

**PLANT-BASED PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS AS MARKERS OF NATIONAL IDENTITY IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE****Muazzamxon Mamajonova**

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**Abstract.** This study investigates how plant-based phraseological units in the Uzbek language serve as markers of national identity. Culturally significant plants, including mint (yalpiz), basil (rayhon), pomegranate (anor), mulberry (tut), wheat (bug‘doy), and camelthorn (yantoq), are analyzed for their semantic, symbolic, and cultural significance. The findings reveal that these phraseological units not only enrich the lexicon but also reflect collective memory, traditional worldview, and folk values. This research highlights the role of language as a carrier of cultural identity and provides a foundation for further linguocultural studies.

**Keywords:** phraseological units, national identity, plant imagery, linguoculturology, Uzbek language

**Introduction**

Language preserves cultural memory, and phraseological units are particularly effective in conveying national identity. In Uzbek, plant-based imagery plays a central role in phraseology, reflecting agrarian traditions, ethical norms, and aesthetic values. This study aims to examine how plant imagery in Uzbek phraseology communicates cultural and national identity.

**Methodology**

A descriptive linguocultural approach was applied. Phraseological units involving culturally significant plants were selected and analyzed for:

Semantic content – literal and figurative meanings.

Symbolic function – cultural and ethical implications.

Contribution to national identity – reflection of Uzbek values, lifestyle, and worldview.

Focus was placed on internal linguistic and cultural structures rather than comparative cross-linguistic analysis.

**Key Findings**

Mint (yalpiz) – freshness, purity, vitality; expressions highlight positive human traits.

Basil (rayhon) – cleanliness, hospitality, aesthetic refinement; reflects culinary and social traditions.

Pomegranate (anor) – fertility, prosperity, abundance; represents family values.

Mulberry (tut) – patience, diligence, craftsmanship; illustrates endurance and work ethic.

Wheat (bug‘doy) – sustenance, livelihood, agricultural respect.

Camelthorn (yantoq) – resilience, adaptability; symbolizes survival in harsh environments.

These units demonstrate that plant imagery encodes ethical, social, and cultural norms, preserving collective memory and reinforcing national identity.

### Conclusion

Plant-based phraseological units in Uzbek function as essential markers of national identity. They reflect both cultural heritage and social values, illustrating how language serves as a medium for transmitting collective experience. This research contributes to linguoculturology and provides a basis for further studies on the interplay between language, culture, and national identity.

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