



IDIOMS AND PROVERBS DENOTING CONCEPT "MOTHERLAND" IN
ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Annotation: This article deals with the expression of the concept "motherland" through idioms and proverbs. As every language contains a number of complicated lexical units that denote love and respect to national land of the human being, English and Uzbek languages owe such paremiological units. The article focuses on the usages of these units as the main signals of denoting love to motherland. The semantic characteristic features of idioms and proverbs are also discussed in the work.

Key words: the worldview connotations, personal liberty, references to represent the nation, emotional bond, personify a nation, national identity, cultural symbols, identification of the motherland.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada "vatan" tushunchasining iboralar va maqollar orqali ifodalanishi haqida soʻz boradi. Har bir tilda insonning ona zaminiga muhabbat va hurmatni bildiruvchi bir qancha murakkab leksik birliklar mavjud boʻlgani uchun ingliz va oʻzbek tillari ham ana shunday paremiologik birliklarga egadir. Maqolada ushbu birliklarning vatanga muhabbatning asosiy belgisi sifatida qoʻllanilishiga eʼtibor qaratilgan. Ishda idioma va maqollarning semantik xarakterli xususiyatlari ham muhokama qilinadi.

Kalit soʻzlar: dunyoqarash konnotatsiyalari, shaxsiy erkinlik, millatni ifodalamoq, hissiy rishtalar, millatni shaxsan ifoda etmoq, milliy oʻziga xoslik, madaniy ramzlar, vatan identifikatsiyasi.

Language reflects the worldview and values of its speakers. One of the most emotionally charged and culturally significant concepts across languages is the idea of the Motherland—the land of one’s birth, ancestry, or national belonging.

While many languages, such as Russian (Родина), Uzbek (Vatan), or German (Vaterland), have clear and widely used terms for this concept, the English language expresses it through a broader semantic network of idioms and phrases rather than a single dominant word.

This article examines how English sayings encapsulate the values, emotions, and loyalties associated with the concept of the Motherland. The Motherland is often understood as the nation or territory to which a person feels a deep, emotional and cultural connection. It carries connotations of nurturing, belonging, sacrifice, and identity. In English, the term itself appears mainly in formal or poetic contexts, but the underlying concept manifests powerfully in numerous common sayings and idioms. English-speaking cultures—particularly those of the UK and the United States—tend to emphasize personal liberty, home, and citizenship over ancestral or blood ties.

As such, patriotic feelings are often expressed through references to home, country, or nation, rather than explicitly personifying the land as a "mother". "There’s no place like home" this saying captures the emotional and personal connection to one’s homeland or place of origin. While home may refer to a house, it is often interpreted metaphorically to



represent the nation or familiar environment. It emphasizes comfort, identity, and loyalty. "Home is where the heart is" - this idiom speaks to the emotional bond between the individual and their homeland.

While English does not have many specific idioms that explicitly personify a nation as a "mother" to denote love (the word patriotism is more commonly used), the feeling is expressed through a variety of related phrases and sayings. Below we are going to present some idioms and proverbs that denote patriotism towards one's state: a) my country, right or wrong: This phrase expresses unwavering loyalty and the commitment to stand by one's country regardless of its actions or perceived flaws; b) to die for one's country: An expression referring to the ultimate sacrifice made out of devotion and love for one's homeland; c) to owe allegiance to (one's flag/country): This signifies a formal or emotional duty of loyalty and commitment to one's nation; d) (As) American as apple pie / (As) British as fish and chips: While specific to certain cultures, these types of idioms express a deep connection to national identity and cultural symbols, implying an inherent love for one's country and its traditions. e) to have a sense of pride in one's motherland/homeland: A straightforward phrase indicating a feeling of honor and respect for one's native land; f) Home is where the heart is: While a general idiom about emotional attachment to a place, it is often used metaphorically to express a profound emotional bond to one's homeland, suggesting that one's sense of belonging is deeply rooted in emotional attachment rather than just geography; g) there's no place like home: This saying captures the unique emotional and personal connection to one's origin or nation, emphasizing comfort, identity, and loyalty; h) ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country: This famous quote emphasizes active service, contribution, and sacrifice as the truest expression of love and belonging to one's nation.

Love for the motherland, expressed in the identification of the motherland with the image of the mother, was reflected in the Uzbek proverbs: *Ona yurting — oltin beshiging; Ona yurting omon bo'lsa, Rangi ro'ying somon bo'lmas*. In the Uzbek consciousness, the Motherland is metaphorically related to the mother, since the continuation of the clan depends on her. Mother is the first, main word in one's life. Mother sincerely loves her child and is not able to betray him. In addition, Uzbek people often relate their country to the land or soil as the existence of man is unthinkable without the land, which is often called the mother. The Uzbek proverbial fund also has paremias, where there is an identification of the homeland with the land or soil: *Ona yerning tuprog'i — ona sutidan aziz; Begona tuproq – devona tuproq; Kishi yerida sulton bo'lguncha, o'z elingda cho'pon bo'l*. The homeland in the minds of the representative of this people can be perceived not only as a mother or land but it is also a kind of paradise, a holy place to which they can pray. It can be proved by the following proverb: *Qush butaga sig'inar, odam – Vatanga*. When comparing the Uzbek paremias with the English, there is a clear difference in the worldview of these peoples. Thus, the identification of the homeland with the image of the mother and land or soil is culturally specific for the Uzbek people. No similar proverbs were found in the English proverbial fund.

There are proverbs and sayings which emphasize the peoples' devotion to their homeland. An important place in Uzbek phraseological units is the idea that man remains

faithful to his homeland, despite the difficulties. The moral foundations of the Uzbek people do not allow a person to abandon the motherland in difficult moments in search of better lands. This fact is confirmed in proverbs: Birovning yurtida bek bo'lguncha, o'zingning yurtingda it bo'l; Kishi yurtida sulton bo'lguncha, o'z yurtingda ulton bo'l; Vatanni sotgan er bo'lmas; Dushmanga nafrati bo'lmaganning Vatanga muhabbati bo'lmas; O'zga yurtning qozisi bo'lgandan, o'z elingning tozisi bo'l. In the Uzbek paremiological fund, devotion to the homeland is expressed more emotionally than in English paremias. A person who left his homeland or betrayed it is sharply condemned: O'lsang o'l, Vataningda bo'l; Vatan gadosi- kafan gadosi; Vatan gado bo'lguncha, rafangado bo'l. English proverbs are less emotional about these feelings: Home is home though it's never so homely; Dry bread at home is better than roast meat abroad. We also see that in the English proverbs it is impossible to reveal the drawbacks of the Motherland as it is sacred: Wash your dirty linen at home; It is an ill bird that fouls its own nest. When comparing the above Uzbek and English proverbs, the fact that Uzbek paremias are more emotional is obvious. Even death threatening a person is not able to force him to leave his native land.

The love of the homeland is evidenced by the fact that a person strives for his homeland all his life. This sign was reflected in the Uzbek proverb: Tuqqan elga jon tortmasa ham, qon tortadi; Tug'ilgan yerdan ko'ngil uzilmas, Yurt qo'riganning yurti buzilmas. In English paremiology, the attraction to one's homeland is expressed by the proverb: 'The wider we roam, the welcomer home.' The partial equivalence of English proverbs, where the attraction to the homeland occurs unconsciously, can be explained by the uneven development of the linguistic traditions of the peoples and a different view of the situation.

An indisputable sign of love for the motherland is that a person is ready to defend his homeland from enemies. Each nation has patriotism, but the degree of patriotism of each nation has its own, depending on various historical factors. According to paremias, out of love for the fatherland, to protect her from enemies, a person could sacrifice his life. Vatan uchun o'lmoq ham sharaf; Elga xizmat — oliy himmat; Vatan g'amini bilgan elda doston; Elning g'ami – erning g'ami; Er yigit o'zi uchun tug'ilar, eli uchun o'lar.

In conclusion we can state that there are a number of complicated units denoting concept "motherland" in both languages. Idioms and proverbs that represent love, respect towards nationality, state denote deep feelings and emotions that are born at the moment when a person comes to the world. Idioms and proverbs representing patriotism make the meaning more persuasive, convincing, powerful, expressive.

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