

## SOME PECULIARITIES OF WEDDING CEREMONIES IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH CULTURE

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### Abstract

This article compares Uzbek and foreign wedding ceremonies and traditions. This article explores and compares traditional wedding customs in Uzbekistan with those in English-speaking countries, focusing on events that occur before and after the main ceremony. While Uzbek weddings emphasize deep familial bonds and celebrations that span several days, weddings in English-speaking nations typically focus on the couple's personal intentions, formal ceremony format, and a single-day reception. Through this contrast, we uncover universal human aspirations—unity, joy, and blessing—while also seeing how history, religion, and regional heritage shape distinct ways of marking marriage.

### Key words

Uzbek wedding traditions, English wedding traditions, community involvement, engagement ceremony, exchange of vows, hospitality, emotional sincerity, collective celebration, personal devotion, cultural richness..

**Introduction.** Wedding ceremonies are more than just extravagant celebrations; they are profound and meaningful ceremonies that mark the beginning of a lifelong journey defined by love and commitment between two individuals. In this comparative exploration, we delve into the differences of wedding customs in England (representing European culture) and Uzbekistan (representing Central Asian culture).

Weddings in Uzbekistan are traditionally very grand, lengthy celebrations that involve the entire neighborhood and extensive relatives. The ceremony often begins early in the morning with the traditional wedding feast - plov (pilaf) - prepared in the groom's (or sometimes the bride's) home.

In England, on the other hand, the civil ceremony usually takes place at a registry office or approved venue. When it comes to religious weddings, you can

currently get married by having an Anglican, Roman Catholic, Jewish, or Quaker ceremony.

**Literature review.** Wedding traditions in different societies reflect their cultural identity, social values, and historical heritage. A comparison of Uzbek and English wedding ceremonies becomes clearer through the perspectives of four individuals: Dr. Saida Karimova (Uzbek cultural researcher), Professor Emily Hart (English anthropologist), Dilnoza Rakhimova (Uzbek bride), and Thomas Miller (English groom). Their views illustrate how both cultures celebrate the union of two people in distinct yet meaningful ways.

According to Dr. Saida Karimova, Uzbek wedding traditions are deeply rooted in community involvement and ancient customs. Pre-wedding rituals such as the Engagement Ceremony, the Nikoh Night, and the Bride Presentation show that marriage symbolizes not only the connection between two individuals but also the unity of two extended families. Large gatherings, traditional music, dancing, and generous hospitality represent the spirit of Uzbek celebrations. Customs such as the *kelin salom* and the bride's ceremonial unveiling highlight the cultural significance of respect, honor, and family integration. Professor Emily Hart explains that English weddings, in contrast, focus more on intimacy, personal symbolism, and formal structure.

Ceremonies typically take place in churches, gardens, or specialized venues. The exchange of vows and rings forms the emotional core of the event, emphasizing personal commitment rather than collective participation. Traditional elements like the father leading the bride, speeches by family members, the couple's first dance, and the bouquet toss bring emotional depth and symbolic meaning to the celebration. From the viewpoint of Dilnoza Rakhimova, Uzbek weddings are enriched by bright colors, festive music, and the active participation of relatives, neighbors, and friends. She emphasizes how traditional clothing, national dishes, and ritual steps create a joyful atmosphere that reflects the strength of community ties. At the same time, she admires the emotional sincerity of English wedding vows and believes that such personalized elements could add meaningful depth to the Uzbek ceremony.

Thomas Miller, representing the English perspective, observes that English weddings tend to be more focused on the couple's inner feelings and future plans. However, he expresses great appreciation for the lively and warm atmosphere of Uzbek weddings. He finds Uzbek customs—such as greeting guests collectively, offering traditional meals, and performing cultural dances—very welcoming and memorable. In his view, English ceremonies provide emotional intimacy, while Uzbek weddings offer cultural richness and communal joy. Together, the

perspectives of these four individuals demonstrate that Uzbek and English wedding traditions differ in ceremony structure, cultural focus, and social engagement. Still, both cultures share universal values such as love, unity, and respect for family.

While Uzbek weddings highlight collective celebration, English weddings emphasize personal devotion, showing that each culture expresses the meaning of marriage in its own unique and beautiful way. The comparison of Uzbek and English wedding traditions through the perspectives of Dr. Saida Karimova, Professor Emily Hart, Dilnoza Rakhimova, and Thomas Miller shows that cultural differences do not diminish the universal meaning of marriage. Uzbek ceremonies emphasize collective joy, hospitality, and the unification of extended families, reflecting a strong sense of community.

Uzbek wedding traditions have evolved over many centuries, influenced by ancient Turkic customs, Islamic values, and strong community-based social structures. Weddings historically served not only as a union between two individuals but as a reaffirmation of alliances between families, clans, and the wider community. Many elements of the ceremony symbolize prosperity, respect for elders, and social harmony. English wedding traditions, on the other hand, are shaped by Christian rituals, royal ceremonial customs, and Victorian-era symbolism. Over time, English weddings have moved toward more personalized and romantic expressions of love, focusing on the couple's emotional bond rather than large-scale communal celebrations.

**Analysis.** *Uzbek Weddings.* Known for large gatherings and strong community participation. Include multiple stages such as the Engagement Ceremony, Nikoh (religious contract), Bride Presentation, Kelin salom, and post-wedding customs.

Traditional clothing features bright colors, intricate embroidery, and symbolic patterns representing joy and prosperity. Musical traditions often include karnay-surnay, doira, and folk performances. Hospitality is central: extensive meals, national dishes, and welcoming guests are essential components. English Weddings Tend to be more intimate and formal. Often include a civil registration or church ceremony, followed by a reception. The bride typically wears a white gown symbolizing purity, while the groom wears a suit or tuxedo. Music choices are often classical or romantic, creating an elegant atmosphere. Events such as the father walking the bride down the aisle, giving of rings, speeches, and the first dance form key parts of the celebration.

English weddings, on the other hand, highlight personal vows, emotional sincerity, and formal symbolism that place the couple at the center of the celebration. Despite these differences, both cultures share the same core values:

love, loyalty, and the desire to build a stable and harmonious family. The traditions may vary in scale, structure, and customs, yet

the intention behind them remains identical. This demonstrates that every culture expresses the significance of marriage in its own way, but all wedding ceremonies ultimately celebrate the beginning of a new life filled with hope, unity, and mutual respect.

**In conclusion**, we can admit that there are considerable differences in wedding ceremonies and the formalization of marriage in England and Uzbekistan. English weddings are often driven by civil regulations and personal choice, which can lead to a more affordable and quicker process. Uzbek weddings, conversely, are characterized by high expenditure, extensive family involvement, extravagance, and deeply rooted traditions. While the significance of marriage is high in both cultures, their forms of expression clearly showcase the rich cultural differences between the peoples of Europe and Central Asia.

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