

PROVERBS ABOUT WOMEN (Comparison and translation on the basis of the Kyrgyz and English languages)

Abstract: This article represents an attempt to divide selected proverbs and sayings related to women according to meaning both in Kyrgyz and English (positive, negative and neutral) and to compare them with other objects.

Key words: proverbs and sayings, translation, comparison, explanation, equivalents, positive, negative and neutral meanings

Аннотациясы: Макалада негизги маселе, кыргыз жана англис тилдериндеги аял затына арналган кээ бир макал-лакаптарды маанисине карата (оң, терс жана орто маанидеги) бөлүп, аларды кандай заттар менен салыштырылгандыгын талдап чыгуу болуп саналат.

Түйүндүү сөздөр: макал-лакаптар, которуу, салыштыруу, түшүндүрүү, эквивалент, оң, терс жана орто маани.

Аннотация: В данной статье мы попытались разделить по смыслу некоторые пословицы и поговорки, связанные с женщинами на кыргызском и английском языках (как положительные, отрицательные и нейтральные) и выявить их сравнение с определенными объектами.

Ключевые слова: пословицы и поговорки, перевод, сравнение, объяснение, эквивалентность, положительные, отрицательные и нейтральные смыслы.

One of the developed genres of folklore is the study of proverbs and sayings, where ideas contained therein are explained both accurately and figuratively. This justifies the right for them to be called a nation's "encyclopedia of folk wisdom, education, traditions and customs". [1]

As stated in the Kyrgyz proverb "women are the beauty of the World", women play a great role in human society. How a woman understands differences between nations affects her place in life. In Kyrgyz culture the role of the woman is highly valued. And numerous proverbs and sayings on her role can be found in the Kyrgyz language.

Proverbs and sayings are a unique source of philosophical ideas as well. In 2005, linguist and scientist K. Konkobaev determined that there were 10,500 proverbs and sayings in Kyrgyz together with proverbs and sayings of China this amounted to 15,000 proverbs and sayings that he prepared for publication. [2]

In recent years inter-cultural communication has played a great role between different cultures. The first step to know about a nation begins from learning their folklore. The proverbs and sayings are a unique part of this process.

English is the language spoken by many people in the world and is known worldwide. But the Kyrgyz language is not well-known and it requires hard work for dissemination and recognition.

Many works have been written in the sphere of comparative/contrastive linguistics, comparing two languages such as Kyrgyz and English. Comparing and translating two different cultures representing two different language groups is a very interesting process.

We are fortunate that we are able to investigate and translate such works. In this way, dealing with the

category of women as a sociolinguistic theme will be useful in understanding the point of view and logic about women in two different cultures.

a) List of words related to women in Kyrgyz Proverbs and Sayings:

1) абысын (abysyn) – daughter-in-law, wives of brothers.

2) апа (apa) – mother

3) аял (ayal) – woman 1. an adult human being

2. woman that a man is married to

4) балдыз (baldyz) – sister-in-law, wife's younger sister

5) беш көкүл (besh kokul) – a young girl who is under age, in her teens (until age 18) [3]

6) жар (jar) – beloved, in the Kyrgyz language is one of the couple; husband or wife

7) жене (jene) – 1. uncle's wife, aunt

2. sister-in-law, brother's wife

8) жубан (juban) – a young bride whose husband went to war or somewhere else and didn't come back

9) зайып (zaip) – an adult woman who is married for many years and has got grandchildren

10) карындаш (karyndash) – a younger sister, can be called only by elder brothers but not sisters

11) катын (katyn) – rude term for a woman who is usually married

12) кайын эне (kain ene) – mother-in-law - mother of husband or wife

13) кемпир (kempir) – elderly and old woman

14) ургаачы (urgachy) – female. 1. being a woman or a girl.

2. of the sex that can lay eggs or give birth сінди (singdi) – younger sister, can be called only this by her elder sisters but not brothers

15) кыз (kyz) – 1. girl, until late teens

2. daughter

16) кары кыз (kary kyz) – old maid, on the shalf

17) өгөй эне (ogoy ene) – step-mother - woman who is married to your father but who is not your real mother

b) List of words related to women in English proverbs and sayings:

1) daughter

5) mother-in-law

2) daughter-in-law

6) wife

3) maid

7) woman

4) mother

8) widow

The process of finding similarities between the basic meaning of a word and its meaning after being compared with another object we call imitation. Such kind of richness of one language is considered to help the indirect meaning merge with the basic meaning.

In this article we tried to divide Kyrgyz and English proverbs and sayings according to their meaning (as positive, negative and neutral) and compare them with other objects.

a) Women – comparison with animals in proverbs and sayings.

• *Кыз деген буйлаган төө.*

This proverb has a mostly neutral meaning; (*A girl is like a reined camel*). It is also related to our culture. Our ancestors said that if someone wants to grow up a good and clever girl, they should not let her daughter do anything she wants. That is why most of the time girls sit at home like animals tied with a rope.

• *Адеби жок катын кабааак итке окшош* has a negative meaning; (*A woman with bad manners is like a barking dog*). By nature women, are considered to be well bred, tender, and sensitive. If they had no such good manners, they are like a barking dog.

• *Кызым, колумдан учурган кушум.*

This proverb has a neutral meaning; (*My daughter is like a bird flied from my hands*). No matter how long you will bring up your daughter, give her your love and tenderness she will never stay with you forever. Sooner or later she will be a member of another family; she will “fly away” from her nest.

• *The death of wives and the life of sheep make man rich*

Is negatively used; in this English proverb women are compared with sheep. For men, life of a sheep is more important than the death of a wife.

• *Кунажын көзүн сүзбөсө, бука жибин үзбөйт*

Has a negative meaning; (*If a cow does not make an eye to a bull, it won't tear it's rope*). It is said that women themselves tease men to make conversation or communication.

• *Wife a mouse, quite house, wife a cat dreadful that.*

Mostly has a neutral meaning; according to men, if a woman is as quiet as a mouse it is okay, but if she is as a cat, there will be always a quarrel.

• *Women in state affairs are like monkeys in glass shops*

Has a negative meaning; (It seems that every proverb related to women is said by men who do not like women or think themselves as fathers). Here women are compared with monkeys. Men think that the place of a woman is at home; she has to be busy with cleaning, washing, making

food, bringing up children etc. and should not work in state affairs.

b) Woman – Object and Place comparison.

• *A fair wife without a fortune is a fine house without furniture.*

Used negatively; (Sometimes even fairness does not help a woman if she has no fortune).

• *Жахшы катын – катын, жаман катын – отун.*

Gives a neutral meaning; (*A good wife is good, a bad wife is fire wood*).

• *A woman is like a cup of tea, you'll never know how strong she is until she boils.*

It is used in a negative way (that women are full of surprises, sometimes when they are angry, they may show another side).

• *Аял – үйгө тартылган желек, бала – элге калтырган белек.*

Said positively; (*A woman is a flag of a house, a child is a present given to a nation*).

• *Аялсыз эркек – канатсыз куш, эркексий аял – тамырсыз дарак.*

Gives a neutral meaning; (*A man without a woman is like a bird without wings, and a woman without a man is like a tree without roots*).

While translating Kyrgyz proverbs and sayings related to women into English, we used the descriptive, lexico-semantic, syntactic and parallel methods of translation.

In conclusion we would like to say that the folklore of every nation is unique as well as its history, traditions, customs and culture.

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- [2] “Шоокум” – илим, турмуш жана маданият журналы. К Исаев “Кыргыздар тегинен философ калк”, p. 8
- [3] Besh kököl – The second meaning is ‘girl's plaits let down from two sides of her face.’ (There are 5 plaits on each side). Кыргыз тилинин түшүндүрмө сөздүгү. Кырг.1984, p. 67
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