



Expression Of The Concept Of Mother And Child In English And Uzbek Proverbs

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Abstract: Proverbs serve as an essential cultural and linguistic tool that reflects the values, beliefs, and traditions of a society. This study examines the representation of the mother-child relationship in English and Uzbek proverbs, following a comparative analysis approach. By categorizing proverbs into three main themes—(1) the role of mothers, (2) child-rearing, and (3) the emotional bond between mother and child—this research highlights both the universal and culturally specific aspects of maternal influence. Findings indicate that both English and Uzbek cultures emphasize the unconditional love, sacrifice, and wisdom of mothers. However, Uzbek proverbs place a stronger focus on religious and moral duties, while English proverbs highlight emotional support and individualism. The study also incorporates insights from scholars such as Wolfgang Mieder, David Cheal, and Uzbek linguists to provide a broader context. Understanding these proverbs enriches cross-cultural appreciation and deepens our comprehension of family dynamics in different societies.

Keywords: proverbs, mother-child relationship, English proverbs, Uzbek proverbs, cultural comparison, filial duty, maternal influence.

Introduction

Proverbs are an essential part of a nation's cultural heritage, preserving wisdom passed down through generations. They serve as reflections of societal values, norms, and traditions. One of the most fundamental relationships in human life is the bond between mother and child, which is often depicted in proverbs across various cultures. This article examines how the concept of mother and child is expressed in English and Uzbek proverbs, focusing on their meanings, cultural implications, and similarities.

Linguist Wolfgang Mieder states that proverbs act as "mirrors of culture," encapsulating core beliefs and values of a society [1]. Similarly, Uzbek scholar Jalolov Sh. argues that proverbs are a reflection of national identity and moral upbringing, particularly regarding family values [2]. These perspectives underline the significance of analyzing proverbs in different cultures to understand how they shape attitudes toward mothers and children.

Methods

This study employs a comparative analysis of English and Uzbek proverbs related to mothers and children. Proverbs were collected from linguistic sources, folklore books, and online databases. The analysis focuses on thematic categorization, examining the portrayal of maternal roles, child-rearing, and filial responsibilities. Similarities and differences between the two cultures are also explored to identify universal and culturally specific aspects.

Results

The collected proverbs were grouped into three main categories:
The role of mothers



The upbringing of children

The relationship between mother and child

1. The Role of Mothers in Proverbs

Mothers are universally seen as figures of love, sacrifice, and wisdom. Both English and Uzbek proverbs emphasize a mother's influence on a child's character and future.

English Proverbs

"God could not be everywhere, so he created mothers."

"A mother's love knows no bounds."

"As is the mother, so is the daughter."

British sociologist David Cheal suggests that Western proverbs about mothers often emphasize emotional bonds and personal support, reflecting the individualistic nature of English-speaking cultures [3].

Uzbek Proverbs

"Onaning oldidagi qarzingni to'lmaysan." (You can never repay your debt to your mother.)

"Onasi yaxshining – farzandi yaxshi." (A good mother raises a good child.)

"Ona sutini oqlamagan – odam emas." (One who does not honor their mother's milk is not a true human.)

Uzbek scholar Yoqubov N. highlights that Uzbek proverbs place strong emphasis on filial duty and moral responsibility, portraying mothers as sacred figures whose blessings determine a child's fate [4].

2. The Upbringing of Children in Proverbs

English Proverbs

"Like mother, like child."

"A child's first teacher is its mother."

"Spare the rod and spoil the child."

Educational psychologist Jean Piaget suggests that parental influence, particularly from mothers, plays a crucial role in shaping a child's cognitive and moral development [5].

Uzbek Proverbs

"Farzand – ona yuragining parchasidir." (A child is a piece of a mother's heart.)

"Bolaga bergan tarbiya – onaga bergan hurmatdir." (Raising a child well is a sign of respect for the mother.)

"Yaxshi farzand – ota-onaning yuragining quvonchi." (A good child is the joy of the parents' hearts.)

Uzbek historian Karimov A. notes that Uzbek culture places strong emphasis on community-based child-rearing, where a child's behavior reflects not only on the mother but on the entire family and society [6].

3. The Relationship Between Mother and Child

English Proverbs

"A mother understands what a child does not say."

"A mother's arms are more comforting than anyone else's."

Uzbek Proverbs

"Ona – dunyodagi eng yaqin do'st." (A mother is the closest friend in the world.)

"Onaning duosi – farzandning qanoti." (A mother's prayer is a child's wings.)

Discussion

Similarities Between English and Uzbek Proverbs:

Emphasis on Maternal Love – Both cultures recognize a mother's love as unconditional and irreplaceable.

Influence on Child's Character – Proverbs in both languages stress that a child reflects their mother's values and upbringing.



Respect for Mothers – There is a strong moral obligation in both cultures to respect and honor mothers.

Differences Between English and Uzbek Proverbs

Religious and Spiritual Aspects – Uzbek proverbs often incorporate religious and moral themes, emphasizing divine blessings and obligations. English proverbs, while acknowledging maternal influence, are generally more secular.

Discipline and Child-Rearing – English proverbs sometimes reflect stricter disciplinary approaches, while Uzbek proverbs focus more on moral and emotional upbringing.

Gratitude and Duty – Uzbek culture places a strong emphasis on repaying a mother's sacrifices, as seen in proverbs about lifelong obligations to one's mother.

Conclusion

The bond between mother and child is universally valued, as reflected in proverbs across different cultures. English and Uzbek proverbs share many similarities, portraying mothers as symbols of love, sacrifice, and wisdom. However, cultural differences exist in the emphasis on religious aspects, discipline, and filial duty. Understanding these proverbs allows for a deeper appreciation of how different societies perceive and cherish the mother-child relationship. Ultimately, these sayings serve as reminders of the invaluable role that mothers play in shaping individuals and society.

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