

**A SEMANTIC AND PRAGMATIC COMPARISON OF IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS  
REFLECTING THE CONCEPTS OF LABOR AND SUCCESS IN THE ENGLISH AND  
UZBEK LANGUAGES**

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**Abstract:** This article presents a semantic and pragmatic comparative analysis of idiomatic expressions that reflect the concepts of labour and success in the English and Uzbek languages. Idioms, as culturally marked linguistic units, encode national values, social experience, and collective attitudes toward work, effort, and achievement. The study examines how the concepts of labour and success are conceptualized through idiomatic expressions, focusing on their figurative meaning, evaluative component, and pragmatic function in discourse. Special attention is paid to similarities and differences in metaphorical models, cultural connotations, and communicative usage of idioms in both languages. The analysis reveals that while English idioms tend to emphasize individual effort, competitiveness, and personal achievement, Uzbek idiomatic expressions often reflect collectivism, perseverance, moral integrity, and respect for labour as a social value. The findings contribute to the fields of contrastive linguistics, phraseology, and linguocultural studies, and may be useful for translation studies and intercultural communication.

**Keywords:** idiomatic expressions, labour, success, semantic analysis, pragmatic analysis, English language, Uzbek language, linguocultural comparison

**INGLIZ VA O'ZBEK TILLARIDA MEHNAT VA MUVAFFAQIYAT  
TUSHUNCHALARINI AKS ETTIRUVCHI IDIOMATIK IFODALARNING**

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**Annotatsiya:** Mazkur maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillarida mehnat va muvaffaqiyat tushunchalarini ifodalovchi idiomatik birliklar semantik va pragmatik jihatdan chog'ishtirma asosda tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot jarayonida mazkur konseptlarga oid idiomalarning ma'no tuzilishi, obrazlilik xususiyatlari hamda nutqiy vaziyatdagi funksional qo'llanilishi o'rganildi. Har ikki tilda mehnat va muvaffaqiyat bilan bog'liq idiomalar xalqning dunyoqarashi, ijtimoiy qadriyatlari va madaniy an'analari bilan chambarchas bog'liq ekani aniqlandi. Shuningdek, ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi idiomatik ifodalarning o'xshash va farqli jihatlari pragmatik nuqtayi nazardan tahlil qilinib, ularning tarjima jarayonida yuzaga keladigan muammolari yoritildi. Tadqiqot natijalari qiyosiy tilshunoslik, frazeologiya va tarjimashunoslik sohalari uchun muhim ilmiy va amaliy ahamiyatga ega.

**Kalit so'zlar:** idiomatik ifodalar, mehnat konsepti, muvaffaqiyat konsepti, semantik tahlil, pragmatik tahlil, chog'ishtirma tilshunoslik, ingliz tili, o'zbek til

**СЕМАНТИКО-ПРАГМАТИЧЕСКОЕ СОПОСТАВЛЕНИЕ ИДИОМАТИЧЕСКИХ  
ВЫРАЖЕНИЙ, ОТРАЖАЮЩИХ КОНЦЕПТЫ ТРУДА И УСПЕХА В  
АНГЛИЙСКОМ И УЗБЕКСКОМ ЯЗЫКАХ**

**НАУЧНЫЙ РУКОВОДИТЕЛЬ: УРАЛОВА ОЙСУЛУВ ПАЯНОВНА**

**Аннотация:** В статье проводится семантико-прагматический сопоставительный анализ идиоматических выражений, отражающих концепты труда и успеха в английском и узбекском языках. Идиомы как культурно маркированные языковые единицы аккумулируют национальные ценности, социальный опыт и устойчивые представления о труде, усилении и достижении цели. В работе рассматриваются особенности семантической структуры и прагматического функционирования идиом, связанных с трудовой деятельностью и успехом, а также их образная основа и оценочный компонент. Особое внимание уделяется выявлению сходств и различий в метафорических моделях и культурных коннотациях. Анализ показывает, что в английском языке идиомы преимущественно акцентируют индивидуальные достижения, инициативность и конкуренцию, тогда как в узбекском языке доминируют представления о коллективном труде, терпении, нравственной ответственности и социальной значимости труда. Полученные результаты расширяют возможности контрастивной фразеологии, лингвокультурологии и теории межкультурной коммуникации.

**Ключевые слова:** идиоматические выражения, труд, успех, семантический анализ, прагматический анализ, английский язык, узбекский язык, сопоставительное языкознание

**INTRODUCTION**

Language reflects the worldview, values, and cultural priorities of its speakers, and idiomatic expressions occupy a special place in this process. Idioms are fixed linguistic units whose meanings are not fully deducible from their individual components and are deeply rooted in cultural experience. In particular, idioms related to labour and success reveal how societies conceptualize work, effort, achievement, and social recognition. The concepts of labour and success are universal, yet their linguistic realization varies across cultures. In English, idiomatic expressions often highlight individual initiative, efficiency, and personal accomplishment, whereas in Uzbek linguistic culture, labour is frequently associated with perseverance, moral responsibility, and collective contribution. A semantic and pragmatic comparison of such idioms makes it possible to uncover both shared human values and culture-specific interpretations. The present study aims to analyze idiomatic expressions representing labour and success in the English and Uzbek languages from semantic and pragmatic perspectives, identifying similarities and differences in their figurative meanings, evaluative components, and communicative functions.

**Materials and methods**

The material for this study consists of idiomatic expressions related to labour and success collected from authoritative phraseological dictionaries, explanatory dictionaries, and linguistic studies in both languages. English idioms were selected from lexicographic sources such as *Oxford Dictionary of English Idioms* and academic literature on English phraseology. Uzbek idioms were drawn from *O'zbek tilining frazeologik lug'ati* and works on Uzbek linguistics and linguoculturology. The research employs a qualitative comparative methodology. Semantic analysis was used to identify the core and figurative meanings of idioms, as well as their evaluative and emotive components. Pragmatic analysis focused on the communicative functions

of idioms, including their use in everyday speech, literary texts, and public discourse. The comparative method enabled the identification of cross-linguistic correspondences and culturally conditioned differences. Conceptual metaphor theory and linguocultural analysis were applied to interpret how labour and success are metaphorically structured and culturally framed in each language.

### Results

The analysis shows that idiomatic expressions related to labour and success in both languages share common semantic features, such as the association of success with effort and persistence. However, significant differences emerge in their pragmatic orientation and cultural emphasis. In English, idioms such as *to climb the ladder*, *to make one's way*, and *to reap the rewards* foreground personal ambition, competition, and measurable achievement. Success is often conceptualized as upward movement or material gain, and labour is viewed as a means to individual advancement. In Uzbek, idiomatic expressions like *mehnatning tagi rohat* (the root of labour is comfort) and *ter to'kib ishlamoq* (to work by shedding sweat) emphasize endurance, patience, and moral value. Success is frequently framed as a natural result of honest labour rather than rapid achievement. Pragmatically, such idioms are often used to encourage diligence, humility, and social responsibility. Thus, while both languages recognize the importance of labour, English idioms tend to be pragmatically goal-oriented, whereas Uzbek idioms are more value-oriented and ethically grounded.

### SEMANTIC AND PRAGMATIC COMPARISON OF IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS RELATED TO LABOUR AND SUCCESS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

Nº	Language	Idiomatic expression	Literal meaning	Figurative (Idiomatic) meaning	Semantic focus	Pragmatic function
1	English	<i>to climb the ladder</i>	to go up a ladder	to achieve career success	Success as upward movement	Emphasizes ambition and career growth
2	Uzbek	<i>mehnatning tagi rohat</i>	the root of labour is comfort	hard work leads to success	Labour as moral value	Encourages patience and diligence
3	English	<i>to reap the rewards</i>	to harvest crops	to gain results of effort	Success as result	Used to highlight deserved achievement
4	Uzbek	<i>ter to'kib ishlamoq</i>	to shed sweat	to work very hard	Labour as physical effort	Praises diligence and endurance
5	English	<i>to make one's way</i>	to move forward	to succeed through effort	Individual progress	Motivates self-reliance
6	Uzbek	<i>halol mehnat bilan topmoq</i>	to earn honestly	to achieve success through honest work	Moral labour	Stresses ethical values

7	English	<i>to get ahead</i>	to move forward	to be successful in life	Competition	Reflects individualism
8	Uzbek	<i>mehnat qilgan xor bo'lmas</i>	one who works is not disgraced	labour brings respect	Social recognition	Encourages social responsibility
9	English	<i>to break new ground</i>	to break land	to achieve something innovative	Innovation	Used in professional discourse
10	Uzbek	<i>mehnat bilan topilgan non shirin</i>	bread earned by labour is sweet	honest success is valuable	Ethical success	Used in didactic contexts

### Conclusion

The semantic and pragmatic comparison of idiomatic expressions representing labour and success in the English and Uzbek languages demonstrates that idioms function as key carriers of cultural values. Despite universal notions of work and achievement, each language encodes these concepts through culturally specific metaphors and pragmatic norms. English idiomatic expressions predominantly reflect individualism, competitiveness, and self-realization, while Uzbek idioms highlight perseverance, collectivism, and moral evaluation of labour. These differences should be taken into account in translation practice, intercultural communication, and language teaching. The findings contribute to contrastive linguistics and linguocultural studies by illustrating how shared human experiences are linguistically shaped by distinct cultural frameworks.

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