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**LINGUISTIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF
‘SEASON’ PROVERBS, WEATHER LORE AND IDIOMS IN ENGLISH,
RUSSIAN AND BELARUSIAN**

Nature gives to every time and season unique beauty; from morning to night, as from the cradle to the grave, it's just a succession of changes so soft and comfortable that we hardly notice the progress.

Charles Dickens

Proverbs, weather lore and idioms are wise sayings that give advice on conduct in common situations and compile life experience of previous generations. There is a wise saying for almost any circumstances. We may sometimes not take in a long lecture, but we understand a proverb or idiom easily because the ideas they speak can span the globe. Weather lore, proverbs and idioms are components of every language as well as every culture. They have spread knowledge about natural and social phenomena since ancient times and played an important part in education.

The work focuses on the comparative analysis of the ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms in English, Russian and Belarusian. We have chosen this theme for our research as studying folk wisdom is an effective way of getting to know some peculiarities of social life and traditions in Britain and Belarus. However, we have taken into consideration the fact that the nations developed under different historic, social, and economic conditions. Subsequently, some challenges that deal with studying wise sayings emerge:

- For the first, we should remember that in Russian, Belarusian and English folklore different images can be used for describing the same idea;
- Secondly, most proverbs, idioms and other wise sayings cannot be translated literally.

The aim of our research is to find differences and similarities by means of the comparative analysis of the ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms.

In our work, we arouse the complicated problem of distinguishing between peculiarities of translating wise sayings from English into Russian and Belarusian and defined the key elements of their usage.

The objective field of the research includes the sphere of linguistics and social studies. **The object** defines certain ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms in Russian, Belarusian and English **while its subject** refers to their translation and usage.

The theme is the national context and the comparative analysis of the ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms in Russian, Belarusian and English.

Taking into consideration publications on the topic, the results of observation and life experience **we have assumed that:**

- most ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms have rough equivalents in Russian, Belarusian and English;
- the majority of the respondents agree that folklore is necessary to learn as part of the national component because it gives a piece of advice on cultural and social life.

The strategy of the research is:

- to draw comparison between ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms in English, Russian and Belarusian;
- to make a survey so as to learn the respondents’ attitude to learning folklore;
- to create a glossary of the research

We used such **methods** as analysis of literary and net-sources, methods of statistics, comparison and generalization, linguistic prediction, and others.

The feature of novelty is the specific discourse of using ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms and their translation, which is aimed at developing interest in the national context and language proficiency.

‘A proverb’ is a term for a short sentence, usually known by many people, stating something commonly experienced or giving advice. ‘Weather lore’ is the definition used to refer to the body of informal folklore relating to predicting the weather, whereas ‘an idiom’ is an expression that is peculiar to itself in having a meaning that cannot be derived from the conjoined meanings of its elements.

It's undeniable that folklore in any language is polysemantic, which makes it complicated for translation and explanation. When choosing a relevant Russian or Belarusian equivalent for an English folk saying we used such a criterion as correspondence at least in the main meaning of the unit. To begin with, we rounded up ninety-one ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms in English and tried to match them with the Russian and Belarusian equivalents.

It turns out that for only fifteen out of the ninety-one ‘season’ folk sayings, we have chosen for the research, the similar language is used to express the ideas in Russian and English, while English and Belarusian equivalents turn up in twelve cases.

After that, we turned to the English, Russian and Belarusian ‘season’ proverbs and wise sayings that overlap and contain both similar and different features. The results show that forty-three sayings have overlapping parts in English and Russian as well as in English and Belarusian, whereas thirty-five ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms are partial equivalents in the Russian and Belarusian languages.

The rest of the ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms have the same meaning in Russian, Belarusian and English, but the language used to express the main idea is completely different.

To sum up the contents of the first chapter, we can point out that most ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms have rough equivalents in English and Russian as well as in the English and Belarusian languages, most Belarusian and Russian folk sayings also overlap.

After performing the comparative analysis of the ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms in English, Russian and Belarusian we carried out a survey to detect the pupils’ attitude to learning wise folk sayings and their usage and offered a questionnaire to 100 middle- and high-school students from grades 9 and 10. As a matter of fact 72 students are sure that it is necessary to learn folklore in foreign languages and compare it with the national context. 20 people express their doubts about it. 8 respondents believe that wise sayings are no use paying attention to.

The next question was aimed at identifying whether the students are aware of the fact that English ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms can have absolute equivalents in Russian and Belarusian. As a matter of fact, the majority of students have no idea that there are similar or even identical variants in the three languages, as 67 students denied such a possibility.

The final step of the research cleared up the matter of the ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms usage and meaning. 48% of the pupils believe that folklore teaches life wisdom, 32% of the respondents have answered that proverbs give practical lessons, while the rest of the group say that proverbs are connected with the national traditions.

To sum up the results of the survey, we can claim that most students believe that learning ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms is an effective way of absorbing folk wisdom of different nations, though the majority of them are not aware of the fact that English wise sayings may have absolute equivalents in the Russian and Belarusian languages.

Due to this research we managed to find out that most respondents consider learning folklore to be useful, drew attention to the national context and performed the comparative analysis of the ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms in Russian, Belarusian and English.

The results of the survey prove our hypotheses that:

- most ‘season’ proverbs, weather lore and idioms have rough equivalents in Russian, Belarusian and English;
- the majority of the respondents agree that folklore is necessary to learn as part of the national component because it gives a piece of advice on cultural and social life.

After that the glossary of the research was compiled and we made up a few exercises so as to give the students learning English an opportunity of practising the use of ‘season’ proverbs and other wise sayings. We turned to the platform <https://learningapps.org>, as it is easy to deal with, and created the interactive drills, which can be available if you follow the links or QR-codes given below:

<https://learningapps.org/view35903256>

<https://learningapps.org/watch?v=pnissvitv24>

<https://learningapps.org/watch?v=pdywpksz224>



The practical use of the research is evident for students learning English, teachers and scientists who focus on folklore wisdom, since the received data may be used as a starting point to carry out further research in the sphere of linguistics and folklore translation.