

ZOONYMIC COMPONENT UNITS IN NON-RELATED LANGUAGES**Visola Abdullaeva***Senior Teacher**Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages**Samarkand, Uzbekistan*

Abstract: *This article examines phraseological units, proverbs, and set expressions containing zoonymic components in non-related languages from semantic, comparative, and linguocultural perspectives. The main purpose of the study is to reveal figurative meanings and national worldviews reflected through animal names in different linguistic systems. The material of the research is based on examples from Uzbek, English, and Chinese. The analysis demonstrates both universal and culture-specific features in the interpretation of animal images. As a result, zonyms are proven to be powerful semantic instruments that simultaneously express common human experience and national identity.*

Key words: *zonym, phraseology, non-related languages, semantics, linguocultural studies, comparative analysis, imagery.*

Animal names occupy an important place in the lexical and phraseological systems of the world's languages. Since ancient times people have observed animals, compared their behavior with human qualities, and gradually transferred these observations into speech. Therefore, zoonymic components not only enrich vocabulary but also preserve cultural memory, traditions, and values of a nation. The study of zoonymic phraseological units in non-related languages is especially significant because it allows scholars to distinguish between universal cognitive patterns and nationally specific interpretations. When languages belong to different families and developed in separate historical conditions, similarities between them often reflect general human experience, whereas differences reveal unique cultural models. In the Uzbek language, many expressions describing human character are built through metaphoric transfer from animals. For example, comparisons equivalent to "as hungry as a wolf," "cunning like a fox," or "working like a donkey" demonstrate how natural features of animals become evaluative tools. Such expressions intensify speech, make it emotional, and help speakers avoid long explanations.

In English, similar processes can be observed in phraseological dictionaries such as the Oxford English Dictionary, where expressions like as busy as a bee, a dark horse, and let the cat out of the bag are recorded. Each animal carries a stable symbolic meaning shaped by historical and cultural development. The bee represents diligence, the horse unexpected potential, and the cat the disclosure of a secret. Some of these meanings coincide with Uzbek perceptions, while others differ

considerably. In Chinese, zoonymic imagery is deeply rooted in mythology, philosophy, and traditional symbolism. Animals such as the dragon or the tiger are connected with power, authority, and good fortune. The dragon, for instance, is usually a positive and noble symbol, whereas in many Western cultures it may be associated with danger or evil. Such contrasts clearly demonstrate how cultural background influences semantic development. Comparative analysis shows that certain animals tend to obtain almost universal connotations. The lion is frequently related to bravery, the fox to хитрость (cunning), and the dog either to loyalty or insult. Nevertheless, even when general tendencies coincide, pragmatic usage may differ. In some societies calling a person a dog can express friendship; in others it is highly offensive. Therefore, literal translation without cultural adaptation can lead to misunderstanding. The origin of many zoonymic units can be traced back to folklore, legends, and everyday economic activities such as hunting or cattle breeding. Long-term interaction between humans and animals produced stable stereotypes that later crystallized in language. Once fixed, they were transmitted from generation to generation and became part of the national linguistic picture of the world. From a structural point of view, zoonymic phraseologisms appear in various grammatical models. Some are similes, others function as metaphoric nominations or idiomatic sentences. Despite possible grammatical variation, their figurative meaning usually remains constant, which proves their stability within the language system.

Zoonymic expressions also perform important pragmatic functions. They make speech vivid, expressive, and persuasive. Instead of describing a person in many words, a speaker can use a compact metaphor that immediately creates an image in the listener's mind. This feature corresponds to the principle of communicative economy. Psycholinguistically, animal images are easily perceived because they are connected with real sensory experience. When hearing such expressions, people quickly visualize the situation, which strengthens emotional impact. That is why writers, journalists, and public speakers actively exploit zoonymic metaphors. Modern media and internet communication continue to reshape traditional symbolism. Some ancient images lose popularity, while new ironic or humorous metaphors emerge. This proves that phraseology is not static but dynamically develops together with society. Another interesting aspect is that different languages may use different animals to describe the same human trait. Where one culture speaks about a fox, another may mention a monkey or a jackal. Such replacements highlight diversity in associative thinking and environmental influence.

For foreign language teaching, zoonymic units represent both difficulty and opportunity. On the one hand, learners may misunderstand them if they rely on literal meaning. On the other hand, mastering such expressions opens access to deeper cultural knowledge and improves communicative competence. Linguocultural analysis confirms that zoonyms function as codes transmitting national mentality. Through

them we see how a community evaluates bravery, laziness, intelligence, or betrayal. Thus, phraseological material becomes an important source for interdisciplinary research combining linguistics, anthropology, and history.

CONCLUSION

The comparative study of zoonymic components in non-related languages reveals a close connection between language, cognition, and culture. Animal imagery enhances expressiveness, forms stable metaphors, and reflects national identity. While certain associations are universal, many are culture-dependent and require careful interpretation in translation and teaching practice. Zoonymic phraseology therefore acts as a bridge linking peoples through shared human experience while preserving their uniqueness.

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