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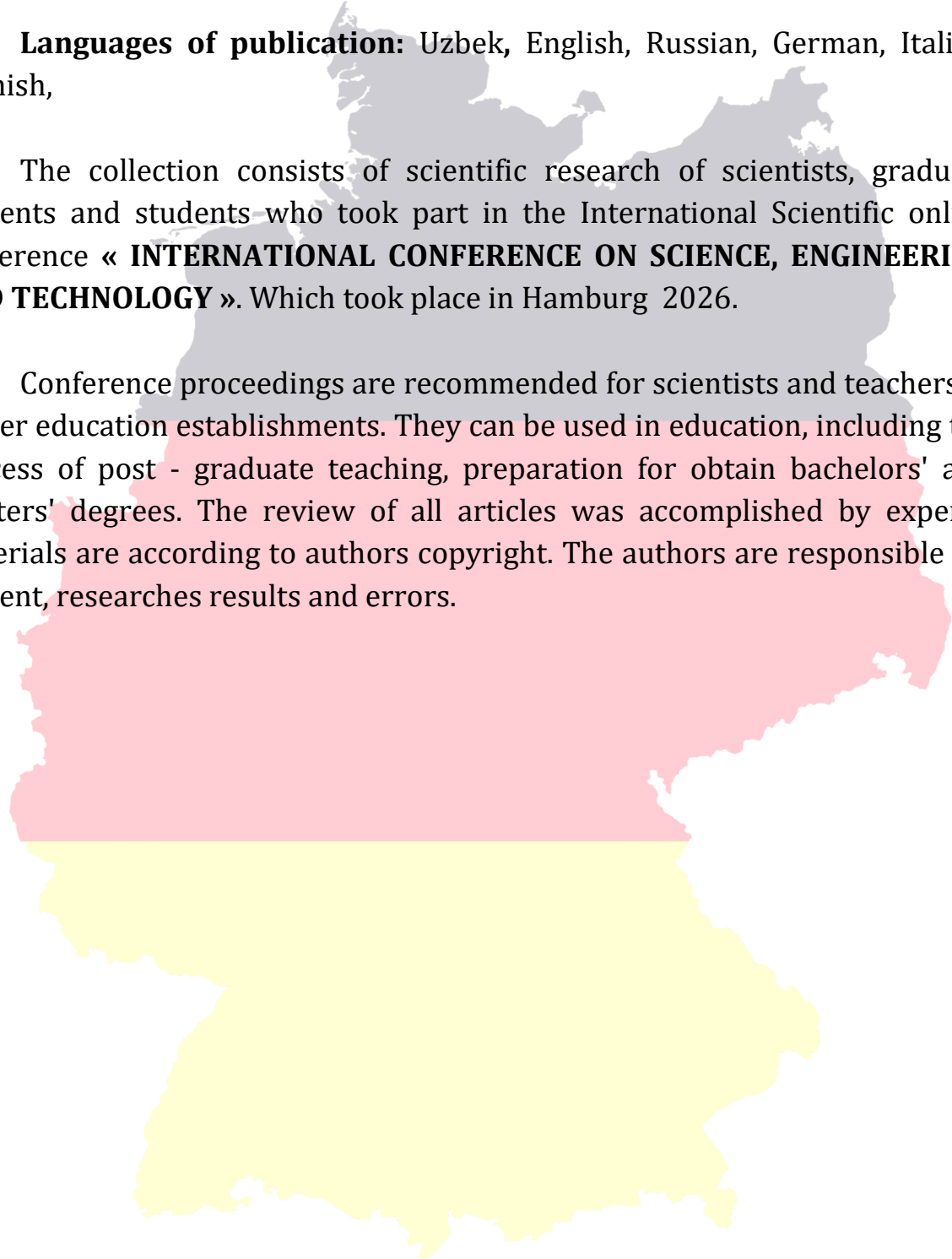


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## LINGUOCULTURAL FEATURES OF NATIONAL FOOD NAMES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEKTAN ETHNOLINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVE

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**Abstract.** This study explores the linguocultural features of national food names in English and Uzbek from an ethnolinguistic perspective. It aims to identify how cultural values, traditions, and national mentality are reflected in food-related lexical units. The research applies a comparative qualitative method to analyze semantic, cultural, and pragmatic aspects of food names in both languages. The findings reveal that Uzbek food terminology tends to carry deeper symbolic and social meanings, whereas English food names are generally more functional and pragmatic. The study highlights the importance of food-related vocabulary as a cultural code that reflects collective identity and worldview.

**Keywords:** ethnolinguistics, linguoculture, food terminology, national identity, semantics, cultural values

**1. Introduction.** Language is not only a means of communication but also a reflection of a nation's culture, traditions, and worldview. In modern linguistics, the relationship between language and culture has become a central topic, particularly within the field of ethnolinguistics. This discipline studies how cultural information is encoded and transmitted through language (Duranti, 1997).

Food, as a fundamental aspect of human life, occupies a significant place in every culture. The names of traditional dishes are not arbitrary; they carry historical, social, and symbolic meanings. In this regard, analyzing food names provides valuable insights into the cultural and cognitive frameworks of different societies.

Uzbek and English cultures represent two distinct linguistic and cultural systems. Uzbek culture is deeply rooted in collectivism, hospitality, and tradition, while English culture tends to emphasize individualism and practicality. These differences are reflected in their respective food terminologies.

The aim of this study is to analyze the linguocultural features of national food names in Uzbek and English and to identify how cultural values and mentalities are encoded in these lexical units.

**2. Literature Review.** The relationship between language and culture has been widely discussed in linguistic studies. According to Sapir (1921), language is a guide to social reality and reflects cultural patterns. Similarly, Whorf (1956) argued that language shapes thought and perception, which is particularly relevant in understanding cultural semantics.

Ethnolinguistics examines how language encodes cultural meanings and practices (Duranti, 1997). Within this framework, food terminology is considered a rich source of cultural information. As noted by Wierzbicka (1997), food-related words



often contain culturally specific meanings that cannot be fully translated without cultural context.

In Uzbek linguistics, scholars have emphasized the cultural significance of traditional food names, particularly in relation to rituals and social practices (Mahmudov, 2012). For example, dishes like plov and sumalak are deeply embedded in cultural traditions and carry symbolic meanings.

In English, food terminology has been studied from a sociolinguistic and pragmatic perspective, focusing on naming conventions and cultural influences (Counihan & Van Esterik, 2013). English food names often reflect preparation methods, ingredients, or function rather than symbolic meanings.

Despite existing studies, there is still a need for comparative research that examines Uzbek and English food terminology from a linguocultural perspective. This study aims to fill that gap.

**Methodology.** This research employs a qualitative comparative method to analyze food names in Uzbek and English. The data consists of commonly used national dish names and food-related expressions in both languages.

The analysis focuses on:

- semantic features
- cultural connotations
- pragmatic functions
- symbolic meanings

The study also applies ethnolinguistic and linguocultural approaches to interpret the data.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **1. Cultural Values Reflected in Food Names**

In Uzbek culture, food names often reflect social values such as hospitality, unity, and respect. For instance, plov is not just a dish but a symbol of celebration and community. It is traditionally prepared during weddings and important events, representing abundance and togetherness (Mahmudov, 2012).

Similarly, sumalak is associated with the spring festival and symbolizes renewal, patience, and collective effort. The preparation process itself is a communal activity, reinforcing social bonds.

Bread (non) holds a sacred status in Uzbek culture. It is treated with respect and is often associated with blessings and sustenance. This cultural significance is reflected in various expressions and proverbs.

In contrast, English food names tend to be more descriptive and functional. For example, breakfast literally means “breaking the fast,” indicating its practical purpose. Terms like fast food emphasize speed and convenience, reflecting modern lifestyle priorities (Counihan & Van Esterik, 2013).

**2. Linguistic Representation of Food Culture.** Food culture is expressed in language through metaphors, idioms, and symbolic meanings. In Uzbek, food-related



expressions often convey social relationships and moral values. For example, expressions equivalent to “sharing bread” imply friendship and trust.

In English, food metaphors are also common but tend to focus on individual experiences. For instance, expressions like “a piece of cake” indicate ease, showing how food is used metaphorically to describe situations.

This difference highlights the contrast between collectivist and individualist cultures. Uzbek expressions emphasize social harmony, while English expressions focus on personal perspective.

### 3. Eating Traditions and Their Linguistic Impact

Uzbek eating traditions are characterized by communal dining, large gatherings, and elaborate meals. These practices influence language by creating a rich vocabulary related to hospitality and social interaction.

For example, the concept of a shared table is central to Uzbek culture, and this is reflected in various linguistic expressions related to hosting

In English culture, eating habits are more individualized and time-oriented. Meals are categorized into specific times (breakfast, lunch, dinner), and food names reflect this structure. The language tends to be more concise and functional.

### 4. Comparative Linguocultural Analysis

A comparative analysis reveals significant differences between Uzbek and English food terminology:

Feature

Uzbek

English

Cultural symbolism

Strong

Moderate

Social function

Collective

Individual

Semantic depth

High

Moderate

Pragmatic orientation

Low

High

These differences demonstrate how language reflects broader cultural patterns. Uzbek food names function as cultural symbols, while English terms prioritize clarity and practicality.

**Conclusion.** The study confirms that food names are not merely lexical units but carriers of cultural meaning. Uzbek food terminology reflects deep social and



symbolic values, emphasizing community and tradition. In contrast, English food names are more functional and pragmatic, reflecting individualism and efficiency.

The findings highlight the importance of ethnolinguistic approaches in understanding the relationship between language and culture. Food vocabulary serves as a cultural code that reveals the worldview and identity of a society.

Future research may explore other aspects of linguoculture, such as rituals, clothing, or folklore, to further understand the connection between language and culture.

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