

## SPECIFIC FEATURES OF RIDDLES AND EXPRESSIONS WITH ONOMASTIC CONTENT IN THE UZBEK LANGUAGE

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**Abstract:** *This article explores the specific features of riddles and expressions with onomastic content in the Uzbek language, highlighting their cultural, cognitive, and linguistic significance. Riddles serve not only as forms of entertainment but also as educational tools that encapsulate societal values and norms. Onomastic expressions, which include personal names, place names, and references to historical figures, provide insight into the cultural heritage and identity of the Uzbek people. Through an analytical framework, this article examines the structure and themes of riddles, the role of onomastic content in shaping cultural concepts, and the implications for cognitive processing and language use. By comparing these elements with similar constructs in other languages, the article aims to enhance understanding of the unique characteristics of the Uzbek language and its cultural expressions.*

**Key Words:** *riddles, onomastic content, cultural significance, cognitive processing, linguistic features, oral tradition, expressions, cultural identity, language play, personal names, place names, folklore, semantic ambiguity, societal values.*

**Аннотация:** *В данной статье исследуются особенности загадок и выражений ономастического содержания в узбекском языке, подчеркивается их культурное, познавательное и языковое значение. Загадки служат не только формой развлечения, но и образовательными инструментами, которые воплощают в себе социальные ценности и нормы. Ономастические выражения, включающие личные имена, географические названия и ссылки на исторические личности, дают представление о культурном наследии и самобытности узбекского народа. С помощью аналитической основы в этой статье исследуются структура и темы загадок, роль ономастического содержания в формировании культурных концепций, а также влияние на когнитивную обработку и использование языка. Сравнивая эти элементы с аналогичными конструкциями в других языках, статья призвана улучшить понимание уникальных особенностей узбекского языка и его культурных выражений.*

**Ключевые слова:** *загадки, ономастическое содержание, культурное значение, когнитивная обработка, лингвистические особенности, устная традиция, выражения, культурная идентичность, языковая игра, личные имена, топонимы, фольклор, семантическая неоднозначность, социальные ценности.*

**Annotatsiya:** *Ushbu maqolada o'zbek tilidagi onomastik mazmundagi topishmoq va iboralarning o'ziga xos xususiyatlari o'rganilib, ularning madaniy, kognitiv va lingvistik ahamiyati yoritilgan. Topishmoqlar nafaqat o'yin-kulgi shakllari, balki jamiyat qadriyatlarini va me'yorlarini o'zida mujassam etgan ta'lim vositalari sifatida ham xizmat qiladi. Shaxs ismlari, joy nomlari, tarixiy shaxslarga havolalarni o'z ichiga olgan onomastik iboralar*

*o'zbek xalqining madaniy merosi va o'ziga xosligi haqida tushuncha beradi. Analitik tizim orqali ushbu maqola topishmoqlarning tuzilishi va mavzularini, madaniy tushunchalarni shakllantirishdagi onomastik tarkibning rolini, shuningdek, kognitiv qayta ishlash va tildan foydalanishga ta'sirini o'rganadi. Maqola ushbu elementlarni boshqa tillardagi o'xshash konstruksiyalar bilan qiyoslash orqali o'zbek tilining o'ziga xos xususiyatlari va madaniy ifodalarini tushunishni kuchaytirishga qaratilgan.*

**Tayanch so'zlar:** *topishmoqlar, onomastik mazmun, madaniy ahamiyat, kognitiv ishlov, lingvistik xususiyatlar, og'zaki urf-odat, iboralar, madaniy o'ziga xoslik, til o'yinlari, shaxs ismlari, ma'nolari, o'rni. noaniqlik, ijtimoiy qadriyatlar.*

Introduction. Riddles and idiomatic expressions are integral components of any language and culture, representing not only linguistic but also cultural and cognitive features of the people who use them. In the case of the Uzbek language, riddles and expressions with onomastic (name-based) content are particularly fascinating. They encapsulate the collective wisdom, societal norms, and historical experiences of the Uzbek people. This article seeks to explore the specific features of riddles and expressions with onomastic content in the Uzbek language, focusing on their structure, cultural significance, cognitive aspects, and social functions.

Riddles in the Uzbek language are often short, concise, and metaphorical puzzles that require a creative interpretation to arrive at the correct answer. They typically consist of two parts: the riddle itself (the question) and its solution (the answer). The structure often relies on ambiguity, double meanings, and wordplay.

For instance: *Riddle: "Teshikda tosh, ustida tosh, ichida tosh."*

*Answer: "Toshbaqa" (Turtle).*

This example illustrates how riddles employ descriptive imagery to lead to the solution. Riddles in Uzbekistan often reflect various aspects of life, nature, and everyday experiences. Common themes include:

- *Nature and Animals:* Many riddles focus on animals, plants, and natural phenomena. They often depict characteristics that are universally recognized, making them relatable across cultures.

- *Human Behavior:* Some riddles revolve around human actions or traits, portraying moral lessons or societal observations.

- *Objects and Tools:* Everyday objects or tools are frequently the subjects of riddles, linking them to cultural practices and daily life.

Literature review. Riddles, as a form of traditional oral literature, have been a subject of interest for scholars examining their role in cultural transmission. For instance, N. N. Doniyorova (2015) emphasizes that riddles in the Uzbek language serve not only as forms of entertainment but also as vehicles for imparting wisdom and cultural values. Riddles often reflect societal norms and beliefs, providing insight into the worldview of the Uzbek people. Various studies, including those by M. S.

Abdurakhmanov (2016), analyze the thematic elements of Uzbek riddles, categorizing them into categories such as nature, humanity, and everyday life, thus revealing the interconnectedness of language and culture. Research focusing specifically on expressions with onomastic content is relatively sparse, though it is gaining traction. K. I. Pirmatov (2019) investigates idiomatic expressions that include onomastic elements, demonstrating their importance in reflecting cultural concepts and collective memory. The use of names in these expressions often evokes specific traits or values associated with individuals or locations, enriching the meaning conveyed in everyday communication. Research into the cognitive aspects of riddles has explored how solving riddles engages critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. B. A. Rasulov (2017) examines the cognitive processes involved in understanding riddles, emphasizing lateral thinking and semantic interpretation. This perspective offers a lens through which to view riddles not merely as linguistic puzzles but as cognitive challenges that require cultural knowledge and contextual awareness.

**Analysis and results.** The language of Uzbek riddles often employs metaphor, simile, alliteration, and rhyme. Figurative language adds depth and invites the audience to think critically. Here's an example of language play in riddles:

*Riddle: "Chiroyli qizni ko'rsang, uning ko'zlari niqobda bo'ladi."*

*Answer: "Yomg'ir" (Rain).*

This riddle uses metaphor to describe rain as a beautiful girl whose eyes are hidden, illustrating the richness of figurative language in Uzbek riddles.

Onomastics is the study of proper names, including personal names, place names, and other naming conventions. In Uzbek culture, names carry significant meanings and reflect cultural values, traditions, and historical narratives. Expressions containing onomastic content often serve as cultural markers. There are various forms of onomastic expressions in the Uzbek language:

**Personal Names:** The use of personal names in idioms can convey specific qualities or traits associated with the individual. For instance, the name "*Sodiq*" (meaning "faithful") might be used metaphorically to describe loyalty.

**Place Names:** References to geographical locations in expressions often evoke cultural memories and historical significance. These can include expressions like "*Samarqanddek*" (like Samarkand) to imply beauty or grandeur.

**Cultural and Historical Figures:** Names of prominent figures from history or folklore may be employed in sayings to reflect moral lessons or cultural wisdom. For example, "*Zarif*" (elegant) can be metaphorically connected with a character known for their sophistication.

Onomastic expressions in Uzbek serve multiple functions:

- **Identity:** They reflect cultural identity and heritage, connecting individuals with their roots and shared history.

- *Communication*: These expressions facilitate effective communication, allowing speakers to convey complex ideas succinctly through cultural references.

- *Moral and Ethical Lessons*: Many expressions with onomastic content articulate values, guiding moral behavior and societal expectations.

Riddles and onomastic expressions serve as vehicles for cultural transmission. They reflect societal values, views on nature, human relationships, and moral principles. By analyzing them, we can gain insights into the collective consciousness of the Uzbek people.

In Uzbekistan, riddles and idiomatic expressions with onomastic content contribute to the preservation of oral tradition. They are often passed down from one generation to another, maintaining linguistic diversity and cultural richness. This transmission helps keep the language vibrant and dynamic.

Riddles engage various cognitive processes, including reasoning, problem-solving, and lateral thinking. Solving a riddle requires the ability to interpret language in a non-linear manner, recognizing symbolic meanings and connections. The playful nature of riddles fosters creativity and enhances cognitive flexibility.

The creative language use in riddles and onomastic expressions illustrates the richness of the Uzbek language. Techniques such as phonetic similarity, syntactic play, and semantic ambiguity add layers of meaning. This linguistic playfulness is a fundamental aspect of the humor and intellect embedded in Uzbek culture.

When comparing Uzbek riddles to those in other languages, certain universal themes emerge. Many cultures utilize riddles as a means of education and entertainment. However, the specific structures, themes, and cultural references often vary significantly, revealing the unique worldview of each culture.

A comparative study of onomastic expressions reveals how different cultures attribute meaning to names. For example, while personal names in Uzbek culture may draw on historical or familial significance, other cultures may emphasize religious or national identities through names. This comparison leads to a deeper understanding of how language and culture interconnect.

**Conclusion.** Riddles and expressions with onomastic content in the Uzbek language are rich in cultural, cognitive, and linguistic significance. They reflect societal values and norms, engage cognitive faculties, and preserve the oral tradition of the Uzbek people. Analyzing these features not only enhances our understanding of the Uzbek language but also enriches our appreciation of the diversity and complexity inherent in human communication. By preserving and promoting these cultural treasures, future generations can continue to draw wisdom and inspiration from the riddles and expressions that define their heritage.

Expressions with onomastic content—encompassing personal names, place names, and references to cultural and historical figures—further enrich the Uzbek linguistic landscape. These expressions not only signify individual and collective identity but also

illustrate the interconnectedness of language and culture. They often encapsulate deep meanings, resonating with the experiences, history, and values of the Uzbek community.

Both riddles and onomastic expressions play an essential role in preserving the Uzbek oral tradition, ensuring the continuity of cultural heritage across generations. As vehicles of cultural expression, they elevate everyday language to a level of artistry while simultaneously serving practical functions in communication and socialization.

Furthermore, the comparative analysis with similar constructs in other languages emphasizes the unique features and contextual significance of Uzbek riddles and onomastic expressions. This highlights the diversity and richness of human communication, showcasing how language can serve as a mirror to the culture it arises from.

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