

WOMEN OF AMERICAN AND KYRGYZ CULTURES IN PROVERBS

The proverbs and sayings are the paper of folklore which is short but deep in the meaning.

Keywords: proverbs about women, Kyrgyz and American cultures, cultural similarities and differences.

Пословицы и поговорки являются частью фольклора, которые короткие по форме, но глубокие по смыслу.

Ключевые слова: пословицы о женщинах, сходства и различия кыргызской и американской культур.

The relationship between language and culture is deeply rooted. Language is used to maintain and convey culture and cultural ties. Proverbs were always the most vivacious and at the same time the most stable part of the national languages. In the proverbs and sayings picturesqueness of national thinking was more vivid expressed as well as their features of national' character. The proverbs and sayings are the paper of folklore which is short but deep in the meaning. They express the outlook of the amount of people by their social and ideal functions. Proverbs and sayings include themselves some certain features

of historical development and the culture of people.

Having studied the proverbs about women in American and Kyrgyz cultures a lot of similarities and diversities which were expressed with different structures depending on cultural differences have been found. Some similarities were provided with equivalents but there wasn't identified much equivalence.

Positive evaluation:

- First, I want to draw your attention to those points that can be perceived the same way.

For example in both cultures girls are honored and respected.

A simple maiden in her flower is worth a hundred coats-of-arms

Кыздын кырк чачы улуу.

Girls should be respected

- Second, in both cultures woman's role in the family as a wife is so great that it's associated with crown in English. *A worthy woman is the crown of her husband.*

Аял жакшы - эр жакшы.

Good wife, good husband

Only two equivalents of positive evaluation of women were identified.

Negative evaluation:

- That the role of women in the society is perceived the same way might draw everybody's attention. *A man of straw is worth a woman of gold*

Алтын баштуу аялдан бака баштуу эр артык. Gold headed woman isn't worth a frog headed man.

- If we compare abilities of men and women, the latter is capable of more mischievous attempts. In Kyrgyz it was expressed metaphorically that their mischief can be a kind of load for forty donkeys. *Women in mischief are wiser than men.*

Аялдын амалы кырк эшекке жүк

- In husband and wife relationship the importance of peace at home was highlighted. Inner atmosphere in the family is mostly dependent on wives as they are responsible for building comfort, warmth and good of the family.

He fasts enough whose wife scolds all dinner time.

Чыр аялдын күйөөсү эрте карыйт.

A man whose wife is rowdy ages earlier.

- Another similarity found in neutral evaluation of women is that in both cultures responsibilities are strictly divided into male and female labor.

Катын ишин билет, эркек кушун билет.

A woman builds her home, a man build his house.

- The final important similarity is that both cultures treat mothers heavenly that they are associated with God ruling the universe in English and paradise where everything is perfect in Kyrgyz.

To have a mother is to have God

Бейиш энелердин таман астында. Paradise is there where a mother's foot touches the ground

Specific to women in American culture:

What is specific to English proverbs about women is that they highlight the nature of women, positive and negative evaluation based on social stereotypes and importance of woman as a mother. From the proverbs mentioned above we witnessed that English culture is not family oriented. They lack such proverbs where girls are prepared for wifehood and motherhood. What should be taken into consideration in marriage, average age of marriage available for girls wasn't given. There wasn't a word about Virginity of girls and fidelity of a wife to husband. Feminine problems concerning gender equality can be found but not going too far as in Kyrgyz.

Specific to women in Kyrgyz culture:

It should be pointed out that in Kyrgyz culture girls are strictly divided according to their marital status. Girl - Кыз is a general word for small and adult girls who are unmarried. An unmarried adult girl is кара далы, whereas once married and divorced woman is жубан. Аял is a general word for married woman. A married girl is related to in-laws as келин – daughter-in-law. She is related to in-laws who are younger her husband as жеңе – aunt.

From the proverbs taken for analysis we witnessed that there are a lot of proverbs in Kyrgyz which foster girls in cleanliness, treating to them like temporary guests, preparing them for marriage. Before, divorce was considered to be a shame not only for girl's parents but also for the whole kinship and tribe therefore they tried to bring up a nice girl who can cope with any difficulties in wifehood and motherhood. Once married girl couldn't visit her parents whenever she liked, take an active part in family event in which she was born and brought up. To marry in proper time is also important otherwise she is called like old maid.

Кара далы - эр тандабайт,

An old maid chooses not a husband;

Өлөөр адам - жер тандабайт.

A dying man chooses not a place.

Skills and abilities to deal with household problems are considered to be one of the most important qualities which girls should have. Therefore sometimes young women are given priority over damsels who lack these qualities.

Атка бергис кунан бар, Кызга бергис жубан бар; There is a three year old foal which is worth a horse, There is a young woman who is worth a damsel;

In choosing future bride groom's parents play great role, because they choose judging by the fact whether she

comes out good kinship, especially her mother. They are sure that good mother brings up good girl believing that if something goes wrong, her mother will be the person to show the right way.

Ата жакшы – уул жакшы, эне жакшы – кыз жакшы; Good father-good son, good mother-good son Proverbs showing the rights of women in the family are also stated where they should be given enough care and attention marking that they shouldn't turn into slaves. *Катынды күтө албаган күң кылат; He who can't care about wife treats her as a slave*

Woman's role in the family and in the society is not the same. Women are the beauty of a home but in case there is no woman only kitchen is desolate, in case there is no man the whole house is desolate. It means that the head is father. Maternal leadership isn't appreciated that it leads to something unpleasant. *Аял башкарса-чөлгө; Эркек башкарса-көлгө; A woman leads to a desert A man leads to a lake*

Collectivistic culture of Kyrgyz people influences their everyday life and is illustrated in

Used Literature:

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2. Blehr, Otto. What Is a Proverb? *Fabula* (Göttingen) 14 (1973): 243-46
3. Абдубалиева Б.Ж. Турк элдеринин макалдарынын жалпылыктары жана озгочолуктору 2009

proverbs, teaching women manners in in-law relationship. Also the importance of mutual understanding is shown where the responsibility of in-laws in family affairs is highlighted. *Келин жаман эмес, келген жери жаман; A daughter-in-law is nice if in-laws are nice*

Virginity of girls and fidelity of women is significant in Kyrgyz culture. In such cases only women are criticized much in the society. It may happen to men but not to women. *Шашкан кыз эрге тийбейт, Этеги жерге тийбейт; A girl in a hurry never marries and often changes hands; Кунаажын көзүн сүзбөсө, бука мурунтугун үзбөйт. A woman is to blame in infidelity;*

In Kyrgyz culture now civil marriage has become common, but before sexual intercourse was a kind of crime, such a girl won't find her happiness and will be a kind of rolling stone. In depravity happening in the society only women are to blame. If a woman doesn't flirt, she is never abused.