

# Equivalency of English and Uzbek Idioms with Dairy Products (Milk, Cheese, Butter and Egg)

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**Abstract:** This paper discusses the analysis of English dairy idioms and their Uzbek counterparts establishing the level of equivalency, or non-equivalency in some cases. In order to succeed in my attempt I bring forth theoretical input on idioms and equivalency as a process of translation. I also exhibit a clear overview of the observed idioms by undertaking a report analysis.

**Keywords:** dairy, equivalency, English, idiom, language, Uzbek.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Idioms

The aim of this paper is to observe the way in which English dairy idioms are symbolized in the Uzbek language. I intend to analyze not only the fact whether English dairy idioms have a Uzbek equivalent, but also the number of equivalents which observe the possibility of the name of dairy instead of just giving a semantic equivalent. According to Biljana Ivanovska idioms are colloquial metaphors requiring some foundational cognizance, information or experience, employed within a culture where the interlocutors must have a common reference point (Ivanovska, 2011). Therefore, metaphorical idioms are formed universally as historically dairy products can be seen in all nations' daily life. Further, in this paper I will analyze English and Uzbek idioms from the cultural prospective. Most linguistics come to the point that it is easier and more accurate to cumulate and store facts about past, cultural semantics of a nation, traditions, customs, folklore, etc. because of the so called "cumulative" function of a language. The element which renders the information is called "national-cultural component". According to F. I. Buslayev, phraseology is a small world where all standards and principles of morality have been inherited from ancestors. It is a life of national language which emphasizes a unique manner of any nation. It is easy to notice a cultural "sign" of any nation in aspects of phraseology.

### 1.2. Equivalency

After explaining the term idiom, we have to analyze what are said by linguists about the unit *equivalency*. The term "equivalence" has been challenging issue among linguists and translators since it has been vitally bound up with definitional as well as practical aspects of translating. After explaining the term idiom, we have to analyze what are said by linguists

about the unit *equivalency*. The term "equivalence" has been challenging issue among linguists and translators since it has been vitally bound up with definitional as well as practical aspects of translating. Getting involved in the theoretical part of translating process in the 1960s and 1970s, equivalence meant the aggregate of source text (henceforth ST) and target text (henceforth TT) (Panou, 2013). Mona Baker in her "equivalence typology" gave five different

## II. CORPUS ANALYSIS

### 2.1. Material and methods

Sixty English idioms with the names of dairy products like milk, cheese and butter have been chosen from the English language and specialized dictionaries. Firstly, I have introduced the terms of idiom and equivalency, and then I have looked for the Uzbek counterparts of the English idioms analyzing their equivalency and frequency.

### 2.2. Results

The idioms I have analyzed include dairy (milk, cheese and butter) idioms. I have also observed that some idioms displaying different dairy names bear in fact the same meaning. Also, some idioms may present one or more variants. Physiological or functional features of the dairy parts are put to display in the following: *There is no good crying over spilt milk* (It does no good to get upset over a bad decision or unfortunate event that has already come to pass and cannot be changed) *a/the land of milk and honey* (a place of abundance that is free from want. The phrase comes from the Biblical description of the land promised to the Israelites) *don't cry over spilt milk to* (dwell over something that cannot be undone) *milk and water* (old-fashioned weak, insipid, and/or lacking strength or determination.), *to milk it* (to get a lot of personal advantage or benefit from something, especially in a dishonest way) *milksoop* (old-fashioned of insulting a boy or man who is not brave) *the milk of human kindness* (mainly literature kindness towards other people. The expression comes from Shakespeare's play Macbeth), *(ph) milk-white* (mainly literary something that is milk white is the color of milk) *milk for all* (to try to get as much of something from a person, thing, or situation as possible) *milk the bull* (to engage in an activity or enterprise that has no chance of succeed in) *milk something someone* (disapproving to obtain as much money, advantage) *milk toast*

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(to insult a boy or a man who is not brave) *the milk round* (series of visits that major companies make each year to universities in the UK to interview students they might want to employ) *milking it for all it's worth* (get as much advantage as possible) *butter would not melt (in somebody's mouth)* (informal used to say that somebody seems to be innocent, kind) *butter fingers* (a person who often drops things) *butter (someone) up* (is to flatter that person, to be nice to someone so that they will help or support you) *the cream of something* (the best people or things in particular group) *the cream of the crop, a cat that got the cream* (to be very pleased with yourself) *cream puff* (a person who is not strong) *cream somebody/something off* (to take something away usually the best people or things or an amount of money) *cheesed off* (feeling annoyed or disappointed) *cheeseparing* (behavior of someone who tries to save money in unreasonable way) *cheesy* (lacking style or good quality and slightly silly) *big cheese* (is a leader or somewhat important) *a good egg* (for good and reliable person) *to have /get egg on your face* (to be embarrassed) *lay an egg* (to fail completely) *put all your eggs in one basket* (to depend completely on just one idea, plan or person) *egg on* (to encourage someone to do something) *egghead* (someone who has a lot of knowledge and intelligence and is only interested in academic subjects) *you cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs* (used for saying that it is impossible to achieve something good without causing some problems or unpleasant effects) *a face like curdled milk* (a 'sour'/angry face also "to have a face that would curdle milk) *cream rises to the top* (the best will emerge) *cheese* (a person/friend (how are you, old cheese?" is slightly old-fashioned) *old cheese* (a woman older than oneself) *hard/stiff cheese/cheddar* (bad luck) *cheesy* ('false, inferior' (or 'showy') *happy as a clam in butter sauce* (very joyful and content) *butter* (one's) bread on both sides (to benefit or profit from two or more separate and often contradictory or incompatible things or sources) *butter-and-egg man* (a wealthy, unworldly person who spends freely when in the big city) *egg cut through (something) like a (hot) knife through butter* (to slice something with very little effort) *know what/which side of the bread is buttered to* (to know where one's best interest lies) *fine words butter no parsnips* (promises do not ensure that something will happen) *bread and butter* (a vital component of something) *bread always falls on the buttered side* (if something goes awry, the worst possible outcome often happens) *different as chalk and cheese* (very different from one another or in conflict) *cheese head* (someone who is dumb or stupid) *like cheese at four pence* (in an idle, awkward, and/ or out-of-place state; being ignored, abandoned) *hard cheese* (phrase used when one is unsympathetic to someone who has suffered a hardship) *chew the cheese* (to vomit) *have more holes than Swiss cheese* (to be extremely unsound or flawed) *tough cheese* (a phrase used to describe something that is definitely going to happen) *curate's egg* (something that is partly good and partly bad) *a hard egg to crack* (a person, thing, situation or problem that is particularly difficult to understand, solve) *don't teach your grandmother to suck eggs* (an older person is wiser and more experienced and thus, the older person does not need to be taught) *kill the goose that lays the golden egg(s)* (to return or

destroy something that brings one wealth) *one who has eggs must endure to cackling of hens* (one must be willing to endure unpleasant, irritating thing in order to get what he wants) *over-egg the pudding* (to get something wrong or make something worse) *a chicken and egg situation / problem* (a situation in which it is known what happened or what needs to happen first) *a hair in the butter* (a problem or challenging situation likened to trying to pick a single a hair out of a slippery substance like butter) (Linda and Roger Flavell, 2006). In the process of analyzing above mentioned phraseological units I have spotted that English and Uzbek languages have somehow similarities in case of phraseology. First, I would like to start with idioms which have Uzbek equivalent. It is seen that there two different types of equivalents: idioms with both similar meaning and dairy units and idioms with similar meaning but different dairy units. Below idioms from the first category have been analyzed. *Milksop* (milquetoast) = "o'g'zidan suti ketmagan" (mother's milk has not gone from his mouth yet) (Shotursun Shomaqsudov, Subitoy Dolimov, 2018), *milk-white* = "sutdek oppoq" (as white as milk), *butter someone up* = "o'g'zini moylab qo'ymoq" (to butter someone's mouth (flattering)), *the cream of something* = "qaymog'i" (the cream of something), *cream rises to the top* = "qaymog'i ustiga chiqadi" ( cream rises to the top), *cream sb/sth off* = "qaymog'i" (the cream of something).

In case of equivalency it was hardly to find idioms with similar meaning but different units of dairy products. *Cheese head* – "tuhum bosh" (egg head- in Uzbek language this idiom is used if someone is not clever enough), *know what/ which side of the bread is buttered* – "yo'g'li joyini biladi" (to know the oily side of something), *milk it* – "qaymog'ini olmoq" (to get all the cream).

While analyzing given idioms I encounter units which have slightly similar meaning but components totally vary from English versions. For instance, *there is no good crying over spilt milk* – "o'tib ketgan yomg'irdan o'pkalama" (don't claim the rain which has gone), *a/the land of milk and honey* – "jannat" (paradise), *the milk of human kindness* – "bag'ri keng" (wide hearted), *milk for all-* "suv qilib ichvorlmoq" (to drink something as water), *milk and water* – "latta" (rag), *milk the bull*- "yo'q joydan umid qilmoq" (to hope for nothing), *milking it for all it's worth* – "jonini jaborga berish" (to sacrifice his/her life), *cream of the crop, a cat that got the cream* – "og'ziga osh yetdi" (plow (national Uzbek meal) has reached his mouth), *butter would not melt in someone's mouth*- "qo'y og'zidan cho'p olmagan" (a man who has not taken a stick from sheep's mouth), *egghead*- "tiilabosh" (golden head), *you cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs*- "urush qurbonsiz bo'lmas" (there is no war without victims), *cheesy* – "burni ko'tarilgan" (nose up), *hard/stiff cheese/cheddar*- "ketmoni uchmay qoldi" ( his hoe does not fly), *happy as a clam in butter sauce*- "og'zi qulog'ida" (his mouth stretches to his ears), *bread on both sides*- "oshig'i olchi" (his carpal bone goes forward), *butter and egg*– "shahar ko'rgan echki" (a goat which has seen a city), *cut through (something) like a (hot) knife through butter*- "hamirdan qil sug'irgandek" (as easy as you pluck a part of the dough),

*bread and butter* – “suv va havodek” (water and air), *different as chalk and cheese* – “yer bilan osmondek” (different as the earth and the sky), *cheese head* – “tovuq miya” (chicken brain), *butter finger* – “lapashang” (pale), *cream puff* – “quyon yurak” (rabbit heart), *cheesed off* – “tarvuzi qo’ltig’idan tushdi” (his watermelon fell down from his armpit), *cheesy* – “didi past” (low in taste), *like cheese at four pence* – “bir chaqaga olmaslik” (does not worse even a penny), *hard cheesy* – “qahri qattiq” (hard-hearted), *hard egg to crack* – “chigal ish” (an entangled issue), *kill the goose that lays golden eggs* – “burgaga achiq qilib ko’rpani kuydirmoq (to burn a blanket because of the flea), *over-egg the pudding* – “ishni pachavasini chiqazmoq” (to make the crap), *a chicken and egg situation/problem* – “chigal ish” (an entangled issue), *big cheese* – “hojiaka” (hoji- person who has been to hajj and has become a pilgrim), *lay an egg* – “yer bilan yakson bo’ldi” (to be mixture (destroyed) with the earth), *put all your eggs in one basket* – “ishongan tog’da kiyik yotmas” (the deer never lies on the mount that one believed in), *egg on* – “gazni bos” (step on the pedals), *a face like curdled egg* – “qovog’idan qor yog’di” (it snows from his eyelids), *cheese* – “jigarim” (my liver). Idioms like bread always falls from the buttered side, do not teach your grandmother to suck the egg, one who has eggs must endure to crackling of hens, old cheese, a hair in the butter, chew the cheese, have more holes Swiss cheese, fine words butter no parsnips, milk something/someone for something, the milk round, cheeseparing, tough cheese and curate’s egg have equivalents in the world of Uzbek phraseology (Linda and Roger Flavell, 1999)

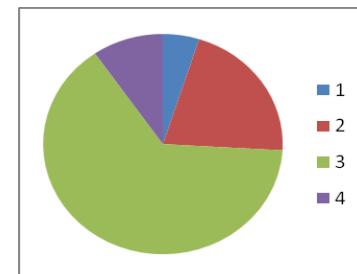
### III. RESULT ANALYSIS

#### 3.1 Discussion

Previously I have categorized English dairy idioms and their Uzbek variations. It is seen that most English idioms have an equivalent, but some of them still do not have comparable units in Uzbek linguistics. The main reason is cultural differences between two nations. Actually, local color is a very significant unit of the identity, as many people think in the local categories. Consequently, the idioms reflect the local particularity and most typical components appear in the variety of a semantic and structural type. There are several objects in each local culture, which are typical examples of certain qualities, so they become stereotypic for the languages users. Proper tend to carry metaphorical meanings, which reflect the socio cultural knowledge of a given community. (Joanna, 2007) By observing the numbers I can say that from 62 analyzed English idioms, only 13 do not have Uzbek equivalent, which represent 21%. While idioms with similar items clearly appear considerably less, only 6 English idioms with dairy components have the same equivalent in Uzbek language and 3 idioms have units from other dairy products, 9, 6% and 4, 9% respectively. However, the majority of English dairy idioms have equivalent in Uzbek phraseology, yet they are formed with different units. I have found 40 English and Uzbek dairy idioms with similar meanings.

For a clear perspective see Figure 1. My research has clearly shown that although most English dairy idioms have an Uzbek equivalent from the point of view of semantics, these

counterparts do not always take a dairy name. Dairy names may be replaced by concrete as well as abstract nouns, and though they show the same meaning as the English one, the mirroring of this meaning is specific to the respective language.



**Fig. 1. Figure1. English dairy idioms in Uzbek language:**  
**21%- no Uzbek equivalent; 9,6 %- with the same dairy products; 4,9% - from other names of dairy products; 64, 5%- with similar meaning but different units;**

There so many dairy idioms and it is important to explore how people implement them in their ordinary life. People may rely on their previous experience to understand the plot of the idiomatic expression (W.R. Gibbs, N.P. Nayak, C. Cutting, 1989). In fact, some idioms have figurative meaning and it can be easy to understand by analyzing them (Zahra Fotovatnia, 2014). Taking into account all these facts, this paper analyzes and draws a parallel between English and Uzbek idioms with components of dairy products. Idioms with dairy components are different and each nation represents them in various ways.

#### 3.2. Conclusions

English and Uzbek idioms are different, and we cannot find total equivalency between them. After investigating 60 English dairy idioms I can surely say in spite of the fact that most idioms are formed from different components, from cultural perspectives the semantics and the meaning of idioms almost are the same (64,5%). It is clear that phraseology plays a key role in expanding information about culture and integrating it to the society. Therefore, idiomatic units are considered as “treasures of world culture” and they have inherited from ancestors to young generation.

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#### **AUTHOR PROFILE**



**First Author** Saidakbarova Saodat Parhadjanova is a scientific researcher who has already written more than ten scientific articles in the sphere of comparative linguistics. Mostly, in her work she analyzes English and Uzbek phraseological units, their origin, etymology and semantics. The author conducts her research from the cultural perspectives and investigates how and when an idiom was originated. Saidakbarova Saodat Parhadjanova works as a teacher at Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies and carries out her research by teaching English. In 2019 she has won national grant and had an opportunity to implement her research work in Norwich Institute of Language Education, Norwich, UK.