

LINGUA-CULTURAL ANALYSIS OF ZOO RIDDLES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Annotation

This article is related to research on the linguistic and cultural analysis of animal name riddles in English and Uzbek languages. In the article, the analysis of riddles with hidden names of the most famous animals found in Uzbek and English languages was carried out, and the similarities and differences between them were determined. The methods of contrastive analysis and lingua-cultural analysis were used for identification.

Keywords: riddles, lingua-cultural analysis, contrastive method, zoo riddles.

There are different nations in the world and all nations have their own language and culture. Culture consists of beliefs that governs the behavior patterns of people in a society and serves to differ one society from another. And also, culture has an effect on translation especially when it relates culture –bound expressions such as jokes, proverbs, and riddles.

Due to exploring the difference of cultures in two languages, we should depict the notion of lingua – cultural difference shortly:

In the circuit of language, identity and cultural difference, the connection between them can be comprehended by analyzing the relationship between each of the two. Language and cultural difference have a close link. Firstly, Hall explains that a culture produces “shared meanings”.¹ This sharing of meanings generates and reinforces the notion of cultural difference. “To say that two people belong to the same culture is to say that they interpret the world in roughly the same ways and can express themselves, their thoughts and feelings about the world, in ways which will be understood by each other”.² Secondly, language can embody the cultural difference. Hall suggests that language is a signifying practice. “It is a symbolic

¹ Hall S. “Introduction, “in Representation: cultural representations and signifying practices,” S. Hall, Ed. London: SAGE in association with The Open University, 1997. 1-11 p.

² Hall S. “Introduction, “in Representation: cultural representations and signifying practices,” S. Hall, Ed. London: SAGE in association with The Open University, 1997. 3 p.



practice which gives meaning or expression to the idea of belonging to a national culture”.

In English literature, riddles are placed an important role that several poets and writers used in their work as a useful item and tool that can be made an interesting the events that are written in the work for children. Here, we can try to identify the most used riddles in the literature of English and their lingua – cultures features.

One of the most famous early riddles appears in the sphinx legend by Sophocles. The sphinx, which had “the face of a woman, the breast and feet and tail of a lion and the wings of a bird” resided on the mountain Phicium and killed any traveler who failed to find the answer to the following riddle:

“What kind of animal is it that stands on four legs in the morning, two in the day, and three in the evening?” The answer was a man who crawled on all fours as a baby, stood on two feet as an adult and was forced to walk with a stick in old age. Answer: **a man.**

The height of my legs—usually around 6 feet—is taller than most humans. What animal am I? Answer: **A giraffe.** When we translate this riddle, we come across two words that are not found in Uzbek culture, one is "feet" and the other is "giraffe". The main unit of measurement of the Uzbek-speaking people is the meter, which is used to measure distance. However, the English people measure distance using the unit of measurement "foot". Also, this unit of measurement is equal to us as follows: 1ft - 0.30 m/ 2ft -0.61 m/ 3ft - 0.91 m, etc. Also, since the giraffe is not a common animal species in Central Asian countries, it is natural that the children of Central Asia who hear this riddle may feel a little hesitant or surprised, because it is currently kept only in zoos.

It takes me two weeks to digest food, but then again, I’m not noted for being fast. What am I? Answer: **A sloth.** This species of animal is widespread mainly in European countries or overseas countries, and you can find it in the zoos of our country. Seeing it live, you can see that it is a very slow moving animal indeed. That is why this animal is called "**yalqov**" in Uzbek.

The alphabet goes from A to Z but I go Z to A. What am I? Answer: **A zebra.** Finding this riddle will be a little difficult for students who have learned the Uzbek alphabet, because the Uzbek alphabet does not start with the letter A and end with the letter Z, and in the end they will not be able to find the answer to the riddle. The Uzbek alphabet begins with the letter A and ends with the letter NG and does not correspond to the answer to the riddle. For this reason, when giving this riddle, it is



necessary to give a little explanation in Uzbek, that is, about the alphabet of which language is meant.

I live upside down. I see with my ears and don't use my eyes, and on Halloween, I'll give you a big surprise. What am I? Answer: A bat. In this riddle, we can notice the linguistic-cultural difference in the word "Halloween". "Halloween" holiday is widely celebrated in European countries and America. During this holiday, children dress up in scary costumes and go out at night and knock on the doors of houses and ask them to "test or treat" and the owners of the houses distribute various sweets to the children. This holiday is not celebrated in Muslim countries.

In conclusion, we can say that there is a significant cultural difference in animal name riddles. Some of them depend on the geographical distribution of animals, and some of them are the differences between the customs and cultures and lifestyles of the people who speak the language of the riddle. In a word, we can say that riddles not only serve the development of the language, but also allow us to study the culture of the people who speak this language.

USED LITERATURE

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