

LEXICAL-STYLISTIC AND GRAMMATICAL FEATURES OF RIDDLES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

Akhmedova Khalima Tokhtaevna

Termez State University

Senior Lecturer, Interfaculty Department of Foreign Languages

Abstract. This study explores the lexical-stylistic and grammatical characteristics of riddles in English and Uzbek, focusing on their linguistic structure, stylistic elements, and grammatical patterns. By comparing riddles from both languages, the research highlights the similarities and differences in their formation, wordplay techniques, and cultural implications. The findings suggest that while both languages use metaphor, symbolism, and wordplay, the structural and grammatical patterns differ due to linguistic and cultural distinctions.

Key words: riddles, folklore, lexical-stylistic features, grammatical structures, metaphor, alliteration, wordplay, phonetic play, cultural transmission, homonyms, homophones, Uzbek riddles, English riddles, syntax, morphology

ЛЕКСИКО-СТИЛИСТИЧЕСКИЕ И ГРАММАТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ ЗАГАДОК НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ И УЗБЕКСКОМ ЯЗЫКАХ

Аннотация. В этом исследовании изучаются лексико-стилистические и грамматические характеристики загадок на английском и узбекском языках, уделяя особое внимание их языковой структуре, стилистическим элементам и грамматическим моделям. Сравнивая загадки на обоих языках, исследование подчеркивает сходства и различия в их формировании, приемах игры слов и культурных последствиях. Результаты показывают, что хотя оба языка используют метафору, символизм и игру слов, структурные и грамматические модели различаются из-за языковых и культурных различий.

Ключевые слова: загадки, фольклор, лексико-стилистические особенности, грамматические структуры, метафора, аллитерация, игра слов, фонетическая игра, культурная передача, омонимы, омофоны, узбекские загадки, английские загадки, синтаксис, морфология

Introduction. Riddles, as a form of folklore, play a significant role in linguistic creativity and cultural transmission. They serve not only as entertainment but also as a means of sharpening cognitive skills and preserving cultural heritage. English and Uzbek riddles share common features such as metaphorical expressions, alliteration, and phonetic play; however, their lexical-stylistic and grammatical structures differ due to typological distinctions between the two languages. This study aims to analyze these linguistic features, comparing their syntactic structures, stylistic devices, and lexical components.

Methodology. This research employs a comparative and descriptive approach to analyze the lexical-stylistic and grammatical features of riddles in English and Uzbek. Data for the study was collected from folklore collections, linguistic databases, and anthologies of riddles. The analysis focuses on the syntactic patterns, lexical choices, and stylistic devices such as metaphor, alliteration, and ambiguity. Additionally, phonetic and morphological aspects were examined to understand how different linguistic structures contribute to riddle formation.

Results

1. Lexical Features

➤ English riddles often rely on homonyms, homophones, and puns. For example: "What has keys but can't open locks?" (Answer: A piano). Uzbek riddles, on the other hand, frequently use metaphor and symbolism, as in "Танаси йўқ, кўли бор, тили йўқ, сўзи бор" (Answer: Қалам – A pen).

➤ Cultural references significantly influence riddle formation in both languages. English riddles often contain references to common objects and modern technology, while Uzbek riddles reflect traditional lifestyle elements.

2. Stylistic Features

➤ **Alliteration and Assonance:** Both languages use these devices, but English riddles rely more on phonetic play. Example: "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers."

➤ **Ambiguity and Double Meaning:** Uzbek riddles often use metaphorical language that requires deeper cultural understanding, while English riddles employ homophones and wordplay for ambiguity.

3. Grammatical Features

➤ **Sentence Structure:** English riddles typically follow Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order, while Uzbek riddles, as an agglutinative language, follow Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) order.

➤ **Interrogative and Imperative Forms:** Riddles in both languages frequently appear as questions or imperative statements, prompting the listener to think critically.

➤ **Use of Pronouns:** English riddles often use personal pronouns (e.g., "I have hands but cannot clap"), whereas Uzbek riddles tend to use descriptive noun phrases.

Discussion. The comparative analysis reveals that while riddles in both languages share universal features such as metaphor, phonetic play, and ambiguity, their grammatical structures reflect typological differences. English riddles often exploit wordplay through homophones and puns, whereas Uzbek riddles rely heavily on cultural metaphors and symbolic representations. Additionally, the grammatical variations in sentence structure, verb placement, and question formation reflect the distinct syntactic nature of each language.

Conclusion. Riddles in English and Uzbek demonstrate unique lexical, stylistic, and grammatical characteristics shaped by linguistic and cultural contexts. While both languages utilize figurative language and phonetic devices, their structural differences highlight the influence of syntax and morphology on riddle formation. Future research could further explore how riddles evolve in the digital age and their role in language learning and cultural exchange.

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