



# Linguocultural Characteristics Of Tongue Twisters Formed On The Basis Of The Lexeme Hail

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**Abstract.** This article investigates the linguocultural characteristics of tongue twisters formed on the basis of the lexeme *hail*. As a meteorological phenomenon, hail is characterized by suddenness, intensity, and distinctive acoustic and visual effects when it strikes surfaces. In oral folklore, tongue twisters based on this lexeme reflect not only phonetic and articulatory complexity but also cultural perceptions, symbolic meanings, and cognitive associations connected with nature. The study examines the phonetic, semantic, cognitive, and cultural dimensions of hail-based tongue twisters and demonstrates their role in enhancing linguistic competence and preserving cultural worldview.

**Keywords:** linguoculturology, tongue twister, hail, lexeme, phonetics, folklore, cognition, linguistic worldview, sound symbolism.

Language is a complex system that reflects both cognitive processes and cultural experience. Linguoculturology explores the relationship between language and culture, focusing on how cultural meanings are embedded in linguistic structures. Folklore genres such as tongue twisters provide valuable material for such analysis because they combine sound organization with cultural symbolism.

Tongue twisters are short oral texts designed to improve pronunciation and speech fluency through repetitive and challenging sound patterns. While they are primarily phonetic exercises, they also reflect cultural perceptions of the world and natural phenomena.

The lexeme *hail* refers to frozen precipitation that falls during storms. Due to its sharp, striking, and often destructive nature, hail is associated with sudden impact and intensity. These characteristics influence its representation in tongue twisters, where sound patterns often imitate sharpness, repetition, and rhythmic interruption.

The aim of this article is to analyze the linguocultural characteristics of tongue twisters based on the lexeme *hail* and to identify the cultural and cognitive meanings embedded in their structure.

From a linguocultural perspective, lexical units are carriers of cultural meaning. The lexeme *hail* represents not only a meteorological phenomenon but also a symbolic concept associated with suddenness, danger, unpredictability, and natural power.

Tongue twisters function at the phonetic level but are also culturally meaningful. They reflect how speakers structure sound patterns in relation to their perception of reality. Therefore, they can be interpreted as both linguistic and cultural artifacts.

The phonetic structure of hail-based tongue twisters is typically characterized by sharp consonant repetition, especially plosives and fricatives that imitate the abrupt impact of hailstones.

Example:



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*Hail hits hard on hollow hills,*

*Hailing heavy, hurried chills.*

This tongue twister emphasizes repetition of /h/ and /hɛl/ sounds, creating a harsh and rapid rhythmic effect that mirrors the sound of hail striking surfaces.

Another example:

*Hailing stones hit hurriedly,*

*Hard and heavy, hastily.*

Phonetic features include:

- Repetition of aspirated /h/ sounds
- Use of plosive consonants (/h/, /t/, /d/, /k/)
- Rapid rhythmic alternation
- Alliteration and internal rhyme

These features create articulatory difficulty while symbolically representing the sharp and sudden nature of hail.

Although tongue twisters primarily focus on sound, hail-based constructions also carry semantic meaning related to weather, storms, and physical impact.

Example:

*Hail falls fast from cloudy skies,*

*Hitting fields before it dies.*

The semantic content emphasizes the speed, force, and transient nature of hail. The phenomenon is often described through its effects on the environment rather than its physical structure.

From a cognitive perspective, hail-based tongue twisters reflect how speakers perceive and mentally represent sudden and fragmented natural events. Hail is cognitively associated with impact, noise, and disruption, which is mirrored in the fragmented and repetitive sound structure of tongue twisters.

Example:

*Hail hammers houses, hills, and ground,*

*Hardly holding silent sound.*

Here, hail is conceptualized as an active agent capable of “hammering,” demonstrating personification as a cognitive mechanism.

Such representations help individuals understand complex natural phenomena through familiar physical experiences.

The cultural significance of hail varies across societies, especially in agricultural communities where hail can significantly damage crops and affect livelihoods. As a result, hail is often associated with unpredictability, caution, and natural warning.

In folklore traditions, hail may be interpreted as a sign of powerful natural forces or environmental imbalance. These cultural meanings influence its representation in oral genres, including tongue twisters.

Example:

*Hail brings harm to harvest fields,*

*Hard reminders nature yields.*



This reflects cultural awareness of hail as both a natural phenomenon and a potential threat to human life and agriculture.

Despite its destructive associations, hail's visual uniqueness (small ice stones falling from the sky) also inspires curiosity and linguistic creativity.

The analysis demonstrates that tongue twisters based on the lexeme *hail* represent a fusion of phonetic creativity and cultural meaning. The sharp and repetitive sound structures mirror the sudden and striking nature of hail, while the semantic content reflects its environmental impact. Hail-based tongue twisters reveal both universal and culture-specific perceptions. Universally, hail is associated with cold, hardness, and sudden impact. Culturally, it is interpreted through agricultural experience, environmental awareness, and symbolic understanding of natural forces.

Thus, these tongue twisters function as linguistic reflections of how communities conceptualize and verbalize their interaction with nature.

The study has shown that tongue twisters formed on the basis of the lexeme *hail* possess distinctive linguocultural characteristics. Their phonetic structure reflects sharpness, repetition, and rhythmic intensity, while their semantic and cultural content conveys meanings related to unpredictability, impact, and natural power. Through these features, hail-based tongue twisters serve both linguistic and cultural functions.

Therefore, they represent an important object of linguocultural analysis, demonstrating the interaction between phonetics, cognition, and cultural worldview in oral folklore traditions.

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