



CULTURAL FEATURES AND PECULIARITIES OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the cultural features of English and Uzbek languages and their peculiarities. It demonstrates how the worldview, values, and mentality of each nation are reflected through linguistic forms. English cultural features such as individualism, punctuality, and diplomatic expressions are compared with Uzbek values of collectivism, respect, and sincerity. Examples include forms of address, greetings, proverbs, and humor. The study highlights the importance of considering these differences for successful intercultural communication..

Introduction

Language and culture are inseparable phenomena, as language not only serves as a tool of communication but also reflects the worldview, traditions, and values of a nation. When analyzing English and Uzbek, it is essential to consider the cultural features embedded in each language, since they illustrate the different mentalities and social behaviors of the people who speak them. According to Kramsch (1998), language embodies culture, and culture is transmitted through language. Thus, a comparative study of English and Uzbek allows us to better understand the unique cultural dimensions that shape the communicative practices of their speakers. For example, while the English greeting "How are you?" is often used as a conventional politeness formula without expecting detailed information, the Uzbek equivalent "Yaxshimisiz?" carries a more sincere emotional weight, reflecting genuine concern for the interlocutor. Such differences demonstrate how cultural values are encoded in linguistic forms.

Cultural Features of the English Language

The English language is closely associated with cultural values such as individualism, time management, and politeness strategies. English-speaking cultures, particularly British and American societies, emphasize punctuality and efficiency, which is evident in expressions like "Time is money" and "Punctuality is the soul of business." Communication in English is typically characterized by clarity, conciseness, and logical order, reflecting the cultural preference for directness in many contexts. However, English speakers often employ politeness strategies such as hedging or indirectness in order to avoid conflict (Brown & Levinson, 1987). For instance, rather than saying "This is wrong," an English speaker might say "I'm not sure this is entirely correct." Furthermore, understatement and humor play an important role in English communication. A British speaker might describe heavy rain with

the phrase “It’s a bit wet today,” demonstrating cultural tendencies toward subtlety and irony. Such features indicate that English communication values both precision and diplomacy.

Cultural Features of the Uzbek Language

In contrast, the Uzbek language reflects cultural values centered around collectivism, respect for elders, and community solidarity. Uzbek communication practices are deeply rooted in traditional norms and social etiquette. Honorifics and kinship terms such as *aka* (elder brother), *opa* (elder sister), *domla* (teacher), and *ustoz* (mentor) are frequently used not only to indicate social roles but also to convey respect and warmth (Hoshimov, 2019). Politeness in Uzbek is often expressed through indirect forms. For example, instead of the direct English request “Close the door,” an Uzbek speaker might say “*Eshikni yopib qo‘ysangiz, yaxshi bo‘lardi*” (“It would be good if you could close the door”), which carries more respect and consideration. Proverbs and sayings also reflect Uzbek collectivist values, such as “*Birlikda baraka bor*” (“There is blessing in unity”) and “*El bilan yurgan el bo‘lar*” (“He who walks with the people, becomes one with them”). These expressions highlight the emphasis on togetherness and mutual support in Uzbek culture.

Comparative Analysis and Peculiarities

The comparison of English and Uzbek shows both linguistic and cultural peculiarities. In English, communication tends to prioritize individual expression, logical precision, and efficiency, while in Uzbek, the emphasis is placed on community harmony, respect, and relational closeness. For instance, an English student might greet a professor with a simple “Hello, professor,” which is considered polite and appropriate. In Uzbek culture, however, a student would greet with “*Assalomu alaykum, ustoz*,” reflecting not only politeness but also deep cultural reverence toward teachers. Humor also differs: English humor often relies on irony and sarcasm, whereas Uzbek humor is usually expressed through anecdotes, proverbs, or playful exaggeration. Pragmatic differences are particularly evident in speech acts such as requests, refusals, and greetings. These cultural and linguistic distinctions can sometimes lead to misunderstandings in intercultural communication, which is why developing intercultural competence is crucial (Wierzbicka, 1991).

Conclusion

In summary, both English and Uzbek languages reflect the cultural values and mentalities of their speakers, but in different ways. English communication is shaped by individualism, punctuality, and indirect politeness strategies, whereas Uzbek communication is grounded in collectivism, respect for hierarchy, and expressions of warmth and solidarity. Recognizing these peculiarities is essential for effective intercultural communication, as it helps avoid misinterpretations and promotes mutual understanding. Thus, studying the cultural features of English and Uzbek not only enriches linguistic knowledge but also fosters greater intercultural awareness in an increasingly globalized world.

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