



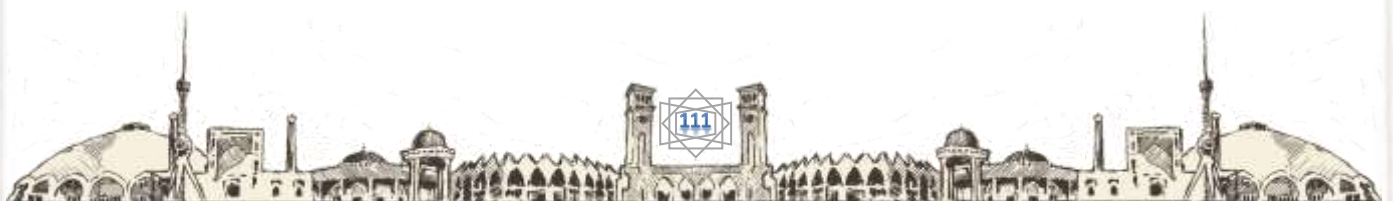
LINGUACULTURAL FEATURES OF WEDDINGS IN UZBEKISTAN AND UNITED KINGDOM

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A wedding ceremony is a public announcement of the marriage of the bride and groom. This ritual has partially changed over time and differs in each ethnic group with its own characteristics. The age of the Uzbek people. There are a number of rituals in the marriage ceremony system: betrothal, (sovchilik) yuz ko`rar (seeing a girl), blessing wedding, wedding sending, girls' meeting (girls' meeting), marriage ceremony, bride toast, bride greeting, charlar, god call and other ceremonies with them. associated customs. Most of them are still preserved and practiced. On the day of the wedding or a day before, the wedding soup is sent to the girl either cooked or raw. Soup is served to the team in the girl's house. Sometimes soup is also served at the groom's house. On the day of the wedding or the day before, a marriage ceremony is held at the girl's father's house. The groom went to the future bride's house with his close friend and uncle. After the imam explained the duties and rights of marriage to the groom, after obtaining the permission of the girl through the bridegroom, he recited "Khutbai Nikah" (prayer about marriage). According to Uzbek custom, wedding ceremonies are held at the groom's house. On the wedding night, the bridegroom comes to the bride's house with the sound of trumpets, trumpets, cymbals, and drums, accompanied by joyful laughter. They sit in a carpeted room, around a table full of goodies. After the liquid food and soup are eaten, one of the groom's relatives "buys" the groom's sarpò from the bride's side. The bridegroom faces the qibla and puts on a cloak and turban made by the girl's mother. After blessing the bridegroom, they bring the bridegroom with the girl's mother and aunts to see the bridegroom under the sound of trumpets. The bridegroom returns home with his companions after receiving the prayers and blessings of his mother and grandmother. The bride is dressed in a white dress and taken out to say goodbye to close relatives such as her father, grandmother and uncle. The bride comes to her father in the company of his bride and friends and bows to him and asks for his consent to the bread and salt. The father kisses his daughter's forehead and hugs her shoulder to express his approval and wish her happiness. The girl goes to her mother and asks for her approval, saying, "Thank you, mother, for the white milk you gave me." Before the bride gets into the car, the father gives her a white blessing and wishes her happiness. All the participants follow the prayer with open hands. According to our oldest custom, the bride is escorted to the groom's house. These customs are held in a unique way in each region and village.

In Britain weddings are celebrated quite another way. Over the years, at Country House Weddings there have been celebrated many wonderful ceremonies, inspired by





different topics, including historical eras, movies and colour palettes. Arguably, English weddings are the ones we know best, because we have hosted hundreds of them!

In this post we will look at the most traditional of weddings celebrated nowadays in England, those inspired by our centuries-old traditions. The traditions are so rich and varied, that there is so much to cover. The date of the wedding is typically set up after a proposal has taken place. Traditionally, the man was the one to propose to his beloved, rather than the other way around. Nowadays this part of the tradition is not always followed, although we do find that most of our couples still observe it. English tradition has it that the man is to propose to his beloved with a ring, which she is to wear on the ring finger of her left hand. Tradition also used to say that a woman can propose to her man on February 29th – on a leap year. Once the couple had set a wedding date, it was customary to set the so-called banns of the marriage (from an Old English word meaning “to summon”). The banns were basically a marriage notice. The purpose of this was to announce to everyone that a wedding was to take place, in case anyone had any objection to it. A marriage was only considered legally valid if the reading of the banns had taken place. Prior to the wedding date; the bride celebrates with her female friends in what is called a hen party, whereas the groom celebrates the engagement with his male friends in a stag do. It is said, however, that the groom should not see his bride on the day before the ceremony, because that will bring bad luck to the newlyweds. It was said that the best season to marry was between the harvest and Christmas (in the Autumn). In fact, we still have a rhyme that reminds us of that: “Marry in September’s shine, your living will be rich and fine.”

On the day of the wedding, a traditional English bride will wear a white bridal dress and her groom will wear a suit, typically complete with top hat and tails. The bride is traditionally given a decorative horseshoe, to be worn on her wrist or sewn to the hem of her dress. This item was given for good luck, and although it is rare to use an actual horseshoe at present – in the old days it was commonplace! Another fantastic tradition, still followed today, is to follow this Victorian rhyme on the day of one’s wedding:

“Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue, and a silver sixpence in her shoe.”

The bride was to wear each and every one of these items during her ceremony, as a way of bringing good luck for her and her husband-to-be. A fantastic example of a traditional English wedding was of course Prince William’s wedding to Kate Middleton. She wore each of these items:

- Something old: Carrickmacross lace.
- Something new: a pair of diamond earrings made by jewellers Robinson Pelham and given by her parents.
- Something borrowed: a diamond tiara made by Cartier which had been bought for the Queen Mother and which was subsequently given to the Queen on her 18th birthday





- Something blue: a ribbon sewn into the dress
- And nobody has checked, but we think she must have also worn a silver sixpence in her shoe!

When the bridegroom left the church after their ceremony, their guests would cast wheat over their heads, as this was a symbol of bounty, abundance and fertility. Nowadays, rice or confetti make for good substitutes, yet maintaining the potency of the original symbol.

In the United Kingdom, the engagement ring is worn, by the woman, on the third finger of the left hand (the ring finger). In the UK the 29th of February (in a leap year) is said to be the one day (coming round only once every four years) when a woman can propose to her partner. It is usual for a couple to be engaged for a while before they get married. An engagement is actually an agreement or promise to marry, and also refers to the time between proposal and marriage. During this period, a couple is said to be affianced, engaged to be married, or simply engaged. A man who is engaged to be married is called his partner's fiancé; a woman similarly engaged is called her partner's fiancée. Once a wedding date has been set the banns of marriage, commonly known simply as "the banns" (from an Old English word meaning "to summon") are announced. This is a notice, usually placed in the local parish church or registry office, which tells everyone that a marriage is going to take place between two people. The purpose of banns is to enable anyone to raise any legal problems as to why the two people shouldn't get married, basically it is to prevent marriages that are legally invalid. Impediments vary between legal jurisdictions, but would normally include a pre-existing marriage (having been neither dissolved nor annulled), a vow of celibacy, lack of consent, or the couple's being related within the prohibited degrees of kinship. In England, a marriage is only legally valid if the reading of the banns has taken place or a marriage licence has been obtained. In addition to the bride and groom, traditional weddings involve a lot more people. Typically, these positions are filled by close friends of the bride and groom; being asked to serve in these capacities is seen as a great honour.

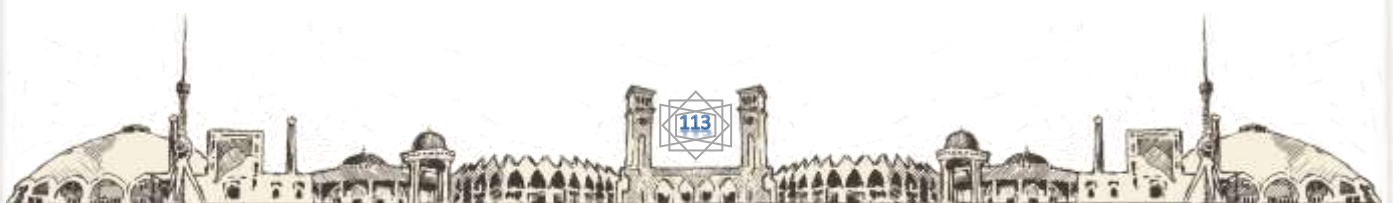
For the couple:- Ringbearer - an attendant, often a young boy, who carries the wedding rings. Ushers - helpers, usually men, who assist with the organization.

For the groom:- Best man - a close male friend or relative of the groom, given a place of honour. Groomsmen - one or more male attendants who support the groom.

For the bride:- Maid of honour - a close female friend or relative of the bride, given a place of honour. If she is married, she is called the "matron of honour" instead. Bridesmaids - one or more female attendants who support the bride.

Father of the Bride - One who symbolically "gives away" the bride. If her father is deceased or otherwise unavailable, another male relative, often an uncle or brother, will give the bride away.

Flower girl - a young girl who scatters flowers in front of the bridal party.





Junior Bridesmaids - young girl typically between the ages of 8 and 16 who is too old to be a flower-girl, but the bride wants to be a part of the wedding. Wedding guests are generally sent invitations to which they are expected to reply (rsvp). The guests are generally invited to both the wedding and the wedding reception afterwards, although sometimes reception places are limited. Often certain people are invited due to perceived family obligations, as to not receive an invitation can be considered an insult.

THE WEDDING CEREMONY- A bride's wedding day is often touted as "the happiest day of her life", but in all honesty it's often a very stressful experience as there are lots of conventions surrounding the whole thing and you can get caught up in family rows, and trying to please everyone. Still it's a good test of a couple's fortitude. When the guests arrive for a wedding the ushers' duty is to hand out the correct books, flowers and the order of service, they also ensure the guests are seated in the correct places. Traditionally, the side on which people sit depends on whether they are friends or family of the bride or of the groom. The front rows are generally reserved for close family or friends, with the very first seats reserved for the bridal party. However, in many ceremonies the bridal party will remain standing at the altar during the ceremony along with the bride and groom. The groom and his best man wait inside the church for the arrival of the bride and her "entourage".

This entourage generally arrives in elegant cars or in horse-drawn coaches, specially hired for the occasion. The bride's entourage normally consists of the bride, the bride's father and all the various bridesmaids, maids of honour, sometimes flower girls and page boys attend her. The page boy's task is often to carry the wedding rings on a cushion. The ushers and/or groomsmen escort the grandparents of the bride and groom to their seats. The ushers and/or groomsmen escort the mother of the groom and mother of the bride to their seats.

The bridesmaids enter, escorted by the groomsmen.

The maid or matron of honour enters, either by herself or escorted by the best man. The ring-bearer or page boy enters. The flower girl enters.

(In some ceremonies, the ring-bearer will accompany the flower girl.)

The bride then proceeds down the aisle, escorted by her father, to the accompaniment of music (usually the wedding march, often called "Here comes the bride"), and the ceremony starts. During the ceremony the bride and groom make their marriage vows. Marriage vows are promises a couple makes to each other during a wedding ceremony. In Western culture, these promises have traditionally included the notions of affection ("love, comfort, keep"), faithfulness ("forsaking all others"), unconditionality ("for richer or for poorer", "in sickness and in health"), and permanence ("as long as we both shall live", "until death do us part"). Most wedding vows are taken from traditional religious ceremonies, but nowadays in the UK many couples choose touching love poems or lyrics from a love song revised as wedding vows and some couples even choose to write their own vows, rather than relying on





standard ones spoken by the celebrant (registrar, priest or vicar). After the vows have been spoken the couple exchange rings. The wedding ring is placed on the third finger of the left hand, also called the "ring" finger. The wedding ring is usually a plain gold ring. I was once told that the third finger was chosen because in the past people believed a vein ran from that finger, straight to the heart - modern anatomy books have put paid to that theory though. After the wedding ceremony, the bride, groom, officiant, and two witnesses generally go off to a side room to sign the register. Without this the marriage is not legal and a wedding certificate cannot be issued. Afterward, guests file out to throw flower petals, confetti, birdseed, or rice (uncooked for obvious reasons) over the newly-married couple for good luck. The bride stands with her back to all the guests and throws her bouquet over her head to them. Whoever catches the bouquet is the next person to get married. We don't know if this has ever been scientifically tested, but it can result in a very unseemly scramble, reminiscent of rugby scrums.

Nowadays, most weddings take place on a Saturday, which might account for the rise in divorce rates. After the ceremony there is usually a reception at which the married couple, the couple's parents, the best man and the wedding entourage greet each of the guests. At such events it is traditional to eat and drink - a lot. During the reception a number of speeches and/or toasts are given in honour of the couple. Any dancing is commonly started by the bride and groom, usually termed the "Bridal Waltz", but dancing an actual waltz is comparatively rare - often the couple chooses their favourite piece of music or a song. An arranged dance between the bride and her father is also traditional. Sometimes the groom will cut in halfway through the dance, symbolizing the bride leaving her father and joining her new husband. At some point the married couple may become the object of a charivari, a good-natured hazing of the newly-married couple. While this is most familiar in the form of tying tin cans to the bumper of the couple's car, or spraying shaving cream on the windows, some of the pranks can be far more malicious. The worst one I've ever heard of is when the bride and groom returned from honeymoon to find their front door had been bricked over.

The final tradition is the newly married couple to set off for their honeymoon.

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