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PHONETIC AND LEXICO-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ANEMONYM-BASED TONGUE TWISTERS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

Jabbarov Fakhriddin Alisherovich
Department of English Philology
Faculty of Pedagogy and Social Sciences and Humanities
Termez University of Economics and Service, Uzbekistan,
https://orcid.org/0009-0000-2983-076X
faxriddin_jabbarov@tues.uz

Abstract
This article examines the phonetic and lexico-semantic characteristics of tongue twisters containing anemonymic elements in English and Uzbek. Anemonyms, understood as proper names associated with winds and other wind-related natural phenomena, represent a specific category of onomastic units that can contribute to the expressive and phonetic organization of folklore texts. The study focuses on the interaction between proper names of winds, common wind-related vocabulary, sound repetition, alliteration, consonant clusters, and rhythmic patterns in tongue twisters. A comparative-descriptive approach is employed to identify similarities and differences between the two languages. Particular attention is paid to the phonetic adaptation of international wind names and their role in creating articulation difficulties. The article argues that anemonym-based tongue twisters provide valuable material for investigating the relationship between phonetic structure, lexical meaning, and linguistic creativity.

Keywords: Anemonym, tongue twister, onomastics, phonetics, alliteration, wind names, lexical semantics, English, Uzbek, comparative linguistics.

Introduction

Tongue twisters constitute a distinctive genre of oral language characterized by repeated sounds, complex sound combinations, rhythmic structures, and lexical patterns that challenge pronunciation. They are widely used in folklore, language teaching, speech training, and phonetic research. Their linguistic value lies not only in their entertaining function but also in their ability to demonstrate the articulatory and phonological characteristics of a particular language.

One interesting lexical category that can be examined in tongue twisters is represented by anemonyms. Anemonyms are proper names associated with winds and certain wind-related natural phenomena. Examples include Mistral, Sirocco, Bora, Föhn, and Chinook. Such names carry geographical, meteorological, and cultural information. When incorporated into short rhythmic texts, they may create specific pronunciation challenges due to their unfamiliar sound structures and phonological combinations.

In English and Uzbek, wind-related vocabulary is represented by both common nouns and proper names. English uses lexical items such as wind, breeze, storm, and gale, while Uzbek employs shamol, yel, bo‘ron, and shabada. These words should be distinguished from proper anemonyms, which identify particular named winds.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the phonetic and lexico-semantic features of anemonym-based tongue twisters in English and Uzbek and to identify their comparative characteristics.

Theoretical Background

Onomastics is the branch of linguistics concerned with the study of proper names, their origins, meanings, functions, and usage. Within this field, different categories of proper names are distinguished according to the objects they identify. Anemonyms represent a specialized group of names associated with wind phenomena.

The inclusion of anemonyms in oral folklore texts creates an interesting relationship between naming and sound organization. Unlike ordinary lexical items, proper names may contain geographical and historical associations that influence their interpretation. For example, Mistral refers to a strong regional wind associated with southern France, while Sirocco denotes a warm wind originating in the Sahara region and affecting the Mediterranean area.

Tongue twisters, in their turn, are based on phonetic repetition and articulatory complexity. Their main linguistic devices include:

Alliteration: repetition of initial consonant sounds;

Assonance: repetition of similar vowel sounds;

Consonance: repetition of consonant sounds within or at the ends of words;

Rhythm: the arrangement of stressed and unstressed syllables;

Phonetic contrast: the combination of sounds that require different articulatory positions.

These devices can be used to incorporate anemonymic names into short, memorable, and pronunciation-oriented texts.

Phonetic Characteristics of English Anemonym-Based Tongue Twisters

English phonological structure provides several possibilities for creating tongue twisters through the repetition of consonants and vowels. The pronunciation of foreign wind names may introduce additional difficulties for learners because spelling and pronunciation do not always correspond directly.

Consider the following illustrative tongue-twister examples:

Mistral winds move mountains and murmur through meadows.

Sirocco sweeps swiftly across the silent southern sands.

Bora blows boldly beyond the blue bay.

Chinook chills the cheerful children.

These examples are constructed for linguistic analysis rather than presented as traditional English folklore.

The first example demonstrates the repetition of the bilabial consonant /m/. The sequence Mistral – move – mountains – murmur – meadows produces an alliterative pattern that requires repeated articulatory movements.

The second example is characterized by the repetition of /s/ and /sw/. The combination of Sirocco, sweeps, swiftly, and silent creates a continuous sibilant pattern. The pronunciation of Sirocco also introduces a foreign lexical element into the English phonetic environment.

The third example demonstrates the repetition of the voiced bilabial plosive /b/. The sequence Bora – blows – boldly – beyond – blue – bay creates a rhythmic structure and reinforces the phonetic identity of the text.

The fourth example combines the name Chinook with words containing the affricate /tʃ/ and other consonant sounds. This structure makes the sentence useful for practicing transitions between different articulatory positions.

Phonetic Characteristics of Uzbek Anemonym-Based Tongue Twisters

Uzbek tongue twisters frequently employ alliteration, consonant repetition, vowel harmony-related patterns, and expressive morphological forms. The agglutinative structure of Uzbek also provides opportunities to create longer word forms through suffixation.

The following examples are original illustrative constructions:

Mistral mayin maysalarni mahkam silkitdi.

Bora bor kuchi bilan baland bo‘ylarga bostirib bordi.

Sirokko sahro sari sovuq soya solmadi.

Shiddatli shamol shox-shabbalarni shitirlatdi.

The first sentence demonstrates the repetition of /m/ and contains the proper name Mistral. The second is based on the repetition of /b/, while the third uses /s/ and /sʲ/-like sibilant sequences. The fourth illustrates the role of the common noun shamol rather than a proper anemonym.

These examples show that Uzbek tongue twisters can combine onomastic elements with expressive verbs and descriptive vocabulary. Suffixation and word formation may increase the length and rhythmic complexity of the utterance.

Comparative Analysis

The comparison of English and Uzbek examples reveals several common and distinctive features.

First, both languages use repeated consonants as the main source of phonetic difficulty. Bilabial sounds such as /b/ and /m/, as well as sibilants such as /s/ and /ʃ/, are particularly productive in constructing tongue twisters.

Second, the phonological adaptation of anemonymic names differs according to the sound systems of the two languages. A proper name borrowed from another language may preserve its original pronunciation in some contexts but undergo adaptation in ordinary speech.

Third, Uzbek tongue twisters may demonstrate greater morphological expansion through suffixation, whereas English examples often rely on fixed word order, lexical repetition, and stress patterns.

Comparative criterion

English

Uzbek

Main phonetic device

Alliteration and consonant clusters

Alliteration and consonant repetition

Morphological structure

Relatively limited inflection

Agglutinative word formation

Role of proper wind names

Foreign and geographical associations

Borrowed names adapted to Uzbek pronunciation

Rhythmic organization

Stress-based rhythm

Syllabic and stress-related rhythm

Common wind vocabulary

Wind, breeze, storm, gale

Shamol, yel, bo‘ron, shabada

Lexico-Semantic Features

Anemonymic components contribute not only to the sound structure but also to the semantic content of tongue twisters. Names such as Mistral and Sirocco can evoke geographical locations, climatic conditions, and natural forces.

In English examples, the use of Mistral and Sirocco introduces associations with particular geographical regions and meteorological characteristics. In Uzbek examples, the same names may be interpreted through the broader concept of wind and natural movement.

This difference demonstrates that proper names may preserve their original geographical associations while acquiring additional contextual meanings in another linguistic environment.

It is also important to distinguish between anemonymic components and generic meteorological vocabulary. The word wind does not identify a specific named wind, whereas Mistral refers to a particular wind. This distinction is essential for accurate onomastic classification.

Conclusion

The analysis demonstrates that anemonym-based tongue twisters offer valuable material for comparative phonetic and lexical-semantic research. In both English and Uzbek, sound repetition, alliteration, rhythmic organization, and lexical selection contribute to the creation of articulatory complexity.

English examples tend to emphasize consonant sequences, stress patterns, and lexical repetition. Uzbek examples demonstrate the additional role of agglutinative morphology and expressive word formation. Anemonymic proper names also introduce geographical and cultural associations that distinguish them from ordinary wind-related vocabulary.

The study confirms that the investigation of anemonyms in tongue twisters can contribute to the development of comparative onomastics, phonetics, folklore studies, and foreign-language pronunciation teaching.

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