EPRA International Journal of Environmental Economics, Commerce and Educational Management
Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra0414 |ISI I.F Value: 0.815|SJIF Impact Factor (2025): 8.57 ISSN: 2348 – 814X
Volume: 12 | Issue:10 |October 2025 -Peer Reviewed Journal

STRUCTURAL AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ANIMAL-RELATED PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN KHOREZM DIALECTS

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Article DOI: https://doi.org/10.36713/epra24348
DOI No: 10.36713/epra24348

ABSTRACT
This article analyzes the structural, morphological, and semantic aspects of phraseological units related to animals found in the regional dialects of Khorezm. In particular, it examines the typology of animal names used in dialectal phrasemes, their motives for usage, and their stylistic-semantic foundations.
KEYWORDS: *Dialect, Vernacular, Oghuz Dialect, Kipchak Dialect, Phraseology, Dialectal Phraseme, Zoonym, Structural-Semantic Analysis*

As Abdulla Avloniy noted, *"The language and literature of a nation reflect the essence of its existence in the world. To lose a national language is to lose the soul of the nation"* [2]. Indeed, to preserve and develop the Uzbek national language and to pass it on to future generations in a rich and meaningful form, it is necessary to conduct continuous research, study its structure in depth, and examine its subtle aspects.

Every element belonging to the national language serves as valuable material for the Uzbek literary language and its lexical treasury. Among these, the dialects and vernaculars of the Uzbek language preserve many linguistic units. Identifying, collecting, and studying the lexical units present in regional dialects plays an important role in enriching the Uzbek language.

Dialects are one of the main sources of the Uzbek language's lexical reservoir. Therefore, it is appropriate to begin efforts to develop our language by studying its dialects and vernaculars. Particularly, the Oghuz and Kipchak dialects contain many linguistic elements that are more dialectal in nature than the dominant Karluk dialect.

Khorezm region is characterized by the widespread presence of dialects belonging to both Oghuz and Kipchak groups. Although these dialects are also observed in other Uzbek-speaking areas, those of Khorezm are distinguished by their unique features and preservation of ancient and regional elements.

Efforts aimed at developing the state language require creating a system that preserves the distinctive phrasemes found in local dialects. Therefore, this study focuses on identifying and analyzing the specific characteristics of animal-related phrasemes present in the Khorezm dialectal lexicon. In this context, it is necessary to briefly address the study of phraseology and dialectology in Uzbek linguistics.

Research on Uzbek phraseology dates back to the 1950s–60s, including the works of Shavkat Rahmatullayev such as *"Frazeologik birliklarning asosiy ma'no turlari"* (1956), *"O'zbek frazeologiyasining ba'zi masalalari"* (1965), and *"O'zbek tilining izohli frazeologik lug'ati"* (1978) [7,8,9], as well as B. Yo'ldoshev's doctoral dissertation *"Hozirgi o'zbek adabiy tilida frazeologik birliklarning funksional-uslubiy xususiyatlari"* (1993) [12]. Most of these studies focus on literary Uzbek rather than dialectal material.

The study of Khorezm dialects also began in the 1960s, with works such as F. Abdullayev's *"Xorazm shevalari"* (1961) [1], O. Madrahimov's *"O'zbek tilining o'g'uz lahjasi leksikasi"* (1973) [5], and A. Ishayev's *"Qoraqalpog'istondagi o'zbek shevalari"* (1977) [11]. Most of these studies examined the lexical system, whereas the phraseological system has not been specifically analyzed. Thus, focusing on dialectal phraseological units in Khorezm dialects gives this research unique scientific value.

Notably, in 2022, a comprehensive *"O'zbek tili frazeologik lug'ati"* [10] was published. However, since this study is devoted to dialectal phrasemes, this dictionary is addressed in separate works. For this research, the primary source was *"Xorazm shevalaridagi maqol va iboralarning qisqacha izohli lug'ati"* (2022) [4] by Sh. Norbayeva, N. Sa'dullayeva, and M. Atabayeva.

Among the dialectal phrasemes recorded in Khorezm dialects, those related to animals stand out for their distinctive semantics. In linguistic literature, these are referred to using various terms such as phraseological combinations, phrasemes, phraseological units, idioms, etc. [6]. In this paper, the term *dialectal phraseme* is used, following H. Jamolxonov [3].

Animal-related dialectal phrasemes often involve domestic animals that are close to people's daily lives, with "dog" (*it*) and "donkey" (*eshak*) being the most frequently used. For example:

- *Innä jutgan itdin* (a very skinny person, p. 31)
- *Itdän alib, idalikä saladı* ("to harass someone persistently," p. 32)
- *It ürgän jerdän qälmidi* (used for a guest who never misses any event, p. 32)
- *Batmaqda it jortqännin* / *It lājlïqda jurïtgännin* (doing something with flaws, p. 17, 32).

Phraseological units are generally metaphorical, equivalent in meaning to a single word, and contain artistic and figurative expressions. Certain phrasemes reflect traditional associations with particular animals.

Another frequently used animal in Khorezm dialectal phrasemes is the donkey (*eshak*), e.g., *Äpändi sïɣmaɣan jerä ešäki bïlän gälibdi* ("bringing a large object into a small place," p. 13). Sometimes both dog and donkey appear in the same phraseme, e.g., *Itdän alib, ešäkä mindirädi* (p. 32), which is semantically close to *Itdän alib, idalikä saladı*.

Stylistic variants are also common. For instance, *qan jalaɣan qanžïqdïn* ("with a blood-red face," p. 42) and *tandïra qaraɣan kűčűkdïn* ("waiting for something for a long time," p. 47).

Dialectal features are expressed through phonetic, affixal, or lexical elements within phrasemes. For example, *idalikä*, *innä*, and the suffix *-din* in *itdin* differ from literary Uzbek. In some cases, only affixal elements mark dialectal character, as in *tandïra qaraɣan kűčűkdïn*, where *-a* (directional case), *-ɣan* (participle), and *-din* (ablative) give the phraseme its dialectal identity.

Animal-related phrasemes in Khorezm dialects also feature names of chicken, goat, horse, sheep, frog, monkey, and others. Collecting and analyzing these dialectal phraseological units contributes significantly to enriching the lexical and phraseological resources of the Uzbek language.

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