

SEMIOTIC ANALYSES OF “BYSCHAK” (KNIFE) IN KYRGYZ CULTURE

СЕМИОТИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ СЛОВА «БЫЧАК» В КЫРГЫЗСКОЙ КУЛЬТУРЕ

Аннотациясы: Кайсы болбосун чет мамлекетке барган учурда, ошол мамлекеттин каада – салттарына ар дайым урматтоо менен мамиле кылуу керек. Кыргызстан көп улуттуу мамлекет, андагы улуттар калыптанып калган оздоруно таандык жашоо турмушка ээ.

Негизги сөздөр: уруулук байланыш, тумар, белги, ишенич(ишеним), ырымжырым, каада – салт, типтик белги, интерпретациялоо, символ, маданияттуу нарктар.

Аннотация: При посещении любого иностранного государства необходимо с уважением относиться к местным обычаям и традициям. Кыргызстан многонациональная страна, в которой представители других наций имеют устоявшийся свой образ жизни.

Ключевые слова: родовые связи, амулет, талисман, примета, вера, суеверие, традиции, обычаи, типичный признак, интерпретация, символ, культурные ценности.

Abstract: When visiting any foreign country it is always polite to respect the local customs and traditions. Kyrgyzstan is a multinational country, and besides Kyrgyz population there are also many other nationalities with its own mode of life.

Keywords: ancestral ties, amulet, tumar, omen, belief, superstition traditions, customs, typical sign, interpretation, symbol, cultural values.

Customs and rituals of Kyrgyz people passed a complicated route of historical development. The formation of basic typical sign happened in close relation with Turk Mongolian ethno cultural milieu. Searching for better pastures and water supplies cattle-breeder with his family often passed from one place to another, joining all economic, trading, family conjugal relations with related tribes, as well as with strangers. The exchanged of information, cultural values, working skill, mutual enrich in culture and economical domestic technology happened. Important changes were in each stage of development. At the same time, owing to strong

family, tribal and ancestral ties, all the best from the lives of ancestors had been kept and saved.

Beliefs and Superstitions

The following are some beliefs and superstitions of the Kyrgyzstan people. Most of the Kyrgyzstan people do not believe in them, but some do.

They say you gain more enemies:

- If you sweep the house at night.
- If you wipe a knife with bread.
- If you leave a broom standing against the wall.
- If you step over a lying gun or man.
- If knife fall down on the floor wait a man

coming soon at your house, if spoon or fork wait a woman.

From our history we have a lot of superstitions – and one of them that you cannot give a knife as a gift. It is believed that a knife as a gift can lead to a quarrel and the rupture of relations with those to whom you give the knife.

There is the following interpretation of why the knife – a bad omen. The reason is the love of evil forces to sharp corners, what exactly is the knife itself. It turns out that the donation of a knife (and a sword, scissors, and all that has sharp corners and cuts), we cannot help we give to man and the evil spirit.

Knife is impossible not only for us, also in Russia. In China and South America gift knife can be perceived by the recipient as the end of the friendship.

In addition to the signs, gift knife described in the books. For example, gets a knife as a gift from her lover so soon ending love.

However, the knife itself is remarkable and, at times, present no alternative, so superstitious people figured out how to avoid bad luck. All you need to do is take the person to whom giving a knife, or a penny ruble – and that's been presented to the knife becomes legally sold.

However, not all cultures cannot give knife as a present to someone. For example, in the Middle East knife-gift – a welcome gift, a token of respect and trust to man. In Japan, it is considered that given the knife can bring good luck and ward off your bad fate. In Finland, where the knife gift is a symbol of trust and friendship, representatives of commercial organizations, clubs, and even civil servants prefer to give Finn his employers and business partners.

Yes, that really Japan and Finland – from the Slavic peoples was a good tradition to give swords, sabers and daggers atamans, generals and kings.

But a knife has another meaning for Kyrgyz culture. The birth of a child is the most important joyful event in the Kyrgyz life of the family and clan. The child in the family – is a kind of successor, a symbol of immortality of people.

Pregnant women wore different amulets. Women hung an amulet called “tumar” with letter from Koran sewed inside, an amulet out of bear nail “ayou turmagy”, hands of eagle owl. For the preservation of the laboring woman by evil spirits during childbirth in the tent during the day and at night we put a knife to the edge of the door. On the

lattice skeleton of the yurt – “kerege” hung over the head of the woman loaded gun. These items are believed to scare away evil spirits, distilled malicious force. Also when the pregnant woman saw the knife in her dream it means that she will give birth to a son. If the pregnant women or one of the members of her family will find a knife it also considered a sign that a pregnant woman will give birth to a son.

If the child worried or frightened from something people put a knife under the pillow. Kyrgyz believed that knife will protect and scare away evil spirits.

When a child begins to make his first independent steps, parents organized the festival “Tushoo Kesuu” – ceremonies dedicated to the first steps of a child. Child stood in front of yurt with legs bandaged legs thread woven from two thin woolen threads. Moreover, the thread must have been white and black colors – “ala gip”. They symbolize the struggle between two principles – light and darkness, good and evil. According to custom Kyrgyz life consists of bright happy and bad days. That's why child should be strong since childhood. Therefore; a child must be prepared for all situations.

“Tushoo Kesuu” usually starts in the morning (10-11 hours). On the opposite side of the yurt, where there is a child with bandaged legs, towards the kid on the team started jogging “zharysh” children aged from 8 to 12 years. Here the knife has an important role, winner cut the bandaged legs. This knife, he took away also received a small prize. Usually, the ceremony was repeated several times running: running older children, then adults. The winner of each race cut a new tie-up, pick up a knife, received the prize. The purpose of the race – a magical way to make a child soon learned to walk. This ceremony is the main features and functions at the moment.

Customs and ceremonies connected with engagement and marriage. According to custom there used to be an old form of engagement “kudalashuu”. Relatives married children, who not born yet to make friendship with neighbors. Beside this people swore to be tight friends till the rest of life confirming this by rituals they touched an arrow with teeth, tasted blood of each other and broke the branch of tree together, exchanged spittle and so on. If marriage of children was bad but relatives of both sides still were real friends. As to bride she had special bans. She must not call relatives of husband by names; she must not sit in front of husband's relatives with her back to them, or with her legs stretched, with uncovered head, naked, speak loudly, to escape of

direct meeting with husband's relatives and so on. But relatives of husband had also special "etiquette" concerning to daughter in law. Ritual meaning had custom of initiation. Each family from husband side and wife invited new-wed to get acquainted. In new-wed honor relatives cut an animal, dressed white scarf on bride's head "ak joluk". White color meant a symbol of purity, happy life, happiness and kind thoughts. And knife has an important role here also, for example: the bride's family gives for her daughter special present "sep" (сеп), where they put a lot of things including crockery, sheets, national shyrdak and etc. But family cannot present knife or include it as a gift, because it would mean that the bride can become the enemy then for her family or it may lead to quarrels with family.

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