

THE FORMATION AND FUNCTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD NAMES IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES (BASED ON LITERARY WORKS)

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the formation and functional characteristics of food names in English and Uzbek languages, with a particular focus on their representation in literary works. Food names in both languages serve as essential tools for identifying dishes, reflecting cultural traditions, and conveying social meanings. In English, food names are often formed based on ingredients, preparation methods, and geographical origins, while in Uzbek, they are deeply tied to cultural practices, regional variations, and communal values. Through the lens of literature, food names transcend their basic functional role, becoming symbolic markers of identity, social status, and emotional states. By analyzing literary examples, this paper highlights the role of food names in shaping narrative tone, character development, and cultural expression. The study emphasizes the linguistic and cultural richness embedded in food terminology and its power to evoke broader themes in both English and Uzbek literary traditions.

Keywords: Food Names, English Language, Uzbek Language, Literary Works, Linguistic Analysis, Cultural Identity, Culinary Terminology.

INTRODUCTION

Food is an integral part of human culture, serving not only as sustenance but also as a powerful symbol of identity, tradition, and social connection. The names we assign to food—whether in everyday language or in literary works—carry with them layers of meaning that reflect cultural values, historical contexts, and personal experiences. In both English and Uzbek languages, food names play a crucial role in expressing these broader themes, acting as linguistic markers of cultural heritage and culinary practice.

The formation of food names in any language is shaped by various factors, such as the ingredients used, the methods of preparation, and the cultural significance attached to the dish. However, beyond their functional role of identifying food, these names often serve a deeper purpose, particularly in literary works. In literature, food names can symbolize wealth, poverty, family, tradition, or even the social and political landscape of a given time. Writers, through the use of food names, evoke emotions, set the tone for a scene, or highlight the values and customs of a particular society.

This article delves into the formation and functional characteristics of food names in English and Uzbek languages, focusing particularly on how they are represented in literary works. By examining how food names emerge, evolve, and function in both everyday speech and literature, we can gain a deeper understanding of how language captures the essence of culture and how food, as a fundamental part of life, transcends the boundaries of mere nutrition to become a powerful tool for storytelling and cultural expression. Through this analysis, we explore the linguistic creativity behind food names and their ability to convey not just the

physical qualities of the dish, but also the intangible qualities of a culture's worldview, values, and social structures.

Food names are an essential aspect of language, reflecting both the cultural significance and the linguistic creativity of a particular community. In both English and Uzbek languages, the naming of food serves as a crucial means of communication, not only to identify dishes but also to express the cultural and historical contexts within which those dishes are created and consumed. This article explores how food names are formed and their functional characteristics in English and Uzbek, with a particular focus on literary works as a medium that captures the richness and depth of food-related terminology.

The Formation of Food Names in English and Uzbek

The way food names are formed in both languages is influenced by a variety of factors, including the ingredients, preparation methods, cultural heritage, and even the regional variations within each language group. In literary works, food names often transcend mere labels for sustenance, becoming symbolic representations of the values, traditions, and social contexts in which they exist.

In English

In English, food names often reflect several key aspects: **Ingredients:** Many food names in English are formed based on the primary ingredients used in the dish. This is particularly common in dishes that have a well-defined recipe and a standardized name.

Example: Beef Stew (a stew made primarily with beef)

Example: Lamb Chops (a dish that primarily uses lamb as its main ingredient)

Preparation Method: Food names in English can also describe the method by which the dish is prepared.

Example: Fried Chicken (chicken that is fried)

Example: Baked Potatoes (potatoes that are baked in an oven)

Geographical or Cultural Influence: English food names often include geographical or cultural markers to indicate the origin of a dish, reflecting the global spread of food and cultural exchange.

Example: California Roll (a type of sushi originating in California)

Example: Yorkshire Pudding (a traditional dish from the Yorkshire region of England)

Descriptive Names: Many English food names are descriptive, often emphasizing the taste or texture of the food.

Example: Spicy Curry (a curry with a strong spicy flavor)

Example: Creamy Soup (a soup with a creamy texture)

In literary works, English food names can serve more than just a functional purpose. Writers use food to set the scene, evoke emotion, or symbolize themes in a narrative. For example, in George Orwell's 1984, food is used as a symbol of control and scarcity, with the protagonist Winston often experiencing hunger and deprivation.

In Uzbek

Uzbek food names, while also shaped by ingredients and preparation methods, often carry a deeper cultural and historical significance due to the rich culinary traditions of Central Asia. Like in English, the formation of food names in Uzbek is influenced by the following factors:

Ingredients: Much like English, Uzbek food names often reflect the main components of the dish. However, the names tend to be more specific to local and traditional ingredients.

Example: Mastava (a soup made with rice, vegetables, and meat)

Example: Somsa (a pastry filled with meat or vegetables)

Preparation Method: In Uzbek, food names can also refer to the way the food is prepared, often associated with traditional methods of cooking.

Example: Shashlik (meat grilled on skewers, often served with vegetables)

Example: Qovurma (a type of dish where meat and vegetables are fried together)

Cultural Context: Uzbek food names are deeply tied to the country's nomadic heritage and agricultural traditions. The food itself often symbolizes aspects of Uzbek identity, including hospitality and the importance of community.

Example: Plov (a rice dish, often made with meat, vegetables, and spices, traditionally shared during large gatherings)

Example: Lag'man (a noodle dish, representing the fusion of Turkic and Central Asian culinary traditions)

Festive or Ritual Significance: Some Uzbek food names are linked to specific festivals or rituals, adding another layer of meaning to the dishes.

Example: Nauryz Komek (traditional food served during the Nauryz festival, celebrating the spring equinox)

Example: Chuchvara (dumplings often served during special occasions or family gatherings)

In literary works, Uzbek food names are frequently used to evoke a sense of nostalgia or connect the narrative to cultural traditions. For instance, in the works of famous Uzbek authors such as Abdulla Qodiriy or Chinghiz Aitmatov, food is often used as a metaphor for the simplicity, warmth, and communal aspects of rural life. In these literary contexts, food becomes a marker of heritage, social ties, and identity.

Functional Characteristics of Food Names in English and Uzbek

Food names in both English and Uzbek serve several important functions. These include:

Identification: Food names primarily serve the function of identifying a dish. Whether in a recipe, a menu, or a story, the name helps to specify what the food is, what it contains, and how it is prepared. In literary works, food names can also represent more than just the ingredients, helping to define the character of a place or time.

Symbolism and Metaphor: In literature, food names often carry symbolic weight. For example, in *The Great Gatsby*, the lavish banquets serve as symbols of excess and superficiality, while the simple meals in works like *Of Mice and Men* convey themes of isolation and survival. Similarly, in Uzbek literature, food is often used to symbolize hospitality, the passing of time, or the importance of tradition and community.

Cultural Representation: Food names in both languages function as markers of cultural identity. They reveal a lot about the social, economic, and environmental factors that shape a community's culinary practices. For example, Osh (pilaf) in Uzbekistan is not only a food but a symbol of Uzbek identity, often prepared for major social events and festivals. Similarly, English dishes like Sunday Roast are not just meals but rituals embedded in British culture.

Descriptive Function: Food names also serve a descriptive function. In many cases, a food name describes not just the ingredients but the nature or texture of the dish. This can be seen in both languages: Sweet Pie in English or Shirinlik in Uzbek, both referring to sweet pastries or desserts.

Social and Economic Indicators: In both English and Uzbek cultures, food names may reflect social and economic status. For example, a dish like Caviar in English is associated with luxury, while Plov in Uzbek may be associated with a hearty, communal meal that brings people together.

CONCLUSION

The formation and functional characteristics of food names in English and Uzbek languages are deeply tied to culture, geography, history, and social norms. Food names do more than just identify dishes—they serve as a bridge between language and culture, helping to preserve traditions, convey emotions, and create symbolic connections. In literary works, these names gain even more significance, reflecting the broader social, political, and emotional landscapes in which they exist. Whether in the culinary traditions of the English-speaking world or the rich food culture of Uzbekistan, food names are an essential part of the narrative of human experience. Through their formation and functional characteristics, they provide insight into the ways that language, culture, and food intersect to shape identity and foster community. These references offer a comprehensive exploration of food names in English and Uzbek languages, especially in relation to literary works. They provide valuable insights into how food terminology functions in both everyday language and literature, symbolizing cultural identity, social norms, and the human experience. By examining these sources, one can gain a deeper understanding of the linguistic and cultural richness behind food names and their ability to reflect and shape societal values.

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