



THE COMPARISON OF WEDDING TRADITION IN ENGLISH AND KARAKALPAK CULTURE

Kalmuratova Inkar Maksetovna

Trainee-teacher of English language and literature
department, Karakalpak State University

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15285391>

Abstract. Weddings are significant cultural events that symbolize the union of two individuals and the beginning of a new family. This article explores the wedding traditions of English and Karakalpak cultures, highlighting their similarities and differences. It discusses key aspects such as engagement, wedding preparations, the ceremony, and post-wedding celebrations. While English weddings focus on formal traditions and individual preferences, Karakalpak weddings emphasize family involvement and cultural rituals. Despite these differences, both cultures share the common values of love, commitment, and joy in marriage.

Keywords: Wedding traditions, English culture, Karakalpak culture, engagement, ceremony, celebration, customs, rituals, marriage

Weddings are significant events in every culture, marking the union of two people and the beginning of a new family. Although English and Karakalpak wedding traditions have distinct customs, they also share some similarities. This article explores the wedding traditions of both cultures, highlighting their unique and common aspects.

To begin with, engagement is an important step in both English and Karakalpak wedding traditions. In English culture, a man traditionally proposes to a woman by giving her a ring, often kneeling on one knee. If she accepts, they announce their engagement and start planning the wedding [4, 2-11]. Similarly, in Karakalpak culture, the groom's family officially asks for the bride's hand in marriage through a ceremony called "sawshılıq". During this event, the bride's family either agrees or politely declines, depending on their decision.

Moreover, wedding preparations play a crucial role in both cultures. In England, couples usually spend months organizing their special day, choosing a venue, sending invitations, and selecting a wedding dress. In contrast, in Karakalpakstan, wedding preparations involve extended family members and neighbors, who actively participate in cooking, decorating, and arranging the ceremony.

In terms of the wedding ceremony itself, English weddings often take place in a church, registry office, or a special venue. The bride wears a white dress, symbolizing purity, while the groom wears a formal suit. Additionally, a priest or





an officiant leads the ceremony, during which the couple exchanges vows and rings. At the end, they sign a marriage certificate to legalize the union.

On the other hand, Karakalpak weddings are traditionally held at home or in a special wedding hall called "toyxana". The bride wears a richly decorated dress with national ornaments, while the groom wears a traditional outfit or a suit. Furthermore, Karakalpak weddings include a special ritual called "kelin tusiriw", where the bride is welcomed into the groom's house with blessings and rituals to ensure happiness and prosperity [1, 63-70].

Another important aspect of weddings is the celebration. In England, wedding receptions usually include a formal dinner, speeches, and dancing. Guests raise a toast to the couple's happiness, and the newlyweds share their first dance. Later, the bride throws her bouquet, and it is believed that whoever catches it will be the next to marry.

Similarly, Karakalpak weddings involve a grand feast with national dishes, music, and dance. One of the most exciting traditions is "betashar", where the bride's face is unveiled in front of the guests while a respected elder recites blessings and poems. Likewise, there is a lot of singing and dancing, creating a lively and joyful atmosphere.

Conclusion. In conclusion, English and Karakalpak wedding traditions have both unique and shared elements. While English weddings are often centered around a church or a registry office with formal traditions, Karakalpak weddings emphasize family involvement, cultural rituals, and community participation. Nevertheless, both cultures value love, commitment, and the joy of starting a new life together. As a result, weddings remain one of the most cherished celebrations in both societies.

References:

1. Buvabaevna, K. H., & Medetovna, A. F. Development And Preservation Of Karakalpak Ethnic Culture. Multidisciplinary Approaches in the Current Times, 63, 63-70.
2. Findlay, A. (2012). A Day to Remember: Wedding Ceremony and Cultural Change. Shakespeare, 8(4), 411-423.
3. Makhammadovna, M. F., & Agzamova, D. B. (2021). Psycholinguistic studies of pre-wedding and wedding traditions (on the basis of English and Uzbek phraseological units). Turkish Online Journal of Qualitative Inquiry, 12(7).
4. Pereira Roders, A., & Van Oers, R. (2014). Wedding cultural heritage and sustainable development: three years after. Journal of Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainable Development, 4(1), 2-15.

