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Origin of proverbs and sayings

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Abstract: Proverbs and sayings are expressions of folk wisdom, encapsulated in a concise and vivid form. They reflect people's views on life, morality, traditions, and behavior. But is there a connection between proverbs and variable sentences? This article explores this question.

Proverbs and sayings are an integral part of any culture. These short yet meaningful expressions convey collective wisdom, reflecting the worldview, traditions, and values of a society. They can be found in oral speech, literature, art, and even modern advertising. They help people understand each other better and transmit knowledge from generation to generation.

Keywords: Proverbs and sayings, paremiology, cliché, aphorism, pragmalinguistics, linguistic and cultural studies, cognitive linguistics.

Introduction: The Role of Proverbs and Sayings in Society

Proverbs and sayings convey the moral and ethical norms of society. They are frequently used in literature, folklore, and even modern media. They appear in the works of Pushkin, Gogol, Shakespeare, and many other classic writers.

Throughout history, proverbs have evolved in meaning and interpretation, yet their core message remains unchanged. Even today, they remain relevant as they reflect universal life principles such as diligence, honesty, and justice.

Origins of Proverbs and Sayings

Proverbs and sayings have ancient roots and have been formed over centuries, reflecting the worldview, traditions, and historical experiences of various peoples. Their origins can be classified into several main sources:

- 1. Folk Folklore.** Most proverbs and sayings originated from oral folk creativity. Passed down through generations, they became embedded in

language and culture. Many are related to the lives of farmers, craftsmen, and hunters.

o Example: "You reap what you sow" comes from agricultural life and symbolizes cause-and-effect relationships.

2. Historical Events. Some expressions emerged due to significant historical events, wars, reforms, and revolts.

o Example: "Moscow wasn't built in a day" reflects the long process of building Russia's capital.

3. Literary Sources. Many proverbs originated from the works of famous writers, philosophers, and thinkers. Some expressions became widely known after appearing in literature.

o Example: "Happy to serve, but sick of servility"—a line from A.S. Griboyedov's comedy "Woe from Wit."

4. Biblical and Religious Texts

Sacred texts, such as the Bible and the Quran, also served as sources of wise expressions that later became common sayings.

o Example: "Man shall not live by bread alone," a biblical quote emphasizing the importance of spiritual values.

5. Foreign Influence. Many proverbs and sayings entered the Russian language from other cultures, adapting to local realities.

o Example: "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree," which has an equivalent in English.

Research on Proverbs and Sayings

The study of proverbs and sayings in the works of Sadriiddin Ayni was conducted by the Tajik scholar N. Ma'sumi. He noted that proverbs and sayings serve as expressive means in language, adding vividness and richness to literary works. They emerge under various living conditions and reflect the historical and socio-economic experiences of a people.

In the 1970s, M. Fazylov published a three-volume dictionary of Tajik-Persian proverbs, sayings, and aphorisms. In the introduction, he explored the origins of these expressions, their connections to real-life events, and their cultural significance. Fazylov classified proverbs as part of phraseology, providing examples like:

- "Empty warehouse—hundred pounds of rice,"
- "The calf runs until it reaches the barn,"
- "Less chaff, cleaner the world."

Another researcher, R. Gafforov, expanded on this view, arguing that if phraseology is understood broadly, proverbs and sayings should be considered

phraseological units because they are used in a ready-made form rather than created anew.

Linguistic Features of Proverbs and Sayings

Proverbs and sayings often contain linguistic structures that make them easy to remember and use. These include:

1. Rhyme and Rhythm. Rhymed proverbs are easier to perceive and memorize.

- o "No pain, no gain."
- o "A small gold coin is still valuable."
- o "Seven do not wait for one."

2. Antithesis (Contrast). Opposing concepts highlight the meaning of an expression.

o "Work is not a wolf—it won't run away into the forest."

o "Prepare your sledge in summer and your cart in winter."

o "Speech is silver, silence is gold."

3. Parallelism. Similar sentence structures reinforce meaning.

- o "What goes around, comes around."
- o "Might is right, but wisdom is better."
- o "If there's strength, there's no need for brains."

4. Folk Comparisons. Metaphors and imagery enhance meaning.

- o "Cunning as a fox."
- o "Quiet as water, gentle as grass."
- o "A fool does not follow the law."

5. Repetition of Words or Sounds. Repetition makes phrases more memorable.

- o "No fortune without misfortune."
- o "Where it's weak, it breaks."
- o "Another's soul is a dark place."

CONCLUSION

Proverbs and sayings play a crucial role in language and culture, conveying folk wisdom, enriching speech, and shaping cultural heritage. They remain relevant in the modern world, helping people understand each other and the realities of life.

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