e-ISSN 3060-5059
DOI: 10.67227

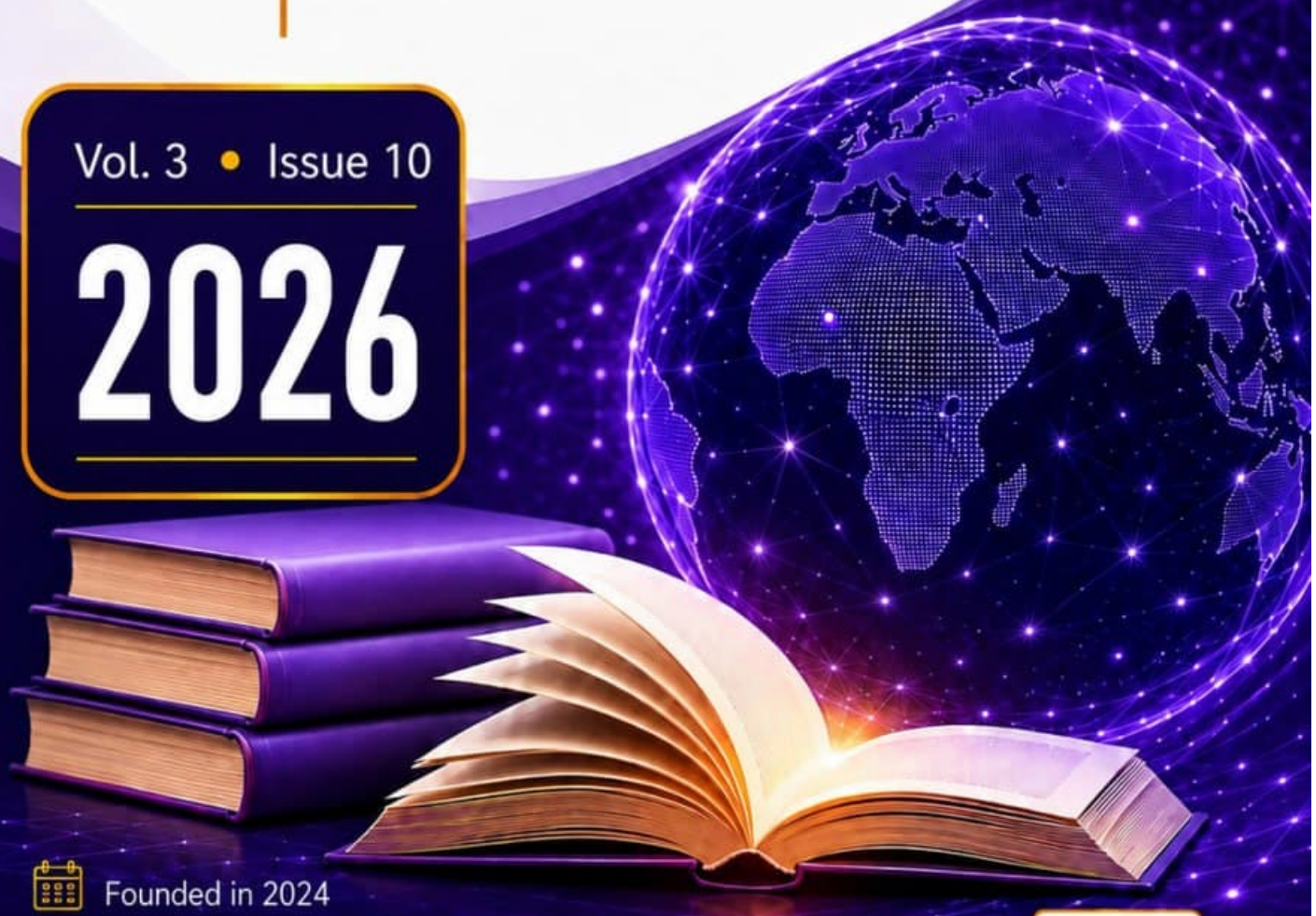
IJTIMOIY-GUMANITAR SOHADA ILMIY-INNOVATSION TADQIQOTLAR

ILMIY METODIK JURNAL

Scientific and Innovative Research in Social and Humanitarian Studies

Vol. 3 • Issue 10

2026



Founded in 2024

publishscience.uz | publish_science_journal@mail.ru

PEER REVIEWED • OPEN ACCESS

ISSN 3060-5059 (Online)
Article / Original paper https://doi.org/10.67227/gvhfq159

INGLIZ VA O‘ZBEK YOSHLARI NUTQIDAGI FRAZEOLOGIK LAKUNALARNING STRUKTURAVIY VA MORFOLOGIK XUSUSIYATLARI

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Annotatsiya.

Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o‘zbek yoshlari nutqidagi frazeologik lakunalarning strukturaviy va morfologik xususiyatlari tahlil qilinadi. Bunda frazeologik iboralarning grammatik tuzilishi hamda ikki til o‘rtasida to‘g‘ridan-to‘g‘ri frazeologik ekvivalentlarning mavjud emasligi o‘rtasidagi bog‘liqlikka e’tibor qaratiladi. Frazeologik lakunalar deganda, bir tilda tabiiy ravishda qo‘llaniladigan iboraning boshqa tilda o‘zining strukturaviy, morfologik, semantik va pragmatik xususiyatlarini saqlab qolgan holda mos keladigan muqobili yo‘qligi tushuniladi. Mazkur tadqiqot zamonaviy tilshunoslik uchun dolzarb ahamiyatga ega, chunki yoshlar muloqoti, xususan, raqamli muhitda, slenglar, gibrid tuzilmalar, o‘zlashma iboralar, qisqartmalar va yangi obrazli birikmalarning jadal rivojlanishi bilan ajralib turadi. Tadqiqotda ingliz va o‘zbek tillaridagi misollar asosida qiyosiy-tasviriy, strukturaviy va morfologik tahlil usullari qo‘llaniladi. Bunda fe’lga asoslangan tuzilmalar, ot va sifat qoliplari, grammatik o‘zgarishlar (fleksiya), agglyutinativ qo‘shimchalar, so‘z yasalishi, so‘z qo‘shish, konversiya, qisqartirish, o‘zlashtirish va kod almashinuvi (code-switching) kabi hodisalarga alohida e’tibor qaratiladi. Tahlil jarayonida strukturaviy-morfologik frazeologik lakunalar tuzilish turi, morfologik tashkil etilishi, grammatik mahsuldorligi va o‘zlashma elementlarning moslashish darajasiga ko‘ra tasniflanadi. Misollar shuni ko‘rsatadiki, to‘g‘ridan-to‘g‘ri frazeologik muqobilning yo‘qligi nafaqat obrazli ma’nodagi farqlar, balki yoshlarning iboralarni shakllantirish va o‘zgartirishda qo‘llaydigan turli grammatik strategiyalari bilan ham bog‘liq bo‘lishi mumkin. Maqolada ta’kidlanishicha, morfologik o‘xshashlik frazeologik ekvivalentlikni kafolatlamaydi, strukturaviy farqlar esa muvaffaqiyatli tarjimaga to‘sqinlik qilmasligi mumkin. Shuningdek, tadqiqotda taklif etilgan lakuna turlarining real ingliz va o‘zbek yoshlari muloqotida uchrash chastotasi, tarqalishi va an’anaviy qo‘llanilish darajasini aniqlash uchun korpusga asoslangan izlanishlar zarurligi qayd etiladi.

Kalit so‘zlar: frazeologik lakunalar, strukturaviy morfologiya, yoshlar nutqi, ingliz tili, o‘zbek tili, frazeologik birliklar, so‘z yasalishi, agglyutinatsiya, o‘zlashmalar, kod almashinuvi, qiyosiy tilshunoslik, raqamli diskurs.

СТРУКТУРНЫЕ И МОРФОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ ФРАЗЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ЛАКУН В РЕЧИ АНГЛИЙСКОЙ И УЗБЕКСКОЙ МОЛОДЁЖИ

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Аннотация.

В данной статье анализируются структурные и морфологические особенности фразеологических лакун в речи английской и узбекской молодёжи. Основное внимание уделяется взаимосвязи между грамматической структурой фразеологических выражений и отсутствием прямых фразеологических эквивалентов в двух языках. Под фразеологическими лакунами понимается отсутствие в одном языке соответствующего эквивалента выражения, естественно употребляемого в другом языке, который сохранял бы его структурные, морфологические, семантические и прагматические особенности. Данное исследование имеет актуальное значение для современной лингвистики, поскольку молодёжная коммуникация, особенно в цифровой среде, характеризуется интенсивным развитием сленговых выражений, гибридных конструкций, заимствованных оборотов, сокращений и новых образных сочетаний. В исследовании применяются сравнительно-описательный, структурный и морфологический методы анализа на материале примеров из английского и узбекского языков. Особое внимание уделяется таким явлениям, как глагольные конструкции, именные и адъективные модели, грамматические изменения (флексия), агглютинативные аффиксы, словообразование, словосложение, конверсия, сокращение, заимствование и переключение кодов (code-switching). В процессе анализа структурно-морфологические фразеологические лакуны классифицируются по типу структуры, морфологической организации, грамматической продуктивности и степени

адаптации заимствованных элементов. Примеры показывают, что отсутствие прямого фразеологического эквивалента может быть связано не только с различиями в переносном значении, но и с различными грамматическими стратегиями, используемыми молодёжью при образовании и модификации выражений. В статье подчёркивается, что морфологическое сходство не гарантирует фразеологической эквивалентности, тогда как структурные различия не обязательно препятствуют успешному переводу. Кроме того, отмечается необходимость проведения корпусных исследований для определения частотности, распространённости и степени конвенциональности предложенных типов лакун в реальной коммуникации английской и узбекской молодёжи.

Ключевые слова: фразеологические лакуны, структурная морфология, молодёжная речь, английский язык, узбекский язык, фразеологические единицы, словообразование, агглютинация, заимствования, переключение кодов, сопоставительная лингвистика, цифровой дискурс.

STRUCTURAL AND MORPHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF PHRASEOLOGICAL LACUNAE IN THE SPEECH OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK YOUTH

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Abstract.

This article analyzes the structural and morphological features of phraseological lacunae in the speech of English and Uzbek youth. Particular attention is paid to the relationship between the grammatical structure of phraseological expressions and the absence of direct phraseological equivalents between the two languages. Phraseological lacunae are understood as cases in which an expression naturally used in one language lacks a corresponding equivalent in another language that preserves its structural, morphological, semantic, and pragmatic features. This study is relevant to contemporary linguistics because youth communication, particularly in digital environments, is characterized by the rapid development of slang expressions, hybrid constructions, borrowed phrases, abbreviations, and new figurative combinations. The study employs comparative-descriptive, structural, and morphological methods of analysis based on examples from English and Uzbek. Special attention is given to phenomena such as verb-based constructions, nominal and adjectival patterns, grammatical inflection, agglutinative affixes, word formation, compounding, conversion, clipping, borrowing, and code-switching. During the analysis, structural and morphological phraseological lacunae are classified according to structural type, morphological organization, grammatical productivity, and the degree of adaptation of borrowed elements. The examples demonstrate that the absence of a direct phraseological equivalent may be associated not only with differences in figurative meaning but also with the different grammatical strategies employed by young speakers to form and modify expressions. The article emphasizes that morphological similarity does not guarantee phraseological equivalence, while structural differences do not necessarily prevent successful translation. Furthermore, the study highlights the need for corpus-based research to determine the frequency, distribution, and degree of conventionality of the proposed types of lacunae in authentic English and Uzbek youth communication.

Keywords: phraseological lacunae, structural morphology, youth speech, English language, Uzbek language, phraseological units, word formation, agglutination, borrowings, code-switching, contrastive linguistics, digital discourse.

Introduction. Phraseological units occupy an important position in the vocabulary and grammatical organization of a language because they combine relatively stable linguistic forms with meanings that frequently extend beyond the literal interpretations of their individual components. Idioms, fixed expressions, conventional collocations, and formulaic constructions function as resources for expressing emotions, evaluating behaviour, maintaining interpersonal relationships, and establishing social identity. In youth speech, these units interact with slang, abbreviated forms, digital expressions, and creative linguistic innovations, making their structures particularly dynamic. Young speakers may preserve an established idiom while modifying its tense, person, number, or contextual position, or they may create new expressions through compounding, shortening, borrowing, and the combination of native and foreign elements. The structural organization of such expressions is important because their meaning is often inseparable from the conventional relationship between their components. When English and Uzbek youth expressions are compared, differences in phrase structure, grammatical marking, and word formation may complicate the identification of direct phraseological equivalents. Consequently, investigating phraseological lacunae from a structural-morphological perspective provides a way to examine how the grammatical properties of two languages influence the formation,

adaptation, and translation of youth-oriented expressions.

A phraseological lacuna should be distinguished from a general lexical gap or an unfamiliar grammatical construction. It refers to a situation in which a conventional expression in one language has no established phraseological counterpart in the other language that preserves the relevant meaning and communicative function. This absence may involve differences in lexical composition, syntactic structure, morphological organization, or the productivity of a particular construction. For example, the English youth expression spill the tea follows a verb–determiner–noun pattern and conveys the informal meaning of revealing gossip or interesting personal information. An Uzbek explanatory rendering such as qiziq gaplarni aytib bermoq can communicate part of this meaning, but it does not automatically reproduce the same structure, degree of conventionalization, or communicative effect. Similarly, touch grass, an informal digital expression used to suggest that someone should disengage from excessive online activity and reconnect with everyday life, can be explained in Uzbek through a descriptive construction. However, the absence of an established expression with equivalent structural and pragmatic properties must be demonstrated through actual usage before such a claim can be made. These examples illustrate that phraseological lacunarity concerns the relationship between conventionalized linguistic forms rather than an inability to communicate a particular concept.

The main aim of the article is to identify and explain the principal structural-morphological dimensions along which phraseological lacunae can occur in English and Uzbek youth speech. The study addresses four research objectives: to establish the relationship between phraseological lacunarity and grammatical form; to classify the structural patterns relevant to the comparison of English and Uzbek youth expressions; to examine morphological adaptation, borrowing, and word formation as factors contributing to phraseological non-equivalence; and to develop an analytical framework for future empirical investigation. The central argument is that identifying a phraseological lacuna requires more than comparing the meanings of two expressions: it requires consideration of their internal organization, grammatical behaviour, conventionality, and communicative function. The research may contribute to contrastive linguistics, phraseology, sociolinguistics, translation studies, bilingual lexicography, and the teaching of English and Uzbek.

METHODS

The study adopts a comparative-descriptive approach combining structural analysis, morphological analysis, and contextual interpretation. The analytical framework is designed to investigate English and Uzbek youth expressions found in informal communication, online discussions, social media discourse, and other contexts in which colloquial or innovative language is used. The main units of analysis are phraseological expressions and recurrent formulaic constructions whose meanings cannot be adequately explained by considering only the literal meanings of their components. The study also considers emerging youth expressions that may not yet have achieved the degree of stability associated with established idioms. This distinction is important because not every slang word, borrowed term, or unusual combination qualifies as a phraseological unit. An expression must exhibit some combination of recurrence, conventionalization, structural association, or a contextually recognizable non-literal meaning before it can be treated as a candidate for phraseological analysis.

The structural analysis examines the grammatical arrangement of the components of an expression, including verbal constructions, nominal phrases, adjectival expressions, and sentence-like formulae. The morphological analysis investigates the forms of the component words and the ways in which they can be modified through inflection, derivation, suffixation, conversion, compounding, clipping, and borrowing. Particular attention is paid to the distinction between grammatical variation and lexical variation. Grammatical variation involves changes such as tense, person, number, case, or agreement that preserve the conventional identity of an expression, whereas lexical variation involves replacing or adding components and may alter its idiomatic meaning or degree of fixedness. For example, the English expression spill the tea can be used in a past-tense context as spilled the tea, but replacing tea with an unrelated noun does not necessarily preserve the established idiomatic meaning. A parallel Uzbek expression may organize its grammatical information through suffixes or auxiliary constructions rather than through the same pattern of inflection. The comparison therefore considers both the grammatical mechanisms available in each language and the restrictions imposed by phraseological fixedness.

The proposed analytical procedure consists of four stages. First, an expression is identified and classified according to its structural pattern and communicative function. Second, its morphological properties are described, including the grammatical categories expressed by its components, the possibility of inflection, and any evidence of derivation or borrowed morphology. Third, possible equivalents in the other language are examined to determine whether they preserve the principal meaning, phraseological status, structural characteristics, and appropriate register. Fourth, a candidate lacuna is classified according to the dimension in which correspondence is absent or incomplete. Four principal types are distinguished: structural lacunae, which involve the absence of a conventional expression with a comparable constructional pattern; morphological lacunae, which concern differences in grammatical or word-formation patterns that prevent direct structural correspondence; hybrid-form lacunae, which arise when borrowing or code-switching produces a locally adapted construction without a fully established equivalent; and structural-morphological lacunae, in which differences in both the organization of the phrase and the grammatical behaviour of its components contribute to non-equivalence. These categories represent a proposed analytical framework rather than a universally established taxonomy, and a single expression may belong to more than one category depending on the dimension under investigation.

RESULTS

The structural comparison indicates that verbal constructions provide an important starting point for identifying candidate phraseological lacunae in English and Uzbek youth speech. English informal expressions such as spill the tea,

ISSN 3060-5059 (Online)

touch grass, and catch feelings are constructed around a verb followed by a nominal complement. The first expression follows a verb–determiner–noun pattern, while the latter two follow a verb–noun pattern. Although these expressions have distinct meanings, their structures illustrate how a compact verbal construction can communicate a socially recognizable meaning beyond a literal action. In Uzbek, a comparable communicative intention may be expressed through a different verbal phrase, a longer explanatory construction, or an emerging hybrid form. For spill the tea, the descriptive phrase qiziq gaplarni aytib bermoq communicates the action of revealing interesting information, while gap-so‘zlarni oshkor qilmoq may be appropriate when disclosure is emphasized. These phrases demonstrate functional possibilities rather than verified phraseological equivalents. The absence of a directly corresponding Uzbek idiom cannot be assumed unless a systematic examination of actual youth usage confirms that no established expression fulfils the relevant function.

Nominal and adjectival constructions represent another potentially important area of structural lacunarity. Expressions such as main-character energy combine a compound-like modifier with a nominal head and are used informally to characterize a person's behaviour as if that person were the central character in a story. A descriptive Uzbek rendering such as o‘zini bosh qahramondek tutish or o‘zini hikoyaning bosh qahramonidek ko‘rsatish may convey the general meaning, but neither phrase necessarily reproduces the compact nominal construction, social associations, or evaluative tone of the English expression. The analytical issue is not simply that English contains a compound-like phrase, but that the conventional relationship between its components and the resulting social meaning may lack a structurally similar Uzbek counterpart. A target-language construction may express the same idea through a verbal phrase, an adjective, or a full sentence, making semantic equivalence possible without structural equivalence. Such cases should be classified as candidate structural or structural-morphological lacunae only after the conventionality of potential Uzbek equivalents has been established.

The analysis also demonstrates that the structure of a phraseological expression should be distinguished from the grammatical categories it can realize. In English, spill the tea may occur in sentences such as She spilled the tea yesterday or They are spilling the tea again. The verb form changes according to tense and aspect, while the phrase's lexical core remains recognizable. This illustrates the relative independence of grammatical inflection and phraseological identity: the idiom can tolerate some morphological variation without losing its conventional meaning. In Uzbek, equivalent communicative information may be conveyed by a phrase with different lexical components and a different distribution of grammatical markers. The resulting expression may require suffixation, additional words, or a different syntactic structure. Therefore, a structural comparison should not classify two expressions as non-equivalent solely because their surface word order differs; it must first determine whether the difference is grammatically motivated and whether the expressions preserve the relevant idiomatic meaning and pragmatic function.

One of the most significant differences between English and Uzbek phraseological constructions concerns the ways in which grammatical information is expressed. English verbs commonly mark tense through forms such as spill and spilled, while the progressive aspect requires an auxiliary construction, as in is spilling. Uzbek frequently expresses grammatical relationships through agglutinative suffixes attached to the relevant word or through auxiliary verbal constructions. Nouns may carry case, number, or possessive suffixes, and predicates can carry information associated with tense, person, and other grammatical categories. These differences influence how an idiom may be modified when it appears in a sentence and how a borrowed expression can become integrated into local grammar. Djumamuratov's (2023, pp. 46–50) comparison of English and Karakalpak phraseological units is relevant here because Karakalpak, like Uzbek, is a Turkic language with extensive suffixal morphology. His comparison provides a regional framework for investigating how grammatical organization affects the forms of fixed expressions across typologically distinct languages.

In English youth speech, the grammatical modification of an established verbal expression often involves changing the form of its verb while leaving its other components relatively stable. A phrase such as catch feelings can appear as caught feelings in a past-tense context, while the general idiomatic interpretation remains recognizable. In Uzbek, a comparable meaning might be expressed by a native phrase or a borrowed construction adapted to Uzbek verbal grammar. If a foreign verbal element is combined with qilmoq or another auxiliary construction, the resulting form may receive Uzbek grammatical marking through the auxiliary, as illustrated schematically by X qilmoq, X qildi, and X qilyapti. These forms are examples of a possible adaptation pattern, not evidence that every English youth expression has become established in Uzbek. Actual usage must be verified before any particular borrowed construction is described as conventional. The structural-morphological question is whether the borrowed expression preserves a stable lexical identity while allowing the grammatical modifications required by Uzbek, or whether its usage remains variable and restricted to specific speakers or digital communities.

The distinction between inflection and derivation is equally important. Inflection changes the grammatical form of a word without normally creating a new lexical item, whereas derivation may create a new lexical meaning or a new word class. English youth slang often uses conversion, in which a form associated with one grammatical category is used in another, as well as clipping, compounding, and other word-formation processes. Gallová (2020, pp. 20–30) examines these processes in English slang and shows that slang word formation often shares mechanisms with standard English while also displaying departures from more conventional usage. In Uzbek youth speech, derivational suffixes can be added to native or borrowed stems, and borrowed elements may occur in constructions that combine English lexical material with Uzbek grammatical structures. Such developments create opportunities for new phraseological constructions but may also complicate equivalence. An expression formed through a productive local pattern may be translated into English through paraphrasing, even when the target language has no established idiomatic construction that matches the original pattern.

ISSN 3060-5059 (Online)

Morphological adaptation should consequently be understood as a continuum rather than a binary distinction between a borrowed expression and a fully integrated one. A borrowed item may initially preserve its source-language spelling and pronunciation, later enter an Uzbek syntactic pattern, and eventually become associated with local suffixation or a conventional auxiliary construction. The degree of adaptation may vary among speakers, platforms, and communicative contexts. Some borrowed expressions remain quotations or deliberate instances of code-switching, while others recur frequently enough to function as established elements of local youth communication. This difference is particularly important when determining whether a phraseological lacuna has been filled. The appearance of a foreign expression in Uzbek does not automatically establish a native phraseological equivalent because the borrowing may preserve its foreign form without becoming semantically and pragmatically integrated into the receiving language. Conversely, the emergence of a stable hybrid expression may reduce the practical significance of a previously observed gap.

Compounding and multiword constructions are central to the structural comparison because youth speech frequently uses compressed expressions that convey social evaluations in compact forms. English expressions such as main-character energy and plot twist combine lexical elements into constructions whose conventional interpretation depends on shared cultural knowledge. The expression main-character energy, in particular, uses a nominal structure to characterize a person's perceived behaviour or attitude rather than literally identifying a character in a story. Uzbek can communicate this evaluation through a descriptive phrase involving bosh qahramon and a verb expressing behaviour or self-presentation, but the resulting construction may differ in length, constituent relations, and stylistic effect. Such a difference is structurally relevant even if the target-language expression is semantically adequate. A rigorous comparison must therefore distinguish the absence of a compact phraseological structure from the absence of any expression capable of conveying the intended meaning.

The comparison of English and Uzbek phraseological forms also requires attention to the internal components of expressions. English commonly uses relatively fixed sequences with determiners, prepositions, and particles, while Uzbek phraseological patterns can include case-marked nouns, possessive forms, adverbial elements, and suffix-bearing predicates. Research on English and Uzbek phraseological structures has identified a range of substantive and verbal construction types and examined the roles of component order and grammatical class in phraseological organization (Ibotova, 2024, pp. 135–151; Usarova, 2024, pp. 322–324). These structural observations are relevant to youth speech because newly coined expressions often reuse existing grammatical templates. When a template is available in both languages, a phraseological expression may be adapted relatively easily; when the expression depends on a construction that has no established functional counterpart, translation may require restructuring the phrase, replacing the metaphor, or using a full descriptive sentence.

Clipping, abbreviation, and blending can also contribute to the development of expression types that lack direct structural counterparts. These processes are particularly visible in digital communication, where brevity and recognizability often take priority. A clipped expression may preserve the social associations of a longer phrase while omitting some of its original components; a blended form can combine elements from different lexical sources; and an abbreviation may become conventional within a particular community. These forms do not automatically constitute phraseological units, but they may become components of formulaic expressions when they are repeated and associated with stable communicative functions. Gallová's (2020, pp. 20–30) research on English slang provides a useful basis for distinguishing the word-formation process itself from the conventionalization of an expression. When comparing English and Uzbek, it is necessary to determine whether the relevant construction is a temporary creative formation, a recurrent expression, or a conventional phraseological unit, since each requires a different level of evidence.

Hybrid phraseology presents a particularly interesting case because it combines a borrowed lexical component with the structural and morphological resources of the receiving language. An English word may appear in an Uzbek sentence with an Uzbek auxiliary verb, case marking, or other grammatical features, while the surrounding construction follows Uzbek word-order preferences. Such combinations can enable young speakers to communicate efficiently across multilingual environments and establish recognizable in-group styles. At the same time, hybrid constructions may remain unstable: spelling, suffixation, component order, and intended meaning may differ across users. The existence of several competing forms does not necessarily indicate a permanent lacuna, but it may reveal a transitional phase in which a source-language expression is being adapted or replaced by a locally conventional alternative. Establishing this process empirically requires repeated examples from identifiable discourse contexts rather than isolated online occurrences.

The comparative analysis supports the identification of four related types of structural-morphological lacunarity. Structural lacunae arise when an established expression has no conventional equivalent with a comparable grammatical construction in the other language, even though its general meaning can be conveyed through another structure. Morphological lacunae occur when the relevant expression depends on particular inflectional, derivational, or other morphological behaviour that is not reproduced by a conventional counterpart. Hybrid-form lacunae concern expressions for which borrowing or code-switching offers a possible communicative solution, but the resulting form has not become sufficiently established to function as a stable local phraseological equivalent. Combined structural-morphological lacunae occur when both the constructional pattern and the morphological behaviour of the source expression differ from the conventional resources available in the target language. These categories are not mutually exclusive: a single expression may exhibit both a structural mismatch and a difference in morphological productivity.

The proposed classification also requires a distinction between a gap in direct form and a gap in phraseological conventionalization. An English expression may be translated into Uzbek through a descriptive sentence, a different idiom, or a native expression with a similar meaning. In this situation, the absence of a direct structural counterpart does

not indicate that the language lacks the concept or the resources to communicate it. The lacuna concerns the absence of an established phraseological mapping rather than a general inability to communicate the intended meaning. Furthermore, the target language may contain a local or regional expression that is not recorded in general dictionaries; its discovery would change the classification of the candidate unit. A phraseological lacuna should therefore be described in relation to the particular linguistic resources and contextual data examined, rather than treated as an unquestionable and permanent property of a language.

DISCUSSION

The analysis indicates that structural and morphological differences are important for understanding phraseological lacunae because conventional idiomatic meanings are tied to recognizable combinations of lexical and grammatical elements. However, these differences should not be interpreted as evidence that English and Uzbek speakers organize experience in entirely incompatible ways. Both languages possess resources for expressing emotions, social criticism, humour, interpersonal relationships, and identity. The main source of non-equivalence lies in the conventional forms through which these meanings are expressed and used in particular social contexts. This conclusion is consistent with contemporary research on multilingual idiomaticity, which emphasizes that the interpretation of an expression depends on context rather than solely on the meanings of its individual words (Tayyar Madabushi et al., 2022, pp. 107–121). It also supports the distinction between structural similarity, morphological similarity, and complete phraseological equivalence.

The findings have practical implications for translation and language teaching. A translator who encounters an English youth expression without a direct Uzbek idiomatic counterpart should first identify the expression's intended meaning, grammatical structure, emotional tone, and communicative purpose. If the target language contains a conventional idiom with a comparable function, that idiom may be preferable even if its structure differs from that of the source expression. If no such expression can be established, a descriptive rendering may be more accurate than a literal translation. Borrowing may be appropriate when the source expression has acquired cultural significance in the receiving community, but its spelling, grammatical integration, and pragmatic appropriateness should be evaluated rather than assumed. In foreign-language teaching, learners can compare the internal organization of English and Uzbek expressions, identify which grammatical elements remain stable, and examine how meaning changes when components are replaced or inflected. Such activities can develop phraseological awareness and help learners distinguish between grammatical correctness and idiomatic naturalness.

For bilingual lexicography, the structural-morphological approach suggests that dictionary entries should include more than a translation and a definition. Entries could record the phraseological pattern, the grammatical categories of the components, common inflectional variants, acceptable structural modifications, register, and the status of borrowed or hybrid forms. When no established target-language equivalent has been identified, a dictionary should provide an explanatory translation and indicate the scope of the evidence used to establish the gap. This would be especially useful for youth expressions, which may circulate widely online before being documented in conventional dictionaries. The inclusion of authentic contextual examples could also help distinguish an expression that is temporarily fashionable from one that has become established in everyday communication. Such documentation would make it easier to track whether borrowing, suffixation, or the development of a native construction gradually reduces a previously identified phraseological lacuna.

The principal limitation of the present study is its illustrative and qualitative design. The article provides a structural-morphological framework but does not report findings from a systematically compiled corpus of English and Uzbek youth speech. The examples therefore demonstrate possible types of non-equivalence rather than prove that a specific target-language expression is absent from all youth communities. Future research should collect comparable datasets of spoken and digital communication from clearly defined periods, document the sources and contexts of candidate expressions, and establish criteria for distinguishing idioms from general slang and temporary creative constructions. Independent annotation by proficient speakers would be useful in determining whether candidate equivalents are natural, whether a borrowed form has become conventionalized, and whether grammatical variants preserve the same idiomatic meaning. A quantitative component could then measure the relative distribution of structural, morphological, hybrid-form, and combined lacunae within the selected data. Such evidence would make it possible to determine which differences are persistent and which reflect temporary stages of linguistic innovation.

CONCLUSION

The structural and morphological characteristics of phraseological lacunae in English and Uzbek youth speech are closely associated with the grammatical organization of phraseological expressions, the productivity of word-formation processes, and the conventionalization of borrowed and hybrid forms. The proposed framework distinguishes structural, morphological, hybrid-form, and combined structural-morphological lacunae. It demonstrates that the absence of a direct phraseological equivalent may arise when two languages express a comparable communicative intention through different grammatical constructions, different patterns of word formation, or different mechanisms of morphological adaptation. At the same time, structural and morphological differences do not necessarily prevent semantic or pragmatic equivalence, and the use of an explanatory translation should not be mistaken for evidence that the target language lacks the concept.

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