

SEMANTIC FEATURES OF TONGUE TWISTERS FORMED ON THE SNOW LEXICON IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

Kosimov Botir Saidvali ugli
Termiz University of Economics and Service

Abstract

This article investigates the semantic properties of tongue twisters constructed using the snow lexicon in Uzbek and English languages. Through a comparative linguistic analysis, it explores lexical-semantic fields, phonetic symbolism, cultural connotations, and structural patterns formed by snow-related vocabulary. The study reveals both cross-linguistic similarities—such as reliance on alliteration, onomatopoeia, and sound symbolism—and language-specific features rooted in climate, worldview, and folklore traditions. The findings demonstrate how snow lexemes enrich tongue twisters in terms of imagery, acoustic effect, and cognitive associations.

Keywords: Snow lexicon, tongue twisters, semantics, English, Uzbek, sound symbolism, linguoculture.

Introduction

In global linguistics, the comparative study of folk oral traditions, particularly paremiological units across different nations, holds great significance. These units exist in all languages, and analyzing them through the lens of various nations' paremiological units helps uncover their historical roots, stages of development, national mentality, unique cultural aspects, ancient traditions and rituals, as well as identify the characteristics inherent in the pronunciation and phonological system of each language. It is also important to study these units' phonetic structure, grammatical system, lexical features, stylistic aspects, and scientifically investigate differences of their use in the processes of fast and accurate comprehension of the languages.

As one of the key branches of global linguistics, paremiology focuses on the study of paremiological units. In this regard, the investigation of tongue twisters as paremiological units is particularly significant, as they emerge as a product of human cognition and enhance speech expressiveness when used in language resulting in developing intercultural communication. Therefore, highlighting the role, genesis, national character, and poetics of tongue twisters in Uzbek and English folklore; addressing the issues that arise in determining their semantic-structural, linguocultural, phonetic-stylistic features, their typology and equivalents in non-related languages; exploring methods of preserving the national color in translation; studying and developing scientifically grounded concepts for the distinctive aspects and thematic types of the tongue-twister tradition in both cultures are of great importance.



Tongue twisters are concise oral texts designed to challenge articulation through repeated or similar sounds. Natural phenomena, especially snow (*qor*), are frequent motifs in many cultures' oral traditions due to their visual richness and sound symbolic potential.

In English and Uzbek, snow-related words appear in tongue twisters because they contain consonantal clusters, sibilants, and fricatives—sounds that easily create phonetic complexity. Beyond phonetics, snow lexemes carry rich semantic and cultural weight, reflecting seasonal imagery, emotions, and environmental contexts.

This article examines how lexemes related to *snow* structure tongue twisters in Uzbek and English, identifying their semantic roles, cultural meanings, and contrastive features.

English includes numerous lexemes describing snow with nuances of texture, movement, and intensity:

snow, snowfall, snowstorm, snowflake, sleet, frost, blizzard, drift

verbs: *snowing, drifting, frosting, flurrying*

metaphorical uses: *snow-white, snowed under, snowball effect*

Sound-symbolic patterns such as /sn/, /sl/, /fl/, /fr/ mirror the soft, sliding qualities of snow.

Uzbek snow vocabulary is equally rich:

qor, qorbo 'ron, bo 'ron, izg 'irin, qorparchin, chanoq qor, qorlama

verbs: *qor yog 'moq, yupqa qor bosmoq, izg 'irin esmoq*

figurative expressions: *qorday oppoq, qor bosgan tun, qorong 'i qish*

Uzbek often uses expressive and descriptive structures—*qorparchin, qorchilop*—which contain consonants /q/, /r/, /ch/ providing rhythmic patterns ideal for tongue twisters.

1. **“Seven slippery snowflakes slid silently southward.”**
– alliteration with /s/ and /sl/ evokes smooth slipping motion.
2. **“Frosty Fred flung fresh snowflakes from the fence.”**
– repeated /f/ and /fr/ clusters create phonetic difficulty.
3. **“Sally saw snowy sidewalks sparkle softly.”**
– repetition of /s/ creates a snowy atmosphere.
1. **“Qorparchin qattiq qiyqirab qoqildi.”**
– repetition of /q/ and /ch/ imitates crisp snow crunch.
2. **“Qorqum qalin qorlarda quvnoqcha qadam bosdi.”**
– playful phonetic repetition of /q/ captures walking in deep snow.
3. **“Sovuqda sovuqotgan soqchi sersovuq qorda sekin siljidi.”**
– repetition of /s/, /q/, and /so/ enhances the feeling of cold.

texture (soft, slippery, crunchy snow)

movement (sliding, drifting, falling)

temperature and atmosphere (cold, freezing)

color symbolism (white purity, brightness)

English: /sn/, /sl/, /fl/, /fr/ → sliding or soft motion

Uzbek: /q/, /ch/, /s/, /z/ → crispness, coldness, wind

crunching footsteps

wind blowing snowflakes

soft falling snow



Alliteration: both languages rely on repeated consonants (slippery snow, qorparchin qattiq)

Reduplication (mainly Uzbek): *qor-qor*, *shaqir-shuqur*

Descriptive modifiers: *slippery snowflakes*, *qalin qor*

The cultural semantics creates stronger sensory intensity in Uzbek examples.

1. Contrastive Analysis

Feature	English	Uzbek
Dominant phonemes	/s/, /sl/, /sn/, /f/	/q/, /ch/, /s/, /z/
Use of reduplication	Rare	Frequent
Imagery focus	Gentle movement, snowfall, purity	Harshness of cold, sound of snow, rural winter scenes
Onomatopoeia	Limited	Strong (<i>shaqir-shuqur</i> , <i>qattiq qars</i>)
Cultural influence	Christmas, winter fun	Seasonal agricultural cycles, strong winter symbolism

Snow-based tongue twisters in Uzbek and English languages reveal rich semantic, phonetic, and cultural characteristics. While both languages use alliteration, imagery, and sound symbolism, Uzbek examples show broader use of expressive forms, reduplication, and culturally rooted winter concepts. English tongue twisters, meanwhile, highlight soft motion and atmospheric qualities.

Ultimately, snow lexemes serve as powerful semantic anchors in tongue twisters across both languages, contributing to phonetic play, memorability, and cultural richness.

References

1. Ken Parkin. *Anthology of British Tongue Twisters*. London, Samuel French Ltd. 1969. – 64 p.
2. Perkoff, Gerald J. *Tongue Twisters and How to Use Them*. London, Wiley-Blackwell. 2001. – 178 p.
3. <https://www.engvid.com/english-resource/50-tongue-twisters-improve-pronunciation/>

