

## TYPOLOGICAL PECULIARITIES OF IDIOMS WITH 'WATER' COMPONENT IN THE UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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**Annotation:** This paper examines the typological peculiarities of idioms with 'water' component in Uzbek and English languages. Apart from discussing both semantic and structural features of the targeted set of idioms, the article explores the cultural and historical context of these idioms, arguing that the abundance of water-related idioms in Uzbek reflects the importance of water in Uzbek culture and history, while the prevalence of water-related idioms in English can be traced back to the maritime history of England. The paper concludes by highlighting the importance of studying idioms with 'water' components in order to gain a deeper understanding of the cultures and histories of the languages in which they are used.

**Key words:** idioms, 'water' element, Uzbek, English, typology, semantics, structure, culture, history

The concept of 'idiom' has been the subject of extensive debate for many years, as it can be interpreted in both narrow and broad contexts and is utilized in various, at times contradictory, manners. This article does not aim to delve into the multitude of definitions attributed to the term 'idiom', but rather to address specific categorizations of idioms in general and water-related idioms in English and Uzbek languages. However, it is imperative to clarify that within the context of this paper, the term 'idiom' pertains to a figurative fixed expression whose meaning transcends the literal interpretations of its individual components, as defined by John C. Hodges, Winifred Bryan Horner, Robert Keith Miller [1, 1998 p. 87].

Idioms have piqued the curiosity of numerous scholars. As integral components of the extensive and diverse array of figurative expressions, idioms have been scrutinized by distinguished linguists and anthropologists, with the goal of elucidating the linguistic and societal origins of figurative language, as articulated by Cristina Cacciari and Patrizia Tabossi [3, 1993] This research has revealed that the figurative connotations of idioms are rooted in the beliefs, cultural values, or other defining characteristics of a particular community. So, it can be said that idioms are intricately intertwined with all facets of life, forming an integral part of everyone's lexicon, despite not being essential for effective communication. Idioms are the exquisite embellishments of language, imbuing it with depth, vibrancy, and sophistication.

So, there are many idioms pertaining to different aspects of life, to different concepts and, since, it is impossible to cover all of them at one time, we have limited our focus to the study of only one group of them, namely, the ones that contain 'water' element in their structure. Much like water is indispensable for our physical sustenance, water-related idioms are vital to the languages, enriching it with subtle nuances and vivid imagery. Water, a captivating element, can symbolize tranquility or turmoil, clarity or confusion, and it is this multifaceted symbolism that is mirrored in idioms. [4]. The study of the targeted group of idioms from the point of view of their semantic

features has shown that both Uzbek and English idioms employ the shared semantic fields and metaphors. The latter includes the following concepts:

**Life and Vitality:** In Uzbek, the phrase “Suv kabi toza” (clean like water) conveys a sense of purity and freshness, while in English, “The water of life” symbolizes vitality and renewal; **Flow and Change:** “Suv kabi oqib ketish” (to flow away like water) in Uzbek hints at the transient nature of time, whereas “To go with the flow” in English embodies adaptability and acceptance of change; **Depth and Mystery:** The Uzbek expression “Suv chuqur, ichida necha sir bor” (water is deep, many secrets lie within) speaks about hidden depths and complexity, much like the English idiom “Still waters run deep”, which suggests concealed knowledge or complexity.

As to culture-specific idioms: Uzbek idioms often mirror the arid climate and dependence on irrigation, as seen in phrases like "Suvsiz yerda ekin o'smaydi" (There is no sowing without water.), highlighting the necessity of resources for prosperity. Similarly, "Suvga tushgan cho'p kabi" (like a stick in water) conveys weakness or lack of resistance, reflecting a cultural emphasis on strength and resilience in challenging environments. At the same time English idioms, rooted in maritime history and water-related experiences, idioms like "To be in hot water" denote trouble or adversity, possibly linked to the perils of the sea. Conversely, "To go with the flow" - embodies adaptability and acceptance of change

Emotions and character traits are depicted through idioms:

**Uzbek:** "Yuragi suv kabi to'lib ketdi" (His heart filled up like water) conveys profound sadness, possibly drawing parallels to the overwhelming nature of water.

**English:** "To be a wet blanket" describes a negative individual, drawing imagery from rain dampening spirits.

The table for summarizing the semantic features of idioms with "water" components in Uzbek and English languages:

Semantic feature	Uzbek idioms	English idioms
Abundance	✓	✓
Purity	✓	✓
Movement	✓	✓
Emotions	✓(both positive and negative)	✓(mostly positive)
Fertility and growth	✓	×
Difficulty and danger	×	✓

### Structural features

In terms of linguistic features, both Uzbek and English idioms leverage similes, metaphors, and personifications to convey abstract ideas. However, Uzbek idioms tend to be more direct and less figurative compared to their English counterparts, often relying on straightforward comparisons with water. While both Uzbek and English languages utilize ‘water’ component in their idioms, their structural features reveal interesting differences that reflect the grammatical and linguistic tendencies of each

language.

In the structure of Uzbek one can observe the usage of simile expressed through "kabi" (like) to draw a comparison with water. Example: "Suv kabi toza" (clean like water). Apart from simile, metaphors are also common, using the word "suv" (water) directly to convey the metaphorical meaning. Example: "Suv-zar, suvchi- zargar" (Water is gold, waterman- goldsmith). Uzbek idioms often follow a verb-noun structure, emphasizing the action or state related to water. Example: "Oqar suvning rasvosi yo'q" (Running water is not dirt). In addition, proverbial structures often use water imagery with a concise and direct structure. Example: "Suv ichganda, ariq qaziganni unutma" (Don't forget who made brook while drinking water).

Regarding the structure of English idioms with 'water' component it is necessary to stress employment of prepositional phrases in which 'water' functions as the object. Example: "To be in hot water," "To go with the flow". Phrasal verbs are also not rare: often implying an action related to water. Example: "To pour oil on troubled waters." Similes and metaphors like in Uzbek, English are also used to create figurative language. Example: "Still waters run deep," "To be a fish out of water." As for English proverbs, they often utilize longer and more elaborate structures compared to Uzbek. Example: "Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater."

An interesting item to mention are the lexical features. From this viewpoint, Uzbek idioms tend to use simpler and more direct vocabulary related to water, like "suv" (water), "oqim" (current), and "quduq" (well). At the same time, English idioms often use more figurative and metaphorical vocabulary, like "rain," "tide," "stream," and "drown."

**Cultural Influence:**

**Uzbek:** The structure of Uzbek idioms reflects a cultural preference for concise and direct communication, emphasizing the importance of water in daily life, e.g: "Suv quygandek jim-jit" (silence).

**English:** The structure of English idioms reflects a cultural tendency towards more figurative language, incorporating a wide range of imagery and metaphorical extensions, e.g: "To be a fish out of water" (depicts someone who is uncomfortable, out of place, or unfamiliar with their surroundings).

### **The cultural and historical context**

Culturally, Uzbek idioms underscore the significance of water for survival and embody values of strength, resilience, and resourcefulness. Conversely, English idioms reflect a maritime heritage, a spirit of exploration and adventure, and a focus on individual expression and emotion. Idioms, with their embedded cultural and historical context, offer a fascinating window into the values, experiences, and perspectives of different societies. English and Uzbek idioms with "water" components reveal a rich tapestry of cultural and historical influences, shaped by geography, history, and societal norms.

**English Idioms:**

**Maritime History:** England's long history as a maritime nation heavily influenced its idioms. "To be in hot water" likely originated from the dangers of navigating stormy seas, while "to pour oil on troubled waters" references the practice of using oil to calm rough seas.

Rain and Weather: "To tread water" - to stay afloat in water without moving forward. "To weather the storm" references the ability to overcome challenges like surviving a storm at sea.

Individualism and Expression: English idioms often highlight personal experiences and emotional responses. "Water seeks its own level" - suggests that things naturally tend to balance or equalize.

Uzbek Idioms:

Arid Climate and Irrigation: Uzbek idioms heavily emphasize water's importance for survival in the arid climate. "Suv yo'li" (water's way), "suv surmoq" (to make way to water), suv qo'ymoq (to water).

Cultural Values: These idioms reveal cultural values like strength and resilience. "Suv kabi shaffof" (transparent like water) emphasizes honesty and sincerity, while "Suv keldi — nur keldi" (Water has come - light has come) means how water is important for Uzbek country.

Oral Tradition: Uzbek proverbs and idioms often reflect a strong oral tradition, passed down through generations, showcasing wisdom and practical advice for navigating daily life, e.g: "Suv yo'l topadi" (Water find its own way) means everybody can find its own way if they try.

Comparative Insights:

Shared Themes: Both languages share common themes of life, change, and depth, demonstrating the universality of human experience and metaphor.

Cultural Nuances: The distinct cultural and historical contexts of each language are reflected in the specific choices of imagery and metaphors.

Language as a Window: Idioms offer a valuable window into the cultural values, beliefs, and historical experiences that shape a language and its people.

It is important to note that these are just general trends, and there are always exceptions to the rule. For example, there are some English idioms with 'water' component that convey negative emotions, such as "to be in hot water" (to be in trouble). Similarly, there are some Uzbek idioms with water components that convey positive emotions, such as "suv bosgan yer yashnaydi" (watered land thrives)

In conclusion, comparing Uzbek and English idioms with 'water' component reveals the fascinating interplay of cultural influences and universal metaphorical thinking. While shared semantic fields demonstrate the common ground of human experience, cultural-specific idioms offer unique insights into the diverse ways cultures shape language and expression. This comparative study illuminates the rich tapestry of linguistic and cultural diversity across the world. The exploration of Uzbek and English idioms featuring water components unveils a captivating interplay between cultural influences and universal metaphorical cognition. While shared semantic fields emphasize common human experiences, culture-specific idioms offer distinct perspectives on how language and expression are shaped by diverse cultural contexts. The implemented analysis to a certain extent enriches our understanding of the intricate tapestry of linguistic and cultural diversity worldwide.

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