

SYNTACTICAL ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK IDIOMS REFERRING TO TRAVEL, TRANSPORT AND MOTION

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Annotation: The article is devoted to the syntactical analysis of English and Uzbek idioms associated with travel, transport and motion. Syntactical structure of idioms are exemplified and compared in English and Uzbek.

Key words: idiom, idiomatic expression, syntactical structure, absolute equivalency, language unit.

Idioms are exciting, fun and add spice to every conversation. The origin of the word idiom meaning “a peculiarity in language” dates back to the late 16th century and comes from Middle French *idiome* and via Late Latin and Greek *idioma* – “peculiar phraseology” (“idiom”, Online Etymology Dictionary). The form, syntactic features and meaning are what make lexical units and idioms identical. Idioms differ from lexical units only in not possessing morphological structure as the construction is taken as a whole. Highlighting all these features, we stress the fact that during the general analysis of a sentence containing an idiom the whole idiomatic construction must be analyzed as a single word, and question to the whole construction must be put just in the same way as the question directed to a word. Without depending on the number of the words in the sentence, the unity of the syntactic function of an idiom is the major feature characterizing it. So, we may name the idiom as a syntactic unit, possessing lexical wholeness. Such syntactic units belong to phraseology and are studied within phraseology.

Though the analysis of separately-taken constituent parts of idioms is impossible, the grammar features in them should be kept in view. In many cases the syntactic characterization of idioms has been a subject of dispute. Idioms are classified by different linguists differently, for example, N.Chomsky sought out a still easier grammar means always able to describe all the sentences¹. His methods to describe all the sentences by the help of forms have been the main direction of his investigation. Idioms in Chomsky’s theories, violating the distribution of grammatical morphemes are viewed as extra-linguistic features, consisting of certain constructions. B.Fraser has specified the idioms between those which are able to undergo all the grammatical changes and those which are unable to undergo the smallest grammar changes at all².

Regarding the syntactic analysis of idioms used in comparing languages, they had pretty different structures.

¹ Chomsky N. Aspects of the Theory of Syntax. MIT. 1965. p. 320

² Fraser B. Idioms within a transformational grammar. Foundations of language, N 6, 1970. pp. 22-42

For example:

English	Uzbek
Follow someone's footsteps	Izidan bormoq
Verb + pronoun + noun	Noun + verb

Although these idioms are lexically absolute equivalents to each other, in syntactic analysis, we can see that in English, it contains three parts of speech while in Uzbek there are two.

English	Uzbek
Big/giant step (leap) forward	Katta qadam tashlamoq
Adjective + noun + preposition	Adjective + noun + verb

These examples can be similar equivalents from the point of view of syntactics since idioms in both languages contain adjective and noun at the beginning.

English	Uzbek
Follow one's nose	Qalbiga quloq tutmoq
Verb + pronoun + noun	Noun + noun + verb

Here, we can call them as syntactically partial equivalents as they both contain noun and verb but not in similar places in idioms.

English	Uzbek
Up and down	Sarson-sargardon
Prep. + conj. + prep.	Adverb

In these examples, even though they are absolute equivalents in lexical meaning, they are not equivalents syntactically.

It is important to mark that syntax establishes the coordinated system of form and meaning. Any thought in the language can be expressed in different forms. Sometimes two semantic descriptions in a sentence appear: real or concrete, idiomatic or figurative. Without depending on the sameness of the syntactic structure, the carried-out analysis in the same sentence basing on the context shows itself differently. As a result of this, the same form, the same syntactic structure attains different meanings.

English	Uzbek
Go too far	Mavzuga chuqur sho'ng'ib ketmoq
Verb + adverb + adverb	Noun + adverb + verb

It is clear from examples that they are partial equivalents due to the fact that in Uzbek idiom, verb comes at the end of the sentence whereas in English it appears at the beginning. What is more, common side in both idioms is that they both contain verb and adverb.

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English	Uzbek
Go (follow sb) to the ends of the earth	Jonini jabborga bermoq
Verb + prep. + article + noun + prep. + noun	Noun + noun + verb

The meaning of both expressions is to “do to everything possible, even if it is difficult, in order to get or achieve something”. The imagery is very similar in both languages and both idioms contain lexically different, though related, items

English	Uzbek
Return empty-handed	Qo’li bo’sh qaytmoq
Verb + adjective + noun	Noun + adjective + verb

The verb in both idioms can be change and transformed quite freely (e.g. come back empty-handed; qo’li bo’sh kelmoq). Interestingly, although qo’li bo’sh acts like a usual adjective here, it can only be used in the instrumental case and in this specific context. For this reason, we can consider them to be similar equivalents in syntactic analysis.

English	Uzbek
A stone’s throw (away/from)	Bir qadamlik yo’l
A Noun + Noun	Pronoun + noun + noun

These idioms can also be absolute equivalents despite a pronoun in Uzbek idiom. This is because they are both related to noun clauses in the usage in context.

English	Uzbek
Step-by-step	Qadam-ba qadam
Noun + prep. + noun	Noun + noun

Both equivalents contain identical symbolism, but due to the polysemy of the word step in English, the imagery may be perceived differently (i.e. walking up a flight of stairs without skipping any). Only the first variant of imagery is possible in Uzbek. Both expressions, however, have almost the same structure and lexical components and thus belong in the absolute equivalent category.

English	Uzbek
In the middle of nowhere	Gadoytopmas joyda
Prep. + adjective + prep. + pronoun	Adjective + noun

This idiomatic expression is the best example of describing a place when travelling. As it is obvious, idioms have totally different structures and it makes them relative equivalents.

English	Uzbek
Swim / go against the tide	Oqimga qarshi suzmoq
Verb + prep. + noun	Noun + adjective +

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	verb
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These idioms are also similar equivalents, since they have relative similar parts of speech.

There are also a number of idiomatic expressions which do not have Uzbek equivalents at all. They are as followings:

Running on fumes (Verb + prep. + noun) – no equivalent

Lose your bearings (Verb + pronoun + noun) – no equivalent

Make a beeline for somebody or something (Verb + noun + prep. + pronoun) – no equivalent.

Syntactic analysis of idioms in the sentence level.

English	Uzbek
Go and jump in the lake	Ko'zimga ko'rinma
Verb + Verb + prep. + article + noun	Noun + verb

Both languages are fairly creative when it comes to sentences like these and offer a wide array of expressions with the same or similar meaning, but since they are much more insulting and/or don't contain a verb of motion, they are not listed here.

English	Uzbek
When pigs fly	Tuyaning dumi yerga tekkanda
Conj. + noun + verb	Noun + noun + adverb + verb

Both expressions contain a totally different syntactical structure and lexical components, but both express a hypothetical condition that is unlikely to be fulfilled.

Syntactic analysis of idioms referring to travel and transport

English	Uzbek
(Did not) come to town on a turnip truck	Tuxumdan chiqqan jo'ja emasman
Verb + prep. + noun + prep. + noun + noun	Noun + verb + noun + aux. verb

Both idioms contain multiple parts of speech and various syntactic components. That's why, they are called relative equivalents.

English	Uzbek
(Not) rock the boat	Olovga moy sepma
Verb + noun	Noun + noun + verb

Idiomatic expressions in both languages possess negativity in verbs and contain verb+ noun structures. For this reason, they are called similar equivalents.

English	Uzbek
(That) train has left the station	Poyezd ketib bo'ldi
Noun + verb + noun	Noun + verb + verb

What is similar in comparing idioms is that the number of parts of speech are identical and they are nouns and verbs. However, in Uzbek idiom there are two verbs. They are similar equivalents.

English	Uzbek
(We'll) cross that bridge when we come to it (get to it)	“Har bir ishning o'z vaqti bor”.
Verb + pronoun + noun + conj. + noun + verb + prep. + pronoun.	Proverb Pronoun + noun + pronoun + noun + verb

These idioms are also syntactically relative equivalents.

In conclusion we can say that an idiom's internal unique features need to be taken into account when defining it. Idiomatic components cannot be viewed as lexical units. The role that an idiom plays in a sentence is equivalent to the role that a single word plays in the sentence. An idiom cannot be modified or broken up in a sentence like a regular word may.

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