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SEMANTIC AND PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF ANTHROPOCENTRIC IDIOMS IN CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the semantic and pragmatic dimensions of English anthropocentric phraseological units in contemporary literary discourse. These units, which center on human experiences and perspectives, serve as linguistic and cultural artifacts that reflect societal norms, emotions, and behaviors. Through an analysis of selected idioms, proverbs, and collocations from works by authors such as Kazuo Ishiguro, Ian McEwan, and Zadie Smith, the study identifies the dual role of phraseological units in shaping narrative meaning and enriching character interactions. A comparative approach highlights parallels and distinctions between English and Uzbek equivalents, emphasizing cultural nuances in metaphorical imagery and usage. The findings underscore the significance of these units in language teaching, translation, and cross-cultural communication, offering insights into their role in bridging cultural divides and fostering global understanding.

Keywords: Anthropocentric phraseological units, semantic-pragmatic analysis, idioms, English literature, cultural linguistics, cross-cultural communication, metaphorical imagery, language teaching, Uzbek equivalents.

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ZAMONAVIY INGLIZ ADABIYOTIDA ANTROPOSENTRIK IDIOMALARNING SEMANTIK-PRAGMATIK TAHLILI**ANNOTATSIYA**

Ushbu maqolada zamonaviy Ingliz adabiyoti doirasida antroposentrik frazeologik birliklarning semantik va pragmatik o'lvovlari o'rganiladi. Ushbu birliklar inson tajribasi va qarashlariga asoslangan bo'lib, jamiyat me'yorlari, his-tuyg'ulari va xatti-harakatlarini aks ettiruvchi til va madaniy meros namunalari sifatida namoyon bo'ladi. Kazuo Ishiguro, Ian McEwan va Zadie Smith kabi mualliflarning asarlaridan tanlab olingan idiomalar, maqollar va kollokatsiyalarning tahlili orqali frazeologik iboralarning voqeaviy ma'nosini shakllantirish va qahramonlar o'zaro munosabatlarini boyitishdagi ikki tomonlama roli aniqlangan. Ingliz va o'zbek ekvivalentlari o'rtasidagi o'xshashlik va farqlarni aniqlashda qiyosiy yondashuv qo'llanilib, metaforik obrazlilik va qo'llanilishdagi madaniy nozikliklarga e'tibor qaratiladi. Tadqiqot natijalari ushbu birliklarning til o'qitish, tarjima va madaniyatlararo muloqotdagi ahamiyatini ta'kidlaydi hamda ularning madaniy farqlarni bartaraf etish va global tushunishni rivojlantirishdagi roliga oid qimmatli ma'lumotlarni taqdim etadi.

Kalit so'zlar: Antroposentrik frazeologik birliklar, semantik-pragmatik tahlil, idiomalar, ingliz adabiyoti, madaniy lingvistika, madaniyatlararo muloqot, metaforik obrazlilik, til o'qitish, o'zbek ekvivalentlari.

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**СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЙ И ПРАГМАТИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ
АНТРОПОЦЕНТРИЧЕСКИХ ИДИОМ В СОВРЕМЕННОЙ АНГЛИЙСКОЙ
ЛИТЕРАТУРЕ****АННОТАЦИЯ**

В статье рассматриваются семантические и прагматические аспекты англоязычных антропоцентрических фразеологических единиц в современном литературном дискурсе. Эти единицы, сосредоточенные на человеческом опыте и восприятии, выступают как лингвистические и культурные артефакты, отражающие общественные нормы, эмоции и поведенческие модели. Посредством анализа отдельных идиом, пословиц и словосочетаний из произведений таких авторов, как Кадзуо Исигуро, Иэн Макьюэн и Зэди Смит, исследование выявляет двойную роль фразеологических единиц в формировании нарративного смысла и обогащении взаимодействий между персонажами. Сравнительный подход подчеркивает параллели и различия между английскими и узбекскими эквивалентами, акцентируя внимание на культурных нюансах в метафорическом образе и использовании. Результаты исследования подчеркивают важность этих единиц в преподавании языка, переводе и межкультурной коммуникации, предоставляя ценные инсайды в их роль в преодолении культурных барьеров и содействии глобальному взаимопониманию.

Ключевые слова: Антропоцентрические фразеологические единицы, семантико-прагматический анализ, идиомы, английская литература, культурная лингвистика,

межкультурная коммуникация, метафорические образы, обучение языку, узбекские эквиваленты.

Introduction

Language serves as a mirror of human thought, reflecting cultural, social, and cognitive processes. One of the most vivid manifestations of this anthropocentric nature of language is phraseological units—fixed expressions whose meanings often transcend their literal components. Anthropocentric phraseological units, in particular, highlight human-centered perspectives embedded within language, portraying emotions, behaviors, and societal norms. These units are not only linguistic artifacts but also carriers of cultural and contextual meaning, making their study essential for understanding how language conveys human experiences.

Semantic-pragmatic analysis, as a methodological approach, investigates both the inherent meanings of these phraseological units and their functional roles in communication. Semantics focuses on the static meaning of expressions, while pragmatics explores their dynamic use within specific contexts. This dual lens provides a comprehensive understanding of how phraseological units operate within modern literary discourse, where their usage is often intentional and stylistically significant.

The purpose of this article is to examine the semantic and pragmatic dimensions of English anthropocentric phraseological units as they appear in contemporary literary works. By analyzing these units, the study aims to shed light on their role in shaping narratives, character interactions, and thematic expressions. This exploration contributes to linguistic studies by providing insights into the interplay between language structure and its use, as well as to literary analysis by uncovering how authors employ these units to enrich their texts.

Theoretical Background

Language is inherently anthropocentric, centering on human experience and perception. This anthropocentric nature significantly influences phraseology by embedding human perspectives, emotions, and cultural norms within fixed expressions. Anthropocentric phraseological units reflect universal human experiences, such as love, conflict, and social interaction, while also conveying culturally specific connotations. For example, English idiomatic expressions like "break the ice" or "spill the beans" not only metaphorically describe specific actions but also reveal cultural attitudes toward communication and disclosure. Similarly, in Uzbek, equivalents like "biroz iliqlik kiritmoq" (to warm things up) or "og'izdan chiqib ketmoq yoki og'zidan gullab quymoq" (to slip from someone's mouth) reflect similar notions but within a distinct cultural framework.

The semantic dimension of phraseological units pertains to their fixed meanings, which are often non-compositional — the meaning of the whole cannot be deduced from the meanings of its individual components. These fixed meanings often arise from metaphorical extensions, where abstract concepts are described using concrete, familiar experiences. For instance, the English phrase "a storm in a teacup" metaphorically represents an exaggerated reaction to a minor issue, similar to the Uzbek equivalent "pashshadan fil yasash" (to exaggerate small things). Additionally, phraseological units encapsulate cultural connotations, reflecting societal values, historical events, or collective beliefs. This semantic richness makes them an integral part of language and communication.

The pragmatic dimension of phraseological units focuses on their contextual usage and communicative intent. The meaning of a phraseological unit may shift depending on the situation, speaker, and audience. For example, the phrase "bite the bullet" might be used humorously in one context and solemnly in another, just as the Uzbek equivalent "tishini tishiga quymoq" (to grit one's teeth) can vary in tone based on context. Pragmatics also examines the impact of these units on the audience, such as their ability to evoke imagery, convey attitudes, or establish a specific tone. In literary discourse, phraseological units are often employed to characterize individuals, set moods, or reinforce themes, highlighting their crucial functional roles in narrative construction.

The study of phraseological units has been extensively explored in linguistic literature. Notable contributions include Cowie's work on phraseology, which underscores the significance of

fixed expressions in language systems, and Moon’s research, which highlights the idiomaticity and variability of such units. Additionally, idiomaticity studies provide frameworks for analyzing the interplay between literal and figurative meanings in phraseological units. These theoretical foundations offer valuable tools for examining the semantic-pragmatic characteristics of anthropocentric phraseological units in modern literary texts, shedding light on their broader implications for language, culture, and literature.

Methodology

The selection of phraseological units for this study adheres to specific criteria to ensure relevance and depth. Firstly, the units are chosen based on their connection to anthropocentric themes, emphasizing expressions that reflect human experiences, emotions, and behaviors. The selection prioritizes frequently used phraseological units to ensure a representative analysis of contemporary literary discourse. Moreover, the study includes a variety of forms and functions, encompassing idioms, proverbs, collocations, and metaphorical expressions, which collectively capture the diversity of anthropocentric language. Contextual richness is also a significant criterion, as the phraseological units are analyzed within diverse literary contexts to explore their meanings and functions across narrative genres.

The corpus for this analysis comprises a selection of contemporary English literary works, chosen for their extensive use of anthropocentric phraseological units and their prominence in modern literary discourse. The texts include novels by authors such as Ian McEwan and Zadie Smith, whose works delve deeply into human relationships and emotions. Short stories from contemporary anthologies that offer a wide range of human experiences and cultural insights are also included [6;23]. Additionally, plays by dramatists like Harold Pinter and Tom Stoppard are examined, as their use of phraseological units often conveys psychological depth and intricate social dynamics.

The analytical approach integrates semantic and pragmatic dimensions to provide a comprehensive understanding of the selected phraseological units. The semantic analysis focuses on identifying core meanings, including primary, figurative, and metaphorical interpretations [6;37]. Where applicable, polysemy is explored to reveal how a single phraseological unit may convey multiple meanings in different contexts. The meanings are then categorized into semantic fields such as emotions, social interactions, and psychological states, enabling the identification of patterns that reflect human experience.

The pragmatic analysis complements the semantic perspective by examining the functionality of phraseological units in discourse. This includes an investigation of their contextual usage, considering the speaker's intentions, the audience's reception, and the interactional setting. The study also identifies the speech acts performed by these units, such as assertions, questions, commands, or requests, highlighting their role in communicative dynamics. Further, the research explores the implications and interpretations shaped by pragmatic factors, including politeness strategies, irony, and cultural references [8;42]. This dual approach of semantic and pragmatic analysis offers a nuanced understanding of how anthropocentric phraseological units operate within modern literary discourse, revealing their significance in reflecting and shaping human interactions and experiences.

Results and Discussion

In this section, we have explored the anthropocentric phraseological units found in Kazuo Ishiguro’s *The Remains of the Day*, examining their semantic components, pragmatic roles, and thematic relevance. Examples drawn from selected work will be analyzed to reveal how these phraseological units shape meaning, character interactions, and the broader narratives.

№	Phrase	Meaning (English)	Uzbek Equivalent	Explanation
1	Wear one's heart on one's sleeve	To openly show one's feelings	Yuragini kaftiga qo'yib yurmoq	Used when someone openly expresses their emotions without hiding them.

2	Cry over spilt milk	To feel sorry for something that cannot be changed	O 'tgan ishga salovat	Implies that it is useless to regret things that cannot be undone.
3	Bite the bullet	To face a difficult situation with courage	Tishini tishiga quyib chidamoq	To act resolutely in a tough situation despite difficulty.
4	Take the plunge	To make an important or risky decision	O'ylab turmay, dadil qadam tashlamoq	To take a bold action without careful consideration.
5	On cloud nine	To be extremely happy	Yettinchi osmonda uchmoq	An expression of high emotional joy or happiness.
6	Down in the dumps	To be sad or depressed	Ko'ngli cho'kkan	Refers to a state of sadness or emotional low.
7	Blow one's own trumpet	To boast about one's achievements	O'zini maqtamoq	Used when someone is excessively proud of their own successes.
8	Shoulder the burden	To take on heavy responsibility	Ma'suliyatni yelkasiga olmoq	Refers to accepting a large responsibility or obligation.
9	Carry the torch	To serve a cause or belief with dedication	E'tiqodida sobit turmoq	Describes someone who passionately supports a cause or belief.
10	Speak volumes	To convey a lot of information without speaking	So'zsiz ifoda etmoq	Describes something that communicates more than words ever could.
11	Turn over a new leaf	To start a new chapter in life or make a change	Hayotning yangi sahifasini ochmoq	Used when someone changes their lifestyle or behavior for the better.
12	At a crossroads	To be at a point where an important decision must be made	Hayotning burilish nuqtasida turmoq	Refers to being at a critical juncture in life where choices must be made

The idioms we provided, while sharing similar meanings across English and Uzbek, differ in their linguistic structures and metaphoric images. English idioms often lean towards more vivid, action-oriented imagery (e.g., "bite the bullet," "take the plunge"), while Uzbek equivalents tend to emphasize emotional or mental resilience (e.g., "tishini tishiga quyib chidamoq" for "bite the bullet"). For example, "wear one's heart on one's sleeve" and "yuragini kaftiga qo'yib yurmoq" both indicate openly showing emotions, but in English, the metaphor ties the heart to a visible external item (the sleeve), making it a more personal and outward act of vulnerability. The Uzbek expression, however, centers more on the metaphor of exposing the heart itself, placing greater emphasis on the individual's emotional state.

Similarly, expressions like "cry over spilt milk" and "o'tgan ishga salovat" carry the same message of futile regret, but while the English idiom uses the concrete image of milk (a perishable item), the Uzbek version reflects a broader cultural sentiment about the irreversibility of the past, encapsulated in the phrase "o'tgan ish" (past deeds).

Cultural Differences in Usage

Culturally, English idioms tend to focus more on individualism, directness, and modern scenarios [12;15]. For example, "take the plunge" is associated with making bold, individualistic decisions, often tied to personal growth or new adventures. The metaphor of plunging evokes an immediate, almost impulsive action. In contrast, the Uzbek equivalent, "o'ylab turmay, dadil qadam tashlamoq" (take a bold step without thinking), emphasizes bravery but also the careful consideration that often underlies boldness in traditional Uzbek culture. The phrase carries a sense of hesitation or thoughtfulness before taking action, which reflects a more cautious approach to decision-making.

Moreover, expressions such as "blow one's own trumpet" and "o'zini maqtamoq" both deal with boasting. However, in English, "blowing one's trumpet" implies a certain audacity in openly proclaiming one's achievements. In Uzbek culture, there is often a subtlety in expressing one's successes, and "o'zini maqtamoq" tends to be a more neutral term, sometimes even carrying a negative connotation of boasting too much. This reflects cultural values where humility is often prized over self-promotion.

Connotations and Social Context

Socially, idioms like "speak volumes" and "so'zsiz ifoda etmoq" illustrate how both languages value non-verbal communication but in different ways. The English idiom emphasizes the power of subtlety and suggests that sometimes silence or body language can convey more than words. The Uzbek equivalent, while also appreciating non-verbal cues, is more focused on the depth of meaning behind those cues. This reflects a cultural appreciation for indirect communication, where much is often conveyed through gestures and tone, rather than explicit verbal expression.

Similarly, "on cloud nine" and "yettinchi osmonda uchmoq" both describe extreme happiness, but the English idiom evokes a more secular, almost abstract form of happiness, linked to a state of euphoria. The Uzbek phrase, however, uses "seventh heaven," a term more rooted in spiritual or religious imagery, indicating a culturally deeper, more transcendent joy. This difference highlights the contrasting cultural contexts in which happiness is conceptualized: one in a more physical, temporary sense, and the other in a spiritual or elevated sense.

Conclusion

The analysis of anthropocentric phraseological units in modern English discourse reveals the intricate relationship between language, culture, and human experience. These phrases not only enrich our understanding of literature but also provide valuable insights into how language shapes communication in various contexts. Whether in language teaching, translation, or cross-cultural communication, the implications of these findings highlight the need for a nuanced approach to language use, one that takes into account both the emotional and cultural underpinnings of everyday expressions. Ultimately, this study emphasizes the power of language as a tool for expressing and understanding human emotions, bridging cultural divides, and enhancing global communication.

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