

THE PARADIGM OF VERB PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN UZBEK, RUSSIAN, AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Abstract: This article explores the paradigmatic features of verb phraseological units (VPUs) in Uzbek, Russian, and English, focusing on their semantic, structural, and linguocultural aspects. The study identifies similarities and differences in idiomatic patterns that reveal the cognitive and cultural worldview of each linguistic community. Comparative, descriptive, and contextual analyses are employed to demonstrate the interrelationship between language, thought, and culture in the formation of phraseological paradigms.

1. Introduction

Phraseological units (PUs) constitute an integral component of any language's lexical system, serving as a reflection of its historical evolution, sociocultural norms, and collective worldview. Within this domain, verb phraseological units (VPUs) occupy a special place, as they dynamically encode human actions, emotional states, mental processes, and interpersonal relations through metaphorical and idiomatic expressions. Their study not only reveals the creative mechanisms of linguistic imagery but also provides insight into the cognitive and cultural identity of speakers (Telia, 1996; Wray, 2002). The comparative analysis of VPUs in Uzbek, Russian, and English languages offers a fertile ground for understanding how different linguistic communities conceptualize experience and encode it in idiomatic form. While English idioms such as "kick the bucket", "spill the beans", or "break the ice" have been the focus of numerous linguistic and cultural studies (Kunin, 1996; Moon, 1998), Uzbek and Russian phraseological units often display distinct imagery deeply rooted in their national and cultural context. For example, the Uzbek VPU "ko'z oldidan o'tmoq" literally means "to pass before one's eyes," denoting a vivid recollection of past events, while "yuragi yorilmoq" ('one's heart bursts') expresses deep sorrow or emotional intensity. Similarly, in Russian, idioms such as "бить баклуши" ('to loaf about') and "держаться камень за пазухой" ('to bear a grudge secretly') reveal a strong metaphorical linkage between physical action and psychological state (Ganiyeva, 2013; Telia, 1996).

Moreover, the English "keep one's fingers crossed" finds partial parallels in Uzbek "yaxshi niyat qilmoq" ("to make a good wish") and Russian "надеяться на удачу" ("to hope for luck"), illustrating semantic convergence through divergent imagery. These examples demonstrate that while all three languages employ verbs as the semantic core of idiomatic expressions, the cultural metaphors that frame those verbs differ significantly depending on worldview, tradition, and linguistic structure (Lakoff & Johnson, 2003; Ganiyeva, 2013).

2. Methods

This study employs a comparative-typological, structural-semantic, and linguocultural approach to analyze verb phraseological units in Uzbek, Russian, and English. The methodology integrates both qualitative and quantitative analysis to reveal the paradigmatic organization, semantic fields, and cultural symbolism inherent in these languages. A corpus of 300 VPUs was compiled—100 from each language. The material was drawn from phraseological dictionaries, literary sources, and academic publications, ensuring a balance between standard and culturally marked idioms. Data were extracted from authoritative sources such as O'zbek tilining izohli frazeologik lug'ati (2007), Kunin (1996), and Spears (2015). The inclusion of both colloquial and literary idioms

allowed the identification of diachronic and stylistic variation within each language's phraseological system (Wray, 2002).

The analysis proceeded through four stages: structural classification, semantic mapping, linguocultural interpretation, and paradigmatic comparison. The methodological framework builds upon the works of Telia (1996), Lakoff and Johnson (2003), and Wray (2002).

3. Results

The comparative analysis of verb phraseological units (VPUs) across Uzbek, Russian, and English reveals both universal semantic tendencies and language-specific structural and cultural patterns. Uzbek VPUs exhibit agglutinative structures, Russian idioms rely on prefixal verbs, and English phraseology depends on phrasal verbs (Kunin, 1996; Telia, 1996).

The semantic classification identified recurring conceptual fields such as emotion, death, communication, effort, and cognition. The results indicate that Uzbek idioms rely on heart- and soul-centered metaphors (e.g., "dilini og'ritmoq"), Russian idioms emphasize physical and social imagery (e.g., "бить баклуши"), and English idioms reveal pragmatic and action-oriented metaphors (e.g., "hold one's tongue").

Quantitatively, emotional idioms dominate in Uzbek (38%), social and behavioral idioms in English (42%), and Russian maintains a balanced distribution between cognitive and behavioral types. These findings demonstrate that idioms reflect the psychological and cultural focus of each linguistic community (Uralova, 2023; Lakoff & Johnson, 2003).

4. Discussion and Conclusion

The results confirm that verb phraseological units in Uzbek, Russian, and English encapsulate both universal cognitive structures and distinct cultural imagery. All three languages share conceptual metaphors such as "emotion is heat" and "life is struggle", yet each expresses these through culturally specific lenses. Uzbek emphasizes emotional sincerity and spirituality, Russian highlights endurance and irony, and English favors pragmatism and individuality (Kövecses, 2010; Telia, 1996).

From a cognitive-linguistic standpoint, idioms represent condensed cultural models that encode worldview and collective psychology. They are therefore critical for cross-cultural understanding, translation, and lexicography. Translators and educators must focus on semantic equivalence, not literal rendering, to preserve cultural nuance (Moon, 1998; Smith & Brown, 2021).

In conclusion, the study shows that VPUs serve as paradigmatic systems that reflect linguistic typology, metaphorical thought, and cultural identity. Future research should extend corpus-based methodologies to explore diachronic changes and pragmatic uses of VPUs in intercultural contexts.

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