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# PROVERBS AND SAYINGS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO VARIABLE SENTENCES

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# ABSTRACT

Proverbs and sayings represent folk wisdom, expressed in a concise and vivid form. They reflect people's perspectives on life, morality, traditions, and behavior. However, is there a connection between proverbs and variable sentences? This article explores this question.

Proverbs and sayings are an integral part of every culture. These brief yet meaningful expressions convey collective wisdom, encapsulating the worldview, traditions, and values of a society. They appear in oral speech, literature, art, and even modern advertising, helping people understand each other better and pass on knowledge across generations.

# **K**EYWORDS

Proverbs and sayings, paremiology, cliché, aphorism, pragmalinguistics, linguacultural studies, cognitive linguistics.

# INTRODUCTION

#### Features of Variable Sentences

Variable sentences are phrases in which one or more components can change, altering the meaning depending on the context. This principle is often reflected in proverbs.

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#### The Relationship Between Proverbs and Variable Sentences

Many proverbs contain variable elements. For example:

- "It's fun where..." the ending can vary.
- "What is the advice, so is..." the conclusion changes based on context.

Such proverbs adapt flexibly to different situations, adding depth and relevance.

A proverb is a set expression with an instructive meaning, such as "No pain, no gain." Unlike proverbs, sayings do not always contain a moral lesson but simply describe a situation or phenomenon, e.g., "Things are going well — the horse has not rolled around."

### The Role of Proverbs and Sayings in Language

Proverbs and sayings enrich language by making it more figurative and expressive. They allow for the concise transmission of complex thoughts, replacing lengthy explanations with impactful phrases. Additionally, they contribute to cultural identity, as many proverbs are deeply connected to a nation's history, customs, and natural environment.

These expressions also play a crucial role in language learning. They help learners grasp the structure, vocabulary, and cultural nuances of a foreign language. For instance, the English equivalent of the Russian proverb "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree" is identical: "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree."

#### **Communicative Phraseological Units in Tajik and English Linguistics**

This study examines the perspectives of Tajik and English linguists regarding communicative phraseological units (CPU). There are varying approaches to determining the place of CPUs within the language system. Proverbs and sayings (PS) function as complete sentences and adhere to syntactic rules: they maintain a consistent word order, follow standard grammatical structures, and can be simple or complex. Depending on the purpose of the statement, they can be narrative, imperative, or interrogative.

A key debate in phraseology concerns whether phraseological units constitute an independent linguistic category or an integral part of phraseology. One of the most controversial aspects of this discussion is whether a phraseological unit can take the form of a complete sentence while maintaining communicative meaning.

This article explores these issues, analyzing the syntactic and functional characteristics of proverbs, sayings, and variable sentences within the broader linguistic framework.

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Proverbs possess a communicative function, as emphasized in the linguistic dictionary edited by V.N. Yartseva: "The communicative function of proverbs determines their division into dictum and mode. Proverbs exhibit semantic duality—the ability to designate a specific situation correlated with objective modality and an allegorical meaning derived from the perception of the 'literal' meaning as a figurative motivation, associated with evaluative and subjective-emotional modality."

Communication involves the exchange of thoughts, information, and ideas. Based on their function in the language, communicative phraseological units in Tajik and English can be categorized into two broad classes: those with a communicative function—serving the purpose of communication—and those without it. Proverbs are typically defined as short, instructive sayings with either direct or figurative meanings. They often feature rhyme and are structured as either simple or complex sentences. According to the Linguistic Encyclopedic dictionary, a proverb is "a short, stable expression in everyday speech, usually rhythmically organized, of an instructive nature, which encapsulates the centuries-old experience of the people and takes the form of a complete sentence (simple or complex)."

Summarizing these definitions, we propose the following definition: "Proverbs are short, stable sayings structured as simple or complex sentences, usually instructive in nature, often rhyming, reproduced in speech in a ready-made form, and containing either a direct or figurative meaning." A proverb is a short, instructive saying that, unlike a saying, has only a literal interpretation and is grammatically a complete sentence. Proverbs, in contrast, are figurative expressions that accurately define and evaluate particular aspects of life.

Proverbs and sayings share similarities but differ in meaning and function within the language:

- 1. Proverbs are set expressions with an instructive, moralizing meaning. They often contain a complete thought and convey folk wisdom. Example: "No pain, no gain"—which teaches that effort is necessary to achieve success.
- 2. Sayings are also set expressions, but they lack an instructive meaning. Instead, they describe a situation or phenomenon, adding figurativeness to speech without formulating a moral lesson. Example: "Things are going well—the horse has not rolled around"—which describes chaotic or unfinished work without implying an ethical conclusion.

Thus, the primary distinction lies in the presence or absence of a moralizing meaning: proverbs instruct and teach, whereas sayings merely enhance speech with figurative language.

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