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## ANALYSIS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS DENOTING TIME UNITS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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### Abstract

This article investigates phraseological units denoting time in English and Uzbek languages from comparative, semantic, and linguocultural perspectives. Time-related phraseological expressions occupy a significant place in both languages because they reflect national worldview, cultural values, traditions, and historical experiences. The study aims to identify the structural and semantic peculiarities of phraseological units connected with time concepts in English and Uzbek, as well as to determine their similarities and differences. The research applies comparative, descriptive, and contextual analysis methods. The findings reveal that although both languages employ phraseological units to express temporal concepts metaphorically, cultural and social factors strongly influence their meanings and usage. English phraseological units tend to emphasize punctuality, efficiency, and productivity, whereas Uzbek expressions often reflect patience, wisdom, and collective social experience. The article contributes to comparative phraseology and intercultural linguistics by demonstrating how temporal concepts are represented differently in English and Uzbek phraseological systems.

**Keywords:** Phraseological units, time expressions, English language, Uzbek language, semantics, comparative linguistics, linguocultural analysis;

### Introduction

Phraseology represents one of the most expressive layers of language and reflects the historical, cultural, and social experiences of a nation. Phraseological units



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are stable combinations of words with figurative meanings that cannot always be understood from the meanings of their individual components. Among them, phraseological units denoting time occupy a special position because time is considered a universal yet culturally interpreted concept.

The category of time has long attracted the attention of linguists, philosophers, and cultural researchers. Different languages conceptualize time differently depending on national mentality, traditions, and lifestyle. In English and Uzbek languages, time-related phraseological units reveal not only linguistic peculiarities but also social attitudes toward work, patience, punctuality, and life experience.

The relevance of this study lies in the growing interest in comparative phraseology and intercultural communication. Understanding phraseological units connected with time helps language learners and researchers better comprehend the cultural worldview embedded in language.

The aim of the research is to analyze phraseological units denoting time units in English and Uzbek and identify their semantic and cultural characteristics.

The objectives of the study are:

- ✓ To define the theoretical basis of phraseological units related to time;
- ✓ To classify English and Uzbek time-related phraseological expressions;
- ✓ To compare their semantic and structural features;
- ✓ To reveal linguocultural similarities and differences between the two languages.

### **Methods**

The research employs several linguistic methods to analyze phraseological units denoting time in English and Uzbek languages.

Comparative method – this method is used to compare phraseological units in both languages and determine their similarities and differences in semantics, structure, and usage.

Descriptive method – the descriptive approach helps identify and explain the meanings and functions of phraseological units related to time concepts.



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Contextual Analysis – phraseological expressions are analyzed within their linguistic and cultural contexts to understand their figurative meanings and pragmatic functions.

Linguocultural Analysis – this method reveals cultural values and national characteristics reflected in phraseological units. The research materials consist of phraseological dictionaries, literary texts, newspapers, and everyday conversational examples in English and Uzbek.

## Results

The analysis demonstrates that phraseological units related to time in English and Uzbek can be grouped into several semantic categories:

1. Phraseological units expressing speed and promptness. English contains numerous expressions emphasizing punctuality and efficiency, for example: *Time is money; In the nick of time; Against the clock; At the eleventh hour;*

These expressions reflect the pragmatic and productivity-oriented nature of English-speaking cultures. In Uzbek, similar meanings are expressed through phraseological units such as, “*Vaqt g‘animat*”, “*Bir lahzada*”, “*Ko‘z ochib yumguncha*”. These expressions emphasize the value of time and rapid action.

2. Phraseological units expressing patience and duration. English examples include: *All in good time, Time will tell*. Uzbek equivalents include: “*Sabrning tagi sariq oltin*”, “*Vaqt-soati bilan*”. Uzbek phraseological units often contain philosophical and moral connotations connected with patience and destiny.

3. Phraseological units expressing the passage of time. Examples in English: *Time flies, Lost track of time*. For instance in Uzbek: “*Vaqt suvdek oqadi*”, “*Kunlar bir-birini quvadi*”. Both languages metaphorically describe time as movement or flowing objects.

4. Phraseological units related to old age and experience. Examples in English: *As old as time, for ages*. In Uzbek: “*Sochi oqarib qolgan*”, “*Yoshi bir joyga borib qolgan*”. These units associate time with aging, wisdom, and life experience. The analysis shows that metaphorical representation of time in both languages frequently relies on natural phenomena such as water, movement, and cycles.



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## Discussion

The comparative analysis indicates that English and Uzbek phraseological systems share universal conceptualizations of time while preserving culture-specific features. English phraseological units often reflect:

- Individualism;
- Precision and punctuality;
- Economic value of time;
- Productivity-oriented worldview.

For example, the expression “*Time is money*” clearly demonstrates the utilitarian perception of time in Western culture. By contrast, Uzbek phraseological expressions emphasize:

- ✓ Patience and endurance;
- ✓ Respect for life experience;
- ✓ Collective wisdom;
- ✓ Philosophical acceptance of time.

Expressions such as “*Sabrning tagi sariq oltin*” reveal the importance of patience and moral values in Uzbek culture.

Another significant difference concerns emotional coloring. Uzbek phraseological units are frequently more expressive and emotionally rich, while English expressions tend to be concise and pragmatic. Structurally, English phraseological units are generally shorter and syntactically compact, whereas Uzbek expressions may contain metaphorical elaboration and poetic imagery.

The findings also demonstrate that many phraseological units are deeply connected with historical lifestyle and social organization. Agricultural traditions in Uzbek culture contributed to cyclical and nature-based perceptions of time, whereas industrial development in English-speaking societies promoted linear and efficiency-based concepts.

## Conclusion

The study reveals that phraseological units denoting time units in English and Uzbek languages possess both universal and culture-specific characteristics. Time-related phraseological expressions reflect not only linguistic phenomena but also national mentality, worldview, and social values. English phraseological



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units mainly emphasize punctuality, speed, and productivity, while Uzbek expressions focus on patience, wisdom, and philosophical attitudes toward life. Despite these differences, both languages employ metaphorical mechanisms to conceptualize time.

The comparative analysis of phraseological units contributes to the development of comparative linguistics, phraseology, and intercultural communication studies. Furthermore, understanding such expressions is important for language teaching, translation studies, and cross-cultural interaction. Future research may focus on cognitive and pragmatic aspects of time-related phraseological units or explore their usage in modern media discourse and literary texts.

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