

REFLECTION OF METAPHORICAL THOUGHT IN UZBEKISTAN ARTICLES ABOUT THE HOMELAND

Shokhsanam Bekmuratova

Teacher, Tashkent state university of oriental studies, Uzbekistan

Abstract: This article explores how the concept of "Homeland" is metaphorically expressed in Uzbek folk proverbs through the lens of cognitive linguistics. It identifies metaphorical models and schemas-such as "Homeland as Mother," "Homeland as Home," and "Homeland as Soul"-and examines their role in shaping the mental image of the homeland within the collective consciousness of the people. By analyzing how these metaphors convey cultural values, emotions, and patriotic sentiments, the study underscores the deep interconnection between language and thought. The findings contribute to the broader fields of linguistics, ethnolinguistics, and the study of national identity.

Keywords: Uzbek proverbs, metaphorical thinking, Cognitive linguistics, metaphor, Homeland concept, national values, language and thinking

Introduction: Language is the most important mirror of human thinking, through which humanity expresses its worldview, feelings and values. In particular, proverbs, which are products of folk oral creativity, are a unique example of folk thinking, historical experience and social consciousness. In recent years, the importance of the cognitive approach in linguistics has been increasing. This approach studies language not only as a means of communication, but also as an important cognitive system that represents and organizes the system of knowledge in the human mind. In particular, metaphor is seen as one of the main mechanisms of human thinking in cognitive linguistics.

Through metaphors, people understand complex concepts on the basis of simple and familiar experience, and express their inner experiences, emotional relationships and moral views. The theory of conceptual metaphor put forward by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson made a fundamental shift in linguistics, paving the way for the study of metaphor not only as a means of artistic expression, but also as a cognitive model of human thinking.

This article analyzes the metaphorical models through which the concept of "Homeland" is expressed in Uzbek folk proverbs, and what mental concepts are formed in the thinking of the people through these metaphors. Metaphors such as "Homeland - mother", "Homeland - home", "Homeland - soul" are inextricably linked with the historical memory, national pride and spiritual world of the Uzbek people. Therefore, by showing the connection between language and thinking, the article focuses on how metaphors form concepts such as patriotism, selflessness, love and loyalty in the minds of the people.

The relevance of the article is that in today's era of globalization, the linguocognitive analysis of folk oral creativity remains an important scientific task in order to preserve national consciousness, language and culture.

Main part: Metaphor is a cognitive tool that allows us to understand the experience of one domain (source) through the experience of another domain (target). As Lakoff and Johnson's "Metaphors We Live By" (1980) state, metaphors are not simply linguistic units, but rather conceptual structures that determine how we imagine the world in our minds.

Conceptual metaphors consist of three main components: Source domain – a familiar, concrete, and material element of the world in our experience (e.g., mother, house, tree); Target domain – a difficult-to-understand, abstract, or complex concept (e.g., Homeland, life, love); Mapping – semantic similarities transferred from the source domain to the target domain.

For example, through the metaphor *“Homeland is mother,”* a person associates love, respect, reverence, and devotion to the Homeland with the image of the mother. This is not just a linguistic unit, but a cognitive model formed in the minds of the people.

In Uzbek folk proverbs, the concept of *“Homeland”* is expressed through many metaphorical models. We will focus on the following main models:

“Homeland is Mother”, “No mother – no homeland”, “Mother soil – dear soil”, “Homeland is not dearer than mother, but equal”

Through this metaphor, an image of the Homeland is created as a loving, protective, source of life. Also, fighting for the Homeland is considered as honorable as giving one’s life for the mother.

“Homeland - Home, shelter”, “If you have a home, you will find shelter”, “Without a home, the people will be homeless”, “Without a home, the heart will not be full”

In this model, the Homeland becomes a symbol of security, peace and personal freedom. The metaphor of the home expresses the fact that the Homeland is a source of stability and peace.

“Homeland - Soul, life”, “As long as the soul exists - the Homeland lives”, “To love the Homeland is to love life”, “The Homeland is dearer than life”

This metaphor describes the Homeland as a part of human existence. The Homeland is understood not only as a geographical space, but also as a spiritual and psychological support for a person.

“Homeland - Holiness”, “The soil of the Homeland is a place of worship”, “Before the enemy, protect faith, then - the country”, “The honor of the Homeland is not above religion”

This model elevates the Homeland to the level of religious and moral values. The struggle for the Homeland is interpreted as a holy jihad.

Metaphor is not only a means of artistic expression, but also a fundamental way of understanding, classifying and comprehending human thought. In folk oral art, metaphors express the deep layers of human experience and create a national model of certain concepts. In Uzbek proverbs related to the concept of *“Homeland”*, folk thought is reflected in the following areas:

Metaphors used in proverbs about the homeland reveal not only the official-state imagination, but also the emotional, spiritual world of a person. For example:

“Homeland is the bosom of a mother.”

In this proverb, the homeland is expressed through the image of a mother, awakening feelings of love, affection, trust and security. Such proverbs strengthen feelings such as patriotism, selflessness, gratitude, national pride.

Through metaphors, the people pass on their values from generation to generation. For example:

“If you have a homeland, you will find shelter” - this proverb is based on the mental model that *“Homeland”* = *“home”, “shelter”*. This shows the Uzbek people's desire for peace, security and permanence. Also, through proverbs, values such as holiness, honor, dignity, and self-sacrifice are formed.

Metaphorical thinking plays an important role in the formation of national identity. Proverbs about the homeland serve not only as a moral criterion, but also as a means of ideological education. For example:

"Life for the homeland" is not only a metaphor, but also an ideological direction for each generation.

Through metaphors, the homeland is formed not only as a geographical territory, but also as a symbol of historical memory, faith, and cultural harmony.

In Uzbek folk proverbs, the concept of *"Homeland"* is expressed through several main metaphorical models, including: *Homeland - mother*, *Homeland - home*, *Homeland - soul*, *Homeland - a sacred place*. These metaphors are deeply rooted in the thinking of the people.

Metaphors express the cultural, emotional and moral values of the people. They are not only linguistic units, but also serve as mental models formed in the mind. Metaphorical analysis based on a cognitive approach reveals the inextricable link between language and thought. Through the metaphors of *"homeland"*, concepts such as patriotism, selflessness, respect and loyalty are formed in the thinking of the people.

Through the concept of homeland, national identity, historical memory and cultural identity are manifested in the thinking of the people. This reveals not only the artistic, but also the cognitive and social functions of folk oral creativity.

These analyses confirm the relevance of studying proverbs within the framework of linguocognitive research and serve to provide a deeper understanding of the national language culture.

Conclusion: The above analysis shows that the concept of *"Homeland"* in Uzbek proverbs is widely and deeply reflected in the people's thinking through cognitive metaphors. These metaphors are directly related to the emotional world, value system and national identity of the people. Models such as *"Homeland - mother"*, *"Homeland - soul"*, *"Homeland - house"* are not only linguistic expressions, but also conceptual structures formed in the mind. The metaphors analyzed in the article show that in the people's thinking the concept of homeland has always been combined with categories such as love, loyalty, devotion and holiness. Studying such proverbs based on a cognitive approach serves to deepen the understanding of the inseparable connection between language and thinking.

References

1. Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. *Metaphors We Live By*. University of Chicago Press. 1980. – 470 p.
2. Yankova, V. V. *Cognitive linguistics: Introduction and conceptual analysis*. M.: Academy. 2009. -C.80
3. Markhabo Rakhmonkulovna Abdullayeva. FORMATION OF ALTERNATIVE VARIANTS IN THE PROCESS OF ARTISTIC TRANSLATION (ON THE EXAMPLE OF A WORK OF "SUCH IS LIFE"). (2025). *International Journal of Artificial Intelligence*, 5(04), 1287-1291.
4. Kadirov, A. "Modern interpretations of cognitive linguistics and metaphor theory." *Issues of Philology*, No. 2, 2020. -B. 33–38.
5. Ganieva, M. "Linguocognitive analysis of the concept of homeland." *National language and consciousness*, No. 1, 2019. -B. 17–22.
6. Markhabo Abdullayeva, Gulrukh Khidirova, LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL FEATURES OF ANTHROPONYMS. (2025). *Journal of Multidisciplinary Sciences and Innovations*, 4(3), 700-703. <https://doi.org/10.55640/>
7. Bekmuratova S. M. Q. CULTURAL FEATURES OF PROVERBS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK ON THE TOPIC OF HOMELAND //Scientific progress. - 2023. - T. 4. – no. 5. - S. 153-157.
8. Bekmuratova S. Linguocultural features of proverbs on the topic of patriotism in the Uzbek and English languages //Modern Science and Research. - 2024. - T. 3. – no. 1. – S. 1-3.
9. Bekmuratova Shohsanam Mukhtorbek Qiz THE CONCEPT OF "PATRIOTISM IN

ENGLISH AND UZBEK PROVERBS" // EJAR. 2024. №7S. URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/the-concept-of-patriotism-in-english-and-uzbek-proverbs> (access date: 13.04.2025).

10. 10.Abdullaeva , M. . (2025). NATIONAL-CULTURAL COMPONENT: ESSENCE, TYPES AND EXPRESSION IN TRANSLATION. JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION, CULTURE AND INNOVATION, 4(4), 25–29. Retrieved from <https://mudarrisziyo.uz/index.php/innovatsiya/article/view/2229>

11. 11.Qizi , B. S. M. . (2022). LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL FEATURES OF PROVERBS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK ON THE TOPIC OF HOMELAND AND PATRIOTISM.JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION, CULTURE AND INNOVATION | JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION, CULTURE AND INNOVATION, 1(6), 1–4. Retrieved from <https://mudarrisziyo.uz/index.php/innovatsiya/article/view/153>