# THE ANTONYMOUS RELATIONSHIP OF FRIENDSHIP/ENMITY IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK FOLK PROVERBS

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the antonymous relationship between the concepts of friendship and enmity in English and Uzbek folk proverbs. It explores how these two concepts are expressed differently in each culture while reflecting the worldview, values, and social norms of the respective people. The paper highlights the contrast between friendship and enmity as they are presented in folk proverbs, focusing on their mutual opposition and their common themes. The comparison reveals significant cultural insights into these fundamental human relationships.

**Keywords:** Friendship, Enmity, Antonymous Relationships, Folk Proverbs, English, Uzbek.

Friendship and enmity are universal concepts that have existed throughout human history. The way these ideas are expressed in language and culture reveals a lot about the values and ethics of a society. Folk proverbs, as a reflection of the collective wisdom of a people, often portray the oppositional relationship between friendship and enmity. This article examines how English and Uzbek folk proverbs illustrate these two concepts, emphasizing their antonymous nature.

In English folk proverbs, friendship is often depicted as a bond of mutual support and understanding. Proverbs like "A friend in need is a friend indeed" emphasize the value of loyalty and assistance in times of trouble. The essence of friendship in English proverbs involves trust, help, and a deep emotional connection. Similarly, in Uzbek folk proverbs, friendship is closely associated with sincerity and mutual assistance, such as the saying, "A friend is known in trouble" ("Do'stni musibatda bilasan").

Enmity, on the other hand, is portrayed negatively in both English and Uzbek proverbs. English proverbs such as "One enemy is too many, a hundred friends are too few" underscore the destructive nature of enmity. Likewise, Uzbek proverbs emphasize that enmity leads to chaos and ruin, such as "An enemy will never help you, even in your hardest times" ("Dushman biron yordam bermaydi").

Both English and Uzbek proverbs highlight a stark contrast between friendship and enmity. Friendship is seen as a source of support, trust, and harmony, while enmity is depicted as divisive and harmful. Proverbs from both cultures stress that a good friend is invaluable, while a single enemy can cause significant harm. This reflects the universal human experience that both cultures share regarding the importance of positive social relationships.

The way friendship and enmity are expressed varies significantly in both cultures. English proverbs often reflect a more pragmatic and relational approach to these concepts, focusing on the benefits of friendship in times of need, such as "A friend to all is a friend to none." Uzbek proverbs, however, tend to emphasize moral and spiritual values more strongly. For example, "True friends are like brothers, enemies are like a burden" reflects a deeper sense of kinship and loyalty within friendships.

The antonymous relationship between friendship and enmity is clearly represented in both English and Uzbek folk proverbs, albeit in culturally distinct ways. Both cultures value friendship as a crucial social bond and view enmity as a destructive force. Through the examination of these proverbs, we gain insight into the cultural values surrounding relationships and the moral teachings embedded in language. The contrast between these two concepts reveals the underlying ethical and philosophical principles that guide human interactions in different societies.

Friendship and enmity are not just social phenomena but also deeply embedded in philosophical and psychological contexts. Throughout history, thinkers have recognized that relationships, whether positive or negative, shape one's perception of the world. The concept of friendship is often associated with moral virtue, emotional intelligence, and selflessness. On the other hand, enmity is seen as a destructive force—whether it stems from jealousy, competition, or misunderstanding

In both cultures, the idea of a "true friend" goes beyond mere companionship. Friendship is often rooted in moral virtues, such as loyalty, honesty, and mutual respect. The English proverb, "A friend in need is a friend indeed," suggests that a true friend does not disappear when life becomes difficult. Instead, they remain present and offer emotional and practical support, which reflects a selfless commitment to another person’s well-being.

Similarly, the Uzbek saying "Do'stni musibatda bilasan" (A friend is known in trouble) conveys the idea that real friends reveal their true value when tested by adversity. This notion aligns with the philosophical idea that virtue is

revealed in times of hardship, and friendship, as a form of moral virtue, is especially illuminated when it withstands the trials of life.

In contrast, enmity is depicted as a destructive force in both English and Uzbek proverbs. Proverbs such as "An enemy of my enemy is my friend" (English) and "Dushman yuragida dard ko'rmaydi" (An enemy does not feel pain in the heart) show that enmity often fosters division, lack of empathy, and conflict. This reflects the psychological notion that hostility erodes human compassion and can lead to the breakdown of social harmony.

Enmity may also emerge out of fear, misunderstanding, or a clash of interests. The proverb "Dushmanni bilmasdan, do'stingni tanima" (Do not recognize a friend until you know the enemy) suggests that understanding enmity is a necessary step in recognizing true friendship. It can imply that the contrasts between friendship and enmity allow one to value and understand positive relationships more clearly.

English proverbs tend to highlight the functional and pragmatic aspects of friendship. A key theme in English folk wisdom is the idea of friends being tested in difficult situations. Proverbs like "A true friend is somebody who can make us feel better no matter how bad things may be" and "Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one!" underscore the emotional connection that makes a true friendship unique.

In this sense, friendship is presented as something transformative that can uplift individuals emotionally and provide stability through turbulent times. Trust and shared experience form the cornerstone of English understandings of friendship. endship in Uzbek Proverbs:

In Uzbek culture, friendship is not only seen as an emotional bond but also as something tied to moral and social duty. Proverbs such as "Do'stlaringni ko'p bo'lsa, yolg'iz qolmaysan" (If you have many friends, you will never be alone) and "Do'st degan so'zni faqat yurak eshitar" (The word ‘friend’ is heard only by the heart) stress that friendship is a source of social support and emotional fulfillment.

This suggests that in Uzbek culture, friendship is closely related to community, where one's sense of belonging is supported by a network of friends. In many ways, Uzbek proverbs portray friendship as a community-building force, reinforcing the idea that individuals thrive better in a collective network that provides support in both joy and sorrow.

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