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## HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH PROVERBS AND SAYINGS AND THEIR COMPARISON WITH UZBEK PROVERBS

**Annotation:** The article explores the historical development of English proverbs, tracing their origins from early oral traditions in Old English through the influence of Celtic, Norse, and later Latin and French cultures. It highlights how the Bible, medieval literature, Renaissance texts, and figures like Shakespeare played pivotal roles in shaping and preserving proverbs. Over time, proverbs evolved to reflect societal changes brought about by the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution, and modern globalization. Today, proverbs remain a dynamic element of English, offering timeless wisdom while adapting to contemporary issues. The analysis also emphasizes their characteristics: conciseness, universal themes, moral guidance, and metaphorical language.

**Аннотация:** Статья исследует историческое развитие английских пословиц, начиная с их истоков в устной традиции древнеанглийского языка и влияния кельтской и скандинавской культур. Подчеркивается, как Библия, средневековая литература, произведения эпохи Возрождения и творчество таких фигур, как Уильям Шекспир, сыграли ключевую роль в формировании и сохранении пословиц. Со временем пословицы изменялись, отражая изменения в обществе, вызванные Просвещением, Промышленной революцией и современной глобализацией. Сегодня пословицы остаются динамичным элементом английского языка, предлагая вечную мудрость и адаптируясь к современным вопросам. Анализ также выделяет их характеристики: лаконичность, универсальность тем, нравоучительность и метафоричность.

**Keywords:** Proverbs, Oral tradition, Old English, Cultural exchange, Renaissance, Enlightenment, Industrial Revolution, Globalization, Conciseness, Metaphorical language

Пословицы, Устная традиция, Староанглийский, Культурный обмен Возрождение, Просвещение, Промышленная революция, Глобализация, Лаконичность, Метафорический язык

The development of English proverbs can be traced back through a combination of cultural, social, and linguistic influences that span centuries. Proverbs are short, traditional sayings that express general truths, wisdom, or advice, often based on common sense or experience. The development of English proverbs is intricately tied to the history of the English language itself, as well as the cultural evolution of the English-speaking peoples.

### 1. Early Roots in Oral Tradition

- **Old English (Anglo-Saxon Period, 5th–12th centuries):**

- In its early stages, the English language was largely oral, and wisdom or advice was passed down orally. Proverbs in Old English were shaped by the traditions and values of the Anglo-Saxons, and many focused on themes like fate, honor, and the human condition.[5]

- Example: The Old English Exeter Book, a collection of poetry, contains some early examples of proverbial wisdom, like "Wyrd bið ful aræd" ("Fate is fully inexorable").

- **Celtic and Norse Influence:**

- The Anglo-Saxon language was also influenced by Celtic and Norse traditions, which brought their own proverbs and oral sayings, contributing to the rich tradition of folklore and wisdom in England. Many of these sayings revolved around nature, animals, and daily life.

## 2. Middle English and the Growth of Literary Influence (12th–15th centuries)

- During the Middle English period, the Norman Conquest in 1066 brought the influence of Old French and Latin into the English language. This expanded the vocabulary of English and introduced more structured forms of expression.[2]
- The Bible, with its translations into English, especially the Wycliffe Bible (14th century) and later the King James Bible (1611), was a major source of proverbs. Many English proverbs were derived from Biblical passages, contributing to the Christian moral framework of the time.
  - Example: "A stitch in time saves nine" (suggesting that a small effort now prevents bigger problems later) has a similar moral in biblical teachings, although the exact phrasing is not biblical.
- The rise of medieval literature, especially works by Geoffrey Chaucer, also helped preserve proverbs in writing, cementing their place in English culture.

## 3. The Renaissance and the Rise of Print (16th–17th centuries)

- With the advent of the printing press in the 15th century, proverbs began to be recorded and disseminated widely, making them accessible to a broader audience. The Renaissance saw a growing interest in classical texts, and many proverbs from Latin and Greek were translated into English, influencing the development of English sayings. [6]
  - For instance, "**Fortune favors the bold**" is a translation of a Latin saying, Fortes fortuna adiuvat.
- The 16th and 17th centuries also marked a period of literary flourishing in England, with figures such as **William Shakespeare** incorporating proverbs into their works, which helped popularize them further.
  - Example: Shakespeare often used proverbs like "The better part of Valour, is Discretion" from Henry IV, or "What's done is done" from Macbeth.

## 4. The 18th and 19th Centuries: Enlightenment, Industrial Revolution, and Societal Change

- The Age of Enlightenment, with its emphasis on reason and individualism, introduced more refined, often moralistic proverbs. The rise of newspapers, pamphlets, and books meant that proverbs became part of the everyday discourse.
- The Industrial Revolution, with its rapid societal changes, also generated new proverbs related to work, progress, and economic life. The themes of perseverance, hard work, and the value of time became common.

- Example: "Time is money" became a widely used proverb, especially as industrialization demanded efficiency and productivity.

## 5. 20th Century and Beyond: Globalization and Modern Influence

- In the 20th century, the development of mass media, including radio, television, and later the internet, facilitated the spread and evolution of proverbs.
- Some proverbs became more secular and pragmatic in tone, reflecting changes in societal values. Others became more specific to certain cultures, industries, or social movements, while new proverbs were coined to reflect contemporary issues.
- The global spread of English through colonialism, migration, and the internet has also introduced non-English proverbs into the English-speaking world, contributing to a more diverse collection of sayings.
- Some modern proverbs are reflective of current concerns, such as environmentalism, technology, and social justice:
  - Example: "What goes around, comes around" (the idea of karma or retribution), or "Actions speak louder than words" (the importance of deeds over promises).

## 6. Characteristics and Functions of Proverbs

- **Conciseness:** Proverbs are typically short, which makes them easy to remember and pass on.
- **Universal Themes:** They often deal with common human experiences—life, death, love, work, and fate—making them timeless.
- **Moral and Practical Guidance:** Many proverbs offer advice or ethical lessons. They encapsulate the wisdom of the ages, often urging caution, patience, or perseverance.[1]
- **Metaphorical Language:** Proverbs often use metaphorical or figurative language, making them vivid and memorable.

## 7. Conclusion

The development of English proverbs is the result of centuries of cultural exchange, linguistic evolution, and the experiences of English-speaking people. From early oral traditions to their widespread use in literature, proverbs have served as an essential part of English culture, offering wisdom, humor, and insights into the human condition. Over time, they have adapted to reflect the changing concerns of society, making them both a window into the past and a dynamic part of contemporary language.

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