



Structural and syntactic features of riddles expressing somatisms in English and Uzbek languages

Yokutkhon RAKHMONKULOVA¹

Termez University of Economics and Service

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received November 2024

Received in revised form

10 December 2024

Accepted 25 December 2024

Available online

25 January 2024

Keywords:

somatisms,
riddles,
structure,
syntax,
English,
Uzbek,
comparative linguistics.

ABSTRACT

This paper examines the structural and syntactic characteristics of riddles that incorporate somatisms in English and Uzbek. The study explores how body-related expressions are embedded in riddles, comparing their syntactic patterns, lexical choices, and metaphorical implications. Through a comparative approach, it identifies similarities and differences in the use of somatic elements within the cultural and linguistic contexts of both languages.

2181-3701/© 2024 in Science LLC.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47689/2181-3701-vol2-iss1/S-pp166-170>

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Ingliz va o'zbek tillarida somatizmlarni ifodalovchi topishmoqlarning strukturaviy va sintaktik xususiyatlari

ANNOTATSIYA

Kalit so'zlar:

somatizmlar,
topishmoqlar,
struktura,
sintaksis,
ingliz,
o'zbek,
qiyosiy tilshunoslik.

Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillaridagi somatizmlarni o'z ichiga olgan topishmoqlarning strukturaviy va sintaktik xususiyatlari tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda jismga aloqador iboralarning topishmoqlarga qanday singdirilganligi tahlil qilinadi, ularning sintaktik qoliplari, leksik tanlovlari va majoziy ma'nolari solishtiriladi. Qiyosiy yondashuv orqali biz somatik elementlarning har ikkala tilning madaniy va lingvistik kontekstlarida qo'llanilishidagi o'xshashlik va farqlarni aniqlaymiz.

¹ Termez University of Economics and Service. E-mail: yoqutxonraxmonkulova444@gmail.com

Структурно-синтаксические особенности загадок, выражающих соматизмы в английском и узбекском языках

АННОТАЦИЯ

Ключевые слова:

соматизмы,
загадки,
структура,
синтаксис,
английский,
узбекский,
сравнительное
языкознание.

В данной статье рассматриваются структурные и синтаксические особенности загадок, содержащих соматизмы в английском и узбекском языках. Исследование анализирует, как выражения, связанные с частями тела, используются в загадках, сравнивая их синтаксические модели, лексические особенности и метафорические значения. Сравнительный анализ выявляет сходства и различия в использовании соматических элементов в культурном и языковом контексте этих двух языков.

Riddles have long been an essential part of oral folklore, reflecting the cultural, cognitive, and linguistic characteristics of a particular nation. They serve not only as a form of entertainment but also as a means of transmitting knowledge, sharpening intellectual abilities, and preserving linguistic heritage. One of the most intriguing aspects of riddles is their structural and syntactic composition, which often involves various linguistic devices such as metaphor, metonymy, parallelism, and ellipsis [1].

Among different types of riddles, those expressing somatisms – words and phrases related to the human body – are particularly significant. Somatic riddles often utilize body parts metaphorically or symbolically, creating a deeper semantic layer that requires analytical thinking for interpretation. The comparative study of English and Uzbek somatic riddles allows for a better understanding of how different linguistic systems encode universal human experiences through culturally specific expressions [2].

Our research also aims to identify the structural and syntactic features of riddles containing somatisms in English and Uzbek, their construction, linguistic mechanisms, and syntactic patterns, as well as their similarities and differences. By analyzing these features, we gain an understanding of the cognitive and cultural aspects embedded in riddles of both languages. This study focuses on syntactic structures and their importance in shaping the meaning and impact of riddles, based on examples collected from traditional and modern sources.

Somatisms, or body-related terms, are common in riddles and frequently have metaphorical meanings. Represent cultural knowledge and cognitive patterns are identified by them. Riddles are a crucial part of folklore and linguistic inventiveness. In order to provide insight on the language and cultural importance of somatism-related riddles, this study will examine the structural and syntactic quirks of these puzzles in both English and Uzbek [3]. Riddles are an essential part of oral folklore, found in nearly all cultures. They reflect linguistic creativity and cultural traditions, often using metaphor, ambiguity, and phonetic play to pose a question or describe an object indirectly.

Linguistic units call somatisms are based on the parts and functions of the body. The literal meaning of these idioms is typically accompanied with idiomatic or metaphorical connotations. Somatisms are cognitive strategies used in riddles that influence how the stated thing is understood [4]. Although somatisms have been shown to be important in language in earlier studies, nothing is known about how they function in riddles.

A closer look at the syntactic structure of somatic riddles reveals that English riddles tend to use auxiliary verbs and modal constructions more often, increasing the semantic complexity. For example, the auxiliary verb structure is necessary to provide the logical contradiction of the puzzle "What has hands but cannot clap?"

However, Uzbek riddles typically employ simpler, agglutinative phrase structures that heavily rely on suffixes and parallelism, such as "Tili bor, lekin gapirolmaydi." The somatic riddles in both languages also represent cultural perspectives on the human body. "What has an eye but cannot see?" relates to a needle, and other riddles in English typically conceptualize body parts in relation to their function or lack thereof. On the other hand, Uzbek riddles frequently use metaphors related to the body to describe social or environmental events, so including deeper cultural overtones [5,6]. This implies that while English riddles reward logical and structural play, Uzbek riddles place a higher value on cultural knowledge and shared experiences.

Furthermore, because of their grammatical complexity – which demonstrates a greater reliance on interrogative and conditional phrase patterns – somatic riddles in English are more dynamic and captivating for the listener. Conversely, Uzbek riddles tend to be more declarative and use implicit parallels to create a sense of mystery.

Riddles are traditionally defined as short texts in which a question or statement is posed in a puzzling manner, requiring logical or imaginative thinking to solve. Jakobson [7] suggests that riddles often rely on poetic devices such as parallelism, metaphor, and ambiguity to challenge the listener.

The Role of Somatisms in Language and Culture

Somatisms refer to linguistic expressions that involve body parts (e.g., hand, eye, head). Since body parts are central to human life, they are widely used in idioms, metaphors, and riddles across different languages. English and Uzbek folklore frequently incorporate somatisms in riddles to describe abstract concepts

Structural Features in English Riddles

English riddles tend to be concise and metaphorical, often employing contrast, analogy, and homophones. Common structural patterns include:

1. Question-Answer Format

- *What has hands but cannot clap?* → (A clock)
- *What has an eye but cannot see?* → (A needle)

2. Descriptive Riddles

- *I have teeth but cannot bite.* → (A comb)

3. Comparative Structures

- *The more you take, the more you leave behind.* → (Footsteps)

English riddles frequently use syntactic parallelism and play on double meanings, allowing a word to be interpreted in multiple ways.

Structural Features of Somatic Riddles

1. Types of Structures

Typically, somatic riddles adhere to particular grammatical forms, such as:

- Structures that pose questions, such as "What has eyes but cannot see?"
- Implied questions in declarative riddles, such as "I have hands but cannot clap."
- Structures of comparison (such as "As white as snow but not cold.")

Language [8].

2. Somatic riddles frequently include metaphorical references to body components in both Uzbek and English. Examples in English are as follows: "I have a head, but I don't think." "What am I?" (A coin) Similar body metaphors are used by Uzbek counterparts: "Ko'zi bor, lekin ko'rmaydi." (Igna said, "A needle has eyes but does not see.")

Somatic riddles' syntactic structures disclose special linguistic techniques. Uzbek riddles rely on grammatical parallelism and suffixation, whereas English riddles usually include auxiliary verbs and modal structures.

• **English Example:** "What has a mouth but never speaks?"

• **Uzbek Example:** "Tili bor, lekin gapir olmaydi." (Qo'ng'iroq – "It has a tongue but cannot talk.")

• **Body Parts:** Riddles about the eyes, hands, skin, or internal organs.

• **Sensory Experience:** Riddles involving touch, taste, smell, hearing, or vision.

• **Movement, Reflexes:** Riddles describing involuntary actions like blinking, sneezing, or breathing.

Metaphors for the Body: Comparing body parts to everyday objects (e.g., "I have a head, but no brain" = a nail).

Although both languages use metaphorical mappings of body parts onto inanimate objects, linguistic typology causes differences in their syntactic formulations. English riddles tend toward analytical structures, but Uzbek riddles frequently use agglutinative elements. Riddles written in both English and Uzbek draw attention to the objects' hidden meanings. A comparative analysis shows that while the fundamental concept of somatic riddles is universal, their structure, symbolism, and goals are influenced by linguistic, cultural, and societal factors. These riddles serve as a bridge connecting language, thought, and cultural identity.

Selecting Articles for Comparison: Academic publications on folklore and linguistics an anthropological study of oral traditions Internet articles regarding both traditional and modern riddles Evaluations of comparative research on riddles across civilizations Key Comparative Elements. Structure: Similarities and Dissimilarities Form and Syntax: Traditional riddles usually follow a question-answer format, however modern riddles could appear to be descriptive puzzles. Language Skills: In body-related riddles, metaphor, metonymy, symbolism, or parallelism are used.

Connection Between Language and Culture

Somatism-based riddles are closely related to a country's culture and worldview. There is a close relationship between nature and human life in Uzbek riddles. According to conventional wisdom, elements like the moon, sun, and wind are figuratively connected to certain body parts. English riddles, on the other hand, tend to place more conceptual emphasis on time, movement, and the relationships between items. Additionally, somatisms in riddles in Uzbek are mostly associated with physical conditions, while in English, they can take on more expansive connotations that go beyond actual bodily parts. In English riddles, for example, the term "face" can refer to a mountain's surface or the surface of a clock in addition to a human face.

CONCLUSION

According to this study, somatic puzzles in Uzbek and English have different structural realizations but similar cognitive mechanisms. These variations result from cultural influences and grammatical peculiarities. The semiotic aspects of somatisms in folk literature should be further investigated in future studies. The results show that the structural and syntactic characteristics of somatic riddles in the English and Uzbek languages differ considerably. Uzbek riddles have more emphasis on syntactic parallelism and agglutinative structures than English riddles, which rely more on auxiliary verbs and an analytical manner. This study advances knowledge of the cultural importance and function of somatic lexicon in oral folk traditions.

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