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# Role of Proverbs in Uzbek and English Literature

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**Abstract:** This article shows the role of proverbs in English and Uzbek literature. Two types of proverbs and their examples are written with translation in this article. Proverbs that have chosen to analysis have been gathered from English and Uzbek novels.

**Keywords:** proverb, literature, descriptive, prescriptive, speech, genre, era, literal works, wise sayings.

Proverb is the wise saying which is created by life experiences, history, attitude of society and describes characters, traditions, intentions of one culture. It gives meaning to the speech, simplifies the process of understanding the point and makes it sensitive. Proverb owns a constant rhythmic shape. Cultures use proverbs for advertising, teaching young generations morally, solving problems during the argument and helping to realize individual's emotions. "A proverb is a short statement or saying that expresses a basic truth." Edward Hirsch gave this definition of proverbs often consists of grammatical and rhetorical tools which assist to change them memorable, by using

- ➤ Alliteration:
- > Rhyme,
- > Parallel structure,
- > Repetition of key words or phrases;
- > Strong imagery.

In both languages, we can divide proverbs into some types. Most common types are descriptive and prescriptive proverbs. As it is seen from the name, descriptive proverbs describe an event or action. For example:

"The early bird catches the worm" – "Erta turgan kishini, rizqi unar ishini."

"The poor is hated even by his neighbor." – "Kambag'alni eshakning ustida ham it qopadi." Or

"A picture is worth a thousand words" – "Ming marta eshirgandan ko'ra bir marta

ko'rgan afzal." Prescriptive proverbs are used to influence people by indicating an aim. For instance:

"The best fish smell when they are three days old." – "Yaxshi ot keyin chopadi."

"Better late than never." – "Xechdan ko'ra kech yaxshi." Or "Patience is a plaster for all sores." – "Sabr tagi sariq oltin."

In Uzbek literature, main parts of well-known works by famous writers are created by using proverbs in a skillful way. We cannot imagine these rare masterpieces without proverbs. As it is impossible to

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Edward Hirsch Proverbs and Riddles: More from "A Poet's Glossary" April 09, 2014



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describe the real life in the novels without adding appropriate proverbs which have been used for centuries by common people. In Uzbek novels, the proverb "Shamol bo'lmasa daraxtning uchi qimirlamaydi" appears which is translated into English "There is no fire if there is no smoke".

Or in another Uzbek novel "Asrga tatigulik kun", especially in the part of

"Nayman ona va manqurt" the proverb "You can't make an omelet without breaking a few eggs" – "Urush qurbonsiz bo'lmaydi" is used by the author in a skillful way while the poor mother was killed by her only son because of his insanity. As it comes to English literature, not only proverbs help to describe ancient culture, but also the power of kingdom which is related to its era. In Byron's "Don Juan", we can see the proverb "all is not gold that glitters", namely, "Usti-yaltiroq, ichi-qaltiroq". It does not matter what kind of genre it is, yet, every literal works includes at least one or two examples.

Proverbs are not taught to youth by only repetition, unlike other verbal arts like jokes or rhymes. They take part in daily speech acts including listening to stories from grandparents or following instructions from parents, as well as common dialogues. However, they can also be associated with extremely particular locations because even language speakers in other villages, towns, cities, or nations may not be able to identify or understand proverbs in the same way. The examples below demonstrate how some proverbs may have comparable meanings across cultures and languages but be challenging to translate.

Proverbs can reveal details about a culture because they convey common experiences or lessons. Particularly linguistic anthropologists and ethnographers gather extensive data on speech patterns in many settings and eras. To conclude, proverbs are meaningful saying used by intelligent layer of society in everyday life. They do not own any authors so they belong to the people. As people are the main characters in literal works, proverbs also play an essential role in literature. Their usage makes the work influential and efficient. We can hardly find novels that proverbs are not used.

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