



LINGUISTIC ASPECTS OF PROVERBS

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Abstract

This article theoretically substantiates the fact that proverbs are linguistic units that provide a vivid picture of a nation's culture, lifestyle, traditions, worldview, and spirituality, and that folk proverbs, a type of figurative language widely used to express wisdom, advice, and cultural values, reflect the language and cultural characteristics of a particular nation.

Keywords: Culture, proverb, metonymy, exaggeration, lexical meaning, metaphor, hyperbole, language.

Introduction

Proverbs are linguistic units deeply embedded in culture and traditions. They are characterized by the following unique linguistic and cultural features. For example:

1. Conciseness. A proverb is usually short and concise, often condensing complex thoughts into a few words. The proverb “An apple falls under an apple” is used in a concise form, but it expresses a deep meaning. This proverb is often used to express that the child of a good father or the child of a learned woman also grows up to be a good and learned person like him.

2. Figurativeness. Proverbs often use figurative linguistic means such as metaphor, simile, and hyperbole to express ideas. These language devices are deeply rooted in cultural traditions, and for those unfamiliar with that culture, it is difficult to understand the meaning of these figurative devices. The proverb “Luck comes with its own feet” is used metaphorically, and is used figuratively to express the lexeme “luck”. The proverb “The fish stinks from the head” is also used figuratively, and is used to refer to painful and negative events in our social life.

3. Universality. Proverbs are often culturally specific, but they have a universal appeal that can be applied across cultures and contexts. Although the proverb “With a crow, winter does not come” is used in different ways in different cultures, the



lexical meaning is understood in the same way. This proverb is also used in the version “With a swallow, spring does not come.” In both proverbs, the content is consistent.

4. Rhyme and rhythm. The text of proverbs is memorable because they have a rhythmic/rhyming feature, which makes them easier to remember. Many proverbs are expressed in this way. In the proverb “Look at your back and take your sheep, look at your mother and take your daughter,” the lexemes “sheep” and “daughter” rhyme with each other, the use of the consonant “z” in these sentences serves to enhance the rhythm and preserve the meaning and expression of the proverb.

5. Repetition. High-frequency words are repeated in proverbs for emphasis, which makes them easier to absorb into the minds of the people, strengthens the message, and enhances the meaning. In the proverb “One head is a head, two heads are gold,” the lexeme “head” is used repeatedly to emphasize the meaning. This proverb can also be used in the form “Two heads are gold,” but if the phrase “head” in the first sentence is not used repeatedly, the meaning of “two heads are gold” in the second clause would not be fully understood. Therefore, this proverb effectively uses repetition. Although the conditional clauses “if” and “if” are omitted in the proverb “If the bird is quiet, you are quiet”, the repeated use of the determiner ensured that the content of the proverb was effective in the sentence.

6. Descriptiveness. Vivid images are used in proverbs to convey ideas. This aspect ensured the expressive appeal of proverbs. In the proverb “The cat did not go out into the sun for free”, people who pursue a goal and do things in the manner of “Only from you - only from me” are depicted as cats. In the proverb “The crow did not drown the crow’s eye”, leaders and officials who allow familiarity are criticized. These people are described in the text of the proverb as “crows”.

7. Hyperbole. Proverbs emphasize the importance of the statement being made and use hyperbole. In general, proverbs are linguistic units deeply embedded in culture and traditions, and they serve as a powerful tool for communicating and conveying important messages to generations. The proverb “A woman who has been beaten has fifty mouths” exaggerates the characteristics of women, such as talking too much and not finishing.

8. Expressing cultural values. Proverbs express cultural values and beliefs, such as the importance of work, respect for elders, and the power of the community. The proverbs “The bread of labor is sweet, the soul of the hungry is sweet”, or “The



gold is known in the fire, the man is in labor”, “The one who labors is dear in the land where labor is” glorify the phenomenon of labor. There are many proverbs that glorify labor.

9. Regional, dialectal changes. Proverbs are expressed differently in regions and dialects, reflecting the diversity of language and culture within a country or region. The Uzbek proverb “Two rams’ heads cannot fit in one pot” is interpreted differently in different regions. The same proverb is expressed in Kazakh as “Two sheep cannot fit in one pot.” The lexical meaning of both proverbs is the same, but has undergone changes in the way of expression, that is, in terms of form. Or the Kazakh proverb “Be a pauper in your own country until you become a king in another country” is expressed in Uzbek as “Be a beggar in your own country until you become a king in another country”. The content of both proverbs is the same, only the lexical lexemes "poor" and "beggar" have changed places.

10. Historical and social context. Proverbs reflect the historical and social context. They express the experiences, beliefs and values of a particular era or social group. For example: "Father is pleased - God is pleased", "Teacher is greater than your father", "If you dig a well for someone, you will sleep on your own".

11. Oral creativity. Proverbs are passed down from generation to generation in oral form, and in many nations, they teach moral norms based on storytelling and increase the importance of oral speech: "Learn manners from rudeness", "The beginning of manners is language".

12. Use of humor. Proverbs use humor to reflect the cultural value given to humor and wit in some communities. The proverb “A mouse cannot fit into its nest, a thorn in the garden is its tail” is a vivid example of this.

In general, proverbs are an important part of language and culture, reflecting the linguistic and cultural characteristics of a particular people. Proverbs are lexical units that provide a vivid picture of the culture, lifestyle, traditions, worldview and spirituality of representatives of a particular nation.

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