

Article

A Comparative Analysis of American and Uzbek National Wedding Ceremonies

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Abstract: Wedding ceremonies hold a significant place in the cultural traditions of societies around the world. This article provides an in-depth comparative analysis of the traditional wedding ceremonies in America and Uzbekistan, focusing on the differences and similarities in rituals, customs, and symbolic elements. By examining these two distinct cultural practices, we aim to shed light on the diverse ways in which marriage is celebrated and honored, and how these celebrations reflect the values and beliefs of each society.

Keywords: ceremony, tradition, ritual, custom, distinct, marriage.

1. Introduction

Wedding ceremonies are one of the only common rituals and events that hold in each society. But each country's attitude toward process of wedding according to their religion, tradition matters is varied. Weddings are an integral part of human society, representing the union of two individuals and the start of a new family. Wedding rituals are arguably the most elaborate, complex, and important couple ritual (Tiffany Diane Wagner, 2015). The ceremonies associated with weddings are rich in cultural significance, often incorporating centuries-old traditions and customs. Weddings are inherently more than tradition (Juliet Joseph and Katie Alexander, 2018). They serve as symbolic union rituals that bind individuals, families, and communities together. Marriage is essential part to the life of human who has nature character (Aisyah and Parker, 2014). The families, relatives, neighbors, and friends of both the groom and bride also develop new social relationships. In addition, marriage is also accompanied by the transfer of various rights and obligations, as well as the flow of property (Min Han, 2023). They serve as unique and memorable milestones in people's lives, bringing joy, love, and togetherness to the forefront.

2. Materials and Methods

Overall, weddings are multifaceted events that blend tradition, commitment, celebration, and legal recognition. This literature review aims to delve into the scholarly studies that have explored the contrasting and shared elements of American and Uzbek wedding traditions. By synthesizing the findings from existing research, this review seeks to shed light on the cultural significance, sociocultural underpinnings, the diversity and universality of these cherished celebrations.

3. Results

Both in America and Uzbekistan wedding traditions vary based on the couples' origins, religions, ethnicities, cultures, lifestyles, and preferences. Comparison of American and Uzbek National Wedding Ceremonies: The wedding ceremonies in America and Uzbekistan are deeply rooted in tradition and reflect the values, beliefs, and

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customs of their respective societies. Despite the differences in cultural background, there are also striking similarities in the rituals and symbolic elements of these ceremonies.

In America, the wedding ceremony often follows a standard format, beginning with the exchange of vows and rings in the presence of family and friends. The ceremony is typically officiated by a religious or civil authority, with the couple making formal commitments to each other. Following the ceremony, still, there are some time-honored traditions that a majority of American couples still perform. For example, a wedding cake and a first dance still feel like staples of most weddings.

Long before they meet the love of their lives many girls dream of their wedding dress, and it's usually white. The white wedding dress or gown, after all, is still one of the most practiced American traditions, says Blum. "It's worn amongst almost every American bride during the wedding ceremony and or the reception." The tradition actually comes from across the pond in England. According to the Maggie Kreienberg, Roberta Correia (2022)

"Queen Victoria had a fancy, very public wedding in the mid-1800s where she wore a white dress made of British silk and lace". The gown captured the public's imagination, and brides ever since then have also been wearing white.

Most American weddings include a wedding processional, where the wedding party walks down the aisle at the beginning of the wedding ceremony. The order is generally the same: The officiant walks first followed by the wedding party and the flower girls and ring bearers. The couple and their parents are last.

In more traditional ceremonies, the bride's father walks her down the aisle, while in modern ceremonies, both parents do the honors. This was another tradition started in England during a royal wedding, this time Queen Victoria's oldest child (Maggie Kreienberg, Roberta Correia, 2022).

In the history of America, people threw rice and processions at the newlyweds on purpose of wishing them good luck and keeping evil spirits away. Over the years this ritual has been lost.

In Uzbekistan, the wedding celebrations are steeped in tradition and are often multi-day affairs. The ceremony may include rituals such as the "nikoh" (engagement), where the families of the bride and groom agree to the marriage, and the "to'y" (wedding), a festive event filled with music, dance, and elaborate feasting.

In Uzbek culture a day before wedding, there will be "sabzi artidi" (it is like a small gathering of relatives for consulting the ceremony). However, in that day bride side send "sep" (dowry) and "kuyov ziyofati" (special meals for groom) to groom's house.

As a result of globalization, Uzbek brides also wear white dress in wedding party and after the party bride is sent to groom's house in "paranji" (it is a traditional Central Asian robe for women and girls that covers the head and body).

There is also one tradition "kelin salom" & "yuz ochdi" (it is an event for new relatives of groom to see the bride). Brides wear national dress (atlas, adras) and they show respect for new family. It differs according to areas. For example in Fergana this ritual is accomplished in wedding party, but in Kokand this will be after three days from wedding ceremony.

Despite some cultural and religious differences, in each country couples have bridesmaids and groomsmen at their wedding. Also, a wedding cake and a first dance still feel like staples of most weddings. Furthermore, both American and Uzbek wedding ceremonies share common themes of love, commitment, and the coming together of families. Both cultures emphasize the importance of creating a strong foundation for the newlywed couple and celebrating their union through communal festivities and rituals.

4. Discussion

Wedding traditions in both America and Uzbekistan reflect the cultural values and customs unique to each society. While the ceremonies differ in structure and significance, both share a common theme of celebrating the union of two individuals and their families. In America, the focus of the wedding ceremony is often on the couple's commitment to each other, with a strong emphasis on personal vows and the symbolism of the wedding

ring. This is contrasted with the more extended and communal celebrations in Uzbekistan, where multiple days are dedicated to various rituals that involve both families, highlighting the importance of familial relationships in the union.

A key similarity between the two traditions is the central role of the bride's attire. In both cultures, the bride's dress holds significant meaning and is an expression of beauty and purity. The white wedding dress, popularized by Queen Victoria in England, has become a symbol of bridal beauty in both American and Uzbek weddings, despite the latter's roots in Central Asian traditions. The shift towards white dresses in Uzbekistan, due to global influence, reflects the blending of cultural traditions in the modern age.

The role of family in the ceremony also highlights important cultural values. In America, while the bride traditionally walks down the aisle with her father, modern ceremonies sometimes involve both parents, symbolizing the union of both families. In Uzbekistan, the involvement of the extended family is even more pronounced, with specific rituals like "kelin salom" and "yuz ochdi" marking the bride's formal introduction to her new family. These rituals show the significance of family acceptance in Uzbek culture and the respect for familial hierarchies.

Despite these differences, both American and Uzbek weddings are communal celebrations. The wedding is not just a union between two people, but also a moment of shared joy and festivity with the couple's families and communities. In the modern age, globalization has brought about changes in these traditions, particularly in dress and ceremony styles. However, the core values of love, respect, and familial support remain central to both American and Uzbek wedding rituals. As these cultures continue to evolve, the blending of traditional and modern elements ensures that wedding ceremonies in both countries remain a beautiful reflection of their respective cultures and values.

5. Conclusion

The comparison of American and Uzbek national wedding ceremonies highlights the diversity and richness of cultural traditions associated with marriage. While each society has its unique customs, both share a common reverence for the institution of marriage and the celebration of love and commitment. By understanding the differences and similarities in these wedding ceremonies, we gain insight into the cultural values and practices that shape these significant life events for individuals and communities. Further research and exploration of the wedding customs of various cultures will continue to enrich our understanding of the universal significance of marriage and the diverse ways in which it is celebrated around the world.

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