**REVIEW**

**for the dissertation by An Lan «Linguo-cognitive and ethnocultural analysis of the concepts "marriage" and "family" in paremiology» submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the educational programme «8D02306 – Foreign Philology (Western Languages)»**

The dissertation thesis of **An Lan** represents a methodologically conscientious and theoretically important research work that examines English and Chinese proverbs about marriage and family from comparative-contrastive perspectives of ethnocultural studies and cognitive linguistics. The researcher addresses fundamental research questions about the conceptual metaphor system in cross-cultural integration, cultural value orientation and their evolution in contemporary society as embodied in English and Chinese proverbs about marriage and family, examined from the dual perspectives of cognitive linguistics and ethnocultural studies. The research combines theoretical insights from ethnocultural and philosophical perspectives and cognitive linguistics with empirical evidence from along with their evolution and dynamic development. The purpose of this research is to construct an integrated analytical framework systematically revealing the similarities and differences in cognitive patterns and cultural roots between English and Chinese proverbs on marriage and family.

The research is based on comparative, linguo-cultural analysis of proverb examples sourced from authoritative dictionaries and corpora, selected from Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs, The Penguin Dictionary of Proverbs, Cassell Dictionary of Proverbs, and The Facts on File Dictionary of Proverbs, as well as the British National Corpus (BNC) and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). Chinese proverbs are mainly from the 中国谚语大辞典，中华谚语大词典，汉语谚语词典，谚海, along with the Peking University Chinese Corpus (CCL) and the Beijing Language and Culture University Corpus Center (BCC). Additionally, digital platforms such as Weibo, Zhihu, Twitter, and Instagram are supplemented to reflect evolving trends in contemporary language use and perspectives on marriage and family.

One of the dissertation's primary analytical contributions lies in integration of qualitative comparative analysis with corpus-based verification. The research process follows the sequence of "proverbs screening →proverbs → collection → classification → comparative analysis". During the data collection and classification of the proverbs, the criterion of "core semantic focus" was applied and the proverbs centered on marriage relationships were categorized as "marriage proverbs", while those focusing on the family as a whole and its functions were classified as "family proverbs".

The researcher employs an innovative integrated methodological approach that combines a dual-perspective framework that effectively bridges cognitive and ethnocultural analyses within a systematic research framework. The methodology is strengthened by corpus-based quantitative examination of paremiology of English, Chinese corpora, combined with qualitative discourse analysis and innovational technologies using AI and LLMS tools to ensure the authenticity and representativeness of the proverb examples, this research excluded proverbs that were overly dialect-specific or semantically ambiguous. At the educational and practical levels, the research offers a structured framework and cultural insights useful for language teaching, translation, and cross-cultural communication. It helps learners understand conceptual differences, build cultural sensitivity, and improve cross-cultural competence. At the socio-cultural level, the findings of the research enhance to reduce misunderstandings in intercultural interaction, support effective cultural exchange, and provide perspectives for discussing traditional vs. modern values, gender equality, and family roles. At the academic and technological level, the research clarifies how cognition and culture interact in the formation of proverbs. Its results and corpus resources support AI and large language models in cross-cultural semantic understanding and serve as a model for studying links between language and thought.

The study highly demonstrates a systematic and multifaceted approach to the analysis of marriage- and family-related proverbs across languages. Firstly, the researchers classify the collected proverbs according to major semantic fields, including the purpose of marriage, criteria for choosing a partner, the distribution of family roles, and parent–child relationships. This initial categorization provides a solid thematic foundation for subsequent analysis. Secondly, the study successfully identifies key conceptual metaphor models embedded within the proverbs. By applying a cognitive–linguistic framework, the authors reveal metaphors such as "marriage as a contract or partnership" and "family as a safe haven or blood-related community". These metaphors of proverbs demonstrate how differently structured cultural concepts are encoded in proverbial expressions. Thirdly, the integration of cultural and historical contexts further strengthens the analysis. The review highlights that English proverbs largely reflect values of individualism, contractual ethics, and Christian perspectives on marriage, whereas Chinese proverbs embody familism, Confucian moral norms, and hierarchical clan traditions. This cultural interpretation effectively explains the linguistic patterns uncovered in earlier sections.

Finally, the study ensures empirical reliability by verifying the contextual use of proverbs through corpus methods. The authors use major corpora such as BNC, COCA, and CCL to confirm actual usage, check frequency, and assess the temporal validity of proverb forms. This methodological step enhances the credibility and contemporary relevance of the findings.

Overall, the work provides a rigorous and insightful examination of the linguistic, cognitive, and cultural dimensions of proverbs, contributing meaningfully to comparative paremiology and cross-cultural linguistics.

The scientific novelty of the dissertation lies in its systematic integration of cognitive linguistic theory with ethnocultural studies. The thematic study overcomes the common separation of "marriage" and "family" in previous research by treating marriage and family proverbs as a unified, continuous cultural-semantic system. Instead of analyzing marital relationships in isolation, it examines marital roles, mate selection, filial piety, child-rearing and kinship as an integrated whole shaped by shared cultural foundations. This approach enables a systematic comparison of how English and Chinese cultures conceptualize the full life cycle—from marriage formation to family development and intergenerational relations—through proverbs. The perspective novelty of the research adopts a dynamic perspective that considers not only traditional and modern proverb forms but also their evolution in today's digital environment, including social media. This bridges the gap between diachronic and synchronic analysis and reveals new developments in proverb usage across both languages. The study combines cognitive linguistics with ethnocultural analysis is focused to examine how marriage and family are conceptualized and culturally interpreted in English and Chinese proverbs. The cognitive perspective explains how people understand these concepts through metaphor and mental models, while the ethnocultural perspective explains why different cultures express them in particular ways. Integrating these two dimensions provides a comprehensive and innovative analytical framework.

The research demonstrates theoretical significance and substantial practical relevance for both ethnoctural studies and cognitive linguistics. The findings of the the research enriches and expands the theories and methodologies of cross-cultural proverb research, deepening the understanding of the complex interactions among language, cognition and culture.

The dissertation research of An Lan "Linguo-Cognitive and Ethnocultural Analysis of the Concepts "Marriage" and "Family" in Paremiology of English and Chinese Languages" is marked by its significant contributions to comparative study of paremiology, theoretical innovation in interdisciplinary research and practical relevance in comprehensive analytical framework. The research makes significant contributions to cognitive linguistics, comparative ethnocultural studies of set expressions offering both substantive scholarly value and practical applications for the analysis of proverbs that reflect the dynamic interaction between language and culture in contemporary society.

In conclusion, the researcher An Lan has achieved the objectives set forth in her dissertation work, producing a systematic comprehensive study that has reached its intended objectives. I consider that the dissertation complies with the requirements of Section 2 of the "Regulations for Awarding Academic Degrees" of the Committee for Control in Education and Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and believe that its author, An Lan, deserves to be awarded the academic degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the specialty "8D023006 – Foreign Philology."

Scientific Advisor
Candidate of philological sciences, Department of Foreign Philology and
Translation Studies of the Philological Faculty,
Al-Farabi Kazakh National University G.K. Bekkozhanova

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