

## CULTURAL HERITAGE OF UZBEK AND ENGLISH PEOPLE IN COMPARISON

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**Annotation:** to investigate cultural heritage of Uzbek and English people, find out similar and different peculiarities and explain them looking back at their history and origin and how they reflect in both languages.

**Key words:** cultural heritage, similarities and differences of culture of two nations, music, art, national clothes, handicrafts, historical places, cuisine, custom and traditions.

Learning foreign languages in Uzbekistan has become very important since the first days of the Independence of our country which much attention to the rising of education level of people, their intellectual growth. As our former President I. A. Karimov said: “Today it’s difficult to revalue the importance of knowing foreign languages for our country, as our people see their great prosperous future in the cooperation with foreign partners.” In the frame of realization of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “About the Education system” there created the complex system of teaching foreign languages, directed to the formation of harmoniously developed, highly educated, thinking on modern way, growing generation and further integration of the Republic into world cooperation

By knowing a foreign language we mention not only practical knowledge of the language but also knowledge of history and culture of its people. As we know every country has its own cultural heritage, customs and traditions, festivals and holidays. They make the cultural sphere of a language and communication. Learning the language of any country, we can’t avoid its culture, on the contrary, we must learn and respect it too.

Cultural heritage helps us to understand many notions and expressions, dictating us the appropriate way of usage of these or those words and phrases. Moreover, in a real communication with foreigners we should be aware of the history of their customs, festivals and traditions. Every country and every nation has its own traditions and customs and cultural heritage. It's very important to know traditions and customs of different people. It will help you to know more about the history and life of different nations and countries. Knowing the culture of a particular nation makes the communication interesting, close and correct. That's why this theme is very actual and important in the language learning. It is not less significant than learning grammar, lexis and pronunciation. Customs and traditions are necessary for real, face-to-face communication with foreigners.

The culture of Uzbek people was investigated by many writers and scientists such as Abbosova M., Abdunabiyev A., Akhmedshina F. and others. The cultural sphere of England was learnt out by Carter R., Fishman J.A., Giles H., Gonzalez A.B. This work combines their investigations and on the basis of comparative analysis makes out the similarities and differences between these two cultures. In our research work we investigated the cultural heritage of two countries: Uzbekistan and Great Britain. We also compared the culture of these two countries and found some likeness and differences. We learned out our customs, festivals and holidays, because foreigners are always interested in them and ask a lot of questions on this topic. Moreover, we must know our rich cultural heritage very well as we live in Uzbekistan. That is important for explaining and telling about it to foreigners and for communication with our native people. Knowing English cultural heritage is also necessary for an appropriate communication with English people, choosing correct forms of speaking and acting, respecting their culture.

The culture of Uzbekistan has a wide mix of ethnic groups and cultures, with the Uzbeks being the majority group. In 1995, about 71% of Uzbekistan's population was Uzbek. The chief minority groups were Russians (8.4%), Tajiks (officially 5%, but believed to be much higher), Kazaks (4.1%), Tatars (2.4%), and Karakalpaks (2.1%),

and other minority groups include Armenians and Koryo-saram. Cultural heritage sites in Uzbekistan inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List include: Historic Centre of Bukhara (1993), Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz (2000), Ichan Kala (1990), Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures (2001)

In the Republic of Uzbekistan a lot of holidays are celebrated: Independence Day (September, 1), Teachers’ Day (October, 1), New Year (January, 1), Women’s Day (March, 8), Navruz (March, 21), Constitution Day (December, 8), Day of Motherland defenders (January, 14), Day of memory and honour (May, 9) and others. Among the state holidays of Uzbekistan there are many religious ones. They are celebrated according to the Muslim lunar calendar. One of the most significant Muslim holidays is Kurban-Khait. It is the day when the faithful should make a gratifying oblation in accordance with their personal incomes. Ramazan-Khait is a holiday of moral purification and spiritual revival. This holiday comes after 30-day fast and falls at the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. During these days it is a custom to commemorate the deceased, to visit and help the sick, lonely and poor.

In a sense it reflects one of the most ancient and highly valued customs that has survived to our time. In the older days, however, among the peoples of the Orient, including the Uzbeks, hospitality was a must in terms of life standards and morality. So, hospitality is a tradition of Uzbek people. Uzbek people usually have big families consisting of few generations. Traditions and customs of Uzbek people living on the crossroad of the Great Silk Road were taking shape within many centuries as a result of interaction of Zoroastrian rituals of the Sogdians and Bactrians and traditions of nomadic tribes, with certain impact of Islamic traditions and rites set by the Koran in later period. Specific role in the life of Uzbeks is given to the customs connected with the birth and upbringing of children, marriage and commemoration of deceased relatives.

Wedding in the life of the Uzbeks is of great significance and is celebrated with a special solemnity. It consists of a number of ceremonies that should be performed without failure. Usually the wedding parties in Uzbekistan are big, interesting, beautiful with a lot of different national dishes, gifts, music, dancers, flowers and so on. At the parties the

common number of guests is 300-400 people. Uzbek people are very generous and spend their money to arrange perfect wedding parties for their sons and daughters.

Such important event in the life of young family as baby birth is accompanied with ritual celebration "Beshik tui" - "Wooden cradle". On the fortieth day after the baby is born relatives of the young mother bring lavishly decorated cradle - beshik and everything which is needed for the newborn, as well as wrapped in tablecloth baked scones, sweets and toys. The birth of a boy brings to the family a real elation and responsibility. Before the child reaches the age of nine it is necessary to perform ancient sanctified Islamic rite of circumcision - hatna kilish or sunnat toyi. Prior to the rite in the presence of the elders from neighbourhood suras (verses from Koran) are read and holiday table is served. The elders bless the small boy and give him presents.

Mahallya in a sense is self-supporting organization which meets the urgent spiritual and bodily requirements of the citizens. Mahallya plays a great role in the lifestyle of Uzbek people. Almost all the parties and important events are connected with mahallya and neighbours, who are always ready to help each other.

One cannot speak about England and Uzbekistan without speaking about their traditions and customs. They are very important in the life of these people, who preserve and follow them perfectly. Uzbek and English people are proud of their traditions and carefully keep them up.

International Women's Day (IWD) is marked on [March 8](#) every year. It is a major day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women. This holiday is celebrated in both countries. The same with April Fool's day. This holiday is more popular among Englishmen. April 1<sup>st</sup> is the day people try to trick their friends, to make them behave like fools. Ranging from the elaborate practical joke to the obvious your zips undone the joker gloats April Fool when the unsuspecting victim falls for it. No one is exempt until noon but after that the joking must cease or the prank rebounds on the joker with the rhyme "April Fool is gone and past, You're the bigger fool at last." A favourite joke is to send someone on a *fool's* errand, a search for something that does not exist.

Englishmen celebrate Christmas. The origins of the now traditional Christmas Celebration, distinct from earlier pagan winter holidays, date to sixth century England. By the middle ages, it was a well established important holiday, with traditional pageantry, customs, music and feasting all its own. Customs from pre Christian days were incorporated into the Celebrations, and many still remain. Many Christmas traditions, including the Christmas card, originated in the UK, Yule logs, plum pudding, mince pies, fruitcakes, wassailing, the Christmas goose, mistletoe, holly and carol singing, are all firmly rooted in British soil.

Marriage in England is usually initiated by a proposal of marriage, simply called "a proposal". In a heterosexual relationship, the man traditionally proposes to the woman and the actual proposal often has a ritual quality, involving the presentation of a ring (an engagement ring) and the formalized asking of a question such as "Will you marry me?" The man may even go down on one knee before proposing. If the proposal is accepted, the couple become engaged. In the United Kingdom, the engagement ring is worn, by the woman, on the fourth finger of the left hand. In Uzbekistan a proposal is acted by some women (mother of a groom, his sister, granny or aunt), who come to girl's house and speak to her parents. If the proposal is accepted they are invited for a traditional palov. Palov means that parents of the girl agree to begin a wedding. While eating this national dish they discuss the procedure, number of guests and date of fотиha tuy and wedding itself. .

The Western custom of a bride wearing a white wedding dress, came to symbolize purity in the Victorian era (despite popular misconception and the hackneyed jokes of situation comedies the white dress did not actually indicate virginity, which was actually symbolized by a face veil). Within the "white wedding" tradition, a white dress and veil would not have been considered appropriate in the second or third wedding of a widow or divorcee. At such events it is traditional to eat and drink. During the reception a number of speeches and/or toasts are given in honour of the couple.

Any dancing is commonly started by the bride and groom, usually termed the "Bridal Waltz", but dancing an actual waltz is comparatively rare - often the couple chooses their

favourite piece of music or a song. A wedding is often followed by a wedding reception, at which an elaborate, tiered, wedding cake is served. Traditionally this is a fruit cake. Often there are a couple of little figures on top of the cake, normally they are a representation of the bride and groom in formal wedding attire. It is considered lucky for the couple to cut the cake together. The couple cut the cake together, this symbolizes their first meal as husband and wife. The bride may throw her bouquet to the assembled group of all unmarried women in attendance, with folklore suggesting the person who catches it will be the next to wed. On arriving back home it is traditional for the husband to carry his wife into their new home. This is called carrying the bride over the threshold. In Uzbekistan a bride wears also a white wedding dress which symbolizes her purity and innocence. But at the end of the wedding a bride usually changes her dress to national beautiful bright dresses and veils. They are very good-looking in such costumes. Usually bride and groom don't dance waltz but some ones perform this. In Uzbekistan honeymoon is usually spent in the house of a groom, it is not popular among young married to go for a journey. A lot of people usually come to their house during this month with gifts for a bride.

So, there are some similarities and differences between customs and traditions of Uzbek and English people, who keep them carefully. Both of them have very interesting origins and historical outlook of their traditions.

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