

NATIONAL AND CULTURAL COMPONENTS OF KINSHIP LEXICON IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Abstract

Kinship terms represent one of the most culturally loaded layers of any language, reflecting social structure, family organization, values, and national worldview. This article explores the national and cultural components of kinship lexicon in English and Uzbek languages from a comparative linguistic and cultural perspective. The study examines how historical development, social relations, family hierarchy, and cultural traditions shape kinship terminology in both languages. Special attention is paid to semantic differentiation, lexical richness, gender and age distinctions, and pragmatic usage of kinship terms. The analysis reveals that Uzbek kinship lexicon is more detailed and culturally marked than English, reflecting collectivist family values, while English kinship terms demonstrate semantic generalization influenced by individualistic culture. The article highlights the importance of kinship lexicon in understanding national mentality and intercultural communication.

Keywords: kinship lexicon, national-cultural component, English language, Uzbek language, linguistic worldview, culture, semantics.

Introduction

Language and culture are inseparably interconnected, and this connection is particularly evident in kinship terminology. Kinship lexicon serves not only as a means of naming family relations but also as a reflection of a nation's social structure, cultural traditions, and worldview. Each language encodes kinship relations in a unique way, shaped by historical development, social norms, and cultural values.

In linguistics, kinship terms are considered part of culturally marked vocabulary because they reveal national identity and collective experience. The comparison of English and Uzbek kinship lexicons provides valuable insights into differences between Western and Eastern cultural models, individualistic and collectivist family structures, and social hierarchies.

The aim of this article is to analyze the national and cultural components of kinship lexicon in English and Uzbek languages, identifying similarities and differences in semantic structure, usage, and cultural significance. The objectives of the study are:

- to define the concept of kinship lexicon and its cultural relevance;
- to analyze English kinship terms and their cultural characteristics;
- to examine Uzbek kinship terminology and its national specificity;
- to compare both systems and identify key cultural distinctions.

Theoretical Framework and Concept of Kinship Lexicon

Kinship lexicon refers to a system of lexical units used to denote family relationships by blood, marriage, or social affiliation. Linguists emphasize that kinship terms form a structured semantic field with hierarchical relations, oppositions, and cultural meanings.

According to anthropological linguistics, kinship terminology reflects:

- family structure (nuclear vs. extended family);
- social organization and hierarchy;
- gender and age roles;
- cultural attitudes toward relatives.

Edward Sapir and Benjamin Lee Whorf highlighted that language influences perception of social reality. Kinship terms, therefore, shape how speakers perceive

family relations. The Uzbek and English languages demonstrate different approaches to categorizing kinship, influenced by distinct cultural and social environments.

General Characteristics

English kinship terminology is relatively limited and generalized. It reflects a nuclear family model typical of Western societies, where emphasis is placed on immediate family members rather than extended relatives.

Common English kinship terms include:

- **father, mother**
- **son, daughter**
- **brother, sister**
- **uncle, aunt**
- **cousin**
- **grandfather, grandmother**

Many of these terms are semantically broad. For example, *cousin* refers to both male and female cousins, regardless of maternal or paternal lineage. Similarly, *uncle* and *aunt* do not specify whether the relative is from the mother's or father's side.

Cultural Implications

The generalization of kinship terms in English reflects:

- individualism;
- reduced emphasis on extended family ties;
- social equality rather than hierarchy.

English-speaking cultures typically prioritize independence and personal boundaries. As a result, kinship terms are often replaced by personal names in everyday communication.

Pragmatic Usage

In modern English, kinship terms may also be used metaphorically or socially:

- *brother* or *sister* to express solidarity;
- *uncle* or *aunt* as informal address for older people (less common than in Uzbek).

However, such usage is limited compared to Uzbek.

Richness and Semantic Differentiation

Uzbek kinship terminology is highly developed and semantically detailed. It reflects a strong extended family system and deep respect for family hierarchy.

Examples include:

- **ota** (father), **ona** (mother)
- **aka** (older brother), **uka** (younger brother)
- **opa** (older sister), **singil** (younger sister)
- **amaki** (father's brother)
- **tog'a** (mother's brother)
- **xola** (mother's sister)
- **amma** (father's sister)
- **jiyan, nevara, nabira**

Unlike English, Uzbek kinship terms specify:

- age (older vs. younger);
- gender;
- maternal or paternal lineage.

Cultural and Social Significance

Uzbek kinship lexicon reflects collectivist values and strong family bonds. Family is considered the core of society, and kinship relations extend beyond blood ties to social and moral obligations.

The use of specific kinship terms demonstrates:

- respect for elders;
- recognition of family hierarchy;
- social responsibility.

For example, addressing someone as **aka** or **opa** expresses respect and politeness, even if the person is not a biological sibling.

Conclusion

The comparative analysis of English and Uzbek kinship lexicons reveals significant differences rooted in national culture, social structure, and worldview. Uzbek kinship terminology is rich, detailed, and culturally marked, reflecting collectivist values and strong family ties. English kinship lexicon, in contrast, is more generalized, reflecting individualism and a nuclear family model.

Understanding the national and cultural components of kinship lexicon is essential for linguistics, translation studies, and intercultural communication. Kinship terms not only name family relations but also encode cultural values, social norms, and national identity.

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