

THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VOLUME-5, ISSUE-4

LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF BLESSINGS, CURSES AND WISHES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES.

Jurabekova Feruza Jura kizi

Master's degree student of Asian University of Technologies (Karshi, Uzbekistan)

Abstract

This article examines the lexical and semantic characteristics of blessings, curses, and wishes in English and Uzbek languages. By exploring their historical roots, structural features, and cultural significance, the study highlights how these speech acts reflect and shape societal values and beliefs within each linguistic community. Incorporating insights from contemporary scholars, this comparative analysis aims to deepen the understanding of the interplay between language and culture in the formation and use of these expressions.

Keywords: Linguoculture, speech acts, blessings, curses, wishes, English language, Uzbek language, folklore, cultural expressions.

Introduction

Language serves as a mirror reflecting the cultural values, beliefs, and traditions of its speakers. Among the various functions of language, speech acts such as blessings, curses, and wishes stand out as profound expressions of societal norms and individual sentiments. These expressions encapsulate the hopes, fears, and moral frameworks of a community, offering a window into the collective psyche. This study delves into the lexical and semantic characteristics of these speech acts in English and Uzbek, aiming to uncover both universal patterns and unique cultural imprints. By examining these expressions, we can gain insights into how language functions as a cultural artifact, shaping and being shaped by the social and historical contexts in which it is used.

Historical Roots and Cultural Significance

The genesis of blessings, curses, and wishes is deeply intertwined with ancient beliefs in the magical power of words. In many cultures, including English and Uzbek, these speech acts originated from the conviction that words could influence reality—a concept rooted in folklore and early religious practices. For instance, blessings in both traditions often invoke divine favor, reflecting a shared belief in the protective power of benevolent forces. Conversely, curses may call upon supernatural entities to bring harm, illustrating the perceived potency of negative speech. Wishes, while generally positive, also stem from this belief in verbal influence over future events.

In the English-speaking world, the tradition of blessings can be traced back to early Christian practices where invoking God's favor was a common aspect of daily life. Phrases like "God bless you" became customary, especially in response to sneezing, which was historically associated with expelling evil spirits or as a reaction to plagues. Curses in English literature and folklore often involve invoking misfortune or expressing strong disapproval, sometimes retaining archaic forms that invoke religious or supernatural elements. Wishes in English culture are prevalent in various contexts, from birthday greetings to expressions of hope for success, such as "Good luck," reflecting a societal emphasis on individual achievement and well-being.

Similarly, in Uzbek culture, blessings (*duolar*) hold a significant place, deeply rooted in Islamic traditions. Elders often bestow blessings upon younger individuals, symbolizing a transfer of wisdom and positive energy. Expressions like "Alloh panohida asrasin" (May Allah protect you) are common,

THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VOLUME-5, ISSUE-4

reflecting the pervasive influence of Islam. Curses (qarg'ishlar) in Uzbek culture often involve vivid imagery related to misfortune or familial loss, such as "Boshingga kulfat tushsin" (May calamity befall you), highlighting the cultural importance of family and well-being. Wishes (tilaklar) are integral to social interactions, commonly exchanged during significant life events like weddings and births, reinforcing communal bonds and expressing collective hopes for prosperity and happiness.

Lexical Characteristics

The lexical composition of blessings, curses, and wishes in both English and Uzbek reveals the cultural priorities and religious influences embedded within each language. In English, blessings often invoke the Christian deity, as seen in phrases like "God bless you." This reflects the historical dominance of Christianity and its integration into everyday language. Similarly, Uzbek blessings frequently invoke Allah, exemplified by expressions such as "Alloh panohida asrasin," highlighting the Islamic cultural context. These linguistic choices underscore the centrality of religion in shaping the moral and social fabric of both societies.

Curses in both languages can be direct or metaphorical, often drawing upon culturally specific imagery. In Uzbek, curses may involve vivid depictions of misfortune or familial loss, reflecting the cultural emphasis on family and social harmony. For example, "Boshingga kulfat tushsin" directly translates to "May calamity befall you," illustrating the weight such expressions carry. English curses, while varying in severity, often retain archaic forms that invoke religious or supernatural elements, such as "Damn you," where "damn" originates from the concept of condemnation to hell. This demonstrates the lingering influence of religious doctrine on language.

Wishes in both languages serve to express hopes for positive outcomes and are integral to social interactions. In Uzbek, expressions like "Baxtli bo'ling" (Be happy) are common, particularly during celebrations and rites of passage, reinforcing communal bonds and shared aspirations. In English, phrases like "Good luck" are widely used in various contexts, from academic endeavors to personal ventures, reflecting an individualistic culture that values personal success and achievement.

Semantic Characteristics and Cultural Nuances

Semantically, blessings, curses, and wishes convey more than their literal meanings; they embody the cultural values and social norms of their respective societies. In Uzbek culture, blessings are often associated with elders bestowing good wishes upon younger individuals, symbolizing respect for age and wisdom. This practice underscores the societal emphasis on hierarchy and the transmission of cultural values across generations. Curses, conversely, carry significant weight and are used sparingly, reflecting cultural values that prioritize respect and social harmony. The use of curses can lead to social repercussions, indicating the seriousness with which they are regarded. Wishes in Uzbek society are commonly exchanged during significant life events, reflecting communal support and collective investment in individual well-being.

In English-speaking cultures, while blessings and wishes are commonly used to express goodwill, the use of curses can vary widely depending on social context and individual temperament. The relative casualness with which some curses are used in modern English may reflect a cultural shift towards informality and individual expression. However, certain curses retain their severity and can cause offense, indicating that, despite cultural

The exploration of blessings, curses, and wishes in English and Uzbek languages reveals the profound interplay between language and culture. These speech acts are not merely linguistic expressions but are deeply embedded in the social and cultural fabric of their respective societies. In both languages, blessings often invoke divine favor, reflecting the centrality of religious beliefs. Curses, conversely,

THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VOLUME-5, ISSUE-4

are potent expressions of disapproval or malevolence, often invoking misfortune upon the target. Wishes serve as expressions of hope and goodwill, reinforcing social bonds and communal values.

Conclusion

The lexical choices and semantic structures of these speech acts are influenced by historical, religious, and cultural contexts. In Uzbek culture, for instance, blessings and wishes are integral to daily life and are often associated with elders bestowing good wishes upon younger individuals, symbolizing a transfer of wisdom and positive energy. Curses, while present, are typically discouraged in public discourse due to cultural values emphasizing respect and harmony. In English-speaking cultures, while blessings and wishes are commonly used to express goodwill, the use of curses can vary widely depending on social context and individual temperament. The relative casualness with which some curses are used in modern English may reflect a cultural shift towards informality and individual expression. However, certain curses retain their severity and can cause offense, indicating that, despite cultural shifts, some expressions maintain their original potency.

Understanding these expressions offers valuable insights into the ways language functions as a cultural artifact, shaping and being shaped by the social and historical contexts in which it is used. This study underscores the importance of considering cultural nuances in linguistic analyses and highlights the rich tapestry of human expression manifested through blessings, curses, and wishes.

References:

1. Niyazova, M. K. (2021). English and Uzbek Blessings Which Formed by the Belief of Magic Words. *Scientific Reports of Bukhara State University*, 5(3), 72-79.
2. Yakubova, Sh. I., Belykh, L. Kh., & Turakhodjaeva, Yu. V. (2022). On the Question of the Functioning of Speech Acts of Wishes and Curses in the Modern Uzbek Language. *Current Research Journal of Philological Sciences*, 3(4), 85-89.
3. Bayjigitov, O. (2022). Linguocultural Features of Curses in the Uzbek Language. *Asian Journal of Research in Social Sciences and Humanities*, 12(5), 45-52.
4. Rajabova, G. (2022). Linguocultural Features of Proverbs Expressing Evil in English and Uzbek Languages. *Humanity and Science Congress*, 193-198.
5. Sharifi, S., & Ebrahimi, S. (2011). Assessing Speech Acts of Curses and Prayers in Persian. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 2(9), 1911-1916.
6. Karanevych, M. (2017). Linguocultural Features of British Tales. *ResearchGate*.