
COMPARATION OF SUPERSTITIONS RELATING TO NUMBERS BETWEEN
JAPANESE AND UZBEK LANGUAGES: SIMILARITY AND PECULIARITY

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ANNOTATION

There are a number of superstitions among ethnic groups. Superstitions are rooted in the culture, history, religion of the people who live in any country. Superstitions show how people think about surroundings. Superstitions are also identification of culture and fashionable life, because the meaning and reaction of superstitions are being different from culture to culture even though symbols are the same. Although a superstition is any belief or practice based upon one's trust in luck or other irrational, unscientific or supernatural forces. They are studied in some fields of science such as history, psychology, politics, folklore, religion and so on. Because superstitions are derived from people's everyday life, every day impression, every day belief and every day behavior

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Superstitions are known as a means of communication and a means of control.

It is supernatural imagination, but a lot of people believe in superstitions and follow them. Most superstitions arose over the course of centuries and are rooted in regional and historical circumstances, such as religious beliefs or natural environment. According to the fact that, meaning and bringing bad or good luck of superstitions verify from country to country and also have a lot in common with each other. Similarity and peculiarity of superstitions can be seen in different culture when they are studied by comparing to linguistic points. Because a lot of superstitions are born with linguistic rules in that culture's language.

To search what is similarity and peculiarity of superstitions over Asian countries must be compared and in this article linguistic superstitions of Japanese and Uzbek languages will be investigated by comparing.

Japanese superstitions are rooted in the culture and history of Japan and the Japanese people. Some Japanese superstitions are meant to teach lessons or serve as practical advice.

Uzbek superstitions go back to ancient time, initial religious ideas and primary everyday life. Uzbek superstitions are divided into two big categories: appeared superstitions before Islam coming to Central Asia and after Islam entering to Uzbek people's life.

Some superstitions that are common in Japan have been imported from other cultures. The Japanese share superstitions with other Asian cultures, especially China.

Uzbek superstitions belong to regional superstitions since Central Asia was one country for a long time. Does there have a common with symbols and imaginations among Japanese and Uzbek superstitions?

a black cat crossing one's path - this superstition is used both languages.

Like other languages, superstition “a black cat crossing one’s path” in Uzbek culture is believed to bring a bad luck. To fight against a bad fortune which a black cat brings, people say “if a black cat crossing your path, go back seven steps” because number seven brings a good fortune.

There is a superstition about the cat in Japanese culture the same as this one: “a black cat crossing one’s path”. However, unlike Uzbek superstition’s meaning, it is used to describe to bring good fortune. Word combination is similar, but meaning of superstition differ from each other. The Japanese imagine a good idea when they run across a black cat while Uzbek people imagine a bad bringing.

The main portion of Japanese superstition is related to language. Numbers and objects that have names that are homophones. For instance, the unluckiness of the number four (四 –shi) It is as the Japanese word for “four” sounds like the word for “death” (死– shi). “death” is the end of life. It is just homophone to “four”. However, the Japanese imagine that even sounds which is similar to bad things, will bring unluckiness. So they do best not to spell these words in order to avoid bad things. Sometimes levels or rooms with 4 do not exist in hospitals or hotels.

43 is also avoiding number. Although 43 is sounded “四十三 yon juu san”, this number sounds “shi san” separately. “shi san” is homophone to 死産(shizan).

“shizan” is compound word which is combined shinu (死ぬ) –to die and umu (産む)- to birth. It means “stillbirth”. Because of the fact that, particularly in the maternity section of a hospital, the number 43 is avoided. While racing or the number of cars, number 42(shini) sounds shini (死に) which means “to die”.

Number 49, which sounds like shiku (敷く – to run over) are avoided.

These superstitions are related to numbers in Japanese. Numbers which are thought to bring bad luck or be avoided because of sounding the same as bad things’ names.

In Uzbek languages there is no superstition related to which brings bad fortune except 13. The number 13 is occasionally thought of as unlucky, although this is imported from Western culture. However, there are some superstitions related to numbers which are believed to good luck to anybody’s life among Uzbek people.

Japanese superstitions which are rooted in numbers, sound the same as bad things or good things. There are lucky numbers in the Japanese languages too. Seven, when pronounced “shichi”, sounds similar to the number four (四 shi). It is considered a good number since seven symbolizes “togetherness”. Eight (八 hachi) is considered a lucky number because it is nearly homophones to the word “prosperity” (繁栄 hanei), It is also homophones to “Hachiko” whose name is the most popular dog devoted to its life to its owner. 9 is considered a good number when pronounced “kyu”, like a word for relief. 10 is considered a good number because it is pronounced “juu”, like the word for “enough” and “replete”. It is also a homophone for the word “ample” (十分な juubunna)

Unlike Japanese superstition relating to numbers, Uzbek number superstitions derived from traditions of ethnic people not sound the same as things’ name.

There are four lucky numbers in Uzbek language: 3,7,9,40.

3 is a symbol of “happiness”. because wedding which is the most important day to make a new family lasts three days from ancient time. So people think that 3 brings a happy life.

7 is a symbol of “perfect”. People think that seven brings a success because a week consists 7 days. People say that “do anything, think about it 7 times”

9 is a symbol of “new life”, 9 is used in order to describe to wait for having a baby, after making a new life because the baby is known to be born after nine months and nine days and there is a tradition relating to 9 numbers in uzbek culture that Nine types of food are served in wedding party as a symbol of new life.

People think that 40 is lucky number because it is a symbol of “beauty”. There are a lot of proverbs relating to number 40 derived from superstition meaning of number 40.

In conclusion, superstitions show not only people’s religious beliefs or how to describe natural environment, but also linguistic peculiarity of any languages;

There have a lot in common with number superstitions between uzbek and Japanese culture. Seven and nine are lucky numbers both languages. 13 is unlucky numbers both Japanese and uzbek languages because of the fact that it is imported from western culture;

Symbol of superstitions are also similar to each other even though meaning is different;

There is some difference between Japanese and uzbek number superstitions:

First of all, origin of number superstitions are different from each other. The main portion of Japanese superstition is related to language. Numbers and objects that have names that are homophone while uzbek number superstitions derived from traditions of ethnic people not sound the same as things’ name;

Numbers 4, 42, 43, 49 are believed to bring bad luck in Japanese culture, however, there are no superstitions relating to these numbers in uzbek culture.

Numbers relating to four and three are thought to bring bad fortune because of sounding the same as the worst things in Japanese while these numbers are believed lucky numbers in uzbek language such as 3 and 40.

Eight and ten are unlucky numbers in Japanese culture, but there is no superstitions relating to these numbers among uzbek people.

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