



UDK: 811.512.133’25

811.111’25

ORCID:0009-0009-8967-4151

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ORNITHONIYMS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Abstract: This article examines the symbolic, linguistic, and cultural functions of ornithonyms (bird names) in Uzbek and English. By analyzing these terms in contexts such as poetry, folklore, and idioms, it reveals the nuanced ways each language and culture interpret birds. Examples like the nightingale and owl illustrate how ornithonyms convey emotions, social values, and historical beliefs, showing both commonalities and unique characteristics between the two cultures. The article concludes with insights into the modern use of ornithonyms in branding and media, underscoring their lasting cultural significance.

Keywords: Ornithonyms, symbolism, Uzbek, English, bird names, poetry, folklore, idioms, cultural significance, branding, media.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola o‘zbek va ingliz tillaridagi ornitonimlarning (qushlar nomlari) ramziy, lingvistik va madaniy vazifalarini o‘rganadi. She’riyat, xalq og‘zaki ijodi va iboralarda ushbu atamalar qanday qo‘llanilishi tahlil qilinib, har bir til va madaniyatda qushlarga bo‘lgan munosabat o‘ziga xos tarzda yoritiladi. Bulbul va boyqush misollari orqali ornitonimlar ijtimoiy qadriyatlar va tarixiy e’tiqodlarni qanday aks ettirishiga e’tibor qaratilib, ikki madaniyatning umumiy va o‘ziga xos jihatlari yoritiladi. Maqola brending va mediada ornitonimlarning zamonaviy qo‘llanilishi bilan yakunlanadi va ularning madaniy ahamiyati davomiy ekanini ta’kidlaydi.

Kalit so‘zlar: Ornitonimlar, ramziylik, o‘zbek tili, ingliz tili, qush nomlari, she’riyat, xalq og‘zaki ijodi, iboralar, madaniy ahamiyat, brending, media.

Аннотация: Статья исследует символические, лингвистические и культурные функции орнитонимов (названий птиц) в узбекском и английском языках. Путем анализа этих терминов в поэзии, фольклоре и идиомах раскрываются тонкие особенности, с которыми каждая культура воспринимает птиц. Примеры соловья и совы показывают, как орнитонимы выражают эмоции, социальные ценности и исторические убеждения,

выделяя как общие, так и уникальные черты двух культур. В заключении рассматривается использование орнитонимов в современном брендинге и медиа, подчеркивая их культурную значимость.

Ключевые слова: Орнитонимы, символизм, узбекский, английский, названия птиц, поэзия, фольклор, идиомы, культурное значение, брендинг, медиа.

Introduction

Ornithonyms, or bird names, hold a unique position in language and culture, often embodying rich symbolism and varied meanings across different linguistic traditions. In Uzbek and English, ornithonyms not only reflect the cultural values and folklore of these societies but also contribute to poetic language, metaphor, and idiomatic expression. This article explores the symbolic, linguistic, and cultural significance of ornithonyms in both languages, comparing how they are used and interpreted within their respective cultural and literary contexts.

Birds have been an integral part of both Uzbek and English cultures, with each culture attaching specific meanings to various bird species. In both languages, birds often symbolize certain human characteristics or are linked to natural elements, spiritual beliefs, and social customs.

Methodology and Literature review

In Uzbek folklore and poetry, birds are prominent symbols that convey the values, beliefs, and aspirations of society. For instance, the nightingale, or "bulbul," represents beauty, love, and passion. This bird frequently appears in Uzbek poetry, symbolizing the poet's yearning or the unspoken emotions of lovers. The symbolic use of the nightingale in Uzbek literature dates back centuries, with poets often likening the bird's song to heartfelt expressions of love and sorrow.

Other birds, such as hawks and falcons, are viewed as symbols of bravery, strength, and resilience. They are associated with warriors and individuals of high status, as these birds are considered noble hunters. The owl, however, is often seen as an omen, symbolizing bad luck or misfortune in Uzbek folklore, contrasting with its role as a symbol of wisdom in some English-speaking cultures.

In English literature and culture, birds also carry varied symbolic meanings. For instance, the owl often represents wisdom and knowledge, a symbolism rooted in Ancient Greek mythology and the association of the owl with the goddess Athena. Doves represent peace and purity, especially in Christian iconography. Meanwhile, the crow and the raven are often associated with darkness, death, and mystery, as seen in Edgar Allan Poe's famous poem "The Raven".

The robin is considered a harbinger of spring and renewal in English-speaking cultures. Many other birds, such as eagles, swans, and sparrows, appear frequently in idioms, poetry, and literature, each carrying meanings influenced by centuries of mythological and cultural narrative.

Birds are essential symbols in the poetic traditions of both Uzbek and English literature. Through ornithonyms, poets convey deep emotional and philosophical messages, often using birds to personify abstract concepts such as freedom, fate, or melancholy.

Uzbek poets have long used ornithonyms to reflect emotional states and natural beauty. The nightingale, for example, is a central figure in the works of classical Uzbek poets like Alisher Navoi, who uses the bird's song to symbolize the purity and intensity of true love. The use of ornithonyms in Uzbek poetry goes beyond simple imagery, serving as a bridge between nature and human emotion, highlighting themes of unrequited love, longing, and spiritual devotion.

The falcon and hawk also appear in Uzbek poetry as symbols of power and courage. These birds embody traits valued in heroes and leaders, providing readers with a symbolic figure that represents aspirations for freedom and honor.

Research questions

In English literature, birds are similarly emblematic, conveying both concrete and abstract themes. Poets like William Wordsworth and Percy Bysshe Shelley used bird imagery to evoke natural beauty and existential themes. For example, Shelley's "To a Skylark" uses the skylark as a metaphor for transcendence and spiritual freedom, a theme that reflects Romantic ideals of nature as an escape from worldly concerns.

The nightingale also appears in English poetry, notably in John Keats' "Ode to a Nightingale," where it symbolizes the desire for an eternal, unchanging existence. Here, the nightingale's song becomes a source of solace and inspiration for the poet, contrasting with human mortality and suffering.

The linguistic use of ornithonyms in Uzbek and English reveals interesting differences in structure, word formation, and metaphorical meaning.

In Uzbek, ornithonyms are often derived from Old Turkic roots, with words like *bulbul* (nightingale) carrying historical meanings and associations. Many ornithonyms are based on imitative sounds or descriptive words, reflecting the physical characteristics or calls of birds. For example, words like *qaldirg'och* (swallow) may have origins linked to the bird's behavior or appearance.

In English, ornithonyms like *sparrow*, *eagle*, and *hawk* are often derived from Old English or Latin roots. English ornithonyms also include onomatopoeic formations, where the name mimics the bird's call, as in the case of *cuckoo*. English also has a rich tradition of compound ornithonyms, where birds' names are combined with descriptors to specify their type, such as *goldfinch* or *blackbird*.

Both Uzbek and English are rich in idiomatic expressions that involve bird names, but these expressions often reflect cultural differences.

In Uzbek, phrases like "*bulbulday sayramoq*" (to sing like a nightingale) mean to speak beautifully or eloquently, highlighting the nightingale's symbolic role in language. Similarly,

Uzbek uses expressions with hawk and eagle names to convey strength, such as describing a strong leader as "lochin" (falcon).

In English, bird idioms are widespread and reflect various aspects of human behavior. Expressions like "to eat crow" mean to admit to being wrong, while "a little bird told me" implies receiving secret information. The phrase "as free as a bird" conveys independence and lack of constraint, often reflecting the value placed on freedom in English-speaking societies.

As globalization influences both Uzbek and English, the symbolic roles of ornithonyms are also evolving. Modern Uzbek and English use ornithonyms in advertising, media, and political discourse, reflecting the changing values and perspectives of global society.

Discussion

In Uzbekistan, where the traditional symbolism of birds still holds cultural significance, ornithonyms in modern media and branding are sometimes used to evoke national identity and heritage. For example, names like Falcon and Eagle are used in sports teams and businesses to project strength and pride.

In English-speaking countries, ornithonyms are frequently used in branding to convey qualities associated with specific birds, such as Dove for peace and gentleness in skincare products or Hawk for precision in industries like aviation and defense. Such usage demonstrates how bird symbolism remains relevant in contemporary contexts, even as traditional meanings adapt to modern branding and communication.

Conclusion

Ornithonyms in Uzbek and English offer a fascinating insight into the linguistic and cultural landscapes of each language. They are more than mere labels for bird species; they are vessels of cultural memory, carriers of metaphor, and reflections of each society's values and worldview. Through ornithonyms, speakers of both languages engage in a shared human practice: using nature's symbols to express profound truths about life, emotion, and the human experience.

As cultures continue to interact and influence each other, the study of ornithonyms can provide valuable insights into both linguistic diversity and cultural convergence. By examining how birds are perceived and symbolized in Uzbek and English, we gain a deeper appreciation of the universal yet unique ways that language captures the beauty and complexity of the natural world.

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