arise in determining their semantic-structural, linguocultural, phonetic-stylistic features, their typology and equivalents in non-related languages; exploring methods of preserving the national color in translation; studying and developing scientifically grounded concepts for the distinctive aspects and thematic types of the tongue-twister tradition in both cultures are of great importance. The comparative study of tongue twisters, which have preserved ancient traditions reflecting the national lifestyle, worldview, and artistic perception of reality of people, provides an opportunity to further deepen scholarly perspectives on the genesis, poetics, and typology of folklore genres across different cultures. In this regard, conducting scientific research into the semantic structure, structural and linguocultural characteristics, as well as the phonetic and stylistic classification of tongue twisters in various language systems, is of significant importance.

Tongue twisters (Uz. *chalg'ituvchi tez aytishlar*, Eng. *tongue twisters*) constitute an important part of oral folklore and serve pedagogical, phonetic, and entertainment functions. They rely heavily on repetition, alliteration, assonance, and phonosemantic effects. Among these, the use of *nature-related vocabulary*—especially the *rain lexicon*—is widespread across languages due to its strong emotional and sensory connotations.

Rain-related lexemes such as *rain*, *drizzle*, *storm* in English and *yomg'ir*, *jala*, *shivalab yog'moq* in Uzbek often appear in tongue twisters because they contain vivid sound patterns that provide



both semantic loading and phonetic complexity. This article explores how rain lexicon forms the semantic and structural basis of tongue twisters in Uzbek and English and identifies their shared and language-specific characteristics.

English contains a rich set of rain-related lexemes with varying intensities and imagery:

rain, drizzle, shower, sprinkle, storm, downpour, rainfall, raindrop

metaphorical units: *raining cats and dogs, silver rain, rain of tears*

These words often incorporate onomatopoeic consonants /r/, /s/, /sh/, /dr/ that contribute to phonetic play in tongue twisters.

Uzbek uses both simple and expressive lexemes:

yomg'ir, jala, shovullamoq, shivalamoq, sharros yomg'ir, quyun, momaqaldiroq

reduplicated forms: *shapir-shupur, jaldir-juldur*

These lexemes are rich in sound-symbolic consonants /sh/, /j/, /l/, /r/ that create rhythmic patterns ideal for tongue twisters.

1. **“Rita rushed through the rushing rain.”**

– relies on repetition of /r/ and /ʃ/

2. **“Robbie ran in the rainy road with rolling raindrops.”**

– repetition of /r/ and /n/ with semantic coherence involving *rainy weather*

3. **“Dripping drops dropped down during the drizzle.”**

– alliteration in /dr/ and /d/

1. **“Shovullab yog‘ayotgan yomg‘ir shalop-shalop qilib yo‘lakka shovqin soldi.”**

– strong onomatopoeia *shalop-shalop, shovullab*

2. **“Jaladir jala yog‘di, jildirab suv jo‘radi.”**

– repetition of /j/ and /l/ creates rhythmic imagery of heavy rain

3. **“Yomg‘ir yo‘lakni yaltiratib yubordi.”**

– alliteration of /y/ symbolizing smoothness and continuity of rain

Both languages use **sound symbolism** to mimic the auditory qualities of rain.

English often reflects literary metaphors:

“rain of memories,” “storm of feelings.”

Uzbek expressions emphasize visual and auditory imagery:

“jala yog‘di – yerlar yaltiradi,” “shapir-shupur yomg‘ir.”

In tongue twisters, these metaphors create vivid mental pictures that support memorization.

English uses **liquid consonants** /r, l/ + **fricatives** /s, ʃ/ to mimic rain patterns.

Uzbek relies on **palatal and fricative sounds** /sh, j, g‘/ typical of rain verbs.

/dr/ evokes sharp raindrops (drizzle, dripping)

/sh/ evokes continuous rain (shivalamoq, shovullamoq)

Rain often symbolizes melancholy, calmness, or a typical British weather stereotype.

Tongue twisters emphasize speed and sound rather than cultural context.

Rain (*yomg‘ir*) symbolizes blessing, fertility, and renewal.

Thus, Uzbek tongue twisters often depict **abundance, noise, and movement**.

For example, *jala* and *shapir-shupur* create cultural associations with spring rains and agriculture.



4. Contrastive Analysis

Feature	Uzbek Tongue Twisters	English Tongue Twisters
Dominant sounds	/sh/, /j/, /l/, /r/	/r/, /d/, /s/, /ʃ/
Use of onomatopoeia	Very strong (shapir, shalop)	Moderate (drip, splash)
Imagery	Visual + auditory + cultural	Auditory + atmospheric
Lexical richness	High in verbs of motion	High in nouns describing rain types
Structure	Reduplication is common	Alliteration dominates

Tongue twisters based on rain lexicon in Uzbek and English languages demonstrate rich semantic and phonetic features. While both languages use alliteration, onomatopoeia, and sound symbolism, Uzbek tongue twisters rely more heavily on expressive verbs and reduplicated forms, whereas English favors concise nouns and alliterative structures. Cultural factors also influence the imagery: Uzbek examples highlight the abundance and liveliness of rain, while English conveys atmospheric qualities.

The analysis confirms that rain-related lexemes serve as an effective semantic foundation for tongue twisters, contributing to their rhythmic, cognitive, and linguistic aesthetic value.

References

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