



Functional Capabilities Of Zoonymic Language Units In Text Formation: A Comparative Study Of English And Uzbek

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ABSTRACT

This article investigates the functional capabilities of zoonymic language units in text formation in English and Uzbek. Zoonymic units, which include lexical and phraseological expressions containing animal names, play an important role in representing national-cultural worldviews, emotional evaluation, and stylistic expressiveness. The study aims to identify the semantic, stylistic, and linguocultural functions of zoonymic components in literary and everyday discourse. Comparative, contextual, semantic, and linguocultural analysis methods are employed in the research. The findings demonstrate that zoonymic units in both languages serve as effective means of characterization, emotional evaluation, metaphorical representation, and text cohesion. Despite certain universal semantic associations, English and Uzbek zoonymic expressions reveal significant national-cultural differences shaped by historical traditions, social values, and collective mentality. The article concludes that zoonymic language units constitute an important linguocultural layer and actively participate in text formation processes in both languages.

Keywords:

zoonym, zoonymic unit, text formation, metaphor, phraseology, linguoculturology, comparative linguistics, stylistic function, English language, Uzbek language

Introduction. Modern linguistics increasingly focuses on the relationship between language, culture, and human cognition. Within anthropocentric and linguocultural paradigms, special attention is paid to lexical units reflecting national mentality and cultural worldview. One such layer is represented by zoonymic language units — linguistic expressions containing animal names that function metaphorically, symbolically, or evaluatively in speech and texts. Animal imagery occupies a significant place in both English and Uzbek linguistic cultures. Human qualities such as bravery, cunning, laziness, greed, loyalty, and stupidity are frequently represented through animal metaphors. These

zoonymic units perform not only nominative functions but also stylistic, emotional-expressive, evaluative, and text-forming functions.

In literary discourse, zoonymic components contribute to characterization, imagery creation, emotional intensity, and cultural representation. They help reveal the author's attitude toward characters and social phenomena while simultaneously reflecting national-cultural stereotypes and collective experiences. The purpose of this study is to analyze the functional capabilities of zoonymic language units in English and Uzbek text formation from semantic, stylistic, and linguocultural perspectives. The study also

seeks to identify similarities and differences in the usage of zoonymic expressions in the two languages.

Literature Review. The study of zoonymic units has attracted the attention of researchers in phraseology, cognitive linguistics, stylistics, and linguoculturology. In modern linguistics, metaphor theory developed by G.Lakoff and M.Johnson emphasizes that metaphor is not merely a stylistic device but also a cognitive mechanism shaping human perception of reality. Researchers in phraseology have noted that animal names often become stable figurative symbols representing specific human characteristics. For example, the *fox* symbolizes cunning in many cultures, while the lion represents bravery and power. However, some zoonymic symbols vary according to cultural and historical contexts. In Russian linguistics, V.Vinogradov studied phraseological units and their stylistic functions in discourse. Linguocultural scholars emphasize that zoonymic units preserve ethnic stereotypes, cultural memory, and national mentality. In Uzbek linguistics, studies devoted to phraseology, paremiology, and linguocultural analysis also examine animal imagery in proverbs, idioms, and literary texts. Uzbek zoonymic expressions frequently reflect pastoral traditions, nomadic culture, and moral evaluations rooted in folk worldview. Despite

existing studies, comparative analysis of zoonymic language units in English and Uzbek text formation remains insufficiently explored. This article attempts to contribute to this field by examining the functional and linguocultural characteristics of zoonymic expressions in the two languages.

Methodology. The research applies comparative, descriptive, semantic, contextual, and linguocultural methods of analysis. Literary texts, phraseological dictionaries, proverbs, and examples from modern discourse in English and Uzbek serve as the main materials of the study. The comparative method allows identification of similarities and differences between zoonymic units in the two languages. Semantic analysis is used to determine denotative and connotative meanings, while contextual analysis reveals the stylistic and pragmatic functions of zoonymic expressions in text formation.

The linguocultural approach makes it possible to examine how animal imagery reflects national mentality, cultural values, and social stereotypes.

Materials and Discussion. One of the most important functions of zoonymic units is characterization. In both English and Uzbek, animal names metaphorically describe human appearance, behavior, or psychological traits. For example:

English Expression	Uzbek Equivalent	Meaning
sly as a fox	tulkiday ayyor	cunning
brave as a lion	sherday jasur	bravery
stubborn as a donkey	eshakday qaysar	stubbornness
wolf-like	bo'riday vahshiy	aggression

These expressions intensify emotional impact and help readers visualize character traits more vividly. In English literary texts, the *fox* often symbolizes intelligence and cunning, while in Uzbek discourse the fox ("tulki") carries similar connotations associated with trickery and deceit. Such parallels demonstrate universal cognitive associations connected with animal behavior.

Zoonymic units possess strong emotional and expressive potential. They frequently function as evaluative devices expressing irony, ridicule, admiration, or disapproval. For instance: "*You dirty pig!*"; "*Itday ishlamoq*"; "*Qo'yday yuvosh*". These expressions carry emotional coloring and reveal speakers' attitudes toward individuals or situations. In Uzbek literary discourse, zoonymic expressions often strengthen satirical criticism. Writers employ animal imagery to

expose greed, ignorance, cowardice, or hypocrisy.

Although some zoonymic associations are universal, many are culture-specific. In English culture, dogs often symbolize loyalty and friendship, whereas in Uzbek linguistic culture the dog may carry negative connotations in certain contexts.

Similarly, the owl in English culture symbolizes wisdom, while in some Uzbek folk interpretations it may evoke loneliness or mystery.

These differences indicate that zoonymic units reflect cultural experience, historical traditions, and social worldview.

Zoonymic components contribute significantly to text cohesion and imagery formation. Repeated animal imagery may create semantic unity within literary texts and reinforce thematic development.

For example, repeated references to wolves may create an atmosphere of danger and cruelty, while bird imagery may symbolize freedom or spiritual aspiration. In both English and Uzbek literature, zoonymic motifs frequently serve symbolic and compositional purposes.

Results. The research demonstrates that zoonymic language units perform multiple functions in English and Uzbek text formation. They serve as: *means of characterization; emotional-expressive devices; evaluative instruments; metaphorical representations; linguocultural markers; stylistic and compositional elements.* The comparative analysis reveals both universal and culture-specific features. Universal associations are mainly based on observable animal behavior, while differences emerge from national traditions, folklore, religion, and historical experience. The findings also show that zoonymic units actively participate in the formation of imagery and emotional atmosphere in literary discourse.

Conclusion. Zoonymic language units constitute an important linguocultural layer in both English and Uzbek. They reflect collective worldview, cultural stereotypes, and national mentality while simultaneously performing

stylistic and communicative functions in texts. The study confirms that zoonymic expressions are not limited to nominative functions but actively contribute to text formation through metaphorical representation, emotional evaluation, characterization, and imagery creation. Comparative analysis demonstrates that despite certain universal semantic patterns, English and Uzbek zoonymic units possess distinct cultural features shaped by different historical and social experiences. Further studies may focus on cognitive, pragmatic, and translation aspects of zoonymic expressions in various discourse types.

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