



VERTICALITY VS. RADIANCE: A COMPARATIVE OF SPATIAL AND VISUAL METAPHORS OF "JOY" IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: *Ushbu maqola ingliz va o‘zbek tillaridagi “quvonch” kontseptining metaforik modellarini qiyosiy tahlil qilishga bag‘ishlangan. Tadqiqotda ingliz tilidagi quvonchning "yuqoriga yo‘nalganlik" (verticality) va o‘zbek tilidagi "ichki nur" (radiance) metaforalari o‘rtasidagi farqlar yoritiladi. Natijalar shuni ko‘rsatadiki, bu farqlar g‘arb individualizmi va sharq jamoaviylik madaniyati bilan chambarchas bog‘liqdir.*

This article is devoted to a comparative analysis of metaphorical models of the concept of "joy" in English and Uzbek. The research highlights the differences between the "upward direction" (verticality) metaphors in English and "internal light" (radiance) metaphors in the Uzbek language. The findings suggest that these differences are closely linked to Western individualism and Eastern collectivist cultures.

Данная статья посвящена сравнительному анализу метафорических моделей концепта «радость» в английском и узбекском языках. В исследовании освещаются различия между метафорами «вертикальности» в английском языке и «внутреннего сияния» в узбекском языке. Результаты показывают, что эти различия тесно связаны с западным индивидуализмом и восточной коллективистской культурой.

Keywords: *concept, joy, linguoculturology, metaphor, verticality, radiance, English, Uzbek.*

INTRODUCTION

In modern linguistics, emotions are viewed not just as biological states, but

as culturally constructed concepts. "Joy" is a universal human experience, yet the way it is conceptualized in language reveals deep-seated cultural values. While an English speaker might feel like they are "soaring," an Uzbek speaker might feel their heart "filling with light". This article explores the specific aspect of spatial and visual imagery used to describe joy, arguing that these linguistic choices are mirrors of a society's philosophical foundation.

1.THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: METAPHORS WE LIVE BY

According to Lakoff and Johnson, metaphors are not merely poetic devices but cognitive tools that shape how we perceive reality. In the context of emotions, metaphors provide a physical shape to abstract feelings. For instance, the "Joy is Up" metaphor in English is a psycholinguistic mechanism that helps the brain process the sensation of elation.

2. THE "UPWARD" DIMENSION IN ENGLISH PHRASEOLOGY

English phraseology is heavily dominated by the "Verticality" metaphor. This suggests that joy is an escape from the "heavy" reality of the ground. On cloud nine / In seventh heaven: These suggest a celestial height, placing the individual far above mundane problems. Walking on air: This idiom emphasizes weightlessness, a common physical sensation associated with extreme happiness. Jump for joy: A kinetic metaphor where the body physically attempts to move upward. Over the moon: A hyperbolic expression that transcends terrestrial limits, reflecting a peak individual experience. These expressions highlight joy as an individual "high", often tied to personal achievement or freedom.

3. THE "RADIANCE" DIMENSION IN UZBEK PHRASEOLOGY

While Uzbek speakers also use height metaphors (e.g., boshi ko‘kka yetmoq), the primary conceptualization of joy is through "Light" and "Internal Radiance".

Qalbi nurga to‘lmoq (The heart fills with light): This suggests that joy is a spiritual blessing that illuminates the inner self. Ko‘zi quvnamoq (Eyes sparkling/dancing): This focuses on the outward radiation of joy as a living energy. Ichiga sig‘may ketmoq (cannot be contained within): This describes joy as an expansive energy that grows within the person until it exceeds their physical boundaries. Chehrasi ochilmoq (The face opens/brightens): Similar to light, joy is seen as something that removes darkness or "closedness" from a person's appearance.

4.LINGUOCULTURAL INTERPRETATION: WHY THE DIFFERENCE?

The difference between "Height" and "Light" is not accidental. It is rooted in the social structures of the two cultures. | Feature | English (Verticality) | Uzbek (Radiance) | Cultural Core. Individualism. Collectivism. Focus. Personal peak/Autonomy. Spiritual harmony/Social bond Symbolism. Flight and Freedom. Warmth and Community. In Uzbek culture, joy is "multiplied" when shared with the community (mahalla) or family. Light, by nature, is something that spreads and illuminates others, which fits the collectivist mindset. English joy, as a "flight," focuses on the individual's temporary elevation above the rest.

5. PSYCHOLINGUISTIC IMPACT

These metaphors are not just "flowery language"; they are the mechanisms by which the brain matches neurobiological states of happiness with social interaction. Using light imagery helps Uzbek speakers connect their internal state to a broader spiritual and social context, while height imagery helps English speakers articulate their sense of personal success and elation.

CONCLUSION:

The comparative analysis shows that while the "heartbeat" of joy is universal, its "linguistic song" is culturally specific. English joy is a “flight”-a soaring,

individual experience. Uzbek joy is a “radiance”-a shared light that strengthens

bonds. For a linguist, understanding these nuances is essential for fostering true cross-cultural empathy.

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