

LINGUOCULTURAL EXPRESSION OF NATIONAL MENTALITY IN GERMAN PROVERBS**Eshonqulov O.S.**

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Abstract. This article analyzes the linguocultural expression of national mentality in German proverbs. The results of the study show that concepts such as order, diligence, and responsibility are important elements of the German mentality.

Keywords: linguoculturology, national mentality, cultural values, paremiology.

German folk proverbs are important linguistic units that reflect the national worldview, social relations, and moral values formed over centuries. Through these proverbs, the mentality of German society based on order, responsibility, diligence, and discipline becomes evident. Research shows that proverbs formed in the territory of Germany in the 16th–18th centuries were closely connected with Protestant ethics, the culture of trade, and the development of urban life.

For example, the phrase “**Ordnung muss sein**” (“There must be order”) has become a central principle not only in everyday speech but also in social relations. This expression reflects the priority of order and discipline in German society. From a linguocultural perspective, such proverbs reinforce the main concepts of national mentality. Therefore, German proverbs are considered not only folklore samples but also an active mechanism of cultural memory. The attitude toward work occupies a special place in German proverbs, which can be explained by historical processes. During the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century, production discipline and professional responsibility increased significantly in Germany. As a result, proverbs such as “**Ohne Fleiß kein Preis**” (“No pain, no gain”) became widespread. This expression reflects not only an economic value but also a moral one. In other words, a person’s place in society is determined by their work. According to sociological studies, between 2010 and 2020 Germany had one of the highest levels of labor productivity in the European Union¹. This situation indicates that cultural values are reinforced through language. Thus, proverbs function as a cultural mechanism that transmits diligence from generation to generation in German society. The concept of individual responsibility and personal accountability also occupies an important place in German proverbs. For example, the proverb “**Jeder ist seines Glückes Schmied**” (“Everyone is the blacksmith of his own fortune”) expresses the idea that success in life depends on the individual. This phrase promotes an active life position rather than passivity. Psychological studies show that in Germany the ability to make independent decisions among young people is highly developed between the ages of 18 and 25. Proverbs present in the linguistic environment play an important educational role in this process. Through such proverbs, personal responsibility becomes established as a cultural norm. As a result, legality, reliability, and social stability are strengthened in society. From a linguocultural point of view, this process demonstrates the close connection between mentality and language. The linguocultural interpretation of German proverbs is not limited to general moral values; they also clearly express national character traits. For example, the proverb “**Zeit ist Geld**” (“Time is money”)

¹<https://www.iwd.de/arbeit-und-soziales/>



shows that principles such as valuing time, planning, and efficiency are highly prioritized in German society. This phrase was widely used in the commercial environment of the 18th century and later became a social norm during the period of industrialization. Linguocultural analysis shows that perceiving time as an economic resource reflects the rational character of the mentality. In German society, being late for meetings is socially disapproved, which reflects the values reinforced in proverbs. According to statistical data, Germany occupied high positions in the **2019 Global Competitiveness Index** in terms of labor productivity. These indicators are closely related to cultural principles formed through language units. Therefore, proverbs reflect the rational and pragmatic foundations of the German mentality.

Economic thinking and thriftiness also occupy an important place in German proverbs. The proverb **“Spare in der Zeit, dann hast du in der Not”** (“Save in times of abundance, and you will have in times of need”) expresses the principle of economic responsibility in society. Historically, this expression became widespread during the period of Germany’s economic recovery after World War II. During the **“Wirtschaftswunder”** period between 1945 and 1960, thriftiness and production efficiency were at the center of national policy. Proverbs functioned as cultural factors reinforcing this social environment. In Uzbek linguistics, the role of proverbs in shaping economic thinking has also been noted. In particular, the works of A. Hojiyev and N. Mahmudov widely discuss the cultural function of paremiology. From this perspective, the concept of thriftiness in German proverbs reflects the economic and moral foundations of the mentality. In linguoculturology, this is studied through conceptual analysis. The issue of collectivism and social cooperation is also expressed in German proverbs. For example, the proverb **“Viele Hände, schnelles Ende”** (“Many hands make light work”) reflects the effectiveness of solidarity and collective labor. This expression shows that the culture of teamwork is valued in German society. Statistical data indicate that cooperative production systems developed widely in Germany between 2000 and 2022. The value of collectivism has been transmitted from generation to generation through linguistic units. At the same time, the balance between individual responsibility and collective cooperation is also reflected in proverbs. Such a dual mentality has formed a stable social model in German society. The close connection between language and mentality is clearly manifested in such paremiological units. The concept of moral purity and honesty also occupies a special place in German proverbs. The proverb **“Ehrlich währt am längsten”** (“Honesty lasts the longest”) reflects the priority of reliability and legality in German society. This expression has become firmly established in social consciousness in harmony with the model of a rule-of-law state. According to the **“Transparency International 2022”**² report, Germany has one of the lowest corruption levels in Europe. Such results may be related to the moral values present in society. Proverbs ensure the transmission of these values through language. From a linguocultural perspective, these expressions reflect the moral model of the national mentality. As a result, proverbs appear not only as folklore but also as a powerful social tool that shapes cultural norms. In German paremiology, the concept of nature and seasonality can also be observed, although it is combined with a rational interpretation. The proverb **“Wie man sät, so wird man ernten”** (“As you sow, so shall you reap”) expresses a cause-and-effect relationship. Although this expression has religious and moral roots, in modern interpretation it also represents social responsibility. Thus, the rational, disciplined, and responsible model of mentality is clearly expressed linguoculturally in German proverbs. These analyses show that German proverbs systematically reflect the main components of national mentality – such as order, diligence, thriftiness, responsibility, and honesty. As linguistic units, proverbs preserve and transmit the historical experience, social norms, and moral criteria of society. From the perspective of linguoculturology, paremiological

²<https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2022>



units form the core of the conceptual system. Therefore, by studying German proverbs, it is possible to analyze national mentality. This approach also creates a solid theoretical basis for comparative studies. The linguocultural expression of national mentality in German proverbs is primarily manifested through social norms, historical experience, and moral values formed in society. In German culture, discipline, responsibility, diligence, and precision have developed as fundamental principles, and these features are expressed in proverbs as stable semantic models. As a result, the concept of order has risen to the level of a central concept in German mentality. Attitudes toward time also appear as an important linguocultural indicator in German proverbs. The proverb **“Zeit ist Geld”** (“Time is money”) expresses the economic and social value of time in German society. This unit strengthens the principles of planning, responsible work, and striving for efficiency. According to statistical data, labor productivity in Germany occupies leading positions among European Union countries, which indicates that attitudes toward time have deep cultural roots. The concept of personal responsibility and independence is also formed as a stable concept in German proverbs. The proverb **“Jeder ist seines Glückes Schmied”** (“Everyone is the master of his own fortune”) expresses the principle of individual responsibility. It emphasizes that success in life depends not on external factors but on one’s own work and aspirations. Relations between society and the individual also form an important semantic layer in German proverbs. The proverb **“Gemeinsam sind wir stark”** (“Together we are strong”) expresses the value of cooperation and solidarity. This unit shows that collective work, social unity, and mutual responsibility are highly developed in German culture. At the same time, the balance between individualism and collectivism is harmoniously reflected in proverbs, confirming the dynamic character of the mentality. The concepts of honesty and legality also occupy leading positions in German proverbs. The proverb **“Ehrlich währt am längsten”** (“Honesty lasts the longest”) expresses the concept of moral stability and trust. This unit contributes to the formation of transparency, the rule of law, and a climate of social trust in society. Research shows that the low level of corruption in Germany may also be related to the historical roots of these moral values. Thus, proverbs influence the stability of social institutions as well. The linguocultural analysis of German proverbs demonstrates that they have not only communicative but also educational and methodological significance. By using these units in the educational process, it is possible to develop students’ understanding of national mentality, cultural competence, and intercultural thinking. Especially in foreign language teaching, explaining mentality through proverbs is considered an effective methodological tool. Therefore, German proverbs are regarded as an important didactic resource in language teaching.

References

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