Հ\$ጌ 398.91:378(479.25)

PROVERBS AS THE WAY OF EXPRESSING PEOPLE'S WISDOM AND SPIRIT

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Abstract

Many scientists consider Proverbs to be a part of folklore, expressing the point of view of not only one person, but the whole nation. Proverbs give the imagery of our speech, make it more emotional. And although some scientists believe that Proverbs have lost their relevance today, it is safe to say that they are very popular in our time. One and the same thought in different languages can be expressed in different ways, but its essence does not change. Proverbs contribute to the enrichment of speech and the study of foreign languages. Proverbs occupy a large place not only in English, but also in the Armenian language, including the Artsakh dialect. Many Proverbs in both languages touch upon the themes of friendship, wisdom, love for the Motherland, the national spirit.

Keywords: Proverbs, folklore, expressions, wisdom, generations, sayings, deep feeling, culture, traditions, history, thoughts, spirit, enrich the language.

The proverbs are considered by most of the scientists as folklore speech, in fact they are one of the oldest forms of folklore. They illustrate not only the person's point of view but also general people's outlook. Proverbs play an important role in language. They give emotion, expressiveness to the speech. A proverb is a traditional saying that sums up a situation, passes judgment on a past matter, or recommends a course of action for the future. Although many scholars and writers believe that proverbs and proverbial expressions have ceased to be used in modern world culture, it may be claimed that they have not lost their popularity and they are continually existent in present society all over the world. At various times different people gave explanations of the word "proverb" in their own way:

- Proverb is an old and common saying. (Socrates)
- Proverb is a brief saying that presents a truth or some bit of useful wisdom. (William Shakespeare)

It is believed that proverbs have a few sources of origin: national (ordinary people's statements), literary (intelligent people's statements), adoption (the Bible, proverbs and sayings from other languages).

Proverb is a brief saying, a short sentence that presents a well-known truth or a common fact familiar to experience. Proverbs are also defined as "short expressions of popular wisdom", "proverbs are the gems of wisdom." They are coined in order to impart practical knowledge to us. The wisdom is in the form of a general observation about the world or a bit of advice. Many people love proverbs for the wisdom they have. Others treasure proverbs for their vividness. The Italians say that "Proverbs are the wisdom of peoples." There is also an opinion that proverbs are the mixture of wisdom and philosophy. It can be an exaggeration, but undoubtedly that nation's folk-philosophy gets into proverbs. Every proverb tells a story that teaches a lesson. They cover many aspects of human life and are highly colloquial. Being short and well-constructed sentences proverbs are quite easy to memorize. Proverbs were always a stable part of every language. They are found among most of the peoples of the world. Proverbs can be similar in meaning in spite of their diversity in form and language. The same proverb often occurs among several different peoples. True proverbs are sayings that have been passed from generation to generation primarily by word of mouth.

Մի վախենա վարար գետից, վախեցիր մարմանդ գետից։

Barking dog does not bite.

Собака, что лает, редко кусает.

Today's proverbs are not limited to the old ones from classical times, the wisdom literature of the Jewish and Christian tradition or from the Middle Ages. They are being created all the time. There is a need because as Wolfgang Mieder says 'Even the most sophisticated and best educated people appear to be in need of the pithy wisdom contained in metaphorical proverbs'. [8,284] It is often supposed that proverbs are full of wisdom. A proverb has been defined as' the wisdom of many and the wit of one'.

Proverbs can be used for training phonetic skills either while introducing a new phonetic phenomenon or while practising it. Proverbs can be used for training grammar. It is possible to use proverbs while presenting and practising Passive Voice, Imperative Mood degrees of comparison, modal verbs, articles, irregular verbs, prepositions and so on. The lexical and grammatical richness of proverbs can be used not only while presenting and practising grammar but also for the enrichment of learners' vocabulary. For example, proverbs can help to remember colours, numbers, names of animals etc.

The role of proverbs in our life can hardly be overestimated. They are wise sayings that are remembered and repeated. Some of them are so popular that you will often hear them in daily conversation. As it has already been mentioned proverbs of different nations have a lot in common, but on the other hand there are specific features, which illustrate lifestyle, and geography, and history, and traditions of a nation, show some original national culture, its centuries-old history. Proverbs have deep sense and national wisdom. They reflect people's way of thinking and perception of the world. According to Dr. Panos Karagiorgos "Proverbs contain keen observations of everyday life, constitute popular philosophy of life, and provide an insight into human behavior and character. They survived thanks to their brevity, their rhyme and rhythm which delighted the ear and helped the memory". [4,12] Culture, traditions and history of the nation can be observed in proverbs, what is kind and evil can be learnt. Proverbs are used in the educational process. They help to express the same thought by different words, they tell us a great truth in the most significant way.

It is well-known that wisdom and spirit of people are expressed in its proverbs and sayings, and the knowledge of proverbs and sayings of this or that nation promotes not only a better knowledge of the language, but also helps understand views and characters of its people.

While studying a foreign language proverbs enhance the effectiveness of learning vocabulary, help to enrich the language, reflect the conditions of life, and enrich everyday language, making it more colorful and expressive. When studying proverbs in foreign languages we can understand the native speakers' language better. Some people who are not very competent in a language may have problems with understanding proverbs as their meaning extends far beyond their literal meanings. If you want to learn English, it would be better to memorize some proverbs. By memorizing them, one can not only learn some common English sayings; but also help your brain to become better at forming good English sentences. In Armenia they say Ինչթան լեզու գիտես՝ այնթան մարդ ես։

It should be noted that most often proverbs are not translated literally, the same idea is usually expressed by using different words, e.g.

A fool may throw a stone into a well which a hundred wise men cannot pull out.

Մեկ գիժ քար գցեց հորը, քառասուն խելոք չկարողացան հանել։

Дурак завяжет – умный не развяжет.

Birds of a feather flock together.

Նմանր նմանին է գտնում։

Рыбак рыбака видит из далека

1 ыбак рыбака вибит из балекс

Better late than never.

Ավելի լավ է ուշ, քան երբեք։

Лучше поздно, чем никогда.

Comparing different nations proverbs show that how much these people have in common, and help to better understanding. Proverbs represent the rich historical experience of the people, ideas which refer to work, lifestyle and culture of people. It is said that the proverb is an ancient saying that takes wisdom and gives it youthful vigor. Proverbs are used to make a conversation more lively. In many parts of the world, the

use of proverbs is a mark of being a good orator. No matter how old people are, what country they come from, proverbs are part of their heritage. Proverbs comprise a good portion of common sense, experience, wisdom and moreover truth.

According to R.G. Bayan 'there are, perhaps, but few proverbs and wise sayings, among any people, which are not at the same time the common property of all nations, and if the spirit of the proverb has been preserved, they are changed in form, in the translation from one language to another'. [2,5] So proverbs have nearly the same meaning, but they have lost their originality. In one nation proverbs possess simply what the words express in their primitive sense; to another a mere whimsical idea is presented, which at the same time gives it the idea of originality. Though a literal translation is not observed we do not lose sight of the meaning and spirit of the originals and try to maintain their originality and turn.

Արևն ամպի տակ չի մնայ:

A lie has short legs.

Ложь стоит до правды.

Proverbs were created by our nation as well, they are priceless wealth of our language. Armenian people have a rich spiritual heritage, rooted in ancient times. Knowing proverbs better contributes thinking, memory, vocabulary, enriches students folk wisdom, enriches our language. They become good helpers in conversations, that's why proverbs should be paid much attention to. Proverbs make people think, and not only simply think but make them consider the meaning of what was said, because each proverb except the direct meaning always has a hidden or indirect meaning too. Most of the proverbs in both languages concern friendship and animosity, love and hatred, wisdom and stupidity, wealth and misery, home, marriage, family.

Գլուղ կանգնի՝ գերան կկոտրի

It can be translated as 'If the whole village stands, it can even break a trunk' Once we give shoulder to shoulder, we can turn mountains.

Сила в единстве.

This Armenian proverb teaches that the unity of a nation or community is the biggest strength. The unity, the closeness gives a birth to strength. Strength increases in unity. We know from Armenian history and literature that the Armenians were able to win only when they united. And for the future they also call for unity, in order to keep their independence, and the April war is a good example of nation's unity.

Armenian proverbs, just like those of any other nation, are simple, easily remembered expressions, known and repeated by people. Proverbs are simply an expression of the truth, based on Armenians' daily life experience. Armenian proverbs naturally characterize the face of this nation and its peculiarities, describe particular situations, express their feelings. Harry Terhanian presents Armenian Culture and Wisdom through timeless proverbs. This wisdom has sustained Armenians through 25 or more centuries. It has formed the basis of the Armenian Character. Numerous biblical idioms and proverbs circulate in communication through many languages, including Armenian and English, even though speakers might not remember that they are using proverbs from the Bible. [6] A few obvious examples are:

The apple doesn't fall far from its tree.

Պտուղը ծառից հեռու չի ընկնի։

Eye for eye and tooth for tooth

Ակն ընդ ական և ատամն ընդ ատամ։

As you sow so shall you reap

Ինչ որ ցանես, այն կր հնձես։

He who digs a pit for others, falls in himself.

There is nothing new under the sun.

The use of proverbs in typical life makes our speech brighter, more imaginative and impressive. But life has been changing and new proverbs are being created, the old proverbs are forgotten. Our elders use proverbs to make us explain something and it has a great impact on our minds.

I think It will be interesting to point out some proverbs, cultural sayings, and lullabies used in the specific Karabakh region. Here is a common lullaby for girls, transliterated from the Karabakhi dialect:

Ախմիգ օնիմ, սազ ախմիկ I have a daughter; she is the real goods, Աշկերը չալ-չալ ախմիկա

She is bright-eyed.

The brightest and most positive characteristics of a woman are "she is not a woman, but a sea" (4uu).

"A woman without a husband is like a dog without a master." (Անմարդ կնեզը հանցա անդար շոն րնի).

The beautiful nature, climate, have had a great impact on the art of thinking and creativity of Karabakh. The most important place in the fountain of creativity of Karabakh people belongs to folk arts which are closely related to its mode of life and daily round. It is considered that the Karabakh dialect reflects the relationship of dominance and subordination. As in many other languages, in the Karabakh dialect there are plenty of proverbs.

Օխծին կծածը կըլըվանա, լուզվեն կծածը լըվանալ չի։

Ա բոլ չի խե՞ մին լյուն մին օղտ ըք շինում։

Շրնրհաչոցն էլ փեշակ ա, վրեր սրվերիս

Վրեսկեն րխպրհարումն էլ պրծրպածի կանե։

Հըրսընքանը ետը նըղարա չըն թխում։

Տու ինձ պահե բուխձու մաչի, ես քեզ պահիմ մարդու մաչի։

Էշը թկելավ ձյորե չի տըեռնալ։

Հանց սոտ ասե, վրեր ղորթը կոխկեն պրպրզի։

Լյաչառեն օխտր լեչակ կրնի։

Հմաշկուտ կնեգը տըղա չի պիրում։

Փըշըկատարը մինչև կեսօր տուզնը կըմնա։

Ըրբան ձըռռալին տըեղ, ըրբաչին ա ձըռռում։

Լյավ արտեն մաչին էլ կածուկ կրինի։

Միչև խելունքը մտածե, պելը կետը անց կրկենա։

Ուրուշու ծին եր ինողը ձելլի վրեր կրկյա։

Վրեննրտ լորդանրտ րգլորա մեկնե։

Proverbs were and are used nowadays as an effective spoken or written tool of expressing various meanings and intentions. They include wisdom, knowledge and truth which are given in a few colourful words. According to Archer Taylor 'As a guide to life's problems, the proverb summarizes a situation, passes a judgment, or offers a course of action.'

Summarizing above mentioned information the following definition can be given to a proverb: It is a short, meaningful expression having the rhythmic organization in poetic style - which people have been creating for centuries in their social and historical life. A proverb contains a general piece of wisdom. It contains wisdom which has been handed down from one generation to the next. Proverbs are folk sayings common in use and pithy in sense and structure; they contain a special conclusion or recommendation in regard to almost every life situation. A proverb describes situations which happened before and which are repeated again and again. Proverbs were always the most stable part of the national languages. The effect of a proverb is, to make the wisdom it tells to be self-evident. They are used to express intellectual and emotional attitudes: disappointment, sympathy, intention, acceptance as well as moral attitudes: approval, disapproval, appreciation, apology or regret.

People may say many things about proverbs, but the fact is that they do play a very important role in our life. The language of proverbs is simple but picturesque. Proverbs will survive for many years to come.

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ԱՄՓՈՓՈՒՄ

Ասացվածքները` որպես ժողովրդական իմաստնության և ոգու արտահայտչամիջոց Ֆլորա Այվագովա

Բանալի բառեր՝ ասացվածքներ, բանահյուսություն, արտահայտություններ, իմաստություն, սերունդ, խոր զգացմունք, մշակույթ, ավանդույթ, պատմություն, մտքեր, ոգի, հարստացնել լեզուն։

Շատ գիտնականներ ասացվածքը համարում են բանահյուսության մի մաս,որն արտահայտում է ոչ միայն կոնկրետ մարդու,այլն ողջ ժողովրդի միտքը։ Ասացվածքները մեր խոսքին շունչ են հաղորդում,դարձնում այն ավելի զգացական։ Ու թեկուզ որոշ գիտնականներ ենթադրում են, որ ասացվածքները կորցրել են իրենց այժմեականությունը, վստահորեն կարող ենք հայտարարել, որ ասացվածքները բավականին ակտուալ(հայտնի) են այսօր։ Միևնույն միտքը տարբեր լեզուներում կարող է արտահայտված լինել տարաբնույթ, այդուհանդերձ նրա էությունը դրանից չի փոխվում։ Ասացվածքները նպաստում են խոսքի հարստացմանը և օտար լեզուների ուսումնասիրությանը։ Ասացվածքները մեծ տեղ են զբաղեցնում ոչ միայն անգլերենում, այլն հայոց լեզվում՝ ներառյալ արցախյան բարբառը։ Շատ ասացվածքներ երկու լեզուներում էլ արտահայտում են ընկերության, իմաստության, հայրենիքի հանդեպ սիրո, ազգային ոգու թեմաներ։

РЕЗЮМЕ

Пословицы как способ выражения мудрости и духа народа Флора Айвазова

Ключевые слова: пословицы, фольклор, выражения, мудрость, поколения, высказывания, глубокое чувство, культура, традиции, история, мысли, дух, обогащать язык.

Многие ученые считают пословицы частью фольклора, выражающую точку зрения не только одного человека, а целого народа. Пословицы придают образность нашей речи, делают ее более

эмоциональной. И хотя некоторые ученые полагают, что пословицы сегодня потеряли свою актуальность, с уверенностью можно заявить, что они весьма популярны и в наше время. Одна и та же мысль в разных языках может быть выражена по-разному, но суть ее при этом не меняется. Пословицы способствуют обогащению речи и при изучении иностранных языков. Пословицы занимают большое место не только в английском, но и в армянском языке, включая арцахский диалект. Многие пословицы в обоих языках затрагивают темы дружбы, мудрости, любви к Родине, народного духа.