Comparative analysis of Karakalpak and English proverbs

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Abstract: This study examines that proverbs in one language today reflect every age and time and show us as the observation of everyday life, constitute popular philosophy of life, and provide an insight into human behavior and character. Descriptive methods analyses are used in this article. This article also discusses comparative analysis of Karakalpak and English proverbs.

Keywords: Proverbs, translation, equivalent, comparative analysis of Karakalpak and English proverbs

INTRODUCTION
Nothing can define a culture as clearly as its language and the language element that best captures the values and beliefs of a society is its proverb. A proverb is a short word that expresses traditional truth or useful wisdom. It is clear that proverbs are based on common sense or practical experience. Any proverb contains a self-evident wisdom and they may have been passed down from generation to generation, mostly by word of mouth, or applied in writing. Also, articles can be found from various sources. Some are the result of people’s language creation, others are derived from poems, songs, commercials, movies, literature, and more. A number of famous sayings of Shakespeare and others have become proverbs in English. There is no doubt that proverbs are taken from life, stories, they are often borrowed in terms of language, religion and even time. Proverbs often considered to be “traditional items of folklore” [1, p.30] in a language. Proverbs are used in conversation by adults more than children, partly because adults have learned more proverbs than children; also, using proverbs well is a skill that is developed over years. Many authors have used proverbs in naming books, in order to inspire readers with the names of books and also at the end of a stories they cite proverbs that have been used for many years to generalize the moral content of the story. The use of proverbs makes our speech better, gives more colorful sound. However, it is essential to know literal translation of proverbs before using them otherwise one may get into ridiculous situations. Meaning of proverbs depends not only on the origin but also on the particular area in which they are used, the situation in which we can be. The linguist W. Mieder defines a proverb in his book: “A proverb is a short, generally known sentence of the folk which contains wisdom, truth, morals, and traditional views in a metaphorical, fixed and memorisable form and which is handed down from generation to generation” [2, p. 27].

METHODOLOGY
In order to conduct this research several steps were performed. The purpose of the work is to carry out comparative and contrastive analysis of proverbs that is why this research topic chosen for analysis. It includes the use of descriptive method in order
to describe main points of the research work. Another one is comparative methods, to compare English and Karakalpak proverbs. The material of this study was selected by continuous sampling from the dictionaries of proverbs of the English and Karakalpak languages. By comparing proverbs in English and Karakalpak, we became aware of the complex features of these languages and were sure to enrich the learner’s vocabulary in the process of language learning. The findings were discussed qualitatively and summarized briefly.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Karakalpak language belongs to the family of Turkic language and has evolved for a long time. Karakalpak language has gathered a large number of phraseological units of the people and succeeded in the name of the universal culture and national lore. The language not only reflects the country’s place in a particular culture but also represents the uniqueness of the country. Therefore we may come to the conclusion that when comparing Karakalpak and English proverbs, they can be divided into several groups. The first group is comprised of full equivalents or in other words we can say absolute equivalents because English proverbs are correspond completely to Karakalpak variants. For example;

- (English) “Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today” - (Karakalpak) “Bu’gingi isti erenge qaldirma”
- (English) “Speech is silver, but silence is gold” - (Karakalpak) “So’z gumis, undemew altin”,
- (English) “Better late than never” - (Karakalpak) “Heshten ko’re kesh jaqsi”.
- (English) “The apple doesn’t fall from the tree” - “Alma tereginnen alisqa tu’speydi”
- (English) “Strike while the iron is hot” - (Karakalpak) “Temirdi qizg’anda bas”

When we translate these proverbs from English into Karakalpak language, we can see direct translation. They are also considered equivalent to each other because this type of proverbs have the same meaning, lexics and usage.

The second group is comprised of partial or similar equivalents. When English proverbs are slightly different in their meaning from Karakalpak ones. For example;

- (English) “While there is a life, there is hope” - (Karakalpak) “Shiqpag’annan jannan um’mit”,
- (English) “Much effort much prosperity” - (Karakalpak) “Miynet tu’bi ra’ha’t”
- (English) “my house is my castle” - (Karakalpak) O’z uyin’ o’len’ to’segin’.

The given proverbs have similar meaning and usage.

The third groups of proverbs that cannot be translated into Karakalpak directly because do not have corresponding variants in the Karakalpak language in order to find their similar meanings in English, it is necessary to use direct translation. Different lexis is used in two languages, even there are no full equivalents in both languages, and the usage and meanings of these proverbs can be close to each other. For example;

- (English) “If you run after two hares you will catch neither” - (Karakalpak) “Eki kemenin’ basin uslag’an suwg’a keter”
Proverbs are a sharp tool of rhetoric that can mean a lot in a few words and quickly affect emotions. That is why proverbs are beautifully illustrated in the figurative sense, without any superfluous words [4, p.19]. Proverbs are relatively convenient materials and serve as the common property of all nations. By comparing English and Karakalpak proverbs, we may understand that the both languages have their own history. Proverbs cannot be literally translated from one language to another because proverbs have figurative meanings and instead of translating proverbs to another language, it is better to find equivalents of these proverbs.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, comparison of English and Karakalpak proverbs has revealed a lot of similarities in meaning and syntactical features. Proverbs likely name, define and express the sophistication of the sound at which point they survive. One can visualize public notions, belongings, impressions, habits, famous founders, even the names of places – cultural points in the fund of a vocabulary. The function of proverbs is searching out, teaching and even warning community what people visualize in their lives. Many English proverbs guide people to select a correct stance towards growth and take a correct habit to get along well accompanying remainder of something. Some other proverbs teach people how to behave in society, so proverbs are of great importance. By studying proverbs well, anyone can supplement their knowledge to avoid mistakes.

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