

Красногорск, МБОУ СОШ №11

Индивидуальный конкурс эссе

“Единство в различии”

Исследовательская работа (эссе)

«Образы и традиции русской и британской народной культуры в пословицах и поговорках»



Выполнила: Чернова Варвара

Денисовна

Ученица 9 класса

Руководитель: Ягодкина Наталья Дмитриевна

2023

МБОУ СОШ №11

Individual essay contest

“Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-Speaking World. Time for Equal Opportunities”

Research work (essay)

«Russian and British folk culture images and traditions in proverbs and sayings»

Written by: Чернова Варвара Денисовна

Supervisor: Ягодкина Наталья Дмитриевна

2023

I. Introduction

II. Main part

1. The images of food and meals in Russian and English proverbs and sayings.

2. The images of animals in proverbs - attributes of nations.

3. Cultural differences, reflected in proverbs - the tradition of honoring the father.

III. Conclusion

Folk culture appeared with people's ability to communicate with each other, which means that it has existed for a very long time. Folk culture was created by people as an expression of collective self-knowledge, a reflection of the way of life and customs of the people; it has no author. The best way to understand the mentality of a nation is to research its culture. It will always be relevant, because it changes with its people. Folk culture has many forms, one of the most common are proverbs and sayings. The goal of my research is to discover popular images and traditions in Russian and English proverbs and sayings.

One of the most popular images in proverbs and sayings is food items and meals. Russian proverbs often include such foods as bread, onions, and honey. Each of them has its own meaning in the culture of ancient Russia.

In terms of frequency of references in proverbs, bread takes the first place - its history dates back to antiquity, and is primarily associated with the agro-culture of Russia. The image of bread is closely connected with hospitality and good life.

Without bread all food is the same.

Without bread you won't be full even if you ate honey.

If there's bread, there's porridge.

The other type of food which is widely mentioned in proverbs is onions, these vegetables symbolize health in Russian folk culture: it was commonly believed that onions were the best remedy because of the vitamins they contained.

Onion cures seven illnesses.

Onion and a bath would do it.

In ancient Russia, apiculture was one of the most important branches of the economy. Honey was the only sweetness before sugar appeared. This product is often mentioned in Russian proverbs and sayings as a symbol of happiness.

Those who have honey will have a sweet year.

If you have butter and honey, then you have a good life.

In English folk culture foodstuffs are also of great importance. Eggs are a popular image, because they have the meaning of life and birth. They are one of the basic foods that people have been consuming since antiquity.

You can't make an omelet without breaking eggs.

Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

Meat is also often mentioned in English proverbs because it is related to hunting that used to be the main activity in England.

A hungry man smells the meat.

It is worth mentioning that this English proverb has the equivalent in the Russian language "A hungry woman has bread on her mind".

Russian proverbs often contain not only the names of foods but also the names of dishes. Russia has a very rich national cuisine, and this is reflected in the folk culture through proverbs.

Shchi and porridge are our food.

Where there's schi, there's us.

You don't need teeth to eat porridge.

However, the English have no concept of the national cuisine. Most of their dishes were brought from the countries where they had colonies, that is why only broth is mentioned in English proverbs:

Too many cooks spoil the broth.

Every cook praises their own broth.

The images of animals in folk culture also perform the function of reflecting the traits of a nation. People can express the same idea through different images. For example, a Russian proverb

Don't share the skin of an alive bear.

has an English equivalent -

Never fry a fish until it's caught.

In Russia, the image of a bear appears in songs, fairy tales and fables. It is one of the main symbols of our country. The bear stands for power, kindness and justice. In England, fishing was one of the main income-generating industries.

English proverbs often refer to the lion as a majestic and strong animal - it is worth remembering that the lion is also depicted on the coat of arms of the Royal family.

He who killeth the lion when absent feareth a mouse when present.

The brains of a fox will be of little service if you play with the paw of a lion.

A good surgeon has an eagle's eye, a lion's heart, and a lady's hand.

English proverbs use images of animals that can be found in England and abroad. On the contrary, Russian proverbs mostly use only those animals that can be found in Russia.

If you are after two hares, you will catch none.

A bear has nine songs, and all of them are about honey.

Sly as a fox.

The research of proverbs and sayings gives us the concept of the main traditions and customs. One of the most important traditions is honoring the father. There are many proverbs on this topic in every culture. In Russia, the behavior of the father was imposed by the Bible and Domostroy, where the father was presented in the usual patriarchal system - he was the head of the family, he made all decisions; all family members obeyed him.

Father is the one who punishes, and he is the one who praises.

God to the people, father to the children.

If one doesn't listen to father, they will listen to the whip.

The strong image of a father is also proved by the fact that the Russian people have a patronymic name.

The role of a father in English folk culture is not so strong, we can find only few records of this member of the family.

One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters.

Like father, like son.

In conclusion, folklore allows us to establish the basic values that formed the core of the mentality of nations. At the same time, proverbs, as one of the types of folklore genre, most vividly and concisely describe the living conditions of the people, their moral values, everyday life and psychology of both a single person and a social stratum, ethical norms and social imperatives. Proverbs allow us to understand the similarities and differences in the worldview of peoples and, ultimately, give us the opportunity to get to know each other better.

References

1. Гиясова Н. А., Сусликова А. А. Сравнение английских и русских пословиц как составной части социокультурного феномена, г. Каменка
2. Даль В. Пословицы русского народа. Москва, 1957
3. Simpson J. A. The concise Oxford dictionary of Proverbs, Oxford Press, New Edition, 1992