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LINGUOCULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CONCEPT "MOTHER" IN UZBEK FOLK EPICS

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Abstract This abstract analyzes the linguocultural characteristics of the concept "mother" in Uzbek folk epics. Based on the epics "Rustamkhon" and "Malika Ayyor," the semantic structure, linguistic expression, and national-cultural content of the concept are highlighted. The study revealed that the concept "mother" is associated with semantic components such as love, protection, self-sacrifice, patience, upbringing, family, and continuity of generations. Address forms, kinship terms, epithets, blessings, and wishes in the epics manifest the emotional-evaluative properties of the concept.

Keywords: concept, concept "mother", linguoculture, linguoculturology, folklore, epic, national value, national-cultural code, semantic component, poetic device.

Introduction Language and culture are inextricably linked; the national mindset, historical experience, and values of a nation are manifested through linguistic units. In particular, examples of oral folklore serve as essential sources of national-cultural cognition. Uzbek folk epics represent rich linguocultural material reflecting the family, moral, and spiritual views of the people. In this regard, studying the concept "mother" based on epics helps uncover critical aspects of the Uzbek national conceptosphere.

Research Methods Linguocultural, semantic, conceptual, contextual analysis, and descriptive methods were used in the study. Linguistic units and semantic situations related to the image of the mother in the epics "Rustamkhon" and "Malika Ayyor" were selected, and their conceptual and national-cultural content was analyzed.

Main Part The concept "mother" has formed as a distinct value in the Uzbek national worldview. At its semantic core lie concepts such as love for the child, protecting and raising them, and preserving family unity. Therefore, components like "love," "protection," "devotion," "self-sacrifice," "patience," "upbringing," "family," and "generation" are interconnected within the semantic field of the concept.

In the epic "Rustamkhon," the mother figure appears in situations tied to the child's fate; her anxiety for the child, her protective role, and her status as a spiritual anchor bring forth the core semantic features of the concept. This situation also expresses the high value the Uzbek people place on the status of motherhood.

In the epic "Malika Ayyor," perceptions of women and mothers are interpreted through family relations, life experience, devotion, and moral responsibility. The system of characters highlights the woman's role in the family and her responsibility for her child's destiny from the perspective of national values.

Address units, kinship terms, epithets, descriptions, blessings, and wishes play a major role in uncovering the linguocultural features of the concept. These units express emotional-evaluative meanings such as respect, affection, supplication, and reverence toward the mother figure. As a result, the concept of "mother" transcends a simple nominative unit to become a concept endowed with broad national-cultural value.

The analysis reveals the following associative model of the concept "mother":

- mother → love → child → protection → self-sacrifice → patience → upbringing → family → continuity of generations

This sequence systematically reflects the traditional Uzbek ideas about the mother. Through the image of the mother, values such as goodness, spiritual support, family unity, and generational continuity are also actualized.

Conclusion In Uzbek folk epics, the concept "mother" possesses specific national-cultural features alongside universal meanings. The analysis conducted on the material of the epics "Rustamkhon" and

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"Malika Ayyor" showed the prevalence of semantic components such as love, protection, devotion, self-sacrifice, patience, upbringing, family, and continuity of generations within the concept. Linguistic and poetic devices in the epics enhance the emotional, evaluative, and national-cultural content of this concept. Thus, the concept "mother" in Uzbek folk epics is one of the important linguocultural units representing the moral and spiritual values as well as the national worldview of the people.

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