



## Contrastive Study Of Proverbs With A Hydronym Component In English And Uzbek Languages

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**Abstract.** This article explores the contrastive analysis of proverbs containing hydronym components in English and Uzbek languages. Proverbs, as a part of the linguistic and cultural heritage of nations, reflect people's perceptions of water bodies and their significance. The study examines similarities and differences in meaning, usage, and cultural representation of hydronymic proverbs in both languages.

**Keywords:** Hydronym, proverb, contrastive analysis, English, Uzbek, culture, linguistic representation

A **hydronym** (from Greek: ὕδρω, *hydrō*, "water" and ὄνομα, *onoma*, "name") is a type of toponym that designates a proper name of a body of water. Hydronyms include the proper names of rivers and streams, lakes and ponds, swamps and marshes, seas and oceans. As a subset of toponymy, a distinctive discipline of *hydronymy* (or *hydronomastics*) studies the proper names of all bodies of water, the origins and meanings of those names, and their development and transmission through history. Within the onomastic classification, main types of hydronyms are

1. **helonyms:** proper names of swamps, marshes and bogs
2. **limnonyms:** proper names of lakes and ponds
3. **oceanonyms:** proper names of oceans
4. **pelagonyms:** proper names of seas and maritime bays
5. **potamonyms:** proper names of rivers and stream-[1]

Proverbs are a crucial element of linguistic and cultural identity, offering insights into the values and worldview of a society. Hydronyms—names of water bodies such as rivers, lakes, and seas—often appear in proverbs, symbolizing life, movement, unpredictability, and depth. This study aims to compare English and Uzbek proverbs with hydronym components to identify cultural and semantic similarities and differences.

The study is based on linguistic and cultural analysis, using contrastive methodology to examine hydronymic proverbs. Proverbs from both languages are categorized based on their themes, symbolic meanings, and functional applications.

**English:** Still waters run deep.

**Uzbek:** Suv borsa, hayot bor. (Where there is water, there is life.)

**English:** Don't change horses in midstream.

**Uzbek:** Daryodan o'tguncha ilonning etikini kiygin. (Until you cross the river, wear the snake's shoes.)

**English:** You never miss the water till the well runs dry[2].

**Uzbek:** Buloq qurimay suvi qadrlanmas. (The spring is not valued until it dries up.)

English hydronymic proverbs often employ metaphorical comparisons, whereas Uzbek proverbs frequently use allegorical storytelling. For instance, the English proverb "Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater" implies not discarding valuable things while removing the unwanted,



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whereas its Uzbek equivalent, “Suv bilan ketgani somon bilan qaytmas” (What goes with the water won’t return with straw), emphasizes loss and irreversibility[3].

The presence of hydronyms in proverbs highlights the geographical and cultural significance of water in both languages. In Uzbek culture, where agriculture heavily depends on irrigation, water is viewed as an essential and sacred element, influencing proverbs that emphasize its value and scarcity. In English, due to historical maritime influences, water often symbolizes movement, exploration, and unpredictability.

The symbolism of water is deeply embedded in cultural narratives worldwide, often representing a complex interplay of life, cleansing, danger, and transformation. In English proverbs, hydronyms not only enrich language but also encapsulate shared human experiences and values, reflecting the nuances of interpersonal relationships and societal norms. Water is universally recognized as a source of life, symbolizing fertility, growth, and renewal. Many cultures view water as a purifying element, essential for survival and sustenance. In English proverbs, this connection is evident in expressions that highlight the importance of water in daily life and its role in personal and communal rejuvenation. For instance, the saying “You can’t make an omelette without breaking eggs” can metaphorically extend to water, emphasizing that growth often requires sacrifice and change, much like how life emerges from nurturing environments. Water’s cleansing properties are frequently symbolized in proverbs, representing purification, both physically and metaphorically. This theme is evident in the proverb “Out of the frying pan into the fire,[4]” where water could symbolize the transition from one state of being to another, often implying a necessary but challenging change. Such expressions illustrate the belief that cleansing through struggle can lead to transformation and personal growth. Conversely, water can also symbolize danger and unpredictability[5]. The imagery of tumultuous seas or raging rivers in proverbs reflects the chaos that can accompany life’s challenges. For instance, the proverb “Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater” warns against discarding something valuable amidst overwhelming difficulties. Here, “water” symbolizes the chaos of life, reminding us to discern what is truly essential amid tumultuous circumstances.

In English proverbs, hydronyms also convey insights into familial and social relationships. The saying “Blood is thicker than water” is particularly notable; it underscores the idea that family ties are stronger and more significant than other relationships. In this context, “blood” symbolizes deep, intrinsic connections, while “water” represents broader social affiliations. This illustrates the cultural value placed on family loyalty and the prioritization of these bonds over other relationships, suggesting that familial loyalty is paramount, even in the face of competing social ties.

To sum up, the contrastive analysis reveals that while English and Uzbek proverbs with hydronyms share common symbolic meanings related to life, change, and wisdom, their expressions and cultural interpretations differ. Understanding these differences provides deeper insights into both linguistic traditions and cultural worldviews.

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