OMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NOMINAL PREDICATES WITH PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: This article presents a comparative analysis of nominal predicates expressed through phraseological units in English and Uzbek. It examines their grammatical structures, semantic characteristics, and stylistic functions, focusing on similarities and differences between the two languages. Particular attention is given to the ways phraseological expressions function as predicative complements and communicate personal characteristics, emotional states, and evaluative meanings. The study employs descriptive, comparative, semantic, and contextual methods. Examples from both languages illustrate how phraseological units reflect linguistic patterns and cultural features. The findings demonstrate that, although English and Uzbek differ in grammatical organization, both languages use phraseological expressions to create expressive and meaningful descriptions. The research also highlights the importance of context and cultural equivalence in translating such constructions.

Keywords: nominal predicate, phraseological units, English language, Uzbek language, comparative linguistics, phraseology, predicative complement, grammatical structure, semantic equivalence, expressiveness, linguistic and cultural features.

Language is closely connected with the history, culture, traditions, and worldview of the people who speak it. Every language contains expressions that communicate not only information but also emotions, attitudes, and culturally established ways of understanding the world. Among these expressions, phraseological units occupy a particularly important position because they make communication more expressive and meaningful.

English and Uzbek both possess rich phraseological systems. Their idioms and fixed expressions are frequently used in everyday communication, literature, journalism, and informal conversations. However, although some phraseological units express similar meanings, their grammatical structures and cultural associations may differ considerably.

One interesting area of comparative linguistic research is the use of phraseological units within nominal predicates. A nominal predicate is a predicative construction in which a linking verb connects the subject with a noun phrase or another nominal expression that identifies or characterizes it.

For example:

- English: *He is a man of his word.*
- Uzbek: *U so‘zining ustidan chiqadigan inson.*

Both sentences describe a reliable person, although their phraseological and grammatical structures are not identical.

Another example is:

- English: *She is the apple of her mother's eye.*
- Uzbek: *U onasining ko‘z qorachig‘i.*

Both expressions communicate affection and the importance of a person to someone else.

Such examples demonstrate that phraseological units can perform comparable communicative functions even when their grammatical organization differs.

Kunin (1984) provides an important theoretical foundation for understanding English phraseological units, while Rahmatullayev's research on Uzbek phraseology contributes to the study of stable expressions in the Uzbek

language. Usarova (2024) also examines substantive phraseological units in English and Uzbek, making her research particularly relevant to the present topic.

The purpose of this article is to compare nominal predicates containing phraseological units in English and Uzbek, identify their structural and semantic characteristics, and explain the similarities and differences between their use in the two languages.

The predicate is one of the principal components of sentence structure. It communicates information about the subject and establishes a relationship between the subject and its characteristics, identity, or condition.

In English, nominal predicates commonly contain a linking verb such as *be, become, seem,* or *remain,* followed by a subject complement.

Examples:

- He is a teacher.
- She became a successful writer.
- Their decision was a mistake.
- My brother is a man of his word.

In the final example, *a man of his word* functions as a noun phrase and characterizes the subject.

Quirk et al. (1985) explain the grammatical role of subject complements in English clauses, while Huddleston and Pullum (2002) provide a detailed account of copular constructions and predicative complements.

In Uzbek, nominal predicates are organized differently because the language has a rich system of agglutinative grammatical forms. The present-tense copular relationship may be expressed without an overt equivalent of

English *is*. Past and other predicative meanings may be marked through forms such as *edi*, *ekan*, and personal endings.

For example:

- U o‘qituvchi. — He/she is a teacher.
- U yaxshi inson. — He/she is a good person.
- U oilaning faxri. — He/she is the pride of the family.

These examples illustrate how Uzbek nominal predicates can be formed without an overt present-tense linking verb.

The distinction between English and Uzbek is therefore important when phraseological expressions are compared in predicative positions.

Phraseological units are stable combinations of words that have conventional meanings and are reproduced in communication as established expressions.

Their meanings are not always predictable from the meanings of their individual components.

For example:

- *A black sheep* — a person who is considered different from or disapproved of by a group.
- *A man of his word* — a reliable person who keeps promises.
- *A fish out of water* — someone who feels uncomfortable in an unfamiliar situation.
- *A pain in the neck* — an annoying person or situation.

Uzbek also contains numerous expressions with figurative and culturally meaningful interpretations.

Examples include:

- *Ko‘z qorachig‘i* — a person who is extremely precious or cherished.
- *Davraning guli* — a person who brings liveliness and attraction to a gathering.
- *Tili uzun* — a person who speaks boldly or excessively, often in an undesirable way.
- *Qo‘li ochiq* — a generous person.

These examples demonstrate that phraseological expressions can communicate personal characteristics and social evaluations in both languages.

However, their grammatical categories should be distinguished. For example, *qo‘li ochiq* is an adjective-like phraseological expression, whereas *ko‘z qorachig‘i* is a nominal expression. This distinction matters when identifying nominal predicates.

One of the main differences between English and Uzbek nominal predicates concerns the grammatical expression of the linking relationship.

English generally uses an overt linking verb in ordinary present-tense nominal predicate constructions.

For example:

He is a dark horse.

Here, *is* connects the subject *he* with the nominal phrase *a dark horse*.

In Uzbek, the equivalent predicative relationship can be expressed without an overt present-tense copula:

U kutilmagan qobiliyat egasi.

Meaning: He is a person with unexpected abilities.

Another example:

English: *She is the apple of her mother's eye.*

Uzbek: *U onasining ko‘z qorachig‘i.*

The English sentence contains the linking verb *is*, whereas the Uzbek sentence expresses the predicative relationship without an equivalent overt verb.

This difference demonstrates that grammatical equivalence does not necessarily require identical sentence structures.

English and Uzbek both contain phraseological expressions that characterize people's behaviour and personality.

Example 1:

English: *He is a man of his word.*

Uzbek: *U so‘zining ustidan chiqadigan inson.*

Meaning: A reliable person who keeps promises.

Analysis: Both expressions describe honesty and reliability. The English expression uses the nominal phrase *a man of his word*, while the Uzbek equivalent is expressed through a descriptive construction. This illustrates semantic equivalence without complete structural equivalence.

Example 2:

English: *She is the life and soul of the party.*

Uzbek: *U davraning guli.*

Meaning: A lively person who makes a social gathering enjoyable.

Analysis: Both expressions characterize someone who attracts attention and contributes to a pleasant social atmosphere. The English expression uses a

coordinated phraseological construction, whereas the Uzbek expression employs the metaphorical noun *gul* (flower).

Phraseological units also express emotional relationships between people.

Example 3:

English: *She is the apple of her mother's eye.*

Uzbek: *U onasining ko‘z qorachig‘i.*

Meaning: She is deeply loved and cherished by her mother.

Analysis: These expressions are particularly interesting because both languages employ imagery connected with the eye to communicate affection and exceptional personal value. Their figurative meanings are closely related, although their lexical imagery is not identical.

Phraseological units can also communicate criticism and disapproval.

Example 4:

English: *He is a black sheep in his family.*

Uzbek: *U oilada boshqalardan ajralib turadigan, ma’qullanmaydigan odam.*

Meaning: He is a family member whose behaviour or position is regarded negatively by others.

Analysis: The English expression is a conventional idiom. The Uzbek sentence provides a semantic explanation rather than claiming an exact phraseological equivalent. This distinction is important because direct word-for-word translation would not preserve the idiomatic meaning.

Example 5:

Uzbek: *U qo‘li ochiq inson.*

English: *He is a generous person.*

Meaning: He is willing to give or share with others.

Analysis: The Uzbek phrase *qo‘li ochiq* is a figurative expression describing generosity. Its English equivalent communicates the same basic meaning through an ordinary adjective and noun. This example demonstrates that phraseological meaning in one language may correspond to non-phraseological wording in another.

Despite their grammatical differences, English and Uzbek share several important features in the use of phraseological expressions.

First, both languages use figurative expressions to characterize people and situations.

Second, phraseological units in both languages frequently communicate emotional and evaluative meanings.

Third, their interpretation depends on context and conventional cultural knowledge.

Fourth, both languages use metaphorical images connected with the human body, nature, family relationships, and everyday experience.

For instance, the English expression *the apple of someone's eye* and the Uzbek expression *ko‘z qorachig‘i* communicate a similar emotional relationship.

Such similarities demonstrate that speakers of different languages may use comparable conceptual images to express universal human experiences.

Research by Tursunov and Ubaydullaeva (2022) on somatic phraseology in English and Uzbek provides relevant comparative evidence concerning expressions associated with parts of the human body. Their research is useful for understanding how body-related imagery contributes to phraseological meaning in the two languages.

The comparative analysis of nominal predicates containing phraseological units in English and Uzbek demonstrates that both languages possess rich linguistic resources for expressing personal characteristics, emotional relationships, and social evaluations. The research shows that phraseological units can function as nominal expressions within predicative constructions and contribute to the expressive potential of sentences. English generally employs overt linking verbs such as *is* and *was*, whereas Uzbek frequently expresses present-tense nominal predication without an overt copula. This difference reflects the grammatical characteristics of the two languages. The analysis also identifies similarities in semantic content. Expressions such as *the apple of someone's eye* and *ko‘z qorachig‘i* demonstrate how comparable figurative images can communicate affection and emotional attachment.

At the same time, examples such as *a black sheep* and *qo‘li ochiq* demonstrate that phraseological equivalence is not always based on identical grammatical structures or lexical components.

In conclusion, the comparison of English and Uzbek nominal predicates with phraseological units provides valuable insights into comparative grammar, phraseology, translation, and linguocultural studies. Understanding both the grammatical and cultural characteristics of these expressions is essential for accurate interpretation and effective intercultural communication.

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