

# Comparative Analysis of German and Uzbek Phraseological Units: Similarities and Differences

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## **Abstract:**

This article presents a comparative analysis of German and Uzbek phraseological units. Phraseological expressions are essential linguistic elements that reflect a nation's cultural heritage, historical experience, and worldview. The study examines the similarities and differences between phraseological units in German and Uzbek, analyzing the historical, cultural, and social factors influencing their origins. Furthermore, the paper discusses the challenges of translating phraseological expressions and their role in intercultural communication.

**Keywords:** phraseological units, German language, Uzbek language, comparative analysis, cultural heritage, translation, language and history

## **Introduction**

A nation's language is one of the most crucial tools for expressing its cultural and spiritual heritage as well as its unique identity. Language is not merely a means of communication or information transfer; it also embodies national culture, traditions, customs, and way of life. Therefore, comparative studies between different languages, especially phraseological units, play a significant role in uncovering linguistic and cultural similarities and differences.

Phraseology is an important branch of linguistics that studies stable word combinations, expressions, proverbs, sayings, and idioms in a language. Phraseological units are often used in a fixed form, and their meanings do not always correspond to their literal translations. Moreover, phraseological expressions are passed down through generations, forming an essential part of a people's life experience, worldview, and mentality.

## Literature Review and Methodology

This study analyzes phraseological units in German and Uzbek, exploring their distinctive features, similarities and differences, usage contexts, semantics, and etymological origins. German belongs to the Indo-European language family, whereas Uzbek is a member of the Turkic language family. The distinct origins, historical developments, and cultural contexts of these two languages have influenced the formation of their phraseological systems. Thus, a comparative study of these phraseological units provides deeper insights into national mentalities, cultural values, and historical traditions.

Phraseology as a field of study emerged in the first half of the 20th century. In Western linguistics [e.g., Russian, English, French, and German philology], the development of phraseology as a separate discipline was influenced by the works of scholars such as V. V. Vinogradov, Ch. Bally, A. A. Reformatskiy, L. P. Smith, and many others. In Uzbek linguistics, early research on phraseology began in the mid-20th century, with key contributions from A. Madvaliyev, I. Musayev, N. Mahmudov, and M. Yo‘ldoshev.

## Results and Discussion

Phraseological units possess complex semantic, structural, and functional characteristics. They cannot always be directly translated word for word without losing their meaning or being misinterpreted. For example, the Uzbek phrase [otning kallasidek - as big as a horse’s head]<sup>1</sup> is used to describe something very large, while the German expression [ins Gras beißen-to bite into the grass] means [to die]. These examples demonstrate the figurative nature and stability of phraseological units.

Various classifications of phraseological expressions have been proposed in linguistic research. According to Vinogradov’s classification, phraseological units can be categorized as follows:

1. Phraseological fusions – Expressions with a highly fixed meaning, where individual components cannot be easily analyzed semantically.

[Blau machen - to make blue, but meaning, to skip work or school]<sup>2</sup>

[Jon kuydirmoq - to burn the soul, meaning to work hard, put in effort]

2. Phraseological unities – Expressions where the overall meaning is somewhat predictable, but the individual words still retain partial meaning.

[Zwei Fliegen mit einer Klappe schlagen - to kill two flies with one swat, to accomplish two tasks with one action]

[Bir o‘q bilan ikki quyonna urmoq-to shoot two rabbits with one bullet], same meaning.

Partially idiomatic expressions where one component is fixed while the other remains flexible.

[Ishq tuzog‘iga ilintirmoq-to be caught in the trap of love]<sup>3</sup>

[Den Kopf zurechtsetzen - to set one’s head straight,] meaning [to reconsider, to reflect]

Phraseological expressions contribute to linguistic richness by adding expressiveness, imagery, and emotional depth to speech. This is why they hold special importance in literary analysis, translation studies, and intercultural linguistic research.

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<sup>1</sup> Vinogradov, V. V. “О теории фразеологии,” Вопросы языкознания, 1947.

<sup>2</sup> Vinogradov, V. V. “О теории фразеологии,” Вопросы языкознания, 1947.

<sup>3</sup> Musayev, I. O‘zbek frazeologizmlari lug‘ati, Toshkent: O‘qituvchi, 1980

Although German and Uzbek belong to different linguistic families, common human experiences, everyday life, social interactions, emotions, and relationships with nature and society often manifest in similar idiomatic expressions. Some examples include:

[Bir o‘q bilan ikki quyovni urmoq]<sup>4</sup>

[Zwei Fliegen mit einer Klappe schlagen]<sup>5</sup>

[To achieve two goals with one action]

[Boshini tiyib olmoq - to calm oneself, to reflect]

[Den Kopf zurechtsetzen - to reconsider, to think clearly]

Additionally, phraseological expressions reflect national identity and cultural mentality. For example, the Uzbek expression [baxt qushi - bird of happiness] and the German equivalent [Glücksvogel-luck bird] both refer to a lucky person. However, their cultural origins and historical contexts may differ.

### Conclusion

A comparative analysis of German and Uzbek phraseological units reveals that their formation, semantics, and usage reflect both universal human experiences and unique national characteristics. While many phraseological expressions are similar due to common life situations and psychological factors, others are shaped by historical, religious, and geographical influences.

From a practical perspective, the study of phraseological expressions is important for linguistic research, cross-cultural communication, and translation studies. Since phraseological units often lose their meaning in direct translation, understanding their context, etymology, and cultural background is crucial for accurate interpretation.

Going forward, further research in this field, along with the use of digital tools for linguistic databases, online resources, and intercultural studies, can contribute to a better understanding of phraseological systems and deeper cultural connections between nations.

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<sup>4</sup> Musayev, I. *O‘zbek frazeologizmlari lug‘ati*, Toshkent: O‘qituvchi, 1980

<sup>5</sup> Smith, L. P. *Words and Idioms: Studies in the English Language*. London, 1925