



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF DANCE TERMINOLOGY IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract. *This article examines the comparative features of dance terminology in English and Uzbek, focusing on lexical structure, semantic motivation, cultural specificity, and the role of idioms and collocations. Recent studies on English and Uzbek dance terminology show that both languages use technical terms, nationally marked vocabulary, and figurative expressions, but they differ in how strongly terminology is tied to cultural tradition and performance context (The significance of using idioms and collocations in English and Uzbek dance terminology, 2024; English and Uzbek national dance terminology, 2024). The analysis shows that English dance terminology is more internationalized, while Uzbek dance terminology preserves stronger links with national identity, regional styles, and ethnocultural imagery (English and Uzbek national dance terminology, 2024).*

Keywords: *dance terminology, comparative analysis, English language, Uzbek language, dance vocabulary, terminology comparison, lexical structure, semantic features, cultural specificity, translation issues.*

Introduction

Dance terminology is a specialized layer of vocabulary that names movements, genres, performance techniques, costumes, and related artistic concepts. In both English and Uzbek, this terminology serves not only a descriptive function but also a cultural one, reflecting how each speech community understands dance as an art form (English and Uzbek national dance terminology, 2024). Comparative

study of these terms is useful for translation, choreography education, intercultural communication, and lexicography.

English and Uzbek dance terminology also includes idioms and collocations that help describe performance quality and artistic expression. One recent study emphasizes that such expressions enrich communication in dance discourse and reveal the metaphorical character of terminology in both languages (The significance of using idioms and collocations in English and Uzbek dance terminology, 2024). This makes dance vocabulary a productive field for comparative linguistic analysis.

Lexical Structure

A major difference between the two languages is the degree of borrowing and internationalization. English dance terminology contains many internationally shared terms, especially from ballet and stage performance, which makes its terminology more globally standardized. Uzbek dance terminology includes borrowed international terms as well, but it is more visibly blended with native lexical material and ethnographic naming patterns (English and Uzbek national dance terminology, 2024).

In Uzbek, terms often preserve references to national dance traditions, regional performance styles, and culturally specific gestures. The study of English and Uzbek national dance terminology notes the importance of Morris dancing in English tradition and Khoresmi dance, Lazgi, and related forms in Uzbek tradition (English and Uzbek national dance terminology, 2024). This shows that terminology is not neutral: it encodes historical and cultural identity.

Semantic Features

Semantically, both languages classify dance terminology into several groups: names of dance genres, body movements, performance techniques, costumes, and expressive labels. However, Uzbek terms more often carry culturally embedded meanings, especially when connected to national choreography and ritual

performance (English and Uzbek national dance terminology, 2024). English terms tend to be more abstract, functional, and systematized in professional discourse.

Idiomatic and collocational usage also differs. According to the available research, English dance discourse uses expressions such as “break a leg” and “dance up a storm,” while Uzbek discourse includes phrases connected with correct performance and folk-dance naming (The significance of using idioms and collocations in English and Uzbek dance terminology, 2024). These expressions demonstrate that dance terminology extends beyond strictly technical naming and enters the domain of figurative speech.

Cultural Specificity

Cultural context is one of the strongest dimensions of comparison. English dance terminology reflects both courtly and folk traditions, with Morris dancing serving as an important historical example (English and Uzbek national dance terminology, 2024). Uzbek dance terminology is deeply rooted in national aesthetics, bodily expression, and regional identity, especially in the Khorezm tradition and the famous Lazgi style (English and Uzbek national dance terminology, 2024).

This cultural difference affects naming patterns. English terminology often prioritizes genre classification and performance function, while Uzbek terminology often highlights motion, grace, costume, and traditional artistic values. As a result, the Uzbek system appears more symbolically charged, whereas the English system appears more institutionally standardized.

Translation Issues

Translation between English and Uzbek dance terminology can be difficult because direct equivalence is not always available. Some terms match at the denotative level but differ in cultural associations and performance conventions. For example, a term in English may refer to a stage technique, while the closest Uzbek equivalent may evoke a broader traditional practice (The significance of using

idioms and collocations in English and Uzbek dance terminology, 2024; English and Uzbek national dance terminology, 2024).

To translate these terms accurately, one must consider not only dictionary meaning but also cultural context, register, and usage in choreography or criticism. This is especially important for idioms and collocations, where literal translation may obscure intended meaning (The significance of using idioms and collocations in English and Uzbek dance terminology, 2024). A functional approach is therefore more reliable than a purely word-for-word method.

Conclusion

The comparative analysis shows that English and Uzbek dance terminology share a common technical purpose but differ in cultural orientation and lexical organization. English terminology is more international and standardized, while Uzbek terminology is more nationally specific and culturally expressive (English and Uzbek national dance terminology, 2024; The significance of using idioms and collocations in English and Uzbek dance terminology, 2024). Both systems demonstrate that dance language is shaped by art, tradition, and social practice.

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