CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC SPECIFICITY OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK FAIRYTALES: UNIVERSAL INSIGHTS INTO LANGUAGE, COGNITION AND SOCIETY

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Annotation. *This study investigates the cultural and linguistic particularities of figurative language in English and Uzbek fairy tales. The study shows the ways in which metaphorical and symbolic expressions embody cultural traditions, national perspectives, and cognitive frameworks within folklore narratives. Employing comparative and descriptive methodologies, the study examines figurative elements within selected English and Uzbek fairy tales. It uncovers culturally particular attributes that signify the distinct values and traditions of each linguistic community, alongside universal figurative patterns that illustrate shared cognitive processes and narrative techniques in human storytelling. The results show how crucial fairytales are for keeping cultural identity alive and how figurative language links language use with cultural knowledge and social experience.*

Keywords: *Metaphor, figurative language, fairytales, Uzbek folklore, English folklore, cognitive linguistics, sociolinguistics.*

Fairy tales are one of the oldest ways to tell stories orally, and they are very important for passing down moral teachings, cultural values, and customs from

one generation to the next. These stories change how people see the world by using narrative frameworks and figurative language [1]. Metaphor, simile, symbolism, and personification are all examples of figurative language that can make images and emotions stronger. It lets storytellers use vivid and creative language to get across abstract topics. English and Uzbek fairy tales are a really fascinating case for comparison. English stories frequently come from medieval European folklore, while Uzbek stories show Central Asian culture, nomadic life, and shared social ideals. This study seeks to examine the cultural and linguistic attributes of figurative language in English and Uzbek fairytales to discern both culturally unique and universal patterns of narrative representation.

For a long time, scholars in folklore and linguistics have looked at how figurative language is used in stories. Cognitive linguistics views that metaphors and symbolic expressions are not only stylistic elements but also signify profound conceptual frameworks within human cognition [2]. Studies of English folklore frequently concentrate on anthologies like those by Jacob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm, whose compilations illustrate the extensive employment of metaphorical and symbolic imagery in European fairy tales. Uzbek folklore specialists have also recorded many traditional stories that include symbolic animals, magical artifacts, and moral lessons that show how Central Asian culture works.

Previous research underscores that figurative language in folklore has three primary functions:

1. Mental representation of abstract concepts
2. Passing on of societal ideals through culture
3. Making narrative storytelling more beautiful

Still, there isn't a lot of study that compares English and Uzbek fairy tales. This study uses a qualitative comparative method to look at metaphorical

language in several English and Uzbek fairy tales. The research investigates a collection of fairytales sourced from:
- English traditional stories

-Uzbek oral storytelling traditions

The research employs the subsequent analytical methodologies:

1. Linguistic analysis - recognizing metaphorical language

2. Cognitive analysis—deciphering conceptual metaphors

3. Comparative cultural analysis – an examination of cultural symbolism in relation to one another.

We put examples of metaphors, similes, and symbolic expressions into groups and looked at them based on their story purpose and cultural context.

Figurative Language in English Fairy Tales. Figurative language is used in English fairy tales like Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Snow White to make moral conflict and personal change more dramatic.

- Metaphors: "Light vs. darkness" stands for moral struggle, while "journey as growth" stands for human growth.

- Signs: Forests stand for peril and the unknown; witches stand for moral decay; magical assistants stand for divine or moral help.

- Language Tools: Formulaic openers like "Once upon a time," rhyme, and repetition make oral tradition stronger and easier to understand. These gadgets focus on individual heroism, with heroes generally conquering challenges with bravery, intelligence, or moral purity. The focus on autonomy is in line with Western ideas of independence and making your own choices.

Furthermore, in English fairy tales, metaphors about medieval society, nature, and moral dualism are also often used. For instance:
- forests stand for change or danger

- castles are symbols of power and control.

- miraculous changes stand for personal growth

These metaphors show how people in Europe used to live and what they believed.

Figurative Language in Uzbek Fairy Tales. Uzbek fairy tales are from Central Asian oral traditions and show how people who are nomadic, farmers, or spiritual see the world [3]. Among them are Alpomish, Zumrad va Qimmat, and stories about Dev and Pari.

- Metaphors: Horses stand for freedom and movement, bread stands for blessing and food, and mountains stand for strength and God's presence.

- Rivers and springs are symbols of life and rebirth. Mythical creatures like dev (giant) and pari (fairy) represent moral and spiritual powers.

- Deserts stand for tests and strength

- Intelligent old people who stand for social wisdom

- Language Tools: Proverbs, parallelism, and oral performance indicators show how people share knowledge and remember things together. These stories stress the importance of community values, moral lessons, and how human life is tied to nature and spirituality. The focus on hospitality, respect for elders, and moral responsibility shows what is important in Central Asian culture.

Universal Cognitive Patterns. Even if the cultures are different, both English and Uzbek fairy tales show the same basic ways of thinking:

- a metaphorical representation of good against evil
- symbolic journeys that show personal development
- miraculous changes that illustrate moral teachings.

These parallels indicate that figurative language in narratives mirrors common human cognitive frameworks.

A Comparison of Analyses. Specific to a culture:

- English fairy tales put the focus on individual choice, which is in line with Western values of freedom and personal destiny.

- Uzbek fairy tales focus on group ethics, which is in line with Central Asian values of community, hospitality, and moral duty. Universal Knowledge:

- Both traditions utilize metaphors to show the moral struggle, change, and victory of good over evil. Tricksters, wise elders, and supernatural aids are some examples of shared archetypes.

- Symbolic frameworks like journeys, trials, and rewards are patterns of thought that are common to all languages. This duality shows that figurative language is both particular to a culture and universal to all people.

What this means for science and society: Folklore studies emphasize that fairytales reflect cultural traditions and symbolic meanings within societies [4]. A comparative analysis of metaphorical language in fairy tales gives us further information:

- Language as a Cultural Mirror: Figurative language keeps cultural values, identity, and cosmology alive.

- Language as a Universal Connector: Metaphors and archetypes that are shared show how people think in similar ways across cultures.

- Importance to Society: Learning about figurative traditions makes communication, education, and heritage preservation between cultures better, which helps civilizations talk to each other in a globalized world. Fairytales are therefore bridges between cultures because they give us all a way to think about how language impacts our sense of ourselves and our moral imagination.

Conclusion. The comparative study of English and Uzbek fairy tales illustrates that figurative language fulfills both culturally particular and universal roles. Cultural circumstances shape the symbolic imagery employed

in stories, but universal cognitive principles shape how metaphors and symbols are put together.

English fairytales often use symbols from medieval Europe, while Uzbek fairytales use images from Central Asian customs and the natural world. Nonetheless, both faiths utilize figurative language to convey moral principles, evoke imagination, and strengthen societal standards. Subsequent research could expand this study by investigating further folklore traditions and analyzing the use of figurative language in contemporary children's literature.

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