

ETNOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF TRADITION RELATED LEXICON IN
THE KARAKALPAK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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QORAQALPOQ VA INGLIZ TILLARIDAGI AN'ANA LEKSIKASINING ETNOLINGVISTIK TAHLILI

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ЭТНОЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ ТРАДИЦИОННОЙ ЛЕКСИКИ
В КАРАКАЛПАКСКОМ И АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКАХ

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Tayanch so'zlar: etnolingvistika, leksika, bayramlar, e'tiqodlar, an'analar, ingliz tili, qoraqalpoq tili, hosil (yig'imi), madaniy qiyoslash.

Rezyume. Maqola qoraqalpoq va ingliz tillaridagi hosil bayramlari leksikasini solishtiradi. Qoraqalpoqda Zuraat Bayram (paxta hosili, jamoa, islom-nomadlik) asosiy. Inglizda Karnaval (ziyofat) va Xellouin (ruhiy unsurlar). Hosil mavzusida o'xshashlik bor, lekin diniy va marosim ma'nolarida katta farq. Til orqali madaniy o'zlik saqlanadi.

Ключевые слова: этнолингвистика, лексика, праздники, верования, традиции, английский язык, каракалпакский язык, урожай, культурное сопоставление.

Резюме. Статья сравнивает лексику праздников урожая в каракалпакском и английском языках. В каракалпакском – Зураат Байрам (хлопок, община, исламско-кочевые корни). В английском – Карнавал (разгул) и Хэллоуин (сверхъестественное). Сходство в теме урожая, различия в религиозных и ритуальных смыслах. Язык сохраняет этническую идентичность.

Key words: ethnolinguistic, lexicon, festivals, beliefs, traditions, English language, Karakalpak language, harvest, cultural comparison.

Summary. The article compares harvest and festival vocabulary in Karakalpak and English. Karakalpak focuses on Zuraat Bayram (cotton harvest, community, Islamic-nomadic roots). English shows Carnival (indulgence) and Halloween (supernatural). Similarities exist in harvest themes; big differences in religious and ritual meaning. Language preserves cultural identity.

Introduction. This study provides an ethnolinguistic analysis of the lexicon associated with harvest festivals – Zuraat (harvest), Carnival (pre-Lent celebration), and Halloween (All Hallows' Eve) – in Karakalpak and English languages. Drawing from historical, cultural, and linguistic sources, the research highlights how vocabulary reflects cultural beliefs, traditions, and worldviews. While English terms reveal Celtic and Christian influences with supernatural elements, Karakalpak words, rooted in Turkic nomadic traditions, focus on Islamic and seasonal harvest practices without direct equivalents for some festivals. The analysis reveals cross-cultural convergences in harvest themes but divergences in religious and ritual connotations. This comparative approach underscores the role of language in preserving ethnic identities.

Ethnolinguistic explores the intricate relationship between language, culture, and worldview, revealing how lexical items encode ethnic-specific beliefs and traditions [8]. Festivals, as cultural milestones, serve as rich repositories of such lexicon, reflecting historical migrations, religious evolutions, and societal values. This article adapts and expands Karakalpak and English lexicon of beliefs and traditions, incorporating Karakalpak for a duo-lingual comparison. Karakalpak, a Kipchak Turkic language spoken in Uzbekistan's Karakalpakstan region, adds a nomadic, Islamic perspective to the Celtic-Christian English frameworks.

The selected festivals – Zuraat (autumn harvest in Karakalpak culture), Carnival (pre-Lent revelry), and Halloween (eve of All Saints' Day) – offer fertile ground for comparison. Carnival and Halloween, conversely, blend pagan and Christian elements in Western traditions [4]. In Karakalpak culture, equivalents are sparse: harvest is

celebrated via Zuraat Bayram (festival), while Navruz (spring equinox) echoes, no direct parallels exist for Carnival or Halloween, as Karakalpak traditions prioritize Islamic holidays like Qurban Ait (Eid al-Adha) and seasonal migrations.

This study aims to identify lexical similarities and differences, hypothesizing that Karakalpak lexicon emphasizes harmony with nature, communal labor and faith and English highlights supernatural fears. Understanding these aids in preserving intangible cultural heritage, as recognized by UNESCO for elements like Navruz [9].

Furthermore, the comparative perspective adopted in this study allows for a deeper understanding of how linguistic gaps themselves carry cultural meaning. The absence of direct equivalents in Karakalpak for festivals such as Halloween or Carnival is not merely a lexical limitation but reflects differing cultural priorities and religious frameworks. In this sense, silence in the lexicon becomes as meaningful as presence, signaling the boundaries of cultural experience. By examining both shared and absent terms, the study contributes to a more nuanced interpretation of intercultural communication and highlights the importance of safeguarding minority linguistic traditions in an increasingly globalized world.

Methods. The methodology employs a comparative ethnolinguistic approach, analyzing lexicon from primary and secondary sources. For Karakalpak data were web-based research was conducted using queries on festivals, traditions, and lexicon [5]. The Karakalpak-English Dictionary [7] provided lexical items, such as "paxta bayrami" (cotton festival). Historical texts on Turkic nomadic cultures [3] contextualized equivalents. English from Oxford English Dictionary [6] and Collins Cobuild [1]

for English. Key terms were identified through semantic field analysis, grouping words related to rituals, symbols, and beliefs.

1. Keyword extraction: Identifying core terms (e.g., English "Halloween" = hallow/evening; Karakalpak "Paxta Bayram" = cotton/holiday).

2. Semantic comparison: Using tables to map meanings, origins, and usages.

3. Cultural contextualization: Referencing folklore (e.g., Karakalpak epics like "Kyrk Qiz") and modern practices (e.g., UNESCO-listed yurt-making as nomadic tradition).

4. Validation: Cross-referencing with scholarly sources to avoid bias, assuming media viewpoints on cultural events are subjective.

Analysis focused on etymology, polysemy, and cultural connotations, with qualitative interpretation of how lexicon mirrors beliefs. Limitations include sparse Karakalpak lexicographical resources, addressed through analogous Turkic (Kazakh/Uzbek) terms.

Results. The lexicon analysis reveals distinct yet overlapping semantic fields across languages, organized by festival.

English lacks a direct equivalent but parallels Thanksgiving: "harvest" (gathering crops), "Thanksgiving" (giving thanks), with terms like "feast," "bounty," "autumn equinox." Lexicon focuses on gratitude, e.g., "Turkey Day" (informal), highlighting familial meals [6].

In Karakalpak, the closest is "Zuraat bayram" (harvest festival), from "zuraat" (harvest) and "bayram" (holiday/festival). It celebrates cotton harvest, with terms like "mereke" (folk festival), "jıyn" (gathering), reflecting nomadic agrarian life [5].

Karakalpak, as Sunni Muslims, suppresses Zoroastrian elements; no direct term. Analogous is "Navruz" (Navruz), with "ot" (fire) in rituals, but primarily spring-focused. Beliefs in fire as purifying echo in "qamis" (reed harvesting for winter fires), tied to migrations [5].

Karakalpak lacks Lent-based festivals; closest is "Mereke" (folk festival) or "Toy" (wedding feast), with "bayram" for celebrations. No pre-fasting lexicon, but communal "jıyn" (assembly) mirrors revelry [7].

Table 1: Lexicon for Revelry Festivals

Language	Core Term	Key Words/Phrases	Semantic Focus
English	Carnival	Mardi Gras, Shrovetide, pancake	Indulgence, confession
Karakalpak	Mereke/Toy	Bayram (holiday) jıyn (assembly)	Folk gathering, feast

Halloween (All Hallows' Eve)

English: "Halloween" from "All Hallows' Even," with "jack-o'-lantern" (pumpkin lamp), "Samhain" (Celtic end of summer), "trick-or-treat" (prank or gift), blending fear and fun.

Karakalpak has no equivalent; supernatural beliefs in "arwah" (spirits) from folklore, but no festival. Epics like "Kyrk Qiz" include protective rituals against evil, with "jin" (demon).

Table 2: Lexicon for Supernatural Festivals

Language	Core Term	Key Words/Phrases	Semantic Focus
English	Halloween	Jack-o'-lantern, Samhain, trick-or-treat	Fear, supernatural
Karakalpak	Arvah/Jin (beliefs)	Jin (demon)	Protection, folklore

Discussion. The results illustrate ethnolinguistic divergences rooted in historical contexts. English terms blend pagan and Christian elements, emphasizing transition and indulgence, reflecting Celtic-Christian syncretism [4]. Karakalpak, as Turkic-Islamic, focuses on practical communalism (e.g., "zuraat bayramı" for harvest labor), with nomadic echoes in migrations and minimal supernatural lexicon.

Similarities emerge in harvest themes: English "harvest," Karakalpak "Zuraat" all connote bounty. Renewal in Carnival and Halloween's ritual indulgence lack Karakalpak parallels, highlighting Islamic restraint vs. Western excess.

These findings affirm ethnolinguistic relativity (Sapir-Whorf hypothesis), where lexicon shapes cultural perception: English views as liminal fear/joy, Karakalpaks as faith-labor unity. Preservation efforts, like UNESCO's Navruz inscription, are vital amid globalization.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the ethnolinguistic comparison of Karakalpak and English festival lexicon demonstrates that language serves as an important repository of cultural knowledge and identity. Although both linguistic traditions share universal themes related to harvest and communal celebration, they differ significantly in their symbolic, religious, and emotional expressions. English festival vocabulary reflects the historical interaction of pagan and Christian traditions and often incorporates elements of supernatural belief and ritual transformation. In contrast, Karakalpak vocabulary is deeply rooted in Islamic values, nomadic heritage, and communal life, emphasizing harmony with nature and collective labor. The study also highlights the importance of preserving minority languages such as Karakalpak, as they represent unique cultural perspectives that enrich global diversity. In the context of globalization, maintaining linguistic heritage is essential for sustaining cultural identity and promoting intercultural understanding, while future research may expand this comparative framework to other Turkic languages and examine the impact of modernization on traditional lexicon.

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