

# A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SOMATIC PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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## Abstract

This study presents a comparative analysis of somatic phraseological units (SPUs) in English and Uzbek, with a focus on the scope and depth of research conducted in both languages. Somatic idioms, involving body parts like "heart," "hand," or "eye," reveal deep cultural and cognitive patterns. While English phraseology has been widely studied within various linguistic frameworks, the exploration of SPUs in Uzbek has only recently gained scholarly traction. This paper analyzes key academic contributions, highlights thematic trends, and proposes directions for further research in contrastive linguistics and cultural studies. The article presents theoretical ideas in this regard and proves them with examples.

**Keywords:** Somatic idioms, phraseology, Uzbek language, English language, body metaphors, linguistic comparison, cognitive linguistics.

## Introduction

Phraseology, as a branch of linguistics, deals with fixed expressions whose meaning often goes beyond the literal interpretation of their components. Among these, somatic phraseological units—idioms that involve parts of the human body—hold a special place due to their symbolic, metaphorical, and cultural meanings.

In English, examples like “cold feet,” “give a hand,” or “heart of gold” reflect emotional, psychological, or behavioral attributes. Similarly, Uzbek offers equivalents such as “ko‘ngli yorishdi” (lit. “his heart brightened” – meaning: he became happy) or “ko‘zi ochildi” (lit. “his eyes opened” – meaning: he became aware).

Despite the global recognition of English idioms in linguistic literature, Uzbek SPUs remain underexplored. This study aims to bridge this gap by comparing existing research and identifying future opportunities for comparative linguistics and cultural studies.

### Studies on English Somatic Idioms

English phraseology has attracted scholarly attention for decades, with classic and modern contributions from scholars like Fernando (1996), Cowie (1998), and Moon (1998). These works have categorized idioms, examined their origins, semantic features, and cognitive structure. Specific focus on somatic idioms has emerged from the field of cognitive linguistics, particularly through the lens of Conceptual Metaphor Theory (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980).



According to this theory, the body serves as a primary source domain for abstract concepts (“anger is heat,” “understanding is seeing”).

In Uzbek linguistics, phraseological studies have developed mainly within the frameworks of lexicography and stylistics. Scholars like Jo‘rayev (2007), Rajabov (2014), and Toshmatov (2019) have documented and classified idioms, including SPUs. However, analytical works exploring metaphorical mappings or cross-cultural perspectives are still limited. Some recent studies have begun employing cognitive linguistic tools, but comprehensive typologies or corpora remain underdeveloped.

Few comparative works exist that analyze somatic idioms in both English and Uzbek. Preliminary studies have shown overlap in conceptual metaphors (e.g., heart = emotion center) but also key differences rooted in cultural context. For instance, while “white livered” (English) implies cowardice, in Uzbek the liver (jigar) symbolizes bravery and closeness (“jigarim” – “my dear”).

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