

**PROVERBS AS CODES OF CULTURE IN ANY LANGUAGE**

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Nothing defines a culture as distinctly as its language, and the element of any language that best encapsulates society's values and beliefs is its proverbs. Proverbs and sayings contain deep sense and national wisdom, which have roots far in the past. They reflect people's way of thinking and perception of the world. They are considered to be "codes" of culture, its specific laconic and witty language [1, с.2]. Proverbs appeared many centuries ago. Finding out exactly where in the past a proverb emerged is a tough task like looking for a needle not just in a haystack, but in the entire farmland. A proverb is a short saying that expresses a traditionally held truth or piece of advice, based on experience [2, с.83]. They carry the practical philosophy developed by life experience, transmitted orally by one generation to another.

It's hard to know exactly how old a saying could be. Lexicographers are constantly antedating words — finding earlier examples — just as palaeontologists discover fossils that prove forms of life are older than anyone believed [3]. Moreover, similar phrases are much older.

We should say that there are different types of proverbs, such as proverbs about nature, seasons, relationships, family, friendship, God, etc. The purpose of my research is to analyze one of the most popular types – proverbs about family. This group of proverbs can be divided into smaller groups according to the keywords used in them.

First of all, there are a lot of proverbs with words that define family members. «Like father, like son» means resemblance of children and their parents in terms of appearance or behavior. In colloquial speech synonymous proverbs are used, such as «Like mother, like daughter» or «The apple doesn't fall far from the tree». Children can share similarities with their parents, not just in terms of their appearance, but even in the way that they behave [4, с.75]. A similar expression «like mother, like daughter» was first used in the Bible. Russian equivalents of these proverbs could be «Каков отец, таков и сынок», «Каково дерево, таков и клин», «Яблоко от яблони далеко не падает», etc. In addition, «Children are a poor man's riches» means that a poor man finds wealth through his children, partially because they bring him joy, and also because they are his legacy and therefore them his name and hopes will carry on. A poor man has no

choice but to put everything he has (all his hopes and dreams) into his children. On the other hand, a wealthy man may rely on his wealth for his legacy [4, с.69].

Secondly, there are a lot of proverbs about home or native place. For example, the saying «There's no place like home» means having attachment to one's home over every other place, to say that the home is the best place. The phrase is related to the 14th century when the institution of family started taking precedence over other factors. Society, environment and family life all came into being as well as the realization that the person was truly at ease when at home. Russian equivalents of these proverbs could be « В гостях хорошо, а дома лучше», « Хоть по уши плыть, а дома быть», etc. Another saying «Home is where the heart is» means that home is not necessarily the building that you live in, but the place where you want to be most of all. Most adults have some places in their mind that they suppose to be their "home". It may be the city they live in, the city where they grew up, the house where their parents live and so on. Although the proverb has probably been in use since time immemorial, it is related to Pliny the Elder (23–79 AD) [5, с.48].

Thirdly, there are many proverbs where different animals are mentioned. For instance, «Every dog is a lion at home» may be first used in India or Central Asia and then appeared in the UK and the USA. The Hindu proverb says, "A dog is a lion in his own lane", so a person shouldn't let a lion sleep in his own bed as that would make him think of equality [6, с.25]. Russian equivalents which could be possible in this context are «Дома каждый пес чувствует себя львом», «Всяк кулик в своем болоте велик», «В своей семье всяк сам большой», etc. Another proverb «Every family has at least one black sheep» means that each family has its disgraced member. The black sheep is judged or ignored because other members of the family are inferior to the standards set forth in this family. It is more likely to be derived from a bit of misinterpretation by the writers of early English Bibles. In England, by the way, black sheep had the same status as black cats when black sheep are omens of good fortune. Russian equivalents widely used to describe attitudes to different members of a family are «В каждой семье есть как минимум одна черная овца», «В семье не без урода» and so on.

The last type of proverbs to be examined includes proverbs where proper names are used. One of the most unique is «Every Jack has his Jill». This saying means that for every man there is a woman who is perfectly suited to be his romantic partner in his life. "Jack and Jill" is a traditional English nursery rhyme. The phrase "Jack and Jill" was first used in England in the 16th century to signify a girl and a boy. A comedy with the title «Jack and Jill» was performed at the Elizabethan court in 1567 and the phrase was used twice by W. Shakespeare: in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" which contains the line "Jack shall have Jill; Nought shall go ill", and in "Love's Labour's Lost", which has the lines "Our wooing doth not end like an old play; Jack hath not Jill". These lines suggested that it was a phrase which indicated a romantically attached couple, as in the proverb "A good Jack makes a good Jill" [7, с.274]. Russian equivalents that are constantly used are «Всякая невеста для своего жениха родится», «На всякий товар свой покупатель есть», etc.

Thus, we can learn a lot about people, their attitude to life and relationships between people through proverbs which exist in any language. Sharing them can be a very interesting way to learn about other cultures, their similarities and differences. Proverbs are just like a mirror that will reflect certain properties of cultures [1, с.4]. Moreover, a lot of efforts have been made towards the role of proverbs in intercultural communication study. And among all the papers and books which are written to reveal the relationships between proverbs and cultures, much more emphasis were put upon the role of proverbs either in the sphere of comparative study between two specific cultures or the translation field, while there is relatively few study on the general role of proverbs in revealing culture diversity [1, с.3].

#### Список использованных источников

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