WORLD CONFERENCE ON STUDENT - CENTERED LEARNING APPROACHES

LINGUOCULTUREMES AS CARRIERS OF NATIONAL MENTALITY IN ENGLISH FOLKLORE

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This article examines linguoculturemes in English folklore as verbal units reflecting the national mentality, cultural memory, and worldview of the English people. The study analyzes folklore texts including proverbs, fairy tales, ballads, and folk sayings through semantic and conceptual classification. Using descriptive, linguocultural, and contextual analysis, the research identifies major conceptual domains represented by English linguoculturemes: pragmatism, individualism, social hierarchy, nature symbolism, and moral restraint. The findings demonstrate that folklore preserves culturally significant meanings encoded in language and transmits collective values across generations. The study contributes to linguoculturology and folklore studies by revealing the relationship between language, culture, and national identity in English folklore discourse.

Keywords: linguocultureme, national mentality, English folklore, linguoculturology, cultural concepts, folklore discourse

Introduction

Language and culture are inseparable phenomena that mutually shape human cognition and social behavior. In modern linguocultural studies, the concept of the *linguocultureme* has become central to understanding how language embodies cultural values and national mentality. Linguoculturemes function as carriers of culturally marked meanings that reflect the worldview, traditions, beliefs, and collective consciousness of a linguistic community.

English folklore provides rich material for the study of linguoculturemes because

folklore texts preserve archaic cultural models and traditional patterns of thinking. Proverbs, folk tales, ballads, riddles, and sayings contain symbolic images and culturally significant concepts that characterize the English national mentality. Such units reveal attitudes toward work, morality, nature, social relations, and individual behavior.

The purpose of this article is to investigate linguoculturemes in English folklore and determine how they function as carriers of national mentality. The research aims to identify dominant conceptual spheres reflected in folklore language and analyze their semantic and cultural significance.

The objectives of the study are:

1. To define the theoretical foundations of linguoculturemes;
2. To classify linguoculturemes found in English folklore;
3. To analyze their semantic and conceptual characteristics;
4. To identify features of English national mentality reflected in folklore discourse.

Methods

The research is based on a qualitative linguocultural approach. The material for analysis includes English folk tales, proverbs, ballads, idiomatic expressions, and traditional sayings collected from folklore anthologies and phraseological dictionaries.

The following methods were employed:

1. Descriptive Method

This method was used to identify and describe linguoculturemes in folklore texts and explain their lexical and semantic properties.

2. Contextual Analysis

Linguoculturemes were analyzed within their folklore contexts to determine their cultural meanings and symbolic functions.

3. Conceptual Analysis

The study examined conceptual domains represented by linguoculturemes, including morality, labor, nature, family, and social order.

4. Linguocultural Analysis

This method helped reveal the relationship between linguistic forms and cultural values encoded in folklore discourse.

The theoretical basis of the research relies on works in linguoculturology by V. Vorobyev, V. Maslova, Yu. Stepanov, and A. Wierzbicka, as well as folklore studies by Alan Dundes and Katharine Briggs.

Results

The analysis demonstrates that English folklore contains numerous linguoculturemes representing culturally significant concepts and values. These units can be classified into several semantic and conceptual groups.

1. Linguoculturemes Reflecting Pragmatism and Practical Wisdom

English folklore frequently emphasizes practicality, moderation, and rational behavior. Proverbs such as:

Time is money

Waste not, want not

Look before you leap

reflect the English cultural appreciation of discipline, careful planning, and economic thinking.

The linguocultureme *time is money* represents not only a linguistic expression but also a cultural model of productivity and efficiency deeply rooted in English-speaking societies.

2. Linguoculturemes of Individualism

English folklore often highlights personal responsibility and independence:

Every man is the architect of his own fortune

God helps those who help themselves

These expressions reveal the cultural concept of self-reliance, which occupies an important place in English national mentality.

In folk narratives, protagonists frequently succeed through personal initiative rather than collective action, reinforcing the cultural ideal of individual achievement.

3. Nature Symbolism in English Folklore

Animals, forests, weather, and natural phenomena function as symbolic linguoculturemes in folklore texts.

Examples include:

as sly as a fox

black sheep

a storm in a teacup

The fox symbolizes cunning, while the sheep often represents conformity or social exclusion. Such symbolic images reflect traditional English perceptions of human behavior through natural metaphors.

Weather-related expressions also occupy a significant place in English folklore due to the historical importance of climate in British daily life.

4. Linguoculturemes Reflecting Social Hierarchy and Restraint

Many English folklore units emphasize politeness, restraint, and awareness of social position:

Mind your manners

Children should be seen and not heard

These expressions indicate the cultural value placed on discipline, etiquette, and social order in traditional English society.

The concept of emotional restraint is also evident in folklore discourse. English cultural communication traditionally values moderation and indirectness rather than emotional expressiveness.

5. Moral and Religious Linguoculturemes

Christian ethics strongly influenced English folklore. Linguoculturemes such as:

Pride comes before a fall

The road to hell is paved with good intentions

illustrate moral instruction embedded in folklore tradition.

These units preserve ethical norms and transmit collective cultural experience from generation to generation.

Discussion

The findings confirm that linguoculturemes in English folklore serve as important carriers of national mentality. They encode cultural knowledge and preserve collective values through symbolic language.

One of the dominant characteristics identified in English folklore is pragmatism. Many linguoculturemes encourage rationality, discipline, and practical behavior. This feature corresponds to historical studies of English culture emphasizing industriousness and economic consciousness.

Another important aspect is individualism. Unlike some collectivist folklore traditions, English folklore often portrays the individual as responsible for personal success or failure. This worldview is reflected linguistically through proverbs and narrative structures.

The study also reveals the importance of symbolic imagery in forming cultural meanings. Animals, natural phenomena, and domestic objects acquire metaphorical significance and become markers of national cultural perception.

Furthermore, folklore linguoculturemes function as mechanisms of cultural continuity. They preserve archaic elements of worldview and transmit them through language across generations. Even in modern communication, many folklore-based expressions remain active in English discourse.

The results support V. Maslova's idea that language serves as a "mirror of culture" and

demonstrate that folklore discourse is especially valuable for studying cultural conceptualization.

Conclusion

Linguoculturemes in English folklore represent culturally significant verbal units that reflect the national mentality and worldview of the English people. Through proverbs, sayings, symbols, and narrative motifs, folklore preserves values such as pragmatism, individualism, restraint, morality, and respect for social order.

The research demonstrates that linguoculturemes perform not only linguistic but also cultural and cognitive functions. They act as repositories of collective memory and transmit national identity through language.

The study contributes to the field of linguoculturology by showing how folklore discourse reflects cultural conceptualization and national consciousness. Future research may focus on comparative analysis of linguoculturemes in English and other folklore traditions or explore their transformation in contemporary media discourse.

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