

THE USE OF SUPERSTITIONS IN ENGLISH FOLKLORE

Ibodullayeva Maftuna Habibullayevna*

*Lecturer,

Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages,

Samarkand, UZBEKISTAN

Email id: maftunaih@mail.ru

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ABSTRACT

Learning a language is not only about linguistic factors of a language, it is but also about learning about cultural background, expressions and beliefs. This article focuses on superstitious beliefs and analysis of them according to their use in English folklore. Collecting superstitions of English speaking countries and their use in folklore are defined as the main purpose of the article. Studying this topic field has caught our attention due to its interesting background with various samples and examples.

KEYWORDS: *Superstition, Literal Superstitions, Linguaculturology, Cognitive Perspective, Superstitious People, Pharmakon.*

INTRODUCTION

The use of superstitions in English folklore

Folklore is a kind of art. It has the properties of the art of the word and, thus, it is close to literature. However, it has its own specific features: traditionality, anonymity, variability, improvisation. the problem of the relationship between language and culture.

The desire of linguists to better understand the language in its purpose of expressing culture led to the creating a whole linguistic discipline.

Superstitions are part of the national psychology, history, culture of the people, and they are closely connected with folklore. Folklore in its conscious nature, content and application is a deeply democratic. Folklore works are anonymous. Their author - the people. Any of them is created on the basis of tradition. Traditional continuity covers large historical gaps - whole centuries.[4, 38-40] So why are superstitions so important in this branch of literature? They provide a wide range of sense; all meanings given below are valuable parts of humanity.

1. Meanings associated with the physical and mental state of a person, as well as with movement in space. This group of meanings can be divided into several subgroups:

- Giving birth to a baby:

“If you rock an empty cradle, you will rock a new baby into it”;

“If your right eye twitches there will soon be a birth in the family”

- Illness/health:

“Amber beads, worn as a necklace, can protect against illness or cure colds”

- Death:

“If 13 people sit down at a table to eat, op of them will die before the year is over”;

“If a rainbow arched over a house, a death was to be in it soon, or some relation at a distance was

to die”

“A bird in the house is a sign of a death.

- Trip:

“If the bottom of your right foot itches, you are going to take a trip” (Right foot itches - to a fast road); [2, 31]

“Seeing a spider run down a web in the afternoon means you'll take a trip” (See the spider, descending the web in the afternoon - for a trip).

2. Meanings associated with social roles and relationships person in society. There are several subgroups:

- Marriage:

“If make a bedspread, or a quilt, be sure to finish it or marriage will never come to you (whether a girl sews a bedspread or quilts a blanket, she must definitely finish the work, otherwise she will not marry)”

“If someone is sweeping the floor and sweeps over your feet, you'll never get married”

- Friendship / hostility, losing a friend:

“If you say goodbye to a friend on a bridge, you will never see each other again” (To say goodbye to a friend on the bridge means never to see him again) ;

“That dream of a lizard is a sign that you have a secret enemy” (To see a lizard in a dream is a sign that you have a secret enemy);

“If you spill pepper you will have a serious argument with your best friend” (Spill pepper - to a serious quarrel with your best friend).

- getting/losing money:

“If the palm of your right hand itches it means you will soon be getting money”

- The arrival of guests,

“Drop the fork - wait for the guest”

“If a bee flies into the room, a guest will come soon. If you kill a bee, the guest will be unpleasant”

“Sweep the trash after sunset - to the arrival of a stranger” [7, 65]

3. Meanings associated with work, study and professional activities of a person:

- fishing (fishing):

“Throw back the first fish you catch then luck”

“When you go to sea, fishermen should always board the ship on the right side, even if it is inconvenient”

- Performance (theatrical performance)

“if the actor's shoes creak at the first exit, this is a sure sign that the public will take it well”

- playing a game (game):

“Spit on a new racket before using it - this will bring good luck”

“Play cards on a table not covered with a tablecloth”

“Singing during the game is a sign of loss” [8, 23]

4. Meanings of fate, life, happiness-unhappiness, fulfillment of desires:

It should be noted that the meanings that make up this subgroup will always be evaluative:

Whish

“If you blow out all the candles on the birthday cake, the wish will come true”“Randomly meeting a chimney sweep is a very good omen. Make a wish - it will come true”

The above-mentioned points are given here in order to show the main ideas handled by the superstitions. Their wide use in folklore could be understood in this very way – the meaning, which comes from the local, mere people minds. These issues demonstrates the folks’ lifestyle; what they had cared for and what they were interested in.

The superstitions were of such significance that they even were used in the novels and etc.

For example: **Pharmakon**

This word occurs in the Homeric poems in three mean 1) medicine, especially herbs for both external and intern 2) poison; 3) magic herb or potion. The original root, un lying all these meanings, was undoubtedly "herb". [Among all nations three branches of the herbs' activity were- and are-in popular belief, indissolubly connected. The twosages in which the word undoubtedly means poison, are found in the Odyssey. It makes people be inquired closely into the nature of this poison. In both questions it did not grow in the place where it was used, but been imported from Ephire.

It is stated that the importance of the field of superstitions in the English folklore is implied in the history. Having made a research of the origin of some of them, it is realized the English’s mode of life in the past. It was both interesting and informative.

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