

# DESCRIBING THE CONCEPT OF “BETRAYAL” BY PROVERBS AND PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH

Jurayeva Manzura Yunusaliyevna

Teacher of the Department of Foreign language and literature  
Faculty of Foreign Philology, National University of Uzbekistan

## Abstract

*In this article the proverbs and phraseological units are given which express the concept of “betrayal” in the English and the Uzbek languages. Linguo-cultural meanings are analysed by proverbs of the nationalities.*

**KEY WORDS:** friend, enemy, human, linuo-cultural, proverbs, phraseological units, mentality.

## Introduction

In the linguistic literature, it is noted that in the phraseologicalthe corpus of the language reflects the worldview and worldview characteristic of the linguocultural community, which testifies to its national specificity. The phraseological fund of the language is figuratively compared with a mirror, inwhich “the linguocultural community identifies its nationself-awareness”(Telia 1996: 9, 83), it is a valuable source of information about the culture and mentality of the people (Maslova 2004: 43). In the composition of phraseological units, the figuratively motivated base of which is correlatedone way or another with the subject area of culture, there are semiotically different natural components to the language, the semantic content of which is “drawn from the conceptual sphere of culture” (Telia 2004: 675). Here are examples of phraseological units that verbalize the concept of "betrayal".

1. A phraseological unit that objectifies the mythological image of the Siren, which is traditionally perceived in European culture as an insidious creature:
  - *a siren song* - a song that allures or betrays, such as sung by the mythical sirens who thereby lured mariners to disaster (DEP 1922: 318).
2. Phraseologisms connecting the act of betrayal with the act of sale and purchase:
  - *sell someone out* - to betray someone for one's own financial or material benefit (COED 2002: 1301);
  - *sell out* - to abandon one's principles for reasons of expedience (COED 2002: 1301); to be unfaithful to your country for money or other reward; be disloyal; sell a secret; accept a bribe: In the Revolutionary War, Benedict Arnold sold out to the British (SAI 1997: 355);
  - *sellout* - a betrayal or act of treason: The spy's behavior during the Cold War was a classical sellout (SAI 1997: 355);
  - *sell someone down the river* - to betray someone [orig. with ref to the sale of a troublesome slave to a plantation owner on the lower Mississippi, where conditions were relatively harsher] (COED 2002: 1236); to give harmful information about someone or something to one's enemies; betray: The traitor sold his country down the river to the enemy army (SAI 1997: 355).
3. Phraseologisms that explicate the associative connection of betrayal with dirt, uncleanliness:
  - *do the dirty* - to cheat or betray (COED 2002: 406);
  - *dirty work* - unpleasant or dishonest activities that are delegated to someone else (COED 2002: 406);

• *dirty trick* - a treacherous action; an unfair act: There was a dirty trick John played on Mary when he ran away with her younger sister (SAI 1997: 94). Dirt in the archetypal opposition “clean – dirty” in the sphere of culture, according to V. N. Telia, replaces the concept of “moral / moral impurity (of someone)” in the concept sphere of culture. Thereferent of this word has long served in ritual and ceremonial customs as a means of visible denigration and shame (Telia 2004: 682), which is reflected in the negative emotive modality of the above phrases.

#### 4. Phraseological units with the meaning of “duality of behavior”:

• *double-cross* - to deceive or betray (a person one is supposed helping) (COED 2002: 428); promise one thing and deliver another: The lawyer double-crossed the inventor by manufacturing the gadget instead of fulfilling his promise to arrange a patent for his client (SAI 1997: 97);

• *double-dealing* - deceitful behavior (COED 2002: 428);

• *double-faced* -deceitful(COED 2002:428) using to one person a sentiment contradictory to that uttered to another (TBEI 1960: 66);

• *double standard* - a rule or principle applied unfairly in different ways to different people (COED 2002: 429);

• *double agent* - an agent who pretends to act as a spy for one country while in fact acting for its enemy (COED 2002: 428);

• *two-faced* - insincere; disloyal; deceitful: Don't confide too much in him as he has the reputation of being two-faced (SAI 1997: 430). The number “two” is a symbol of division, deceit and hypocrisy (Pimenova 2004: 26-27), which are often components of a situation of betrayal (cf. biblical No man can serve two masters).

#### 5. Phraseologisms connecting betrayal with unfair play:

• *foul play* - unfair play in a game or sport (COED 2002: 559); treachery; a criminal act (such as murder): After they discovered the dead body, the police suspected foul play (SAI 1997: 131);

• *play dirty* - to act in a dishonest or unfair way (COED 2002: 406);

• *play fast and loose* - to do as you please without caring what will happen to other people; act so carelessly or unfairly that people cannot depend on you; be very unreliable: He played fast and loose with the girl's affections (CAM 1997: 315);

• *play somebody false* - to betray someone, be treacherous or faithless: He would play his own brother false if there was some profit in it (WEUDEL 1989: 513);

• *confidence trick* - (N. Amer. Also confidence game) an act of cheating or tricking someone by persuading them to believe something that is not true (COED 2002: 299).

#### 6. Expressions objectifying the association of betrayal with specific animals:

- a rat:

• *rat* - to desert one's party, side, cause, especially in politics (TBEI 1960: 148);

• *rat on someone / rat someone out* - to inform on someone (COED 2002: 1188);

• *rat out / rat out on* - to desert; to leave at a critical time: Joe ratted out on Sue when she was seven months pregnant (CAM 1997: 332);

• *rat on* - to break (an agreement or promise) (COED 2002: 1188);

- monkey:

• *monkey business* - any unethical, illegitimate, or objectionable activity that is furtive or deceitful, e.g. undercover sexual advances, cheating, misuse of public funds, etc.: There is a lot of monkey business going on in that firm; you'd better watch out who you deal with! (SAI 1997: 268);

- snake:

• *snake in the grass* - a person who cannot be trusted; an unfaithful traitor; rascal: Did Harry tell you that? He's a snake in the grass! (CAM 1997: 371).

7. Phraseological units that verbalize the idea of betrayal as an action that occurs behind the back of the subject:

• *stab someone in the back*-to betray someone (COED 2002: 1395); to say or do something unfair that harms (a friend or someone who trusts you): Owen stabbed his friend Max in the back by telling lies about him (SAI 1997: 380);

• *behind someone's back* - without a person's knowledge and in an unfair way (COED 2002: 96); when one is absent; secretly; sneakily: Say it to his face, not behind his back; It is not right to criticize a person behind his back (SAI 1997: 28).

The phrase “on the side”, defined as “secretly, especially as an illicit sexual relationship”, has a similar meaning to committing an action without anyone’s knowledge.(COED 2002: 1332).

8. Phraseologisms meaning “change of old beliefs, attachments”:

• *blow hot and cold* - to change your ways or likes often; be fickle or changeable: Tom blows hot and cold about coming out for the baseball team, he cannot decide. Mary blew hot and cold about going to college; every day she changed her mind (SAI 1997: 37);

• *break faith with* - to stop supporting or believing in a person, organization, or idea: How could he tell them the truth without breaking faith with the party? (LDCE 2001: 494); be disloyal to somebody (OALDCE I 1982: 306);

• *turn one's back on* - to have nothing more to do with, to abandon (a person, in terest, etc.) (TBEI 1960: 187);

• *go over* - to change one's allegiance or religion (COED 2002: 606);

• *throw over* - to give up for another; break your loyalty or attachment to: Bob threw Mary over for a new girlfriend (CAM 1997: 416);

• *switch allegiance* - to start to support a different person, group, etc. (LDCE 2001:33). An additional example is the phraseology climb on / get into the bandwagon - to cling to the winning party (COED 2002: 105).

9. Phraseologisms meaning “disclosure of classified information”):

• *spill the beans* - to reveal secret information unintentionally or indiscreetly (COED 2002: 1382);

• *give something away* - to reveal something secret or concealed (COED 2002: 600);

• *blow the gaff*-to open one's mouth to reveal a secret (SAI 1997: 37);

• *blow the lid off* - suddenly to reveal the truth about a matter that has been kept as a secret either by private persons or by some governmental agency: The clever journalists blew the lid off the Watergate cover-up (SAI 1997: 37).

10. Phraseological units with the meaning “failure to fulfill obligations, promises”:

• *back out* - to withdraw from a commitment (COED 2002: 96); withdraw from an activity one has promised to carry out: Jim tried to back out of the engagement with Jane, but she insisted that they get married (TBEI 1960:22);

• *weasel out* - to renege on a previous promise; not to keep an obligation for some not always straight reason: I'm so tired I think I am going to weasel my way out of going to that meeting this afternoon (CAM 1997: 443);

• *go back on* - to fail to keep (a promise) (COED 2002: 606);

• *breach of promise* - the action of breaking a sworn assurance (COED 2002: 170); • *lip service* - support shown by words only and not by actions; a show of loyalty that is not proven in

action: Some people pay lip service to education, but don't vote taxes for better schools (CAM 1997: 245);

- *be false to one's word* - to fail to keep a promise (OALDCE I 1982: 308);

- *break one's word* - to renege on a promise: When Jake broke his word that he would marry Sarah, she became very depressed (CAM 1997: 44).

11. Phraseologic units Trojan Horse and fifth column, with an allusion to real historical events, objectify the meaning of betrayal as an ambush behind enemy lines:

- *Trojan Horse* - something intended to undermine or secretly overthrow an enemy or opponent (origin - from the hollow statue wooden of a horse in which the ancient Greeks are said to have concealed themselves in order to enter Troy (COED 2002: 1536);

- *fifth column* - a group within a country at war who are working for its enemies (origin - from the Spanish Civil War, when General Mola, leading four columns of troops towards Madrid, declared that he had a fifth column inside the city) (COED 2002: 527)

12. Phraseological expressions with the meaning “to leave a person at a difficult moment”:

- *a fair-weather friend* - one who remains friendly only as long as you are flourishing, and in adversity forsakes you (TBEI 1960: 75);

- *turn one's back on* - to refuse to help (someone in trouble or need): He turned his back on his own family when they needed help (SAI 1997: 428);

- *let down* - to fail to do for a person what ought to be done, usually with disappointing or injurious result (TBEI 1960: 116).

13. Phraseological unit implying the connection between betrayal and ungratefulness:

- *bite the hand that feeds one* - to turn against or hurt a helper or supporter; repay kindness with wrong: He bit the hand that fed him when he complained about his employer (SAI 1997: 35)

14. Phraseologisms *blow the whistle*, *stool pigeon*, *turn in* are used mainly in criminal and police contexts:

- *blow the whistle* - to inform against; betray: The police caught one of the bank robbers, and he blew the whistle on two more (SAI 1997: 37-38);

- *stool pigeon* - a police informer (COED 2002: 1414); a criminal who informs on his associates: The detective was able to solve the crime mainly through the information obtained from a stool pigeon (SAI 1997: 387);

- *stoolie* - (N. Amer. Informal) short for stool pigeon (COED 2002: 1414);

- *turn in* - to inform on; report: She turned them in to the police for breaking the street light (CAM 1997: 427).

15. Phraseological units verbalizing betrayal as adultery in intimate relationships:

- *cheat on someone* - to be unfaithful (to one's wife or husband, or to one's sweetheart or fiancée): It is rumored that Joe cheats on his wife (CAM 1997: 64);

- *two-time* - (informal) If you two-time someone, you have a secret, second relationship with another person (CDAE 2000);

- *step out on* - to be unfaithful to one's marriage partner or steady lover: It is rumored that he has been stepping out on his wife. That's why she's so upset (CAM 1997: 385).

It should be mentioned that phraseological units such as *rat on someone*, *do the dirty*, *sell out*, *play someone false* and other idioms representing the meanings of betrayal, with all the variety of their concrete metaphorical basis, are read as stereotypes of insidious and treacherous behavior, which definitely receives a negative assessment, as it causes an emotional-evaluative attitude of the negative spectrum. Proverbs and sayings are “a powerful source of interpretation”,

they contain in a maximal form the attitudes of the life philosophy of an ethnos (Telia 1996: 241). Examples of paremic units representing the concept of “betrayal” are proverbs:

- *False friends are worse than open enemies.* Fake friends are much more dangerous than open enemies.

- *Cheats never prosper.*

Into the plan of expression of phraseological and paremiological units are incorporated signs of the “language” of culture, the content of which bears the meaning of the concepts of culture, its inherent symbols, standards, realities that have ritual value, etc., reflecting socially moral or spiritual moral principles (Telia 2004: 681).

Signs of the concept “betrayal”, revealed during the analysis of fragments of the phraseological and paremiological fund of the language, expand the mental structure of the studied concepts, increase the volume of their culturally marked content. The bearers of the English-speaking culture associate the phenomenon of loyalty with sincerity, love, friendship, betrayal is identified with dirt, venality, dishonest play, denunciation.

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