

СПІЛЬНІ РИСИ ПРИСЛІВ'ІВ І ПРИКАЗОК  
В УКРАЇНСЬКІЙ І ЗАХІДНОЄВРОПЕЙСЬКИХ МОВАХSOME SIMILARITIES IN UKRAINIAN  
AND EUROPEAN PROVERBS AND SAYINGS

*The article provides a comparative analysis of Ukrainian, English, French and Italian proverbs and sayings as an ethno-cultural feature, which serves as a criterion for evaluating active reactions to the outside world. The characteristic of their linguistic country-studying essence is presented and the historical sources of their origin as a widespread kind of oral folk art, which was the reflection of individual emotions that have grown into common language expression, have been investigated; the characteristic of structural types, means of expressiveness and semantic peculiarities of these communicative phrasal units is given and their international character is determined and a comparative analysis is conducted for the identification of common and distinctive features in proverbs and sayings in Ukrainian and Western European languages, which indicates the presence of a large number of matches in views on life and attitude towards certain stereotypes in human relationships, regardless of country or nationality. The study and generalization of the experience of leading linguists and scholars from different times and from different countries is conducted.*

**Key words:** proverbs, sayings, studying, analysis, culture, customs, traditions, people.

*У статті проведено порівняльний аналіз українських, англійських, французьких та італійських прислів'їв і приказок як етнокультурної ознаки, що є критерієм оцінювання активних реакцій на зовнішній світ. Подається характеристика їх лінгвокраїнознавчої сутності й досліджено історичні джерела їх походження як широко розповсюдженого виду усної народної творчості, як відображення індивідуальних емоцій, що переросли в загальномовну експресію. Також подається характеристика структурних типів, засобів виразності та семантичних особливостей цих комунікативних фразеологічних одиниць, визначається їх інтернаціональний характер і проводиться порівняльний аналіз для виявлення спільних і відмінних рис у*

*прислів'ях і приказках в українській і західноєвропейських мовах, що свідчить про наявність великої кількості збігів у поглядах на життя та ставленні до певних стереотипів у людських стосунках, незалежно від країни чи національності; вивчається й узагальнюється досвід провідних мовознавців і лінгвістів різних часів і різних країн.*

**Ключові слова:** прислів'я, приказки, вивчення, аналіз, культура, традиції, звичаї, люди.

*В статье проведен сравнительный анализ украинских, английских, французских и итальянских пословиц и поговорок как этнокультурного признака, который выступает критерием оценки активных реакций на внешний мир; представлена характеристика их лингвострановедческой сущности и исследованы исторические источники их происхождения как широко распространенного вида устного народного творчества, как отражения индивидуальных эмоций, которые переросли в общезыковую экспрессию; дается характеристика структурных типов, средств выразительности и семантических особенностей этих коммуникативных фразеологических единиц, определяется их интернациональный характер и проводится сравнительный анализ для выявления общих и отличительных черт в пословицах и поговорках в украинском и западноевропейских языках, что свидетельствует о наличии большого количества совпадений во взглядах на жизнь и отношении к определенным стереотипам в человеческих отношениях, независимо от страны или национальности; проводится изучение и обобщение опыта ведущих языковедов и лингвистов разных времен и разных стран.*

**Ключевые слова:** пословицы, поговорки, изучение, анализ, культура, традиции, обычаи, люди.

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**Stating the problem.** In the period of accession into European Union, our country is trying to find some common features and peculiarities between Ukrainians and peoples of Europe to make this entrance less hard and stressful. One of these common issues may be found out in the different literary sources, such as: folk-tales, legends, myths, songs, poems, proverbs and sayings, which reflect people's thoughts and observation throughout the centuries. Proverbs, like small pieces of common-sense wisdom may have different origin: they have come from folklore, literature or borrowings from other languages – but they are being echoed in the languages of different nations, showing the similarities in the mode of thinking of different peoples.

**Analyses of the last researches and publications.** The best evidence to this statement

can be the overview and analysis of the proverbs and sayings of Ukrainian people and their Western neighbors from England, Italy and France. The questions of identity and differences of peoples' attitude to life, reflected through proverbs and sayings, were depicted in scientific and research works of English and American scholars and linguists, such as: M. Peters, R.P. Honneck, R.E. Habenicht, J. Heywood, W. Mieder, S.A. Kingsbury, K.B. Harder, W.G. Smith, T. Titcomb, Ch.S.W. Pfeffer, R.J. Clifford, E. Oring. Proverbs, as the folklore phenomena were studied by Russian linguists V.P. Anikin and M.I. Kravtsov; as a special form of aphorism they were studied by V.I. Dal; O.V. Kunin defined proverbs from the point of view of their semantic, structural and compound content. The phenomena of genetic and typological coincidences in Ukrainian, German,

English and Russian proverbs was shown in the works of Ukrainian scholar N.V. Liubchuk: the etymology of English proverbs, their original sources is studied in the researches of Belorussian linguists E.E. Ivanov and J.A. Petrushevskaya.

**The aim of this study** is to show the great number of coincidences in structure, semantic and compound content in Ukrainian, English, Italian and French proverbs as an evidence of analogous attitude of different peoples to the main human beings' principles of their life. For this purpose 200 proverbs from different spheres of life in mentioned above languages have been compared and analyzed.

**The main content.** The 24<sup>th</sup> of August 1991 entered into the life of our people as the most significant day of our country, because the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine declared the Act of Independence, which gave a new lease of life to our state and started a new page in the history of our nation. Ukraine ceased to be a part of the USSR, where ordinary people lived in the closed space of the Russian Empire and could travel and communicate only within its borders. Independence gave the new possibilities to Ukrainians, and one of those possibilities was the choice of a vector for the international development. Since 1991 Ukraine has been trying to integrate into the European community with its respectful attitude to people, protection of human rights, high standards of living, constant development of technologies and also with its Schengen Area, EU Customs Union, EU Energy Union, EU Single Digital Market and many other attractive perspectives. To integrate into the European Community of Science and Education, our country has joined the Bologna Process, and since 2005 has been actively participating in the creation of the unique European Higher Educational Area to make a system of educational degrees clear and standardized, to modify the competitiveness and demand for European higher education and to make easier the employment of graduates of European universities. The participation in the Bologna Process offers great opportunities to our students and teachers to improve their knowledge and qualification via studying, practicing and working in Europe and ensures their diplomas to be accepted and recognized all over the world.

The process of integration into the European educational, social and cultural environment is not a very difficult and painful matter for Ukrainian people, because, regardless the great number of differences among our nations and nationalities in the aspects of mentality, customs, traditions and countries of living, Ukrainians have much in common with their European neighbors. These common features are: their attitude to such eternal human notions as love and hatred, friendship and treason, laziness and industry, hope and despair – always cause equal emotions, contemplations and conclusions. Studying

and using proverbs and sayings in our life helps to understand in a more detailed and deeper manner the culture, customs, traditions and mental peculiarities of different nations and nationalities and contribute to positive interethnic communication and effective cooperation, which becomes especially relevant in the period of Ukraine's integration to the European Economic, Cultural, Educational and Information sharing space.

As a folklore genre, proverbs and sayings have come to our everyday life since the ancient times when people could not read or write and taught their children by expressing their life experience in clever and short words of wisdom, which, being passed from generation to generation became shorter and more precise. That is why, many proverbs consist of no more than six words:

- Ukr. Людей питай, а свій розум май [4].
- Eng. So many countries, so many customs [3].
- Fren. Il faut hurler avec les loups [6].
- Ital. Altro e correre, altro e arrivare [1].

So, proverbs and sayings have been accompanying people in their life, helping to put a stress, to underline the main idea, the essence of the conversation, or to give a laconic assessment to an important event or somebody's behavior. Proverbs are popularly defined as "short expressions of popular wisdom" [5]. The wisdom is the form of a general observation about the world or a bit of advice, sometimes more nearly an attitude towards a situation. Proverbs and sayings are easy to remember and not to forget for a long time due to some special stylistic devices and one of them is a precise or assonance rhyme:

- Ukr. Гостре словечко коле сердечко.
- Eng. East or West – home is best.
- Fren. Comparaison n'est pas raison.
- Ital. Bella in vista, dentro e trista.

Throughout the centuries people had been living in a respectful relationship with nature, protecting, saving and observing it. Bird-watching helped to make a very important conclusion, depicted in the following four proverbs which are examples of structure-semantic equivalents (monoequivalents), as if the overwhelming appeal to people to think over their behaviour, not to hurt each other, not to kill self-similar in constant endless wars and armed conflicts, because even:

- Ukr. Ворона вороні ока не видовбає.
- Eng. Crow will not pick out crow's eyes.
- Fren. Corbeau contre corbeau ne se creve jamais les yeux.
- Ital. Corvi con corvi non si cavano gli occhi.

Observation of nature and its connection to people resulted in the next proverbs and sayings, which can be easily transformed into humans' society, but with the allegorical meanings:

- Ukr. У тихому болоті чорти водяться.
- Eng. Still waters run deep.

- Fren. Il n'est pire eau que l'eau qui dort.
- Ital. L'acqua cheta vermini mena.

A Russian linguist of the XIXth century V.I. Dal wrote: "If you want to find a proverb or saying you should visit the common people, you can meet them there, because in the Upper Society proverbs and sayings do not live, it is not their cup of tea" [2, p. 9]. Common people had been working hard all day long, from morning till night, and in the evening they were so tired that were not able to make any decisions. That is why a morning was so important for them, as a symbol of a new life which would bring a solving to all their problems:

- Ukr. Година вранці варта двох увечері.
- Eng. We'll see in the morning.
- Fren. La nuit porte conseil.
- Ital. La notte porta il consiglio.

Proverbs and sayings were widely used for upbringing the young generations. They were taught to do everything in time, to come on time, and try not to be late:

- Ukr. Краще пізно, ніж ніколи.
- Eng. Better late than never.
- Fren. Mieux vaut tard que jamais.
- Ital. Meglio tardi che mai.

Also children were taught always to fulfill their promises:

- Ukr. Назвався грибом – лизь у кіш.
- Eng. Once you pledge, don't hedge.
- Fren. Chose promise, chose due.
- Ital. Volevi la bicicletta – pedala.

Diligence and hardworking are those features that should be brought up in the character of all people.

- Ukr. Зробив наспіх, як наспіх.
- Eng. Haste makes waste.
- Fren. Mieux vaut bonne attente que mauvaise hate.

- Ital. La gatta frettolosa ha fatto i gattini ciechi.

Our friends, acquaintances, co-workers, group-mates, all persons surrounding us are very important people in our life, that is why we should choose them very carefully, and bad people must be avoided from our circle of communication.

- Ukr. З ким поведешся, того й наберешся.

- Eng. Who keeps company with wolves will learn to howl.

- Fren. Avec le renard on renarde.
- Ital. Chi va con lo zoppo impara a zoppicare.

There are more examples of coincidence of proverbs and sayings in different languages on different themes, but because of the lack of place it is impossible to demonstrate all of them within one article.

**Conclusions.** Having analyzed 200 proverbs and sayings in Ukrainian, English, French and Italian languages the following results have been obtained despite the existence of borders between countries, the division of people into nations and nationalities, their different mentality, cultural and educational differences, their attitude to common human categories and values coincide completely, which can be the evidence of the presence of homo sapiens single genetic code and explain their desire to work out common rules of friendly relationship with European countries and with the whole world and to live in an indivisible society, in a world without borders, which would be called the "global village".

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