

Abstract

This article delves into fascinating exploration of phrasological units, expressions focusing on food related idioms in both English and Uzbek. Through a comparative analysis, it seeks to unravel the cultural nuances embedded in these idiomatic expressions, examining how each language uses culinary metaphors to convey meaning. The linguistic journey unfolds with insights into well-known English idioms like “Piece of cake”, “Bring home a bacon”, “Like two peas in a pod”, “as sweet as honey”, “Have a sweet tooth”, juxtaposed with their Uzbek equivalents, such as “Xamirdan qil sug’urgandek oson”, “non topmoq”, “Ikki tomchi suvdek”, “asaldek shirin”, and “shirintomoq bo’lmoq”.

Key words: phrasological units, idioms, food-related phrases, metaphor

Introduction

Language, as a vibrant tapestry of culture, often weaves its expressions around the daily experiences of its speakers. This article embarks on a delectable exploration, conducting a comparative linguistic analysis of food related idioms in English and their equivalents in Uzbek. Through this journey, we aim to uncover the cultural flavors encapsulated in the idiomatic expressions of these two distance linguistic landscapes.

There is no doubt, language, a dynamic and intricate system of communication Language, a dynamic and intricate system of communication, is deeply entwined with the cultural fabric of societies. The interplay between culture and language development is complex and multifaceted, shaping the way individuals perceive, express, and interact within their cultural contexts.

Cultures influence the richness and diversity of a language's vocabulary. Specific cultural experiences, practices, and priorities contribute to the creation of unique words and expressions. For example, cultures with rich culinary traditions may have an extensive lexicon related to food, reflecting the importance of gastronomy in daily life. Although, cultural nuances introduce variations in the meanings and connotations of words. The same word in different cultures may carry distinct emotional or social implications. For instance, a term expressing politeness in one culture might convey formality or distance in another, shaping interpersonal communication.

If we consider the statements above, the various idioms in these two languages, based on different linguistic structures rooted in extensive linguistic history, not only reflect their own cultures but also the depth of similarity and meaningfulness related to food. It is certainly essential to delve deeper into learning these idioms to not only mirror one's culture but also to appreciate the richness and similarity encapsulated in them.

Studying phrases related to food in Uzbek and English is beneficial for several reasons. Firstly, it facilitates effective communication in diverse cultural settings, as food is an integral part of any culture. Knowing food-related phrases helps when ordering in restaurants, discussing preferences, or sharing culinary experiences. Additionally, understanding these phrases enhances language proficiency by exposing learners to different linguistic structures and idiomatic

expressions. It also contributes to cultural awareness, allowing individuals to appreciate the significance of various foods within the context of each language's culture. Moreover, as languages often reflect unique cultural perspectives, studying food-related phrases can provide insights into the lifestyle, traditions, and values of Uzbek and English-speaking communities. Overall, it enriches language learning by connecting linguistic skills with cultural understanding.

Related works

It is possible to observe a widespread appeal to the comparative typology of phraseological units among researchers in general in different languages. For example, Kaskova M.E., Ustinova O.V., Bolshakova E.K assert that phraseologisms featuring gastronomic elements serve as a conceptual constant present in all languages. The significance of national cuisine, its symbolism, and terminology plays a crucial role in understanding and interpreting culture as a dynamic system encompassing the past, present, and future in continuous dialogue. In an intercultural context, this dialogue involves the exchange of various food products and national dishes between different communities. In her book "Food Idioms and Proverbs in English and Romanian," Daniela Corina Ionesco explores the cross-cultural aspects of English and Romanian food idioms, exploring whether these idioms are connected to the conceptualization of the surrounding world. She investigates how these idioms metaphorically represent social, cultural, historical, and linguistic realities in which they originated.

Similarly, Sadoqat Dilshodbekovna Khakimova has analyzed the cultural aspects of idioms in two languages in her article "Reflecting Culture through Food Names in Phrasology," focusing specifically on the typology of idioms related to self-cooked food.

One can also mention the article "The Linguo-Cultural Analysis of English and Uzbek Idioms with Food Component" written by Dilfuza Iskandarova as another exploration in this direction. In this article, the author delves into the linguistic and cultural characteristics of idioms, shedding light on their unique features.

The main findings and results

Initially, analyzing the idiomatic expressions related to food preferences in two languages logically, linguistically and semantically, in a conditional manner, it is possible to categorize the into the following types, considering their similarities and differences based on meaning, functionality, metonymy and metaphor.

1. First of all, the distinctive aspect of phrases belonging to the first category lies in the fact that when translated from one language to another, there is change in meaning, indicating a shift from negative to positive or conveying an entirely different meaning. It is possible to express such phrases even with limited linguistic proficiency in both languages. For instance, let's examine the expressions "*Like a fish out of water*" and "*Suvdagi baliqdek*" in Uzbek. While the first phrase conveys a sense of discomfort or unease, there might be cultural nuances that differentiate them. "*Like a fish out of water*" in English specifically emphasizes the feeling of being out of place or awkward. On the other hand, "*suvdagi baliqdek*" in Uzbek, with its literal translation of "like a fish in water," might focus more on the contrast between the usual comfort of a fish in water and the discomfort of being out of that familiar environment. The cultural context and idiomatic expressions can influence the nuances in how these feelings are expressed.

2. The second type directly based on Semantic Similarity and Functional Basis. Through this analysis, we discern the logical, linguistic and semantic distinctions and similarities between idiomatic expressions related to food preferences in English and Uzbek.

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The English expression "*Eat someone's lunch*" and the Uzbek phrase "*yemagan somsaga pul to'lamoq*" share a conceptual similarity, both implying a negative outcome for someone. However, they differ in cultural context and literal meaning.

First of all we should examine common similarities of these idioms: Negative Outcome

- English: "*Eat someone's lunch*" metaphorically suggests defeating or outperforming someone in a competitive situation, causing them a loss or setback.

In the fiercely competitive business negotiations, our strategic team not only managed to secure the lucrative contract but also metaphorically ate our competitors' lunch, leaving them astonished by our unparalleled expertise and finesse.

- Uzbek: "*Yemagan somsaga pul to'lamoq*" conveys a similar idea of causing financial loss or defeating someone, particularly in a monetary context.

Kelin qaynotasining oldida yana yemagan somsasiga pul to'lab aybdor bo'lib qoldi. (kitobdan)

Although, it is impossible to ignore some differences between two expressions: Cultural and Literal

- Cultural Context: The English expression is idiomatic and commonly used in various contexts, not necessarily tied to financial matters. On the other hand, the Uzbek phrase is more specific, relating directly to paying money for food.

- Literal Translation: While both expressions share the negative outcome concept, the literal translation of the Uzbek phrase involves paying money for a meal at a "somsa" place, highlighting the cultural context of financial loss in a specific scenario.

Similarly, there are some other versions of these kinds of expressions.

"*Nonini tuya qildi*" in Uzbek and "*made a flatbread stale*" in English share the concept of rendering something valuable or beneficial into a less desirable state. Both expressions share the idea of making something valuable less desirable, but the Uzbek phrase is more culturally specific and might have a more direct and literal connotation. The English phrase, on the other hand, is idiomatic and may not carry the same cultural weight associated with bread in Uzbekistan.

In the oral speaking process, we often come across the Uzbek phrase "*Xamirdan qil sug'urgandek oson*" translates to "*As easy as stealing honey from a beehive*" or "*A piece of cake*" in English. These idioms exemplify the idea that a task or action is very easy to accomplish. In both phrases imply that the difficulty level is comparable to a seemingly effortless act, such as taking honey from a hive, pulling hair from the dough or cutting the pie into pieces. It is possible to say that the main similarity in these expressions is functionality of these action which are expressed in these idioms.

The phrase "*Bring home a bacon*" in English is idiomatic and it means to earn a living, especially to provide financial support for one's family. In Uzbek, the equivalent could be "non topib kelmoq"

So, the similar nuance between the two phrases is the idea of earning a living or providing sustenance for oneself or one's family.

She works hard at her job and her dedication is to what helps bring home the bacon for her family.

U oilasiga non topib borish uchun kechani kecha, kunduzni kunduz demay ter to'kar edi.

Furthermore, for expressing emphasizing a strong resemblance or likeness in English speakers use "*two peas in a pod*", while Uzbek audience utilize the idiomatic expression "*Ikki*

tomchi suvdek o'xshash". Similarity between both phrases conveys the idea of two things being very similar or closely related.

In this case, while the first phrase emphasizes the difficulty of separating peas in a pod due to their close similarity, the second idiom in Uzbek "*ikki tomchi suvdek o'xshash*" is constructed by highlighting the lack of difference or distinction between two drops of water.

Furthermore, the people in both countries, despite of the different culture, widely use for expressing disappointment with following idioms. "*Finger in the pie*" is an English idiom involvement or participation in something, often implying interference. On the other hand, "*oshga qoshiq bo'lmoq*", is a equivalents in Uzbek and while the literal translation is "*to be a spoon in the pilaf*", it signifies being a role situation, similar to the idiom. The key difference lies in cultural and linguistic nuances.

In these expressions, the intrusion of a finger without permission into the dishes is compared to the disruptive act of a spoon inserted without consent, helping to illustrate their similarity. This serves as a way to demonstrate the resemblance between incidents in two languages when showcasing similarities.

The translation of the compound phrases in the next category, both in terms of word-to word translation and meaning may align with each other, and it is possible the translation of the phrases in the two languages will not differ significantly.

For example, "*finger linking*"- "*Barmoq yalaydigan darajada mazzali*", "*half-baked*"- "*yarim –chala*", "*as sweet as honey*"- "*asaldek shirin*" such expressions like these can be relevant examples for this category. With a few examples we will try to prove our point of view.

The phrase "finger linking" is not a commonly recognized idiom in English. However, it seems to be a playful variation or fusion of two well-known phrases: "finger-licking good" and "linked fingers."

1. "*Finger-Licking Good*":

- This phrase is often associated with delicious food. It originated from the famous slogan of KFC, "It's Finger-Licking' Good," suggesting that the food is so tasty that one would want to lick their fingers.

2. "*Linked Fingers*":

- This phrase typically refers to the physical act of intertwining one's fingers with another person's, often holding hands. It symbolizes a close and intimate connection, commonly seen in romantic or supportive contexts.

- The phrase "*finger linking*" might be a creative combination that conveys a strong, positive connection or bond, possibly in the context of collaboration or teamwork. It could be used metaphorically to describe a close partnership where individuals work seamlessly together, akin to fingers interlocking.

- "*Their project was a success because of their finger linking – each team member contributing their strengths in perfect harmony.*"

While not a conventional idiom, the expression "finger linking" demonstrates the flexibility of language, allowing for inventive combinations to convey nuanced meanings.

The Uzbek idiom "Barmoq Bilan Yalaydigan Darajada Mazzali" translates to "Tastes as Good as Licking with a Finger" in English. Let's analyze this idiom:

1. Meaning:

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- The idiom conveys a sense of exceptional delight or satisfaction, emphasizing the intense and pleasurable experience associated with the taste of something.

- The use of the action "**licking with a finger**" suggests an intimate and direct connection with the sensory experience of enjoying food. This reflects a cultural appreciation for rich and flavorful culinary experiences in Uzbekistan.

- The idiom uses vivid imagery and sensory language to express the intensity of the taste. The act of licking with a finger adds a tactile and personal element to the description.

- "**The dish she prepared was barmoq bilan yalaydigan darajada mazzali – each bite was a burst of flavors that left everyone savoring the moment.**"

- The inclusion of the action of licking fingers adds a sensory appeal to the idiom, making it more vivid and memorable. This characteristic is common in idioms that aim to evoke a specific experience.

So, the idioms "**Finger Linking**" in English and "**Barmoq Bilan Yalaydigan Darajada Mazzali**" in Uzbek offer intriguing insights into the cultural values and linguistic richness of their respective languages. While "**Finger Linking**" emphasizes unity and collaboration, "**Barmoq Bilan Yalaydigan Darajada Mazzali**" provides a flavorful metaphor for exceptional enjoyment. Exploring such idiomatic expressions enhances our understanding of language as a dynamic reflection of culture and shared experiences.

As another example, in English the expression "**Hard nut to crack**" is an idiom that illuminates the idea of a challenging or difficult problem or person. Just like in English, we can use some expressions in Uzbek. The idiom "**Ko'r yong'oqdek chaqilishi qiyin**" is also used for situations where understanding is challenging for a person, as well as, it might be translated as "**Hard nut to crack**"

The next English idiom "**as sweet as honey**" and its Uzbek counterpart "**asaldek shirin**" reveal both similarities and cultural nuances:

Both idioms use a simile structure, comparing sweetness to honey. This shared metaphorical expression signifies a high level of sweetness or pleasantness. - "**As sweet as honey**" is a common English idiom that reflects the universal association of honey with sweetness. In Western cultures, honey symbolizes a natural and delightful sweetness. "**Asaldek shirin**" in Uzbek similarly uses honey as a metaphor for sweetness. However, the choice of words and the cultural significance of honey might differ, reflecting the culinary traditions and local preferences of Uzbekistan. The English idiom is concise and straightforward, using common words to convey the idea of sweetness. "**Asaldek shirin**" in Uzbek is more culturally specific, incorporating the word "asal" for honey. This specificity adds a layer of cultural richness and provides a direct connection to the sweetness derived from honey in Uzbek culinary traditions. However, honey is not only a universal symbol of sweetness but also carries cultural and historical significance in various societies. In both idioms, the cultural associations with honey contribute to the depth of meaning. Both idioms use sensory language to convey the experience of sweetness. The mention of honey appeals to the sense of taste and adds a vivid and relatable quality to the expressions.

The idioms "**as sweet as honey**" in English and "**asaldek shirin**" in Uzbek share a common metaphorical structure, the use of honey as a symbol of sweetness bridges the linguistic gap in both languages.

Let's conduct a linguistic semantic analysis of the English idiom "**half-baked**" and its Uzbek counterpart "**yarim chala**":

1. "**Half-Baked**" (English):

- Literal Meaning: Originally a term used to describe food, it refers to something that is only partially cooked and is not fully prepared to be eaten.

- Figurative Extension: In a figurative sense, "half-baked" is used to describe ideas, plans, or solutions that are poorly thought out, incomplete, or lacking in substance.

2. "Yarim Chala" (Uzbek):

- Literal Meaning: Translated as "**half-cooked**," this idiom likely has a culinary origin, describing food that is not fully cooked or prepared.

- Figurative Extension: Similar to the English idiom, "**yarim chala**" might be used metaphorically to describe ideas, projects, or plans that are not well-thought-out or incomplete.

- English (Half-Baked): The figurative use of "half-baked" reflects a Western cultural context, emphasizing the importance of thorough planning and completion.

- Uzbek (Yarim Chala): The culinary origin of the Uzbek idiom indicates a connection to the importance of well-prepared food in Uzbek culture, and its figurative use likely carries a similar emphasis on completeness. Both idioms share a semantic overlap in conveying a sense of incompleteness or inadequacy. Whether applied to food or ideas, they suggest that something is lacking or not fully realized.

Both idioms are likely used in contexts where a critical or dismissive tone is warranted. They might be employed to criticize plans, proposals, or solutions that are deemed insufficient or poorly executed.

The use of the terms "**half-baked**" and "**yarim chala**" evokes a visual metaphor, creating a mental image of something only partially cooked or developed.

So, the English idiom "**half-baked**" and the Uzbek idiom "**yarim chala**" share a common theme of incompleteness or inadequacy. The linguistic semantic analysis highlights the idioms' culinary origins, figurative extensions, and cultural nuances, showcasing the diverse ways in which languages express similar concepts.

The last idiom we should analyze the linguistic semantics of the English expression "**as tasteless as a cucumber**" and its Uzbek denotations "**bodringdek bemaza**":

First if we refer "**As Tasteless as a Cucumber**" (English):

Cucumbers are often recognized for their mild and refreshing nature but are also acknowledged for their subtle taste. This phrase literally signifies something devoid of flavor or taste. In a figurative sense, the idiom is employed to characterize food or experiences that lack excitement or are bland.

Now look at the meaning of the "**Bodringdek Bemaza**" in Uzbek:

When translated as "as tasteless as a cucumber," this Uzbek idiom compares something to the mild flavor of a cucumber, emphasizing a lack of taste. Similar to the English idiom, "**bodringdek bemaza**" is likely utilized metaphorically to depict things that are uninteresting, dull, or lacking in excitement.

- English (Cucumber): The selection of a cucumber in the English idiom reflects the cultural understanding of cucumbers as mild and commonly used in salads.

- Uzbek (Cucumber): Cucumbers are a staple in Uzbek cuisine, and the choice of "**bodringdek bemaza**" may resonate more deeply within Uzbek culture.

Both idioms share a common semantic ground, conveying a sense of blandness or the absence of flavor. They are likely utilized to express dissatisfaction or disappointment when

something does not meet expectations. Both idioms draw upon the culinary context, linking taste and flavor to the sensory experience of eating. They utilize familiar food items to create a relatable metaphor. These idioms are likely employed in situations where a critical or disapproving tone is appropriate. They may convey discontent with food, experiences, or anything perceived as lacking in interest or excitement.

Both idioms incorporate a visual metaphor by likening the tasteless quality to a specific vegetable, creating a mental image that enhances comprehension.

In the nutshell, the English idiom "*as tasteless as a cucumber*" and the Uzbek idiom "*bodringdek bemaza*" share a common theme of describing something as lacking in flavor. The linguistic semantic analysis underscores the idioms' culinary origins, cultural nuances, and their ability to convey the universal human experience of taste and disappointment.

Conclusion

In this exploration of food-related idioms, we embarked on a delightful linguistic journey comparing expressions in English and Uzbek. These idioms, intricately woven into the fabric of language, offer glimpses into the cultural flavors and shared experiences of speakers in these distinct linguistic landscapes.

Language, as a dynamic reflection of culture, intertwines with daily experiences. Through a comparative linguistic analysis, we uncovered how culinary metaphors are employed in both English and Uzbek to convey meaning. The idioms examined, such as "Piece of cake" and its Uzbek counterpart "Xamirdan qil sug'urgandek oson," illustrate the rich tapestry of expressions shaped by cultural contexts.

Cultural nuances play a pivotal role, influencing the meanings and connotations of words. The idioms discussed reflect not only the uniqueness of each language but also the depth of similarity and meaningfulness related to food. This linguistic exploration emphasized the importance of delving into idioms, not just as linguistic constructs but as mirrors reflecting cultural richness.

Studying food-related phrases benefits effective communication in diverse cultural settings, enhances language proficiency, and fosters cultural awareness. The comparative analysis showcased the interconnectedness of language and culture, revealing insights into lifestyle, traditions, and values.

Building upon the works of researchers like Kaskova, Ustinova, Bolshakova, Ionesco, Khakimova, and Iskandarova, we delved into the linguistic and cultural characteristics of idioms, shedding light on their unique features. The idioms examined, whether undergoing shifts in meaning or aligning in semantic similarity, contribute to the cross-cultural dialogue inherent in language.

In the realm of food-related idioms, we uncovered the similarities and distinctions between English and Uzbek expressions. Whether expressing ease with "Piece of cake" or emphasizing likeness with "Two peas in a pod," these idioms bridge cultural gaps through shared metaphors. Even less common expressions like "*Finger Linking*" and its Uzbek counterpart "*Barmoq Bilan Yalaydigan Darajada Mazzali*" offer glimpses into collaborative unity and exceptional enjoyment.

As we conclude this culinary journey through languages, we recognize the idioms not just as linguistic curiosities but as windows into the diverse ways cultures express shared human experiences. These idioms, rooted in culinary traditions, reflect the universal themes of ease,

challenge, sweetness, and disappointment, creating a delightful tapestry that transcends linguistic boundaries.

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