
ETYMOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ENGLISH PROVERBS

Egamberdiyeva Gulhayo Safarboy qizi

2year Master`s student Faculty of Foreign Philology Department of English Literature

University of Exact and social sciences, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT: This study explores the etymological characteristics of English proverbs, shedding light on the origins and evolution of these concise and insightful expressions. Drawing on linguistic analysis and historical research, the research delves into the diverse sources that have contributed to the formation of English proverbs, including Old English, Latin, Greek, and other languages. By examining the etymology of select proverbs, the study aims to elucidate how cultural influences, historical events, and linguistic changes have shaped the proverbial landscape of the English language. Insights gleaned from this research not only enhance our understanding of individual proverbs but also offer valuable perspectives on the broader evolution of language and culture.

KEYWORDS: Etymology, Characteristics, English proverbs, Origins, Evolution, Linguistic analysis, Historical research, Cultural influences, Language evolution, Proverbial expressions.

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs are basically conversational, but occur commonly in both spoken and written communication, e.g. lectures, newspapers, speeches, books, fables and poetry. Proverbs are used in a wide range of situations and there are no limits to the use of the proverb.

According to Marvin, "the origin of most proverbs is unknown".¹ 'They were anterior to books,' says Disraeli, 'and formed the wisdom of the vulgar, and in the earliest ages were the unwritten laws of morality'. As a nation's proverbs predate its literature it is impossible to trace them to their beginnings. They spring from an unknown source, increase in volume as they roll on and are adopted by all as unconsciously as they have sprung into existence." He also points out that in youth we thought that the proverbs quoted by our elders were mere "ways of speaking", borrowed from others of their own generation. As we grew older and sought to discover from whence they came we were surprised to learn that many, if not all of them, had been used for centuries not only by our for bears but all over the world. Regarding the origins of the proverbs Meider³, the famous paremiologist, states that:

Proverbs, like riddles, jokes, or fairy tales, de not fall out of the sky and neither are they products of a mythical soul of the folk. Instead they are always coined by an individual either intentionally or unintentionally, as expressed in Lord John Russell's³

well-known one-line proverb definition that has taken on a proverbial status of sorts: 'A proverb is the wit of one and the wisdom of many'. He also explains how a statement can turn into a proverb. He believes that if the statement contains an element of truth or wisdom, and if it exhibits one or more proverbial markers, it might 'catch on' and be used first in a small family circle, and subsequently in a village, a city, a region, a country, a continent, and eventually the world.

The global spread of proverbs is not a pipe dream, since certain ancient proverbs have in fact spread into many parts of the world. Today, with the incredible power of the mass media, a newly formulated proverb-like statement might become a bona fide proverb relatively quickly by way of the radio, television, and print media. As with verbal folklore in general, the original statement might well be varied a bit as it gets picked up and becomes ever more an anonymous proverb whose wording, structure, style, and metaphor are such that it is memorable.

Furthermore, Meider mentions that it is usually quite difficult to trace the origin and history of a proverb in a particular language. So, studying European languages he proposes four sources for the distribution of European proverbs. Of course, he clarifies this point that similar issues have occurred in the dissemination of proverbs in Asian, African, and other linguistic and cultural groups. Here these four sources will be outlined briefly⁴:

1. There is no doubt that a considerable corpus of common European proverbs can be traced back to classical times (Greek and Roman antiquity). Since they were loan translated from the same sources, they exist in the many languages of Europe in identical forms. Little wonder then that exact equivalents of the classical proverb "Where there is smoke, there are fire can be found in 54 European languages.

2. A second source of proverbs for the entire European continent and beyond is the Bible, whose proverbs date back to classical antiquity and early wisdom literature. As a widely translated book, the Bible had a major influence on the distribution of common proverbs since the various translators were dealing with the same texts. Several dozen biblical proverbs are thus current in identical wordings in many European languages, even though speakers might not remember that they are employing proverbs from the Bible.

3. The third source for common European proverbs is Medieval Latin. It must not be forgotten that the Latin language of the Middle Ages had the status *lingua franca*, and as such it developed new proverbs that cannot be traced back to classical times. Many Medieval Latin proverbs in their exact translations have spread to European languages, and they certainly belong to some of the most popular proverbs today. Many Medieval Latin proverbs in their exact translations have spread to European languages, and they certainly belong to some of the most popular proverbs today. A well-known example is: "Crows will not pick out crows' eyes".

Proverb is a brief saying that presents a truth or some bit of useful wisdom. It is usually based on common sense or practical experience. The effect of a proverb is to make the wisdom it tells seem to be self-evident. The same proverb often occurs among several different peoples. True proverbs are saying that have been passed from generation to generation primarily by word of mouth. They may also have been put into written form. The Book of Proverbs in the Hebrew

Bible or old Testament, is the most notable collection of such sayings.

Proverbs, Book of is a book of the Hebrew Bible, or old Testament. It is also known as the Proverbs of Solomon because according to tradition king Solomon Wrote it. However scholars believe that the book's assortment of moral and religious saying, poems and warnings come from various periods in the history of ancient from until after the period of the Babylonian Exile, which ended in 538 B.C.

Proverbs were always the most vivacious and at the same time the most stable part of the national languages, suitable competing with the sayings and aphorisms of outstanding thinkers. In the proverbs and sayings picturesqueness of national thinking was more vivid expressed as well as their features of national character. The proverbs and sayings are the paper of folklore which is short but deep in the meaning. They express the outlook of the amount of people by their social and ideal functions. Proverbs and sayings include themselves the some certain features of historical development and the culture of people.

Even if the form, the word structure and the stylistic structure of these proverbs are different they have the same meaning. The proverbs change their meaning and form very rare, they have long living features. The spreading of any proverb among people is implemented as slow as it is created. Proverbs are retest by geographic area which is going to admit it only after that the proverb can become its property.

Many scholars tried to do the researches to show the differences between proverbs and sayings in order to point out their border of limit. One of the outstanding Russian scholars the author of "dictionary of vivid Russian language" and "the proverbs of Russian nation" V.I. Dal wrote: saying is the bud and proverb is the fruit. So from this point of view we can see that proverbs express the full finite meaning and saying is a phrase which expresses the fugitive meaning⁵. The sayings are considered to be the half part of the proverbs. We can also add that proverbs and sayings are separate genres which are different from each other. There are some features that can be helpful in identifying the proverbs from sayings.

1. When there are two logical counters became complete composition the brief summarizing thought appeared. That explains the lack of spare word or description.

2. To express the idea straightly and logically proverbs are characterized by their features. Every proverb values or appreciates any event both positively and negatively. Such kind of features serve to make the proverbs popular among people.

3. Proverbs express wise and complete idea and sayings express the description of something but do not give complete meanings. They consist of one compositional composition.

4. Proverbs can be used in neutral figurative meaning. This feature of proverbs widen the sphere of their usage thematically. That's why proverbs are famous among two nations who are near to each other geographically and in nonrelated languages. For example in Russian "заморить человека" means to eat something has no equivalent or component in English language and translated by analogy. Proverbs is to prove any event or situation.

5. The sayings are the means of devices or pointing in speech the function of proverbs is

to prove any event or situation.

To

conclude, besides being an important part of culture, are an important tool for effective communication and for the comprehension of different spoken and written discourses. The person who does not acquire competence in using proverbs will be limited in conversation, will have difficulty comprehending a wide variety of printed matter, radio, television, songs etc., and will not understand proverb parodies which presuppose a familiarity with a stock proverb.

Work with proverbs and sayings at the lessons not only helps to diversify educational process and to make its brighter and interesting. Moreover it helps to solve a number of very important educational problems: proverbs in the classroom can improve students' learning experiences, their language skills, and their understanding of themselves and the world.

REFERENCES

1. Marvin, D.E. Antiquity of Proverbs. New York and London. 1992
2. Arora, Shirley L. "The perception of proverbiality". In Wolfgang Mieder (Ed.)
3. Marvin, D.E. Antiquity of Proverbs. New York and London. 1992
4. Wise Words. Essays on the Proverb. New York: Garland Publishing Inc., 3-29, 1994
5. V.I. Dal "Dictionary of vivid Russian language".
6. V.I. Dal "The proverbs of Russian nation".
7. <http://www.proverbs.com>