

UZBEK TRADITIONS AND GLOBAL VALUES: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

Sultonmurodova Mohira Bahodirovna

SamSIFL the faculty of English language

The specialty of Foreign language and literature

Student of Master's degree

sultonmurodovamohira@gmail.com

Scientific supervisor:

Shamurodova Naima Mukhtorovna

Introduction

Culture and traditions are aspects that determine the identity of each people. They are manifested in society through values, customs, social relations, religious beliefs and art. History, geography, climate, religious influences, as well as political and social structures shape traditions. Traditions in Uzbekistan have been formed over the centuries under the influence of various cultural movements, Turkestan, Iranian, Arab, Chinese and Russian empires, and the Soviet Union. Through comparative analysis, identifying what similarities and differences the traditions of the Uzbek people have with the traditions of other countries helps us to better understand issues of cultural identity and modernity. Below, comparisons are made with Uzbekistan and other cultures in several key areas - hospitality, family rituals (weddings, weddings), oral folklore, arts and crafts, holidays, customs and language aspects.

Hospitality

The hospitality of the Uzbek people has long been recognized as one of the most important moral and cultural values of society. Every guest is considered a guest of God, therefore, he is served the best dishes, a clean table is laid, and he is greeted with respect. Usually, when a guest arrives, he is first greeted with tea and bread, and then various salads, sweets, meat dishes, especially pilaf, are served. Special respect is shown to the elderly, and the most comfortable place is allocated for the guest. Hospitality has been formed not only as a practical custom, but also as a symbol of etiquette, generosity, kindness, and respect. These values are also recognized in literary sources such as Amir Temur, Alisher Navoi, and Babur¹.

In English culture, hospitality is a bit different - personal space and boundaries are important here. Invitations are usually arranged in advance, and the table setting is

¹ CyberLeninka. (nd). *Traditions, rituals and holidays of the Uzbek people* .
<https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/o-zbek-xalqining-urf-odati-marosim-va-bayramlaringin-an-naaviligi>

simpler. Tea, pastries or light meals are usually offered, but the level of formality is not as high as in Uzbekistan. At the same time, the English demonstrate sincerity by listening attentively to the guest, creating a comfortable atmosphere and maintaining good manners. In Russia, hospitality is expressed through customs such as bringing gifts, drinking tea, and offering sweets, but large group gatherings are less common. The value of hospitality in Turkic peoples - Turkey, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and other countries - is very close to the culture of Uzbekistan. The culture of the table, bread and such traditions as welcoming a guest with osh, offering tea and coffee also exist among these peoples. It is customary for Turks to treat a “guest” with respect, give him a gift or say a kind word. In general, hospitality in Uzbekistan has been preserved in the warmest and most solemn form among the peoples of the world, and it lives on as an integral part of national identity and values².

Table 1. Comparative analysis

	Uzbek hospitality	West (English)	Common aspects in the Turkic / Kazakh / Chinese direction
Team and group environment	Widespread, regular, and ceremonial guest reception at the extended family, neighborhood/district level	A smaller group; usually a close circle of friends or family	In Turkic and Central Asian countries, groups and teams are important, and in China too, but more related to formal-business relationships.
Ceremonial meal	Pilaf, special dishes, several courses; plenty of food and sweets on holidays	Simple lunch, dinner; special dishes on holidays but less formal decor and appearance	In Turkey and Kazakhstan, meat dishes and service are as rich as in Uzbekistan; in China, their eating habits and manners are different (palchuk, chopsticks, various dishes)

Family ceremonies: weddings, marriages, other traditions

² UNESCO. (n.d.). *Oral traditions and epics of Central Asia* . https://archive.unesco-ichcap.org/eng/ek/sub8/pdf_file/08/Oral%20Traditions%20and%20Epics%20of%20Central%20Asia_eng.pdf

Family ceremonies in Uzbekistan, especially marriages and weddings, have a multi-stage and colorful cultural tradition. Ceremonies usually consist of a bride and groom, a civil marriage, a religious marriage, and a wedding reception, and involve thousands of guests and have great social significance. Family members, friends, and neighborhood residents actively participate in the ceremony. Songs during yor-yor songs, boda parties, and pre-wedding ceremonies make the ceremony more solemn. Ceremonies such as beshik-toy and sunnat-toy are also widespread and play an important role in preparing children for society in religious and cultural terms. Clothing, decorations, and arts and crafts products such as doppi, atlas, and adras enrich the wedding atmosphere and preserve traditional aesthetics.

In other countries, marriage and wedding ceremonies are not as multi-staged and widely attended as in Uzbekistan. In English culture, a marriage is usually held formally, followed by a reception, but the community participation and solemnity are not as extensive as in Uzbekistan. In Russia and Eastern Europe, a marriage is officially celebrated in a church or government office, followed by a reception in a restaurant; sometimes there are folk songs and dances, but the regional diversity and traditional art element are not as strong as in Uzbekistan. In China, ceremonies depend on -local customs and family structure, and the formal stages and guest list are strictly defined, but the duration of the wedding and the ceremonial decor are not as extensive as in Uzbekistan.

It differ from those in other cultures in terms of length, artistic decorations, number of guests, and food repertoire. These ceremonies not only strengthen family unity, but also have great significance at the community and community level. At the same time, aspects of collectivity and individuality also differ: in Uzbekistan, ceremonies are held with the participation of a large community, while in Western cultures, ceremonies are usually limited to the couple getting married and close friends and relatives³.

Language, oral literature, proverbs and customs

The oral literature and proverbs of the Uzbek people is to form human values, moral principles and social norms. Uzbek proverbs widely cover topics such as work, respect, patience, kindness and are formed on the basis of life experience. Folklore, yor-yor songs and folk songs are associated with various rituals and are passed down from generation to generation through rhythmic and poetic forms. Language and speech culture are also connected with traditional values: words that show decency and respect are used in marriage, life and family relationships, young people respectfully address

³ Adventurer. (n.d.). *Uzbekistan traditions, rituals, customs* .
<https://www.advantour.com/uzbekistan/traditions.htm>

elders, words such as “-jon”, “aka”, “opa” are widely used. These elements strengthen the collective and religious-spiritual aspects of Uzbek culture⁴.

Proverbs and oral literature in other countries take on different forms. In English, they tend to emphasize personal responsibility, freedom, determination, and the value of time; for example, phrases like “Time is money” or “Honesty is the best policy” express social and individual principles. In the peoples of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, proverbs cover topics of morality, work, family, and life, but the religious and ritual aspects are not as rich as in Uzbekistan.

Turkic and Turkmen cultures, proverbs and oral literature are close to those of Uzbekistan, preserving values associated with various rituals; however, dialects, word choice, and poetic styles differ. In China, proverbs (chengyu) are short and often metaphorical, illuminating morality, determination, and values, but religious richness and collective psychology do not have the same ceremonial and collective context as in Uzbekistan. In this way, the oral literature and proverbs of the Uzbek people not only express moral and spiritual values, but also play a unique role in strengthening collectivity and cultural identity.

Holidays and religious ceremonies

Holidays and festivals are an integral part of cultural life in Uzbekistan. Navruz is celebrated as a symbol of the arrival of spring and renewal: houses are cleaned, meetings with loved ones are organized, sumalak is prepared, carnivals and parties are held. Muslim holidays - Ramadan, Eid al-Adha and Roza - are associated with religious ceremonies, prayers, iftar and sacrifice ceremonies, and serve as family feasts and community gatherings. Local festivals, such as "Asrlar sadosi", also include exhibitions of traditional crafts, songs, dances, sports games (kurash, kopkari) and folk costumes. These holidays not only express religious and cultural values, but also strengthen collective unity and national identity.

In other countries, the form and content of the holidays vary. In Western countries, Christian holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, are usually celebrated in a formal and family-oriented manner: feasts, gift-giving, and formal prayers are the main elements, but folklore and traditional elements are sometimes diminished. In Russia, Easter, Paschal festivities, and New Year's Day take center stage; people give gifts and participate in formal and family ceremonies⁵.

⁴ Shamuradova, N. (2021). *Comparative study of English and Uzbek proverbs (usage of parts of body)*. *International Journal "Art of Word,"* 4(1-1).

⁵Wikipedia. (n.d.). *Aslar Sadosi festival of traditional culture* .

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asrlar_Sadosi_Festival_of_Traditional_Culture

China and India, however, the holidays are more colorful and folk-like. In China, the Spring Festival (Chinese New Year) is celebrated with evening feasts, red decorations, folk games, and traditions such as Changyue and Lantern Festival. In India, holidays such as Diwali and Holi are full of colorful festivals, religious ceremonies, and folk events. Thus, holidays and festivals in Uzbekistan differ from holidays in other countries not only in form, but also in collectiveness and national diversity.

Table 2. Comparative analysis⁶

Holiday/festival custom	Uzbeks	Other countries
Spring Festival (Navruz)	Spring renewal, family and neighborhood friendships, food, clothing, music, cleaning	Chinese Spring Festival, Persian Nowruz, Kyrgyz and Kazakhs celebrate Nowruz in a similar way; in the West, Spring Festivals, Massachusetts Festival, May Festivals but not religious, less folkloric aspect
Religious holidays	Fasting, Sacrifice - extensive prayer and feasting	Christian holidays (Christmas/Easter) – worship, gifts; Hindu holidays – a mix of religion and culture
Festival and folklore	Echoes of centuries, crafts, sports, music, dance	Folklore festivals in Turkey; Traditional scenes and performances in China; Folklore festivals in the West more on the tourism and culture page

Conclusion

Traditions are very rich and diverse in Uzbekistan such as -hospitality, family rituals, folk art, holidays, and oral literature. Some of their aspects are similar to the traditions of other countries, for example, similar customs and values are also found in Turkey, Kazakhstan, China, or Russia. However, the uniqueness of the traditions of Uzbekistan is manifested in several aspects. First, the breadth and insistence of rituals and customs - weddings, marriages, and celebrations in Uzbekistan are multi-stage, formal, and with the participation of a wide community, which distinguishes them from those in other cultures.

Second, the integration of arts and crafts into everyday life—clothing, home decor, fabrics, and patterns—play not only an aesthetic role, but are also inextricably linked to weddings and holidays. This demonstrates the importance of traditional arts and crafts in the life of society. Third, the collective part of the social structure and values—

⁶ Adventurer. (n.d.). *Culture of Uzbekistan* . <https://www.advantour.com/uzbekistan/culture.htm>

the home -, family, neighborhood, kinship, respect for elders, and a sense of duty—are felt in every ritual and custom, which strengthens social cohesion and unity.

Uzbek traditions also maintain a balance with modernity. The younger generation is open to global culture, accepting changes in modern styles, fashion, language and technology, but many strive to preserve traditional values. In this way, Uzbek traditions, combining a rich historical heritage, collective values and modernity, strengthen the cultural identity of the people and maintain their uniqueness in comparison with other cultures.

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