

ABSTRACT
of the thesis on the topic “The image of ethno-cultural values in phraseologisms (on the basis of Kazakh, Russian and English languages)”
submitted by Mulkamanova Aigerim Zharylgassynkyzy
for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) under the educational
program “8D02304 - Philology”

Description of the thesis topic. In contemporary linguistics language is characterized as a complex and multifaceted phenomenon. It is viewed not only as a universal key to human culture as a whole, but also as a primary instrument providing access to the culture of individual ethnic groups. Human representations of the world are reflected in language, including in phraseological units. These units constitute linguocultural structures that embody specific modes of world perception and the outcomes of an individual's cognitive activity. The world of culture is a world of values. The concept of value plays a crucial role in understanding cultural specificity, as it is through values that existence is comprehended within a system of axiological categories. These cultural and value orientations find their reflection in phraseology. Phraseological units are linguistic entities with a high degree of informational density. From a linguocultural perspective, the components of phraseological units function as elements of the symbolic system of a particular culture. Each component accumulates encoded information about the culture and national specificity of people. Within the cognitive “memory” of phraseological units, cultural traditions of the national mentality are preserved, which ensures the functioning of phraseology as a stable model of world cognition and its continual reproduction.

Language preserves a nation's cultural values, spiritual identity, and historical experience, transmitting them from one generation to the next and phraseology plays a special role in this process. Phraseological units, which are closely interwoven with a people's lifestyle, worldview, customs, and traditions, function as ethnocultural codes. A contrastive study of the phraseological systems of unrelated languages (Kazakh, Russian, and English) makes it possible to identify national values as well as to determine both shared features and culture-specific characteristics of each linguoculture. In this regard, research conducted within the anthropocentric paradigm of linguistics is significant in linguocultural studies, ethnolinguistics, cognitive linguistics, and axiological linguistics. In contemporary Kazakh linguistics, interdisciplinary research is actively developing, with cognitive semantics being examined in interaction with psychology, sociolinguistics, cultural studies, and literary studies.

The study of phraseological units from a linguo-axiological perspective constitutes one of the important directions of the anthropocentric paradigm in linguistics. Linguo-axiology enables the identification of value systems represented in linguistic units, their evaluative semantics, and their connection with the national worldview. In this respect, phraseological units represent a linguistic phenomenon that accumulates and preserves the historical experience, cultural code, and spiritual values of a particular ethnos.

The semantic structure of phraseological units is characterized by a combination of evaluative, emotional, and expressive components, which enhances their axiological potential. Through fixed expressions, socially accepted moral norms, behavioral models, and binary oppositions such as good and evil, approval and condemnation are закреплены at the linguistic level. Consequently, linguo-axiological analysis of phraseological units allows for a deeper understanding of the relationship between language and value systems.

Phraseological units are studied at the intersection of anthropocentric paradigms, while the ethnocultural material of each language receives an axiological description. Phraseological units constitute significant fragments of the linguistic worldview and represent a valuable object of contrastive linguocultural research, since their content is determined by a combination of factors, primarily the lexicon characteristic of a particular people. Phraseology vividly reflects the linguistic worldview. Acting as a repository of cultural information, phraseological units form one of its essential components. The worldview is characterized as an interpretation of reality as reflected within a specific ethnic community. The perception of any fragment of existence, as well as its interpretation, is mediated through a holistic worldview shaped by the experience of a given ethnos within a specific cultural environment.

In recent years, Kazakh linguistics has witnessed an intensive development of research within the framework of the anthropocentric approach, in which language is regarded as an ethnocultural code. The present study is devoted to a contrastive analysis of phraseological units in the Kazakh, Russian, and English languages, which belong to genetically and structurally distinct linguocultures. A comparative analysis of ethnocultural values reflected in the phraseological worldview on the material of the Kazakh, Russian, and English languages makes it possible to reveal their cultural and national specificity.

Research relevance. The relationship between the concept and its linguistic representation remains a subject of scholarly debate. Mental structures reflected in the consciousness of speakers are represented through varying linguistic forms chosen in specific communicative situations. In this regard, identifying the mediating link between the linguistic system and conceptual structures, that is, the interface connecting mental models (knowledge structures) with linguistic forms, is of particular importance. The relevance of the research work can be justified from this point of view.

As the human factor gains prominence in linguistics, scholars increasingly study how speakers use language as a communicative tool and how the national linguistic personality is encoded in linguistic units. The ultimate aim of such studies is to reveal the linguistic mechanisms that reflect similarities and differences across cultures. Phraseological units are especially valuable in this respect, as they express aspects of both material and spiritual life and represent the outcomes of human cognitive activity.

The representation of concepts is realized through cognitive processes in the communicative process; this activity is based on the common principles of organizing information in the linguistic consciousness. Since phraseology is a field that most clearly reflects the national linguistic personality, it is important to study it in a comparative form in the linguocultural and linguocognitive aspects.

By examining phraseological units as typologically diverse material, it becomes possible to reconstruct cultural perceptions of the human material and spiritual world and identify differences in conceptual understanding across Kazakh, Russian, and English cultures. Through phraseology, basic concepts relating to human experience can be analyzed from linguocultural, axiological, and ethnolinguistic perspectives to determine the extent to which language shapes ethnospécific worldviews.

With the expansion of global communication and the growing need for cross-cultural understanding, linguistic and cultural studies are increasingly addressing the interconnectedness of language and culture. In this research, the human being is viewed as both a perceiver of the world and a producer of linguistic meaning. In teaching a foreign language, intercultural communication requires consideration of linguistic and cultural specificity. The relevance of the topic follows directly from these considerations.

Research aim. The study aims to determine the nature of ethnocultural values reflected in the phraseological units of Kazakh, Russian, and English through comparative analysis.

Research objectives are the following:

- to identify the character of ethnocultural values in phraseological units;
- to justify the effectiveness of the comparative-axiological method for analyzing phraseology in Kazakh, Russian, and English languages;
- to demonstrate the features of linguistic mechanisms that systematize and encode ethnocultural value fields (somatic, zoonymic, colorative, numerative, religious-mythological, spiritual, etc.) in Kazakh, Russian, English;
- to describe the similarities and distinctive features of the value systems of ethnic groups as reflected in Kazakh, Russian and English phraseological units;
- to identify the cognitive representation of national, cultural and axiological meanings in the phraseological systems of the Kazakh, Russian, and English languages.

Research object comprises phraseological units representing ethnocultural values in Kazakh, Russian, and English.

Research subject includes national values embodied in phraseological units, their symbolic-cultural representations, and their axiological functions.

Theoretical and methodological framework. The research draws upon fundamental works in phraseology, lexicology, cognitive linguistics, linguoculturology, linguistic semantics, ethnolinguistics, etymology, linguistic axiology, language history, and general linguistics. The study incorporates the contributions of Kazakh scholars such as A. Baitursynuly, M. Auezov, I. Kenesbaev, K. Akhanov, S. Amanzholov, A. Kaidar, R. Syzdyk, A. Bolganbaev, G. Qaliev, O. Aitbaev, Kh. Kozhakhmetova, N. Uali, Zh. Mankeeva, G. Smagulova, R. Avakova, Q. Qalybaeva, S. Satenova, A. Tymbol, K.K. Duisekova, K.O. Yessenova, and others, as well as international scholars including Yu. D. Apresyan, N. D. Arutyunova, R. G. Akhmetyanov, E. M. Vereshchagina, V. V. Vorobyov, V. G. Gak, Wilhelm von Humboldt, M. Z. Zakiiev, N. I. Zolotnitsky, M. I. Isaev, Yu. N. Karaulov, V. G. Kostomarov, V. A. Maslova, A. A. Potebnia, Edward Sapir, B. A. Serebrennikov, Z. K. Tarlanov, V. N. Teliya, S. G. Ter-Minasova, E. V. Uryson, B. A. Uspensky, R. M.

Frumkina, M. F. Chernov, R. A. Yusupov, A.R. Mukhtarullina, A.P. Cowie, R. Moon, S.T. Grice and etc.

Research sources include explanatory and phraseological dictionaries and reference works and fictional works in Kazakh, Russian, and English. The analysis is based on 716 phraseological units in Kazakh, 596 in Russian, and 443 in English that express concepts relating to the material and spiritual world.

Research methods are the following:

- comparative-axiological analysis aimed at the comparative study of phraseology from the point of view of ethnocultural value systems in different languages;
- method of conceptual analysis aimed at identifying the cognitive and axiological content of ethnocultural values as manifested through phraseological units of the Kazakh, Russian, and English languages;
- method of contrast analysis aimed at identifying national features in the semantic features of equivalent concepts in the studied languages;
- method of linguocultural analysis aimed at determining how the categorical structure of the consciousness of an ethnic group is represented in phraseology;
- methods of predictive, survey and statistical analysis regarding the identification of national values reflected in phraseology;
- phraseological identification method, which allows you to determine whether a particular phrase belongs to a phraseology;
- a method of component analysis that allows you to capture the semantic structure of linguistic units;
- methods of accumulation, systematization, and generalization of language data were also used.

Main provisions to be submitted for defense:

1. Phraseologisms, along with figurative expressions of thoughts, preserve and transmit ethnocultural values, the national cultural code from generation to generation. Phraseologisms are the accumulated linguistic and cognitive code of ethnocultural values. Somatic, zoonomic, colorative images in Kazakh, Russian and English are special ways of encoding ethno-cultural values.

2. Phraseological units of Kazakh, Russian and English languages play a significant role in forming the value image of people, nature, society. There are national features in phraseological units according to each nation's lifestyle, natural surroundings, religion, mentality, despite the common axiological basis (human, work, nature, spirit, family, unity and etc.) of Kazakh, Russian and English languages. The dominating values of Kazakh phraseological units are relationship, cattle farming, conscience, spiritual values, and the main values in the Russian language are collectivism, orthodox worldview, soul, emotion. A special emphasis is given to individualism, pragmatism, rationalism in the English language.

3. The phraseological worldview reflects the linguistic embodiment of national culture and conveys the worldview of each people, demonstrating both universal and culture-specific features. According to the results of the conducted contrastive analysis, out of a total of 1755 phraseological units compared across the three languages, 8,2% (144 units) show full equivalence, 55,8% (982 units) display partial equivalence, while non-corresponding phraseological units account for 36%

(629 units). National worldviews and cultural specificity explain the quantitative predominance of partially equivalent and non-equivalent phraseological units. The identification of fully equivalent phraseologisms reflects the universal nature of phenomena common to all humankind.

4. The results of the study demonstrate that phraseological units serve as a means of representing moral, family, personal, spiritual, material, and universal human values. Quantitative analysis indicates that moral and family values hold particular significance for the Kazakh people. This can be explained by the nomadic way of life, cultural and religious traditions, as well as the role of the family as a fundamental social and emotional support system. For the Russian people, the predominance of moral, family, and personal values is reflected in the aspiration for social stability and harmony, a strong orientation toward family well-being and upbringing, and increased attention to personal development and self-realization. In English culture personal, moral, and universal human values are of primary importance, as a long-established tradition of protecting individual rights and dignity has historically been formed. English culture is grounded in the ideals of individual development and adherence to moral and ethical norms, which are clearly manifested in the linguistic consciousness of native speakers.

5. Axiological analysis of phraseological units is an effective method for uncovering national worldviews and cultural values. Phraseology plays a role in forming axiological direction and transmitting values such as kindness, integrity, hard work, and justice.

Description of research main findings . The thesis outlines the theoretical and methodological foundations for studying how national values are encoded in phraseology, emphasizing axiological approaches. Phraseological units in Kazakh, Russian, and English were classified into thematic groups to determine their ethnocultural value content. Comparative analysis revealed shared human values as well as culture-specific features. Survey data contributed to understanding the use and perception of phraseological units across languages. The study highlights the deep connection between national values represented in phraseology and the historical, cultural, and spiritual experience of the respective ethnic groups.

The scientific novelty of the research lies in the fact that in the research:

- For the first time, ethnocultural values in the phraseology of Kazakh, Russian, and English languages are examined comprehensively within an anthropocentric framework.
- A typology of linguistic mechanisms encoding values (somatic, zoonymic, color-related, numeric, domestic-mythological) has been developed.
- Phraseological units are characterized as cognitive-axiological categories and as carriers of national cultural codes.
- Common and ethnospécific values in the phraseology of the three languages have been systematically identified.
- The theoretical foundations for analyzing the axiological potential of phraseological units were clarified, and the methods for identifying the value-related aspects of linguistic units were systematized.

- The aesthetic and axiological content of ethnocultural values in the phraseological units of the Kazakh, Russian and English languages was revealed, and their equivalent and asymmetric manifestations across the three languages were identified.

- The ethnocultural character of equivalent, partially equivalent, and non-equivalent phraseological units has been clarified.

Research theoretical significance. The thesis provisions are directed to determine linguistic and extralinguistic factors on the issue of phraseological image of the universe, to identify common and unique features in the process of solving this problem. The research work allows further development of issues related to the universality and national characteristics of the constructed phraseological units, as well as the description of fragments of the image of the linguocultural universe. A comparative study of phraseology in different languages reveals universal and national specific features of the values inherent in each nation.

The comparative analyses of languages that are not genetically related makes it possible to conclude at the typological level. The results of the research enable a description of the representation of ethnocultural values in phraseological units within the framework of the interrelation between the linguistic system, linguistic consciousness, and the national worldview, and also contribute to the development of the theory of contrastive linguocultural studies and cognitive phraseology. Furthermore, the identified and systematized units of linguocultural values, as well as the principles of their classification and comparison, constitute an important resource for future scholarly research in this field.

Research practical significance. Phraseological units reflecting ethnocultural values enable acquisition, comparison, identification of the features, and development of intercultural communication on national identity and cultural cognition. They serve as valuable resources for linguocultural, axiological, and cognitive research, and offer practical applications in teaching Kazakh, Russian, and English; developing culturally oriented textbooks, dictionaries, and reference works; translation studies; lexicography; and linguocultural communication. The findings can be used in university courses on phraseology, semantics, etymology, comparative typology, and linguoculturology, as well as in the compilation of phraseological dictionaries.

Research evaluation. The results of the thesis were presented at the international scientific conference “Zhubanov Legacy” at K. Zhubanov Aktobe Regional University through a report titled “National and Cultural Characteristics of Phraseological Units Containing Colour Terms” (2024) and a report at a scientific seminar titled “Philological Research” as part of the “Month of Science” (2025).

Research approval and publication. 6 articles were published on the main sections of the dissertation.

Articles published in journals included in the Scopus scientometric database:

1. The Linguocultural feature of Phraseological Units of Kinship Terms (on the materials of Kazakh, Russian, and English languages) // Forum for Linguistic Studies. – 2025. – Vol.7 No.3. – pp. 830-842. Percentile 56%, Q2.

<https://doi.org/10.30564/fls.v7i3.8510>

Articles published in journals recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education:

1. The Image of Kazakh Zoophraseologisms in Translation (on the basis of the novel «Nomads» by I.Esenberlin in Kazakh, Russian and English languages) // Bulletin of Kazakh Ablai khan University of International Relations and World Languages". Series "Philological Sciences". – 2024. – №3 (74) – pp. 390-403.
[//doi.org/10.48371/PHILS.2024.3.74.023](https://doi.org/10.48371/PHILS.2024.3.74.023)

2. The linguocultural feature of phraseologisms//Bulletin of Toraighyrov University. Philology series. – 2025. – № 1 – pp. 180-192.

<https://doi.org/10.48081/ZLYV5668>

3. Manifestation of national identity and culture: in the context of numeral phraseology (based on materials of Kazakh, Russian, English) //Bulletin of Kazakh Ablai khan University of International Relations and World Languages". Series "Philological Sciences". – 2025. – №2 (77) – pp. 184-207.

<https://doi.org/10.48371/PHILS.2025.2.77.011>

4. The Nature of Time-Related Idioms as A Reflection of Cultural Code(Based on The Material of Kazakh, Russian and English Languages)// Bulletin of Yassawi University. – 2025. – №3(137). – pp. 219-231. <https://doi.org/10.47526/2025-3/2664-0686.246>

Articles published in the proceedings of international conferences:

1.“National and Cultural Characteristics of Phraseological Units Containing Colour Terms” //Collection of materials of the traditional XI International Conference «Zhubanov tagylymy» dedicated to the 125th anniversary of K.K. Zhubanov, Aktobe, November 1, 2024, pp.241-244

Research structure and scope. The dissertation consists of an introduction, two chapters, a conclusion, a list of references. The results of the research is presented in 30 tables. The reference list includes 192 sources. The dissertation has 183 pages in total.

The dissertation research work is prepared in line with relevant fields of linguistics, such as phraseology, lexicology, cognitive linguistics, linguoaxiology, and the State Programs of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 914, dated October 16, 2023, on the «Approval of the Concept for the Development of Language Policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2029».

Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 659, dated September 13, 2021, on the «Measures for Implementing the Address of the Head of State to the People of Kazakhstan» from September 1, 2021, «Unity of the People and Systemic Reforms – A Strong Foundation for the Country's Prosperity» (with amendments from April 17, 2023).

Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 724, dated October 12, 2021, on the approval of the national project «National Spiritual Revival».

Historical and cultural heritage and spiritual values of Kazakhstan. The unity of history and culture, literature and language, customs and values // On the approval of the State Program for the Development of Education and Science of the Republic of

Kazakhstan for 2020-2025: Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated December 27, 2019, No. 988.

PhD candidate's contribution to preparing each research publication. The author independently completed the entire scope of the dissertation, selected the research methodology, addressed the tasks aligned with the research objectives, and prepared publications related to the study. The formulation of research tasks and the discussion of obtained results were conducted collaboratively with academic supervisors.