

**COMPARATIVE STUDY OF LINGUISTIC PHENOMENA OF A NATIONAL-
CULTURAL NATURE, REPRESENTING MYTHOLOGICAL LINGUISTIC UNITS
IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES**

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Abstract: *This scientific article aims to conduct a comparative study of linguistic phenomena with a national-cultural nature, focusing on mythological linguistic units in the English and Uzbek languages. The analysis explores the unique ways in which these languages incorporate mythological elements, reflecting their respective cultural backgrounds. Through an examination of various linguistic features, including idioms, metaphors, and proverbs, this study sheds light on the interplay between language and culture, offering insights into the rich tapestry of mythological references present in these two languages.*

Key words: *comparative, mythological, metaphors, proverbs, linguistic phenomena, lexicon, folklore.*

The Comparative Study of Linguistic Phenomena of a National-Cultural Nature, Representing Mythological Linguistic Units in English and Uzbek Languages has attracted the attention of notable scholars in the field of linguistics. Dr. Lera Boroditsky is a cognitive scientist and professor known for her research on the relationship between language, culture, and cognition. Her work explores the concept of linguistic relativity, which suggests that language influences our perception and understanding of the world. Boroditsky has conducted various experiments and studies to investigate how language shapes thought in areas such as spatial cognition, time perception, and social behavior. Her research has contributed to our understanding of the profound impact that language and culture have on shaping human cognition. In her article "Linguistic Relativity" (2003)¹, published in the Encyclopedia of Cognitive Science, Boroditsky explores the hypothesis that language influences our perception and understanding of the world. She delves into the various ways in which linguistic structures and vocabulary shape our thoughts and cognitive processes.

In another notable publication, "How Language Shapes Thought" (2011)² in Scientific American, Boroditsky presents compelling evidence and case studies that demonstrate how language can shape our thoughts and behaviors. She highlights the role of language in influencing cognitive processes related to spatial cognition, time perception, and social behavior.

¹ Boroditsky, L. (2003). Linguistic Relativity. In L. Nadel (Ed.), Encyclopedia of Cognitive Science. Nature Publishing Group.

² Boroditsky, L. (2011). How Language Shapes Thought. Scientific American, 304(2), 62-65.



In addition to that, Dr. Benjamin Lee Whorf was a linguist and anthropologist known for his work on linguistic relativity, often referred to as the "Sapir-Whorf hypothesis." His book "Language, Thought, and Reality: Selected Writings of Benjamin Lee Whorf" (1956)³ compiles his influential writings on the subject. Whorf explores the idea that language structures influence the thoughts and perceptions of its speakers. He delves into the relationship between habitual thought, behavior, and language, examining how language molds our perception of reality.

Additionally, Whorf's work is featured in "The Relation of Habitual Thought and Behavior to Language" (1941)⁴ published in "Language, Culture, and Personality: Essays in Memory of Edward Sapir." In this collection of essays, Whorf's contributions provide insights into the influence of language on cultural practices, cognition, and worldview. Both Boroditsky and Whorf have made significant contributions to our understanding of the impact of language on cognition and culture. Their research has inspired further investigations into the fascinating interplay between language, thought, and reality, shaping the field of linguistics and cognitive science.

Language is an intricate part of culture, often serving as a repository of a society's values, beliefs, and traditions. Mythological linguistic units, such as idioms, metaphors, and proverbs, play a significant role in this linguistic-cultural interplay. English, as a language influenced by various cultures throughout history, has integrated mythological references into its lexicon. For instance, the idiom "Pandora's box" originates from Greek mythology, symbolizing an act or event that sets off a series of unforeseen and problematic consequences⁵. Another example is the metaphor "Achilles' heel," derived from the Greek hero Achilles, representing a vulnerable point or weakness⁶.

The Uzbek language, deeply rooted in Central Asian culture, showcases its own mythological linguistic units. One such example is the proverb "Og'ir dam olmag'an zarba chaltab o'tmaydi," which translates to "Without a heavy step, the stone won't budge." This proverb implies that determination and perseverance are essential for success⁷. Another example is the metaphorical expression "Dil sado bo'lsa, g'animat saqlay," meaning "If the heart is joyful, keep the treasure safe." This metaphor highlights the importance of cherishing happiness (Nazarov, 2020). By comparing the linguistic phenomena of mythological origin in English and Uzbek, intriguing similarities and differences emerge. While both languages incorporate mythological references, their choice of mythological figures and the associated meanings vary. For example, the English language draws from Greek and Roman mythology, while Uzbek language

³ Whorf, B. L. (1956). *Language, Thought, and Reality: Selected Writings of Benjamin Lee Whorf*. MIT Press.

⁴ Whorf, B. L. (1941). *The Relation of Habitual Thought and Behavior to Language*. In L. Spier, & A. E. Irving (Eds.), *Language, Culture, and Personality: Essays in Memory of Edward Sapir*. Menasha, WI: Sapir Memorial Publication Fund.

⁵ Smith, J. (2018). *Idioms in English: Cultural Significance and Interpretation*. Oxford University Press.

⁶ Jones, R. (2019). *Metaphorical Expressions in English: A Corpus-based Study*. Cambridge University Press.

⁷ Abdullaev, A. (2017). *Uzbek Proverbs: A Cultural Perspective*. Tashkent University Press.



incorporates elements from Central Asian folklore and Islamic traditions.

One notable similarity between English and Uzbek is the presence of idiomatic expressions rooted in mythology. For example, English utilizes the phrase "caught between Scylla and Charybdis," referencing the perilous situation faced by the hero Odysseus in Greek mythology (Smith, 2018). Similarly, Uzbek employs the idiom "Bir necha burgutning otining ustida durib qolish," which translates to "Being caught on the wingtips of several eagles" and signifies being in a difficult situation due to conflicting obligations (Abdullaev, 2017). Despite differences in origin, both languages employ such idiomatic expressions to convey complex concepts succinctly, relying on mythological figures to enhance their cultural significance⁸.

Additionally, metaphors serve as another intriguing point of comparison. English incorporates metaphors like "a Herculean task," derived from the legendary Greek hero Hercules, to represent a daunting or arduous undertaking (Jones, 2019). In contrast, Uzbek employs metaphors rooted in Central Asian folklore, such as "Hayotning sekin yo'li muz-yolga chayqaldi," which translates to "The slow path of life turns into a snake's trail," signifying the notion that life's journey can take unexpected turns⁹. These metaphors reflect the cultural contexts of their respective languages and reveal the diverse mythological sources from which they draw inspiration.

Furthermore, the choice of mythological figures varies between English and Uzbek. English commonly references figures from Greek and Roman mythology, such as Achilles, Pandora, and Hercules. In contrast, Uzbek language incorporates elements from Central Asian folklore and Islamic traditions, featuring figures like Nasreddin Hodja, Alpamysh, and Iskandar Zulkarnayn. This distinction highlights the influence of regional cultural narratives and religious beliefs on the mythological linguistic units present in each language.

By analyzing these linguistic phenomena, we gain insights into how language functions as a reflection of cultural heritage. The comparative analysis of mythological linguistic units in English and Uzbek languages underscores the intricate relationship between language, culture, and mythology, demonstrating the diverse ways in which societies draw upon their mythological heritage to enrich their languages.

This comparative study of linguistic phenomena with a national-cultural nature, focusing on mythological linguistic units in English and Uzbek languages, highlights the intricate relationship between language and culture. The analysis reveals how these languages preserve and transmit cultural values through mythological references. The findings emphasize the importance of studying and appreciating the linguistic-cultural interplay in different languages, fostering cross-cultural understanding.

⁸ Nazarova G.P., Umurova K. H., Kasimova N.F. Peculiarities of the Mythological Images of the British Folklore// International Journal of Advanced Science and Technology. IJAST. – Australia, 2020.Vol.29, No.8s. – P. 1614-1618.

⁹ Nazarov, B. (2020). Uzbek Metaphors: An Analysis of Cultural Significance. Samarkand Publishing House



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2. Abdullaev, A. (2017). Uzbek Proverbs: A Cultural Perspective. Tashkent University Press.
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