LINGUOCULTURAL AND AXIOLOGICAL FEATURES OF THE CONCEPT OF "BELONGING" IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Annotation

This article examines the linguocultural and axiological features of the concept of **"Belonging"** in English and Uzbek. The concept of belonging is closely connected with identity, family, community, homeland, cultural heritage, and social relationships. Although belonging is a universal human experience, it is expressed differently across languages and cultures. The study analyzes the lexical and conceptual representations of belonging in English and Uzbek and identifies their main similarities and differences. In English, the concept is commonly represented through words and expressions such as *belong, belonging, home, community, identity, roots, heritage, inclusion,* and *sense of belonging*. In Uzbek, it is represented through *mansublik, tegishlilik, daxldorlik, oila, mahalla, el, yurt, Vatan, ajdod,* and *meros*. The analysis shows that English frequently emphasizes personal identity, social inclusion, and emotional attachment, whereas Uzbek conceptualization strongly associates belonging with family, community, homeland, ancestry, solidarity, and social responsibility. The study demonstrates that "Belonging" is a complex linguocultural concept containing cognitive, emotional, social, and axiological components.

Keywords

Belonging, linguocultural concept, axiological features, cognitive linguistics, English, Uzbek, mansublik, tegishlilik, identity, community, family, homeland, Vatan, mahalla, cultural heritage, social values, intercultural communication.

Language is closely connected with culture because it reflects people's worldview, social relationships, traditions, and values. One of the important concepts represented in language is **"Belonging."** It describes the relationship between an individual and a family, community, homeland, culture, institution, or social group.

Belonging may be both objective and emotional. For example, *"She belongs to the university"* expresses membership, while *"She feels that she belongs here"* expresses emotional connection and acceptance. Therefore, belonging includes several meanings such as membership, identity, attachment, acceptance, and social recognition.

The aim of this article is to compare the linguocultural and axiological features of belonging in English and Uzbek.

The English lexical field of belonging includes *belong, belonging, membership, community, home, identity, roots, heritage,* and *inclusion*. The phrase **"sense of belonging"** is especially important because it describes the feeling of being accepted and valued by a particular group.

The concept of *home* is also closely connected with belonging. Expressions such as *"feel at home"* and *"home away from home"* demonstrate that home can symbolize comfort, safety,

familiarity, and emotional attachment. Another important metaphor is **"roots."** Expressions such as *"know your roots"* and *"put down roots"* connect belonging with ancestry, cultural heritage, and continuity.

In Uzbek, belonging does not have one complete lexical equivalent. Several words participate in its conceptual field, particularly **mansublik, tegishlilik, daxldorlik,** and **aloqadorlik**. However, the concept is also closely associated with culturally significant words such as **oila** (family), **mahalla** (community/neighbourhood), **Vatan** (homeland), **yurt** (native land), **ajdod** (ancestor), and **meros** (heritage).

Family represents an important source of belonging in Uzbek culture. Kinship terms such as *ota, ona, aka, uka, opa,* and *singil* express not only biological relationships but also social connections and responsibilities.

The concept of **mahalla** is particularly important. Although it can be translated as "neighbourhood," its meaning may also include community, mutual support, social interaction, and collective responsibility. Therefore, *mahalla* represents a culturally specific form of community belonging.

Similarly, **Vatan** and **yurt** express more than geographical territory. They may evoke homeland, history, cultural identity, collective memory, and emotional attachment. The expression *ona yurt* ("motherland") further strengthens the emotional relationship between an individual and homeland.

Axiological Features

Belonging has a strong axiological dimension because it is associated with socially valued experiences. In both English and Uzbek, belonging may be connected with:

- acceptance;
- respect;
- trust;
- solidarity;
- loyalty;
- security;
- identity;
- responsibility.

Its opposite is represented through concepts such as exclusion, rejection, isolation, and alienation.

In Uzbek, the opposition **o'z — begona** ("one's own — stranger") is particularly significant. In English, similar meanings can be expressed through **insider — outsider**, **included — excluded**, and **one of us — outsider**.

Thus, both languages conceptualize belonging through the opposition between connection and separation.

Comparative Perspective

The two languages share several conceptual features. Both associate belonging with family, home, community, identity, roots, and cultural heritage. However, there are differences in the way these meanings are emphasized.

English	Uzbek
belonging	mansublik / tegishlilik

English	Uzbek
community	jamoa / mahalla
home	uy
homeland	Vatan / yurt
roots	ildiz
heritage	meros
identity	o‘zlik / shaxsiyat
inclusion	qabul qilinish / qo‘shilish
solidarity	hamjihatlik

English frequently emphasizes **individual experience and social inclusion**, especially through expressions such as *sense of belonging* and *feel included*. Uzbek conceptualization gives considerable attention to **family, kinship, homeland, mahalla, ancestry, and collective solidarity**.

However, these differences should be understood as general linguistic and cultural tendencies rather than absolute characteristics of all English- or Uzbek-speaking people.

Conclusion

The analysis demonstrates that **“Belonging” is a complex linguocultural and axiological concept in both English and Uzbek**. Although its fundamental meaning is universal, its linguistic representation is influenced by cultural values and social experience.

In English, belonging is strongly represented through *belonging, identity, community, home, roots, heritage,* and *inclusion*. In Uzbek, the concept is represented through *mansublik, tegishlilik, oila, mahalla, Vatan, yurt, ajdod,* and *meros*.

The main shared values are acceptance, identity, connection, solidarity, and social recognition. At the same time, Uzbek representations particularly highlight family, homeland, ancestry, and community, while English provides especially prominent expressions for individual feelings of inclusion and belonging.

Therefore, studying the concept of belonging in English and Uzbek is important for understanding the relationship between **language, culture, identity, and values**, as well as for improving intercultural communication and translation.

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