

**CULTURAL SEMIOTICS. INTERPRETATION OF CONVENTIONAL SIGNS OF TWO NATIONS: KYRGYZ AND AMERICAN**

**СРАВНЕНИЕ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ СИМВОЛОВ КЫРГЫЗСТАНА И АМЕРИКИ**

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***Аннотациясы:** Бул макалада эки улуттун, кыргыз жана америка, маданий символдору каралат. Макалада Кыргыз республикасынын жана Америка кошмо штаттарынын символдору болгон гимн, флаг жана герб каралып, окшоштуктар жана айырмачылыктар берилген.*

***Негизги сөздөр:** семиотика, интерпритациялоо, белгилер*

***Аннотация:** В этой статье рассматриваются культурные символы двух наций как кыргызов и американцев. Статья рассматривает национальные символы как гимн, флаг и герб Кыргызской республики и Соединенных Штатов Америки, и выделяет сходства и различия между ними.*

***Ключевые слова:** семиотика, интерпретация, знаки*

***Annotation:** This article deals with the cultural symbols of two nations as Kyrgyz and American. It reviews the national symbols as anthem, flag and the emblem of Kyrgyz Republic and the United States of America, reveals the similarities and the differences between them.*

***Key words:** semiotics, interpretation, signs.*

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We have chosen as a topic of our research symbols of the two countries, two cultures Kyrgyzstan and America. But first it would be better to clarify what exactly the conventional signs are proceeding from

the semiotics of culture. Semiotics of Culture – a symbolic means of culture, as well as consideration of all cultural phenomena as texts. In this case, based on the fact that a necessary component of any culture is the information that is always stored and transmitted through signs constituted as a text. “Text” can be not only written message, but any artifact, which is considered as a carrier of information. Along with the natural, functional, iconic signs, there are conventional (conditional) signs. Conventional (conditional) signs – artificially created signs that people have agreed to attribute a certain value. There are three main types of conventional signs – signals, codes and symbols. Signals – notification or warning signs, such as traffic light colors. Codes – symbols of objects or situations that have a compact form and used to identify these objects and situations from a number of others. Symbols – signs, not only pointing to an object, but also carrying the additional meaning. Examples of symbols are the state emblem, flag, and anthem – symbolic signs of state dignity.

Every civilization naturally undergoes changes in the political, economic, cultural and historical ways of development similar to our compared cultures. Every culture has signs, symbols, attributes, etc., which people establish and agree among themselves on the values of these signs.

Analyzed signs, symbols as emblem, anthem and flag at the present stage are carriers of especially important attributes. Before talking about the people or a nation, we talk about their merits, and, dignity is represented by signs that give the main attributes of the country, namely the flag, emblem and anthem. Comparing flags of the two countries, two cultures, we learn the philosophy of the whole nation. Thus, the flags of the two countries, on the one hand America, which is still not fully explored, which is one of the great powers, which has an effect on the economic and political life of other countries and a small country as Kyrgyzstan.

**Flag of Kyrgyzstan.** Ratio: 1: 2. Is red, in the center of the plotting the yellow sun. In the sun there is an image of the Kyrgyz yurt. Image of yurt symbolizes motherland. The red color of the flag symbolizes the valor and courage. Red flag was the color of the flag of great and generous Manas. Life-giving radiant golden sun, swim in its rays, is a symbol of eternal life, represents peace and wealth, the desire for light, for knowledge. 40 rays, united in a circle denote the union of 40 ancient tribes in the United Kyrgyzstan. 40 rays of the sun is 40 soldiers

of great Manas. The width of the flag is three-fifths of its length. The diameter of the radiant disk is three-fifths of the width of the flag. Diameter ratio of solar and radiant discs – three to five. Tyundyuk diameter is half the diameter of the radiant disk. The flag was approved in March 3, 1992 by decision of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic. Authors: E. Aidarbekov,

B. Zhaychybekov, S. Iptarov, J. Mataev, M. Sydykov. A flag flaunts over all administrative buildings and institutions. In mourning a flag of Kyrgyzstan is omitted completely. **Flag of America.** Seven red and six white horizontal equal alternating bands. In the upper left corner of the blue rectangle, 50 white stars. The meaning and history of the flag of the USA: Thirteen stripes represent the 13 colonies that formed the Independent States (Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island). Blue symbolizes Union. Stars in blue corresponds to the number of states (currently of 50). The red color represents the endurance and valor; dark blue – diligence, fairness, vigilance; white – innocence and purity.

The ratio of width to length is 10:19. Flag of the US flaunts in national celebrations and special days.

**An emblem of Kyrgyz Republic** – the official state symbol of the Kyrgyz Republic; was developed by A. Abdraev and S. Dubanayev and approved in January 14, 1994 by resolution of the Jogorku Kenesh. In the center of the emblem on a background of Issyk-Kul Lake and ridges of Ala-Too, on which the sun rises, the image of a white eagle with outspread wings, symbolizing freedom and independence of Kyrgyzstan. Silhouette of the sun is a symbol of life, wealth and abundance. This element is highlighted in the state symbols. Top of mountains, lit by the sun, like the Kyrgyz national hat “kalpak.”

In the worldview of nomads a special place is given to prairie eagle or golden eagle. In the language of symbolism silhouette of eagle means state power, breadth and sagacity. For the prairies it is a symbol of freedom, independence, striving for a goal, to the height of the flight into the future. In the emblem of Kyrgyzstan there is Manas’ eagle “Ak-Shumkar”. Cotton and wheat, bordering the emblem symbolizes the diversity of cultures in Kyrgyzstan and at the same time the unity, uniting all their diversity into a

coherent whole – the people of Kyrgyzstan.

**An emblem of the United States** or Great Seal of the United States – is used to authenticate documents issued by the United States Government. US Secretary of State is the official keeper of the Great Seal. One can see it in the exhibition hall of the State Department in Washington.

The front side (obverse). Its main element is Bald Eagle only in the United States (Americans call it “bald eagle”) – a symbol of sovereignty and power. It is also a national symbol of the United States. In one paw it holds 13 arrows, in the other an olive branch, symbolizing that the United States “want peace, but always ready for war.” The olive branch is traditionally depicted with 13 leaves and 13 olives. Eagle’s head turned towards the olive branch, which means greater preference is given to peace, not war. Branch and arrows also means “country which is great in the world, as well as in war.” On the breast of an eagle there is a shield with 13 red and white stripes, the upper part of the shield is blue. Symbol resembles the flag, but on the emblem there are 7 white stripes and 6 red. Sometimes the blue part of the shield represents the 50 stars. In its beak eagle holds a scroll with an inscription in Latin «E Pluribus Unum», which is translated as “Out of many – One” and reminiscent of the origin of the state by combining states. Shown at the top of the emblem on a blue background 13 stars arranged in the shape of a star (Star of David) and surrounded by a golden halo and clouds, illustrated the idea of founders of the new state that emerged from the 13 states, and will take its rightful place among the glorious Peace, like constellations in the sky.

The reverse side. Few people know that the feature of the Great Seal of the US is the presence of two unequal sides, while it has only one print side. The back of the print depicts a standing on a grassy plain trapezoidal unfinished pyramid, the top of which is crowned with an eye in the triangle. Pyramid consists of thirteen levels.

Reverse side is sometimes called its spiritual side. List of all the element numbers is thirteen. You must have noticed that many of the elements on the emblem are repeated 13 times, for example, 13 stars, 13 stripes, 13 olive leaves etc. In fact, this is not surprising, just 13 – the first is the number of states, of which originally consisted of an independent state.

**National Anthem of the Kyrgyz Republic** was approved by the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz

Republic in December 18, 1992. Lyrics: Zh.Sadykov, Sh.Kuluev, Music: N.Davlesov, K.Moldobasanov. Translation from Kyrgyz: K.Akmatov and M.A.Rudov. **US Anthem.** Until 1931, the United States has not officially recognized national anthem. Very often, the song “Hail, Columbia” (“Hail Columbia”) was used as an anthem. Music of a song “Hail Columbia”, also known as the “President’s March”, was written in 1789 by Philip File for the inauguration of the first US President George Washington. In 1798, Joseph Hopkinson wrote the lyrics of the song. “Hail Columbia” today is one of the most popular patriotic songs in the USA. Francis Scott Key, author of the text of the USA anthem. Lyrics “The Star-Spangled Banner”, which later became the national anthem of the United States, were written in 1814. They wrote the poet, a lawyer by profession, thirty-five years old Francis Scott Key. In September 3, 1814, Francis Scott Key and John Stuart Skinner, a lawyer and publisher, sailed from Baltimore to negotiate with the British. It was the military conflict between Great Britain and the United States, known as the “Second American Revolutionary War,” and the aim of the negotiations was an agreement on the exchange of prisoners. Francis Key and John Skinner acted on behalf of US President James Madison. Initially, the British were not going to compromise, but Key and Skinner showed British commanders letters of wounded British soldiers captured by the Americans in which they spoke very favorably about the conditions and thanked for medical care. As a result, an agreement was reached. After returning home of Francis Key his cousin Judge Joseph Nicholson said that a poem written by Francis lies well to the music of “Hymn of Anacreon.” New patriotic song quickly became popular in the United States.

US national anthem is performed by music, written in 1766 by an English musicologist, organist and singer John Stafford Smith. The tune was written as a comic hymn “Company Anacreon,” London gentlemen’s club of amateur musicians, whose meetings are usually devoted to “wit, harmony and the god of wine.” Later, it became very common as a song for friends, namely as a “sobriety test”. The fact that the tune “Hymn Anacreon” quite difficult, and if the gentleman could sing with no errors at least one verse, it was thought that he might continue libations. Since 1889 “Banner, strewn with stars” – the official song of the Navy United States, since 1916 – the anthem of the US President. In March 3,

1931 the thirty-first US President Herbert Hoover signed the resolution of the US Congress, which “Banner, strewed with stars” was recognized as the official anthem of the United States.

Studying the state flags, emblems and anthems of America and Kyrgyzstan one can think about the fact that Kyrgyzstan does not particularly value these symbols and in America they give special importance on each of the state symbols. Maybe there are unwritten codes for state symbols of Kyrgyzstan, but it is most likely in the soul of every citizen of Kyrgyzstan, who considers himself responsible for these signs, for national symbols as the face of the people. Comparing the symbols of the two countries, we find similarities and differences, installing state symbols, each country tries to show the power of the country through the symbols indicating the importance, the value of these phenomena for the people, the state of humanity as a whole.

Comparison of two nations’ symbols showed that there are similarities; both depicted an eagle, the symbol of freedom and independence, in the flags of both countries red color symbolizing courage and valor. Sun in both cultures is on special place. Despite of different cultures and traditions these two nations follow similar moral values.

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