

EXPRESSION OF RESPECT AND PRAISE THROUGH ZOONYMS IN THE UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Abstract: The concept of respect and praise plays a crucial role in communication, reflecting cultural values, social hierarchies, and personal relationships. In both Uzbek and English, zoonyms — words derived from animals — are frequently used to express these sentiments. This article explores how these terms function within both languages, highlighting their similarities and differences in cultural context, connotations, and usage. Through a comparative analysis of the Uzbek and English lexicon, the article seeks to illuminate the linguistic mechanisms by which respect and praise are conveyed using zoonyms. The study also addresses the social and psychological significance of animal metaphors, examining their role in shaping interpersonal dynamics.

Keywords: zoonyms, respect, praise, comparative linguistics, Uzbek, English, animal metaphors.

Introduction. Respect and praise are fundamental elements of human communication, often used to convey admiration, affection, or honor. Language, as a reflection of culture, employs various strategies to express these emotions. One such strategy is the use of zoonyms — words that derive from animals but are used metaphorically to describe human qualities. These terms often carry rich, culturally specific connotations that go beyond their literal meanings.

In both Uzbek and English, zoonymous expressions are integral to daily conversations, signifying social relationships, status, and emotional bonds. In Uzbek, the cultural context heavily influences the usage of animal metaphors to express respect or praise, while in English, the same phenomenon occurs but with different underlying principles and symbols. This article explores the usage of zoonymous terms in both languages, examining their function as vehicles of respect and praise.

Main Body. The Role of Zoonyms in Language. Zoonyms in language often reflect the perception of animals as representations of certain human traits or behaviors. These traits are projected onto humans to express admiration, respect, or sometimes criticism. In both Uzbek and English, animals are seen as symbols that carry social and psychological significance.

For example, in English, phrases like “a lion-hearted person” or “a wise owl” are used to convey praise for someone's bravery or intelligence. Similarly, in Uzbek, terms such as “qush kabi uchadigan” (flying like a bird) or “bo’ri yurak” (heart of a wolf) are used to praise someone's qualities like agility or courage.

Cultural Significance of Zoonymous Terms in Uzbek. In Uzbek, animals are deeply embedded in the culture and folklore, with each animal representing distinct qualities that are highly regarded in

Uzbek society. For instance, the horse is a symbol of strength, freedom, and nobility. The expression "shovqinli ot" (noisy horse) is used to describe someone who speaks with authority or someone whose presence commands attention. In an idiomatic sense, the English phrase **"noisy horse"** isn't a widely used idiom on its own, but if we interpret it figuratively, it could suggest:

- A person or thing that **draws a lot of attention** in an uncontrolled or disruptive way.
- Someone who is **unruly, loud, or difficult to manage**.
- In some metaphorical usage, it might imply **a troublemaker** or someone who stirs things up.

In **Uzbek**, similar idiomatic expressions that capture this meaning might include:

- **"boshi berk arava"** – literally "a cart with a closed front," meaning someone unpredictable or troublesome.
- **"shovqin ko'targan odam"** – someone who creates noise or fuss; a loud, attention-seeking person.
- **"otdan tushmaydigan odam"** – literally "a person who doesn't get off the horse," used for someone who is always active or disruptive.

If we translate **"noisy horse"** to capture a metaphor for a **rowdy or disruptive character**, a natural Uzbek rendering could be:

"shovqin ko'targan otdek odam" – "a person like a noisy horse".

Similarly, the eagle, a majestic bird, is associated with high status, dignity, and resilience. The phrase **"agar burgut bo'lsa, osmonni egallaydi"** (if it's an eagle, it will seize the sky) denotes someone who is ambitious and destined for greatness. The phrase **"If it's an eagle, it will seize the sky"** in an **idiomatic sense** expresses the idea that: **A truly capable or noble person will rise to great heights and fulfill their potential.**

In Uzbek (idiomatic equivalent) **"Burgut bo'lsa, osmonni egallaydi."** This is a direct translation, but it also works idiomatically in Uzbek, especially in poetic or proverbial usage. Similar Uzbek expressions that convey the same idea:

- **"Yaxshi ot o'z yo'lini topadi."** – A good horse finds its way.
- **"Sifatli tosh o'z joyini topadi."** – A quality stone finds its place.
- **"Qanoti bor uchadi."** – One who has wings will fly (used to say that someone with ability will succeed).

So idiomatically in Uzbek, **"Burgut bo'lsa, osmonni egallaydi"** can be used to express that **someone talented or powerful is destined for greatness.**

Zoonymous expressions also serve as tools for maintaining social harmony and showing deference. When addressing elders or superiors, terms like **"dunyoviy qush"** (worldly bird) or **"baliqning bolasi"** (fish's offspring) are used to show respect for their wisdom or position in society. These expressions are more than just metaphors; they are deeply intertwined with the social fabric and carry layers of respect.

The phrase "worldly bird" can have different meanings depending on the context. Let's explore both literal and idiomatic senses in Uzbek:

Literal translation: **"dunyoviy qush"**

- **dunyoviy** – worldly, related to the world or material life

- **qush** – bird

But “dunyoviy qush” doesn't carry a clear idiomatic meaning in Uzbek on its own.

Idiomatic or figurative meaning:

In English, “worldly bird” might suggest:

- A person who is **experienced in life**, well-traveled, and exposed to many things.
- Someone who is **more interested in worldly or material matters** than in spiritual or simple living.

To express this **idiomatically in Uzbek**, you might use phrases like:

1. “**Ko'pni ko'rgan odam**” – A person who has seen a lot (experienced).
2. “**Hayotni ko'rgan qush**” (metaphorical) – A bird that has seen life (used poetically).
3. “**Dunyo ishi bilan ovora bo'lgan odam**” – A person absorbed in worldly affairs.
4. “**Sayyoh qush**” / “**Ko'chmanchi qush**” – A migratory bird; sometimes used metaphorically for someone always on the move or chasing worldly things.

Suggested poetic or idiomatic Uzbek version:

“Dunyoni ko'rgan qush” – “A bird that has seen the world”. This version is metaphorical and conveys experience, travel, and possibly being jaded by worldly life — closer to how “worldly bird” might be used in poetry or figurative speech.

The phrase “fish's offspring” literally means “baliqning bolasi” in Uzbek.

Literal translation: baliqning bolasi – the child or young of a fish.

But idiomatically or metaphorically, this phrase can carry deeper meanings depending on the context.

Idiomatic or figurative meaning:

In English or poetic metaphor, “**fish's offspring**” could suggest:

- Someone who is **born to be in water** (comfortable in a certain environment, like how a fish swims naturally).
- A person who **inherits traits** from his/her parents (especially cleverness, slipperiness, or adaptability).
- Someone who is **calm, silent, or emotionally elusive** (fish are often silent creatures).

In Uzbek idiomatic understanding:

There is a similar Uzbek saying “**Baliqning bolasi suvda suzadi.**” (“*The fish's offspring swims in water*”). This means: A child inherits the **nature, skills, or behavior** of his/her parents. It's used much like “**Like father, like son**” or “**The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.**”

So in idiomatic Uzbek “**Baliqning bolasi**” can imply:

- A **child who follows in the footsteps of the parents;**
- Someone **naturally talented** in what their family is known for.

Zoonymous Terms in English. In English, zoonymous terms are also a powerful tool for expressing respect and praise. Some common expressions include “as busy as a bee” (indicating industriousness), “gentle as a lamb” (symbolizing kindness), and “eagle-eyed” (representing sharp vision). These expressions are often rooted in the qualities people attribute to animals, reflecting an admiration for their physical abilities or behaviors.

However, English also has expressions that use animals in more negative contexts. For example, “a sly fox” can imply cunning or deceitfulness, and “a rat” can describe a disloyal person. Such nuances reveal how language can simultaneously use animals for both positive and negative assessments of human behavior.

In terms of respect and praise, expressions like “a lion-hearted person” are frequently used to honor bravery or determination. Much like in Uzbek, these animal metaphors serve as a shorthand for communicating admiration or high regard for personal qualities. However, the specific animals chosen to represent certain traits often vary between the cultures.

Cross-Cultural Comparisons. While both Uzbek and English use animal metaphors to convey respect and praise, the choice of animals and the qualities associated with them differ based on cultural values. For example, in Uzbek, the horse is central to expressions of respect, reflecting the nomadic heritage and the historical importance of horses in Uzbek life. In contrast, the lion in English often symbolizes courage and nobility due to its association with royalty and power in Western cultures.

Another difference lies in the usage of animals with more negative connotations. In English, the terms “snake” or “rat” might be used to describe dishonesty or treachery, while in Uzbek, animals like “yovvoyi mushuk” (wild cat) might have a more neutral or even positive connotation, often symbolizing independence or cleverness rather than deceitfulness.

Psychological and Social Implications. Using zoonymous terms to express respect and praise can have significant psychological and social implications. These expressions help reinforce social hierarchies, build relationships, and convey admiration in a way that is culturally understood. In both Uzbek and English, animals serve as metaphors for ideal human traits, reflecting society’s collective values and norms.

Furthermore, the use of such metaphors fosters a sense of belonging and understanding among speakers, creating a common ground for emotional and social connection. Whether through praise or respect, zoonymous terms bridge the gap between human experiences and the natural world, highlighting the deep interconnection between culture, language, and emotion.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, zoonymous terms serve as powerful linguistic tools for expressing respect and praise in both Uzbek and English. While the specific animals chosen to represent particular qualities differ across cultures, the underlying function of these metaphors remains largely consistent — to convey admiration, honor, and positive evaluation of human traits. By comparing these expressions across the two languages, we gain insight into the cultural values that shape the way respect and praise are communicated.

The study of zoonymous expressions offers a window into the rich tapestry of human culture and language, revealing how we use the natural world to mirror and enhance our understanding of human virtues. The study further emphasizes the universality of respect and praise, showing that, despite cultural differences, human beings across the world share a common need to express admiration and honor in ways that are both meaningful and profound.

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