



The Expression of British Cultural Values in the Legends About King Arthur

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Annation. Language is a means of reflecting culture since any language constitutes national traditions, literature, history, economic relations.

Edward Sapir, one of the foremost American linguists and anthropologists of his time, points out that language is a guiding tool in the study of culture. When learning a language, it is important to know not only the words, language chunks and speech but also the culture, worldview, lifestyle and customs of the country of the target language. This, in turn, has led to the emergence of a new field in linguistics, namely, the evolution of linguocultural studies .

Linguocultural study is a pertinent question to be pondered which has based on both language and culture. It studies the influence of culture on language, language as a phenomenon of culture.

This is the view of the world to a certain extent through the prism of a national language, the manifestation of language through the mind and culture of a particular nation. Due to its novelty and the fact that it has not been fully studied in its entirety and the existence of different opinions and views still requires a lot of scientific research. Therefore, it is natural that scientists from different countries study the issue of language and culture in various directions. This problem is discussed by notable linguists (Yu.Sorokin, V.Telia, E.Vereshchagin, A.Vejbitskaya, V.Kostomarov, D.Olford, D.Chaims and others) and philosophers (G.Brutyan, E.Markaryan and others), psychologists (L.Vygotsky, A.Leontev, V.Petrenko, P.Gulviste). In recent years, the evolvement of linguistics as a separate field of research in linguistics (A.Krasnykh, V.Maslova, D.Gudkov, D.Ashurova) has led to the actuality of this topic¹.

The article is devoted to linguocultural determination of English national legend “King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table” and how the British mentality and culture impact on their language precisely in the case of legend discourse. We analysed the legend from linguocultural perspective.

"Arise, Lord King, for the enemy is come; even Ambrosius and Uther, upon whose throne thou sittest--and full twenty thousand with them--and they have sworn by a great oath, Lord, to slay thee, ere this year be done; and even now they march towards thee as the north wind of winter for bitterness and haste"².

The given extract is teemed with linguocultural features that should be taken into consideration. Initially, the words “Lord King” and “throne” are ubiquitous for only English discourse, especially legends as well as stories since they have undue dependency upon the governmental system of country and they have emerged the monarchical system of British society over centuries. The phrase “a great oath” is, absolutely interconnected with religion and has been employed by prayers of Christianity to express betting to contrive the task or never to try the hands in doing something. “The north wind of winter for bitterness and haste” is the idiom that shows British mentality and the weather displays the condition more

¹ <https://usajournalshub.com/index.php/tajssei/article/download/1005/953/>

² : The Legends Of King Arthur And His Knights, James Knowles, June 28, 2004.p-13



naturally. Moreover, the season of winter has utilized in such a way that represents furious mood of army which disseminates that the winter in the society is not mild consequently, language users are in the habit of using this season to mean bitterness or haste.

“Find out some refuge, if thou wilt! but who may escape the doom of God?”³

The phrase “who may escape the doom of God?” is another relevant example of religion-based pattern which implemented to exhibit that no one manages to run away from God if he wants to punish.

“The sight of the place where the dead lay moved Aurelius to great sorrow, and he cast about in his mind how to make a worthy tomb over so many noble martyrs, who had died there for their country”⁴.

In fact, martyr is a person who sacrifices something of great value and especially life itself for the sake of principle or a person who voluntarily suffers death as the penalty of witnessing to and refusing to renounce a religion⁵. However, martyrs are soldiers who has fought for the freedom of their motherland in the given case not man of religion. In other words, the British contemplate dying in the way of guarding one’s country overshadows sacrificing for the sake of God.

And it befell at a certain great banquet and high feast which the king made at Easter-tide, there came, with many other earls and barons, Gorlois, Duke of Cornwall, and his wife Igera, who was the most famous beauty in all Britain.⁶

Various nations have dissimilar celebrations as they are integral part of the rich heritage and banquet together with feast resulting from the British offers the meaning of an elaborate and often ceremonious meal for numerous people in honor of a person, deity, thing or a periodic religious observance commemorating an event which is either called differently in other communities or never faced with. Furthermore, earls, barons and duke are the special names for high position individuals that unique for England and the reason is that other cultures call them in other ways, vazir (in Uzbekistan), chancellor, prime minister (in America), rajya (in India), shogun (in Japan) and etc.

“When, therefore, the child is born, let him be delivered unto me, unchristened, at yonder postern-gate, and I will bestow him in the care of this good knight”⁷.

Due to the fact that Christian has mingled with British nation from early history, there are a numerous words that based on this religion Christendom, Christmas, Christmasberry. Christened or unchristened is one of them usually refers to baptize, administer baptism.

“Then came together all the bishops and the clergy, and great multitudes of people, and bewailed the king; and carrying his body to the convent of Ambrius, they buried it close by his brother's grave, within the "Giants' Dance”⁸.

Bishop and clergy are religious expressions which mean a group ordained to perform pastoral or sacerdotal functions in a Christian church. Other non-Christian languages does not include these words or equivalent of them as there is no person in that position in other religions.

The nature of the place where each nation lives, the economic system of the people, its folk works, literature, art, science, traditions, reflecting, collecting and transmitting from generation to generation is a national and cultural symbol of the language. Language is a mirror of culture. It reflects not only the world around which humanity exists, the living conditions, but also the self-awareness, mentality, national character, lifestyle, traditions, customs, spirituality, values and worldview. And to comprehend the essence of the words and phrases given above, one should be familiar with British culture.

³ The Legends Of King Arthur And His Knights, James Knowles, June 28, 2004.p-16

⁴ The Legends Of King Arthur And His Knights, James Knowles, June 28, 2004.p-17

⁵ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/martyr>

⁶ The Legends Of King Arthur And His Knights, James Knowles, June 28, 2004.p-19

⁷ The Legends Of King Arthur And His Knights, James Knowles, June 28, 2004.p-19

⁸ The Legends Of King Arthur And His Knights, James Knowles, June 28, 2004.p-21



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