

## THEMATIC AND FUNCTIONAL-STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF GERMAN AND UZBEK PROVERBS

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**Abstract.** This article analyzes the linguistic features of proverbs in the Uzbek and German languages. The study examines the generalizing character of proverbs, their semantic content, structural stability, and pragmatic function in speech communication. Proverbs are also considered as linguistic units that reflect the social experience and cultural values of a nation.

**Keywords:** semantic analysis, thematic analysis, pragmatic function, comparative linguistics, speech culture.

One of the important characteristics of proverbs is their generalizing nature. Usually, a proverb does not describe a specific event but expresses a general life principle. For this reason, proverbs often appear in the form of a judgment or conclusion. For example, the Uzbek proverb “Yaxshi so‘z – jon ozig‘i” (“A kind word is nourishment for the soul”) expresses the importance of positive relations between people. In German, the proverb “Der Ton macht die Musik” (“The tone makes the music”) emphasizes the importance of politeness and proper communication. Such examples show that proverbs are semantically the result of social experience. At the same time, proverbs are often used as arguments in speech. In other words, during a conversation a proverb may be used to support or strengthen a particular idea. As a result, proverbs increase the persuasive power of speech. In linguistic research, this phenomenon is interpreted as a pragmatic function.

In the language system, proverbs exist as stable structures. They are usually used in an unchanged form and have a grammatically stable structure. Such stability can be explained by the fact that proverbs have been preserved for a long time through oral folk tradition. Linguist Harald Burger considers proverbs as a special type of phraseological units and emphasizes their stability and generalized semantics as their main features. In this respect, proverbs are closely connected with the lexical stock of the language because they are often used as ready-made speech formulas.

For example, the German proverb “Übung macht den Meister” (“Practice makes perfect”) indicates that mastery is achieved through repeated practice. In Uzbek, the proverb “Ko‘p mashq – ustalik” expresses the same idea. Such parallel examples show that proverbs function as universal communicative units.

**Table 1. Main characteristics of proverbs in the language system**

Feature	Description	Example
Stability	Proverbs are usually used in a fixed form	“Time is more valuable than gold”
Generalization	Expresses life experience as a general judgment	“He who works will eat”
Didactic character	Provides moral or educational conclusions	“A kind word is nourishment for the soul”
Semantic density	Large meaning expressed in a short form	“Knowledge is power”
Speech function	Used to prove or strengthen an idea	“ No pain, no gain ”

Another important feature of proverbs in the language system is their semantic density. A large amount of meaning is often expressed in a very short form. Therefore, proverbs correspond

to the principle of linguistic economy. For example, the proverb “Ilm – kuch” (“Knowledge is power”) and its German equivalent “Wissen ist Macht” are very short but express the great importance of knowledge in society. This feature turns proverbs into an effective didactic means of communication. Historically, proverbs have also been widely used in the educational process. Especially in Eastern cultures, proverbs have been considered an important tool for educating the younger generation. In Uzbek oral folk literature, proverbs have played a significant role in promoting moral values. In linguistic studies, the classification of proverbs is also an important issue. Researchers divide proverbs into various groups according to their semantic, structural, and functional features. One of the most widespread classifications is thematic classification. According to this classification, proverbs are divided into themes such as work, knowledge, friendship, time, and morality. For example, proverbs related to the theme of work include the Uzbek proverb “Mehnat qilgan – to‘yadi” (“He who works will be satisfied”) and the German proverb “Arbeit adelt” (“Work ennobles”). Such classifications facilitate the analysis of the meaning of proverbs and allow researchers to identify both similarities and differences in the proverbs of different nations. In the scientific analysis of proverbs, their classification plays a particularly important role. In linguistics, proverbs are grouped according to various criteria. One of the most widely used classifications is thematic classification, where proverbs are categorized according to themes such as work, knowledge, friendship, time, morality, patience, and honesty. Such classification is an important methodological tool for studying the worldview and mentality of a nation. For example, in Uzbek proverbs the value of work appears frequently: “Mehnat qilgan – to‘yadi” (“He who works will be satisfied”) and “Mehnat – rohat keltirar” (“Work brings comfort”). In German proverbs the same meaning is expressed through “Ohne Fleiß kein Preis” (“No pain, no gain”) and “Arbeit adelt” (“Work ennobles”). These examples show that work is considered an important social value in both cultures. Therefore, proverbs are not only linguistic units but also conceptual units that reflect cultural and social experience. Linguists emphasize that through the classification of proverbs it is possible to determine their semantic fields and study the dominant values in the thinking of a people. Proverbs can also be classified from a structural perspective. Structural classification is based on the grammatical structure and syntactic form of the proverb. According to this classification, proverbs are divided into simple sentence proverbs, compound sentence proverbs, and proverbs with parallel structures. For example, the Uzbek proverb “Ilm – kuch” (“Knowledge is power”) has the structure of a simple sentence. The German proverb “Zeit ist Geld” (“Time is money”) has a similar structure, where two key concepts are expressed through equivalence. Proverbs with parallel structures include expressions such as “Yaxshi so‘z – jon ozig‘i” and the German proverb “Reden ist Silber, Schweigen ist Gold” (“Speech is silver, silence is golden”). Such structures increase the expressiveness of the proverb and create a rhythmic effect in speech. From a structural perspective, proverbs demonstrate the syntactic possibilities of language. This shows that their role in the language system is important not only semantically but also grammatically. The functional characteristics of proverbs in the language system also deserve special attention. In speech communication, proverbs are often used as arguments or evidence. During a conversation, the use of a proverb to support a particular idea increases the persuasive power of speech. For example, if someone wants to emphasize the importance of valuing time, they may quote the proverb “Vaqt oltindan qimmat” (“Time is more precious than gold”). In German, the proverb “Zeit ist Geld” performs a similar function. Such usage demonstrates the communicative function of proverbs. They allow speakers to express important ideas in a short and precise form. For this reason, proverbs are often considered expressions of folk wisdom. In paremiological studies, proverbs are also regarded as a means of enriching the emotional and stylistic richness of speech. Proverbs are linguistic units closely connected with the historical experience of a people. They are usually formed over long historical periods and passed down orally from generation to generation. Therefore, proverbs reflect ancient ways of life, traditions, and social relations. For example, Uzbek proverbs often express the values of hospitality, respect for elders, and

collectivism. Proverbs such as “Mehmon otangdan ulug” (“A guest is greater than your father”) and “Birlik bor joyda – tiriklik bor” (“Where there is unity, there is life”) show the importance of hospitality and unity in Uzbek culture. In German proverbs, ideas of order and diligence appear more frequently. For example, the proverb “Ordnung muss sein” (“There must be order”) expresses the importance of discipline in social life. Such examples demonstrate that through proverbs it is possible to observe certain aspects of national mentality.

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