



ZOONYMIC LEXICON OF KARAKALPAK AND ENGLISH PAREMIOLOGY

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Abstract. This article explores the zoonymic lexicon found in Karakalpak and English proverbs, highlighting how animals serve as symbolic figures that convey cultural values, human traits, and social norms. By analyzing the representation of key animals such as the wolf, horse, and camel in Karakalpak proverbs, and the wolf, bird, and sheep in English sayings, the study reveals both similarities and differences shaped by each culture's ecological environment and historical background. The article further discusses the role of zoonymic proverbs in cultural transmission and intercultural understanding. The findings demonstrate that while animal symbolism varies, the universal use of zoonymic imagery strengthens the connection between language, culture, and nature.

Keywords: zoonymic lexicon, Karakalpak proverbs, English proverbs, animal symbolism, cultural values, paremiology, comparative linguistics, intercultural communication

Introduction. Language reflects culture, environment, and human interaction with nature. One fascinating aspect of language study is the examination of paremiology—the study of proverbs—which reveals deep cultural values and traditional wisdom. Among proverbs, those containing zoonyms (animal names) are particularly insightful. This article explores the zoonymic lexicon of Karakalpak and English paremiology, aiming to compare and analyze how animals are symbolized and conceptualized in the proverbs of these two languages. By highlighting the semantic roles and cultural connotations of animal-related expressions, we gain a better understanding of the cultural worldviews embedded in the Karakalpak and English linguistic traditions.

In Karakalpak paremiology, animals play a crucial role as symbols of various human qualities and social norms. Because Karakalpakstan's environment is dominated by steppes, deserts, and semi-arid zones, the animals frequently referenced in proverbs are those that thrive in these conditions. Consequently, camels, horses and eagles are recurrent figures in the Karakalpak zoonymic lexicon. Firstly, the horse (at) holds a significant place in Karakalpak culture due to the historical importance of nomadic pastoralism. The proverb "At qádirin joq biler, as qádirin toq biler" emphasizes respect and responsibility. Unlike some cultures that view the horse purely as a tool or status symbol, Karakalpak proverbs suggest a reciprocal relationship, indicating that humans must care for their animals, which in turn support their livelihood. Additionally, the camel (túye), often seen as a symbol of patience and endurance, appears in proverbs such as "At aylıgın oylaydı, Túye jıllıgın oylaydı, Eshek eki ayağınıń asın oylaydı". This implies that the wise and experienced have the final say in

important matters. The camel's ability to endure harsh desert conditions metaphorically represents human perseverance in difficult times. Furthermore, the eagle (búrkít) symbolizes freedom, sharp vision, and power. Although less frequent in proverbs compared to horses or camels, the eagle's imagery conveys lofty ideals and vigilance. For instance, "Ájeli jetken gárga, búrkít penen oynaydı". In summary, the Karakalpak zoonymic lexicon in proverbs is deeply intertwined with the natural environment and nomadic lifestyle, reflecting values such as wisdom, responsibility, endurance, and community [5].

On the other hand, English paremiology, shaped by different ecological and cultural conditions, employs animals common in the British Isles and other English-speaking regions, such as birds, sheep, wolves, and chickens. These animals serve as metaphors to teach lessons about human behavior and social norms. One of the most famous English proverbs is "A wolf in sheep's clothing," which warns of deception and hidden threats. Here, the wolf is associated with cunning and danger, contrasting sharply with the innocence and vulnerability represented by the sheep. This metaphor reflects societal caution and the need to be vigilant against false appearances. Similarly, birds appear frequently in English proverbs, often symbolizing alertness and initiative. The saying "The early bird catches the worm" encourages prompt action and rewards diligence. In this case, the bird's behavior is anthropomorphized to provide practical advice about the value of being proactive. Another common English proverb is "Don't count your chickens before they hatch," which uses the chicken, a familiar domestic animal, to warn against premature optimism or assuming success too early. This reflects a practical and cautious mindset rooted in agricultural experience. Moreover, English proverbs often emphasize humility, patience, and prudence, with animals symbolizing these virtues. For example, the phrase "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink" uses the horse to convey the limits of external influence over individual will. In brief, English zoonymic proverbs are largely influenced by pastoral and agricultural life and often focus on warning, prudence, and the consequences of human behavior [2, 103-105].

Despite the differences in fauna and cultural settings, Karakalpak and English proverbs share a common feature: animals serve as metaphors to express human experiences, ethical teachings, and societal values. Both languages use the zoonymic lexicon to simplify complex human traits and behaviors through familiar animal characteristics. However, there are clear differences. For example, the wolf in Karakalpak proverbs often embodies positive traits such as foresight and loyalty, whereas in English, the wolf more commonly symbolizes danger and deceit. This contrast underscores how cultural perception shapes animal symbolism. Additionally, animals that are central to the daily life of the community tend to appear more frequently in proverbs. Thus, horses and camels are prominent in Karakalpak expressions because of the nomadic heritage, while birds and sheep dominate English proverbs due to agricultural traditions. Furthermore, the functions of proverbs

differ slightly. Karakalpak proverbs often stress respect for nature and the balance between humans and animals, reflecting a worldview of coexistence. Conversely, English proverbs frequently emphasize individual caution and social morality, which aligns with Western cultural values of individualism and pragmatism.

It is important to recognize that zoonymic proverbs play a critical role in transmitting cultural knowledge and social norms across generations. They act as mnemonic devices, making moral lessons more relatable and memorable through animal imagery. For instance, the proverb “At qádirin joq biler, as qádirin toq biler” not only teaches responsibility but also reinforces the traditional importance of horses in Karakalpak society. Similarly, English children learn caution and prudence early through sayings like “Don’t count your chickens before they hatch.” Moreover, the zoonymic lexicon preserves environmental awareness. Since animals featured in proverbs are part of the local ecosystem, the proverbs encourage respect for biodiversity and highlight human dependence on nature. Finally, in a globalizing world, understanding zoonymic proverbs can foster intercultural dialogue. By studying how different cultures symbolize animals, people gain insight into other value systems and worldviews.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the study of the zoonymic lexicon in Karakalpak and English proverbs highlights both shared human values and distinct cultural views. While animals in both languages symbolize human virtues and social lessons, the specific animals and their meanings reflect each culture’s unique environment and history. Karakalpak proverbs, rooted in nomadic traditions, focus on animals like horses, camels, and wolves as symbols of endurance and respect. In contrast, English proverbs, influenced by agricultural life, emphasize birds, sheep, and wolves to teach caution and social morals. Zoonymic proverbs also play an important role in passing down cultural knowledge and promoting respect for nature. Studying them enhances linguistic understanding and intercultural awareness, showing the deep link between language, culture, and nature

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