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## SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF CEREMONIALS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK CULTURES

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**Abstract:** *Ceremonies such as weddings and funerals serve as vital cultural expressions that embody the history, religion, and values of societies. This article compares the ceremonial practices of English and Uzbek cultures, revealing both shared human experiences and unique traditions that reflect each culture's development and social norms. While both cultures celebrate significant life milestones and appreciate hospitality, their customs, attire, and symbolic elements differ markedly, showcasing distinct national identities. English weddings, often influenced by Christian traditions, typically include formal ceremonies followed by celebratory receptions with specific customs like the white dress and wedding rings. In contrast, Uzbek weddings are multi-day celebrations rooted in Islamic heritage, featuring traditions such as the "Kelin salom" (bride's greeting) and grand family feasts. Through a detailed exploration of these practices, this research highlights not only the variations influenced by historical contexts but also the underlying values and beliefs that shape these ceremonial expressions. Understanding the complexities of these cultural rituals promotes cross-cultural awareness and reinforces the significance of preserving cultural heritage in an increasingly globalized world, ultimately fostering mutual respect and enriching global understanding.*

**Keywords:** *ceremonial practices, cross-cultural awareness, cultural values, social norms, hospitality, customs, attire, beliefs.*

**Annotatsiya:** *To'y va dafn marosimlari kabi marosimlar jamiyat tarixi, dini va qadriyatlarini o'zida mujassam etgan hayotiy madaniy ifodalar bo'lib xizmat qiladi. Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o'zbek madaniyatlarining qadriyatlari taqqoslanib, har bir madaniyatning rivojlanishi va ijtimoiy me'yorlarini aks ettiruvchi umumiy insoniy tajriba va noyob an'analar ochib berilgan. Ikkala madaniyat ham hayotning muhim bosqichlarini nishonlasa va mehmondo'stlikni qadrlasa-da, ularning urf-odatlar, kiyimi va ramziy elementlari sezilarli darajada farq qiladi va o'ziga xos milliy o'ziga xosliklarni namoyish etadi. Ko'pincha nasroniy an'analari ta'sirida bo'lgan ingliz to'ylariga odatda rasmiy marosimlar, so'ngra oq libos va nikoh uzuklari kabi o'ziga xos urf-odatlar bilan tantanali ziyofatlar kiradi. Aksincha, o'zbek to'ylari Islom merosiga asoslangan, "Kelin salom" va katta oilaviy bayramlar kabi an'analarga ega bo'lgan ko'p kunlik bayramlardir. Ushbu*

*qadriyatlarni batafsil o'rganish orqali ushbu tadqiqot nafaqat tarixiy kontekst ta'sirida bo'lgan o'zgarishlarni, balki ushbu iboralarni shakllantiradigan asosiy qadriyatlar va e'tiqodlarni ham ta'kidlaydi. Ushbu madaniy marosimlarning murakkabligini tushunish madaniyatlararo ongini rivojlantiradi va tobora globallashib borayotgan dunyoda madaniy merosni saqlash ahamiyatini kuchaytiradi, natijada o'zaro hurmatni rivojlantiradi va global tushunishni boyitadi.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *marosim amaliyoti, madaniyatlararo xabardorlik, madaniy qadriyatlar, ijtimoiy me'yorlar, mehmondo'stlik, urf-odatlar, kiyinish, e'tiqod.*

**Аннотация:** *Церемонии, такие как свадьбы и похороны, служат важным культурным выражением, воплощающим историю, религию и ценности общества. В этой статье сравниваются обрядовые практики английской и узбекской культур, раскрывая как общий человеческий опыт, так и уникальные традиции, отражающие развитие каждой культуры и социальные нормы. В то время как обе культуры отмечают важные жизненные вехи и ценят гостеприимство, их обычаи, одежда и символические элементы заметно отличаются, демонстрируя особую национальную самобытность. Английские свадьбы, на которые часто влияют христианские традиции, обычно включают официальные церемонии, за которыми следуют праздничные приемы с особыми обычаями, такими как белое платье и обручальные кольца. В отличие от этого, узбекские свадьбы - это многодневные торжества, основанные на исламском наследии, с такими традициями, как "келин салом" (приветствие невесты) и грандиозные семейные застолья. Благодаря детальному изучению этих практик, данное исследование выявляет не только вариации, обусловленные историческим контекстом, но и основополагающие ценности и верования, которые формируют эти церемониальные выражения. Понимание сложности этих культурных ритуалов способствует межкультурному взаимопониманию и усиливает важность сохранения культурного наследия во все более глобализирующемся мире, что в конечном итоге способствует укреплению взаимного уважения и глобального взаимопонимания.*

**Ключевые слова:** *обрядовые практики, межкультурное осознание, культурные ценности, социальные нормы, гостеприимство, обычаи, одежда, верования.*

## INTRODUCTION

Ceremonials are important cultural expressions that mark transitions, honor traditions, and reinforce communal identity. English and Uzbek cultures, despite differing in geography, religion, and history, both emphasize ceremonial practices that serve social, religious, and emotional functions. Understanding these customs not only promotes cross-cultural awareness but also helps preserve cultural heritage in a globalizing world. Both English and Uzbek cultures have rich traditions of ceremonial practices that reflect their unique histories and values. While English ceremonies often emphasize formality and royal customs, Uzbek ceremonies tend to focus on community and familial bonds. Despite these

differences, both cultures share common themes in their ceremonies, such as the celebration of life milestones and the importance of hospitality.

### **METHODS AND METHODOLOGY.**

One significant area of comparison is found in the realm of folklore and traditional ceremonies. Both English and Uzbek cultures exhibit rich folkloric traditions that have evolved over time, indicating a shared human experience in the development of cultural practices (3). However, the specific expressions of these traditions can vary widely. For instance, the ceremonial aspects of weddings in both cultures highlight both commonalities and divergences. While both cultures celebrate the union of individuals through elaborate rituals, the specific customs, attire, and symbolic meanings attached to these ceremonies differ markedly (4).

Another important aspect is the celebration of Nowruz, a festival that is particularly significant in Uzbek culture. This celebration includes unique rituals such as egg tapping and fire jumping, which may not have direct counterparts in English traditions. However, the underlying themes of renewal and community celebration resonate across both cultures, suggesting a shared human inclination towards marking seasonal changes and communal bonds (6).

Moreover, the speech etiquette surrounding ceremonial events also presents a point of comparison. The ways in which language is used to convey respect and formality during ceremonies can differ significantly between English and Uzbek cultures, reflecting broader cultural values and social norms (7). This indicates that while the ceremonies themselves may serve similar purposes—such as fostering community and celebrating life events—the manner in which they are articulated and performed can vary greatly.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.**

The exploration of ceremonial practices in English and Uzbek cultures reveals both notable similarities and distinct differences, reflecting the unique historical and social contexts of each culture.

#### **Weddings: Joyful Celebrations of Union**

##### **English Weddings**

- Typically influenced by Christian traditions.
- A formal church or civil ceremony is followed by a reception, toasts, and dancing.
- Traditional elements include: the white dress, wedding rings, and “something old, new, borrowed, and blue.”

##### **Uzbek Weddings (To‘y)**

- Often multi-day celebrations, deeply rooted in Islamic and pre-Islamic traditions.
- Includes customs like kelin salom (bride’s greeting), nikoh (Islamic marriage contract), and large family feasts.
- The community plays a major role, with hundreds of guests attending.

#### **Similarities and Differences**

##### **Similarities      Differences**

Both mark the union of two people English weddings are usually shorter and more formal

Involve family, music, food, and gifts Uzbek weddings are more community-centered and ritualistic

Symbolic clothing (white dress / national costume) Uzbek ceremonies often include traditional music and dance

Funeral Rites: Honoring the Deceased

English Funerals

- Based on Christian beliefs in afterlife.
- Ceremonies include church service, eulogies, and burial or cremation.
- Black attire is standard as a sign of mourning.

Uzbek Funerals

- Influenced by Islamic customs.
- Include janaza prayer, washing and wrapping the body, and burial facing Mecca.
- Mourning continues with meals held on the 3rd, 7th, and 40th days after death.

Comparison

Similarities

Differences

Both aim to show respect and honor Uzbek funerals follow strict Islamic rituals

Involve gathering of family and friends English funerals often involve speeches and personalized elements

Mourning clothes are common Uzbek ceremonies emphasize prayers and simplicity

National and Public Holidays

English Ceremonials

• Include Christmas, New Year, Remembrance Day, and Royal Ceremonies (e.g., coronations).

- Emphasize history, Christian tradition, and monarchy.

Uzbek Ceremonials

• Include Navruz (Persian New Year), Independence Day, and religious holidays like Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

- Celebrate renewal, nature, and spiritual reflection.

Cultural Themes

English Culture

Uzbek Culture

Emphasis on monarchy, Christianity, war memory Emphasis on Islam, spring renewal, independence

Ceremonies often televised or formal Ceremonies often local, communal, and outdoors

The Role of Religion and Tradition

• In England, ceremonials are increasingly secularized, though rooted in Christian customs.

- In Uzbekistan, Islam plays a central role, but many practices are blended with ancient pre-Islamic traditions.
- Both cultures use ceremonies to preserve identity, educate the young, and mark social transitions.

### CONCLUSION

Though shaped by different histories and religions, both English and Uzbek cultures place high value on ceremonial traditions. Weddings and funerals, in particular, reflect shared human experiences of joy and grief, while national holidays express distinct historical identities. Recognizing these cultural similarities and differences fosters mutual respect and enriches global understanding. In summary, the ceremonial practices in English and Uzbek cultures showcase a blend of similarities rooted in shared human experiences and distinct differences shaped by cultural heritage. The examination of these practices not only highlights the richness of each culture but also underscores the importance of understanding cultural nuances in ceremonial expressions.

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