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Topic:

“May your young people cast off the stone of singleness:”

Azerbaijani “alqış phrases” (blessing formulas)

and their American English equivalents,

or what is revealed by the lack thereof

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Summary

This thesis by Martha Lawry is entitled **“‘may your young people cast off the stone of singleness:’ Azerbaijani ‘alqış phrases’ (blessing formulas) and their American English equivalents, or what is revealed by the lack thereof.”** The objective of the research is to define the alqış phrases which are frequently used in modern spoken Azerbaijani, determine how best to define them in English, determine their linguistic functions in Azerbaijani, and compare them to the phrases that most closely fulfill the same functions in American English.

Ethnographic and comparative research methods were used, including reviewing secondary sources (literature reviews) and qualitative research in the form of both semi-structured interviews conducted with native Azerbaijani speakers of varying ages and social strata living in the Azerbaijan Republic and open-ended structured interviews conducted via an online questionnaire with native English speakers living in the United States.

The research led to the conclusion that alqış phrases should be defined as “blessing formulas” in English. Most alqış phrases were determined to be grammatically distinguished by second or third person verbs in optative or imperative mood. They can have the expressive functions of being bono-recognitive, bono-petitive, malo-recognitive or malo-fugitive, although the most common are bono-petitive and malo-fugitive. Alqış phrases were also shown to be politeness strategies according to Levinson and Brown’s politeness theory (used to protect the speaker’s positive face or to protect the listener’s negative face).

A comparison of Azerbaijani phrases with English “equivalents” revealed that Americans use very different utterances that Azerbaijanis do in the same contexts. Americans’ politeness formulas or routine phrases often place emphasis on directly establishing a sense of sympathy between the speaker and listener, rather than emphasizing some wish for the listener’s future.

From the analysis of how alqış phrases reflect the Azerbaijani culture, it was shown that the phrases contain shining examples of all three of Salzmänn’s levels of non-linguistic culture: mental, behavioral, and material.

Xülasə

Martha Lawry tərəfindən yazılan elmi işin başlığı “Qoy, cavanlar subaylıq daşını atsın.” Azərbaycan alqışları ilə Amerikan-İngilis alqışlarının müqayisəli analizi”dir.

Tədqiqatın məqsədi müasir Azərbaycan danışıq dilində tez-tez işlənən alqışları təyin, təsnif etmək, İngilis dilinə ən dəqiq tərcüməsini müəyyənləşdirmək, alqışların Azərbaycan dilində oynadığı rolu, dilçilik (lingvistik) funksiyalarını təyin etmək, Amerikan-İngilis dilində həmin rolu oynayan ifadələr ilə müqayisəli təhlilini aparmaqdır.

Tədqiqat işində, ikinci dərəcəli mənbələrə (ədəbiyyatın nəzərdən keçirilməsi) istinad etməklə yanaşı, etnoqrafik və müqayisəli tədqiqat metodlarından da istifadə edilmişdir. Həmçinin, keyfiyyət tədqiqatının metodu kimi müxtəlif yaş həddində olan və doğma dili Azərbaycan dili olan azərilərlə və Azərbaycan Respublikasında yaşayan sosial təbəqənin nümayəndələri ilə yarım-strukturlu müsahibə aparılmışdır. Struktur müsahibə eyni zamanda, ABŞ-da yaşayan, doğma dili İngilis dili olan insanların internetdə yerləşdirilmiş sorğunu doldurması vasitəsi ilə də aparılmışdır.

Tədqiqatın nəticəsi kimi “alqış” sözü İngilis dilinə tərcümədə “blessing formulas” kimi müəyyən (tərcümə) edilmişdir. Əksər alqışların qrammatik cəhətdən felin əmr və ya arzu şəklinin 2-ci və ya 3-cü şəxsində fərqləndiyi aşkarlanmışdır. Alqışların yaxşılıq tanıma (bono-recognitive), yaxşılıq arzulama (bono-petitive), pisliyi tanıma (malo-recognitive), pisliyi qovma (malo-fugitive) kimi ifadə funksiyalarının olmasına baxmayaraq, ən geniş yayılanı yaxşılıq arzulama (bono-petitive) və pisliyi qovma (malo-fugitive) hesab edilir. Həmçinin, Levinson və Brownun nəzakətlik nəzərisinə görə alqışlar nəzakətliyin bir üsulu kimi göstərilir (danışan şəxsin müsbət üzünü (İngilis dilində “positive face”), qulaq asanın isə mənfi üzünü (negative face) qorumaq üçün işlənir).

Azərbaycan alqışlarının İngilis dilindəki “ekvivalentlər”lə qarşılıqlı müqayisəsi eyni kontekstdə Azərbaycanlılarla Amerikalıların söylədiklərinin bir-birindən çox fərqləndiyini müəyyənləşdirdi. Amerikalıların nəzakət şablonları Azərbaycan alqışlarından fərqli olaraq eşidən şəxsin gələcəyi ilə bağlı bir arzunu yox, bilavasitə danışan şəxslə eşidən şəxs arasında rəğbət, həmdərd hissini vurğulayır.

Həmçinin bu tədqiqat işi, alqışların Salzmanın mədəniyyət növünün hər üçündə (əqli, davranış, maddi) Azərbaycan mədəniyyət cəhətlərini təzahür etməsini aşkarladı.

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Note on transcription:

The Azerbaijani language is written in a Latin script and only has several letters that differ from English. I have chosen to leave many Azerbaijani phrases in their original script rather than transcribing them phonetically, because standard Azerbaijani-to-English transcription systems are nearly as incoherent to English speakers as the Azerbaijani itself (see the third column below; what should be the intuitive pronunciation of *ă* or *û*?). For linguistically-minded readers, the letters differing from English are explained in the table below.

Azeri Letter	Phonetic explanation	English transcription (according to American Library Association/ Library of Congress Standards, 1997)
ə	Near open, near front vowel as in the American English “hat”	ă
ö	Rounded O	ó
ü	Rounded U	û
ı	Close central vowel as in “milk”	y
c	“dj,” same as English “j” as in “jar”	j
ç	Same as English “ch” as in “chat”	ch
ş	Same as English “sh” as in “shop”	sh
ğ	Velar fricative as in the Spanish “diga”	gh
j	Voiced palato-alveolar fricative like the “s” sound in measure or pleasure	zh
x	Unvoiced velar fricative as in “Bach,” often transcribed “kh” in English	kh
q	Uvular stop as in “Qatar”	g

Introduction

Part 1.

In the modern Azerbaijani language spoken in the Azerbaijan Republic (also referred to as the “Northern Azerbaijani” language), frequent use is made of brief speech acts that are classified by Azerbaijani scholarship as a genre within folklore called *alqışlar*, or as I will refer to them, *alqış phrases* (literally translated “praises” or “applause”). A meaningful English translation of the classification “alqış phrases” will be the first topic of discussion of this paper, after which I will endeavor to describe these speech acts (including the words used, their literal and metaphorical meanings where applicable, and a categorization of the situations in which they are applied). I will ultimately describe the functions fulfilled by *alqış phrases* linguistically (in discourse, from a perspective of pragmatics) and compare Azerbaijani alqış phrases with their functional equivalents in American English. I will also describe what they reveal about the Azerbaijani culture sociologically (from an ethnographic perspective).

To summarize, the question that my research attempts to answer is the following: what are the linguistic functions of alqış phrases in spoken Azerbaijani, what are their functional equivalents in American English, and what do they reveal about the Azerbaijani culture?

Part 2. Significance of the topic

Azerbaijani alqış phrases are a highly visible part of national folklore, and their analysis is important in accordance with Dell Hymes’s statement that linguists and anthropologists must begin to develop “ethnographies of speaking;”¹ especially “to study the relation between folkloristic materials and other aspects of social life *in situ*, as it were, where that relation actually obtains, the communicative events in which folklore is used.”² Beyond studying grammar or literature, investigating the actual spoken language where the mentality of the people and their speech structures come together is fertile ground for understanding the language and the speakers themselves.

Alqış phrases are a window to the mentality of the Azerbaijani people. The phrases themselves include elements of foundational Azerbaijani culture: traditions such as carpet making, musical instruments like the *saz*, horseback riding, animal husbandry, baking, and agriculture have left their marks in these everyday phrases. Something can be learned about the

¹ Hymes, 128

² Hymes, 129

culture through the situations in which alqış phrases are employed, because they are a form of positive reinforcement of behavior. Thus by observing the context of alqış utterances, we can see the values of the people, or at least, the behaviors that they desire others to repeat. The lexical content of the phrases also reveals values and desires that people wish upon one another: marriage and children, a home filled with bread and light, longevity, God's protection. A compilation of alqış phrases can present the core values of the "Azerbaijani dream." In short, alqış phrases are a reflection of the social norms of the Azerbaijani people.

An analysis of alqış phrases is also useful for non-native speakers of the Azerbaijani language. Anyone who strives to communicate effectively with Azerbaijanis needs to understand this segment of their folklore in order to truly speak their "heart language." Alqış phrases are not immediately understood by foreigners because of their idiomatic nature (lack of direct connection between the phrases' meaning as a whole and the lexical meanings of the individual words within them). Some of these phrases must be learned and used in speech in order to avoid offense, because to omit them is considered rude,³ or at least is considered "marked behavior," requiring an explanation, in agreement with Tannen and Öztekin comment that "the failure to use [similar phrases in Turkish] is socially marked."⁴ For example, someone who does not say "Allah rəhmət eləsin" about a deceased person, or fails to say "Allah saxlasın/ Göz dəyməsin" about a new baby or purchase, is suspected of having bad intentions. These phrases are also an essential part of modern conversational Azerbaijani. Unlike other forms of folklore, alqış phrases are used frequently in everyday speech.

Another reason to study and compare alqış phrases is that they are very different across cultures. The phrases that Azerbaijanis use sound humorous or even frightening when directly translated into English, and likewise, the phrases that American English speakers use do not fit naturally into the Azerbaijani culture or rhythm of conversation.

Part 3. Overview of Conclusions

The conclusions reached in this study are multi-part. First, the conclusion was made that Azerbaijani alqış phrases are used in very specific situations or conversational contexts, indicating that they are routine formulas. Some of them are obligatory (failure to use them is

³ One of the interview respondents in my research, upon being asked "what would happen if you don't say this?" responded, "It wouldn't be good." Another responded, "That wouldn't happen. This is what everyone says!"

⁴ Tannen and Öztekin, 38

marked behavior), so they are politeness formulas. Finally, their meanings are somewhat difficult for native speakers to explain without relying on the context in which they are said, demonstrating that they are idioms and routine formulas.

Second, the conclusion was made that Americans use very different utterances than Azerbaijanis do in the same contexts. Americans' politeness formulas or routine phrases often place emphasis on directly establishing a sense of sympathy between the speaker and listener, rather than emphasizing some wish for the listener (as do many Azerbaijani phrases, which tend to be future-oriented). In addition, it was shown that many Azerbaijani *alqış* phrases lack direct English equivalents because they are specific to the Azerbaijani mental, behavioral and material culture. Some aspects of that culture (i.e. values) were analyzed and listed based on *alqış* phrases.

Third, *alqış* phrases may be described in English as “blessing formulas:” formulas, because they are both pragmatically weighted as politeness routines and are used in expected ways in conversational interactions; and blessings, because they are lexically and grammatically structured as well-wishes towards others.

Chapter 1: Research Methodology, Literature Review

Part 1. Research Methodology

Ethnographic and comparative methods have been used in my research, including reviewing secondary sources (by means of literature reviews in English and Azerbaijani) and qualitative research (both informally, by means of candid participant and non-participant observation of native speakers' usage of *alqış phrases* and by means of my own native knowledge of American English, and formally, by means of semi-structured interviews conducted with native Azerbaijani speakers of varying ages and social strata living in the Azerbaijan Republic and open-ended structured interviews conducted via an online questionnaire with native English speakers living in the United States).

Part of the research question remaining to be answered is a description of *alqış* phrases, including the words used, their literal and metaphorical meanings where applicable, and the situations in which they are applied.

Towards that end, the research performed included two phases. The first phase was a general overview of *alqış* phrases, beginning from a compilation of lists that Azerbaijani scholars had put together to demonstrate the concept of *alqış* phrases (the main resource used was M.

Həkimov's comprehensive list,⁵ followed by a book compiled by Azad Nəbiyev⁶). These alqış phrases were discussed in an extensive series of interviews, mainly with one volunteer native speaker, to get a general sense of their meaning and usage (or, to borrow Ferguson's term, "appropriateness conditions"). In the process, many of the alqış phrases from the original lists were discarded as archaic or redundant (the ensuing compilation is included in Appendix A). Then the compiled set of alqış phrases was translated into English, both in word-for-word lexical translations (mainly to be used as glosses for non-speakers of Azerbaijani, to allow a feel for a sense of the local idioms) and in explanatory functional translations (to "decode" the idioms when necessary). Although the phrases can often be used in multiple situations, a main context is offered for each alqış phrase to provide a general idea of its usage. Then functional equivalents are sought for each alqış phrase. Often there are no American English equivalent phrases that can be used in the same set of situations as the Azerbaijani phrases, but commentary is offered on the possible utterances that American English speakers would make in the same situations (see Appendix A for all of the above).

The second phase of research consisted of two sets of interviews. The first set comprised open-ended, semi-structured interviews with 20 native speakers of Azerbaijani. Respondents included 11 males and 9 females, ranging in age from 17 to 70, from various regions of the country (although all were residing in Baku at the time of the interviews) and representing various socio-economic levels and professions (housewives, blue-collar laborers, professors, an ambassador, etc). In the interview, each respondent was asked in person to verbally state under what circumstances he/she would typically utter each of five⁷ common alqış phrases, and then was asked to clarify the meaning of one or more of the phrases, offer additional variations if possible, and/or to imagine what would happen if the phrase were not uttered (in order to determine whether omission would be considered marked behavior). The complete responses are compiled in Appendix A.

One obvious limitation of using this interview process for research is the possibility that responses may be slightly artificial, since the speech acts under discussion are normally uttered automatically and it is difficult for native speakers to consciously analyze them outside their natural contexts of use. Many native speakers have never considered the lexical meanings of

⁵ M. İ. Həkimov, *Xalqımızın deyimləri və duyumları*, Bakı, Maarif nəşriyyatı, 1986. 392 s.

⁶ Azad Nəbiyev, ed. *Mərasimlər, adətlər, alqışlar*. Bakı, Gənclik nəşriyyatı, 1993. 346 s.

⁷ Phrases asked about in the interview included: Allah rəhmət eləsin, göz dəyməsin, canın sağ olsun, gözünüz aydın, and Allah köməyiniz olsun.

these idiomatic phrases, nor can they readily state under what circumstances the phrases should be used. To borrow Kenneth Pike's "emic" and "etic" terminology,⁸ speakers apply the alqış phrases emically (as "insiders" or "by feel"), without ever having consciously considered the "rules" for what they mean or when to apply them. It would be more natural to apply a purely ethnographic research methodology, i.e. to observe case studies of native speakers using the phrases in context. That type of research was also performed informally during my personal observations of Azerbaijani native speakers during two years of living among them, but I have not chosen to document those situations with field notes or to include them directly in this research. Such informal observations played a large role in the final categorization of alqış phrases in Appendix A.

The second set of interviews was conducted in order to supplement and cross-check my native speaker knowledge of American English in the process of finding functional "equivalents" for the alqış phrases. These interviews were obtained via a structured online questionnaire containing open-ended questions asking respondents to state what they would typically say in eight hypothetical situations.⁹ The situations were selected because they would trigger common alqış phrases in Azerbaijani. Respondents to the questionnaire included 93 adult native speakers of American English representing both males and females from 17 different states. The representation was not systematically selected to offer a cross-section of the entire United States (and in fact it was mostly made up of my acquaintances, whose worldviews may tend to be similar to mine), so there are limitations to the usefulness of statistics I offer based on the American interview results, but the survey was still broad enough to serve its main function: ensuring that there was some consensus across geographical regions and counterbalancing any bias that my personal responses may carry due to my own background. (The complete responses are compiled in Appendix B.)

⁸ Thomas N. Headland, Kenneth L. Pike, and Marvin Harris, eds., "EMICS AND ETICS: The Insider/Outsider Debate," Sage Publications, 1990. Accessed 25 October 2011 at <http://www.sil.org/~headlandt/ee-intro.htm>.

⁹ The prompt in the interview was "Without thinking too much, please write out the first one or two things that you generally say, or that you would say right now, if the following occurred." Situations in the interview included: you see a friend's newborn baby for the first time, you are talking to the bride and groom at a wedding reception, you are at a funeral, greeting a close relative of someone who died, you are talking on the phone with a friend who tells you that he/she is sick, you walk in on someone working on a car or building something, a friend tells you his/her career development plans, you offer a friend a cookie but she says "no thanks; I can't- I'm fasting," and you see your neighbor outside and he has just bought a new car.

The **methodology of seeking out the alqış phrases' functions** and using those as a basis to compare them to their functional equivalents in American English is necessary because of a lack of direct “translatable” parallel phrases. A few phrases can be translated and generally applied to the same circumstances in both languages because they serve the same pragmatic functions and have the same connotational and denotational meanings. For example, “good morning,” though not a universal, is used in both languages under approximately the same circumstances and with the same lexical meaning.

However, some phrases used to fulfill the same functions carry such different lexical meanings in two different languages that they become incomparable in their directly-translated forms. For example, the phrase most commonly used in taking leave or ending a phone call in Azerbaijani is “sağ ol,” literally meaning “be healthy” and usually translated as “thank you” because of its dual use as the response to being given something, a situation in which English speakers say “thank you.” But in American English, the necessary phrase for taking leave is “goodbye” or “bye.” If an Azerbaijani speaker translates “sağ ol” and says “thank you” when leaving a room or hanging up the phone, English speakers unfamiliar with Azerbaijani customs are left a bit confused. Such routines are not always interchangeable among languages. In a more surprising example, Hymes claims that the term “thank you” is not even identically used in British English and in American English: unlike American “thank you,” which is connected to showing gratitude, “British ‘thank you’ seems on its way to marking formally the segments of certain interactions, with only residual attachment to ‘thanking’ in some cases.”¹⁰

Likewise, some phrases that are translatable with the same lexical meanings carry such differing pragmatic functions or situational appropriateness conditions that they become unusable when translated, or present problems for non-native speakers. One example of this is the phrase “sağlam ol,” for which “be healthy” is a perfectly logical and lexically accurate translation in most circumstances. The problem is that when “sağlam ol” is uttered after someone sneezes, the situation calls for “bless you” or “God bless you” in English. Therefore we can say that “sağlam ol” and “bless you” are equivalents when we compare the functions of the two phrases, even though they are not direct translations of each other.

This is the problem that arises when we look for American English “equivalents” of Azerbaijani alqış phrases. Some alqış phrases do not readily submit to translation without a great

¹⁰ Dell Hymes, “Sociolinguistics and the Ethnography of Speaking” in *Social Anthropology and Language*, ed. E. Ardener, London, Tavistock Publications, 1971. (in coulmas 81)

deal of explanation, or they come across as humorous or even frightening to English speakers (i.e. “ağzın şirin olsun,” may your mouth be sweet, “ətın tökülməsin,” may your flesh not fall off, and “sənə qurban olum,” may I be a sacrifice for you). Other alqış phrases, though relatively understandable when translated, are used in situations where in English nothing is said at all (i.e. “həmişə təmizlikdə,” always clean, said when someone emerges from the shower, or “bərəkətli olsun,” may it be fruitful, said when walking in on a woman cooking something with dough- a phrase completely lacking in English. Even those phrases that seem to be translatable both in lexical meaning and in usage context (“ad günün mübarək,” happy birthday) cannot be assumed to be used in exactly the same way, said at the same times, or to have the same functions.

Hymes agrees with the necessity of including speech functions and situations in research because setting (physical circumstances) and scene (psychological setting) are both factors in the speech act, sharing equal significance with the message content and message form.¹¹

Part 2. Literature Review

The question of Azerbaijani alqış phrases, their classification, their functions (linguistically and sociologically) and their English equivalents has not yet been addressed as such by the scientific community. A summary of the resources available that address related subjects will be given by language.

a. Azerbaijani Literature Review

In order to understand the nature of alqış phrases according to Azerbaijani scholars, a literature review was conducted in the Azerbaijani language. In the Azerbaijani literature available, alqış phrases have been generally described (mostly within the field of folklore) and lists of phrases have been compiled (Nəbiyev 1993 and Həkimov 1986), but very little analysis of their functions has been performed and the existing compilations offer no commentary on the phrases' meanings (denotational or connotational) or their usage contexts.

Many of the resources available are Soviet-era compilations of folklore, including several books on the general topic of Azerbaijani folklore with only brief encyclopedic references to alqış phrases, many Azerbaijani language (grammar) books of limited use to this project, and several books specifically addressing the Azerbaijani language and its folklore elements (including alqış phrases).

¹¹ Hymes, 55

Many works simply list alqış phrases as a genre of Azerbaijani folklore. One relevant work that analyzes alqış phrases is Bağırov's *Azərbaycan Bədii Nəsrində Danışiq Dilinin Leksik və Qrammatik Xüsusiyyətləri*¹² (*Lexical and Grammatical Characteristics of Spoken Language in Azerbaijani Literary Prose*). The limitations of this work are immediately obvious from its title; my study is interested in spoken language, whether or not it has been cited in printed prose. However, this provides the most extensive study available in the Azerbaijani language on alqış phrases. Bağırov claims that Azerbaijani alqış phrases had not been researched up until this 1991 publication. He surveys where they have been mentioned and classified in Azerbaijani language scholarship: Prof. S. Cəfərov grouped them as “diplomatic phrases” (comparable to “politeness formulas” in English); Prof. Türkan Əfəndiyeva included them within a large group of phrases expressing affection or endearment (although mentioning that they could also be used negatively in a satirical manner); Prof. Q. Ş. Kazımov compared alqış phrases with their functional opposites *qarğışlar* (curses), grouping them both as “vulgar words;” and finally M. Həkimov compiled a list of alqış phrases used in common speech, especially in Azerbaijan's Western regions, which Bağırov criticizes, saying the list contains many mislabeled prayers. Bağırov also claims that it is difficult to classify alqış phrases (or to divide them into groups based on meaning, structure, etc.) because they haven't been previously studied.¹³ From this we can conclude that even from within the Azerbaijani scientific community, research on alqış phrases has been scarce and there remains confusion about how to classify these phrases.

In Bağırov's own commentary, he describes alqış phrases as “completed works having powerful emotional influence that express broad meanings with just a few words.”¹⁴ By “completed works” he means that these phrases have been passed down through the history of the language, having “been standardized and earned the status of household words that carry national color.”¹⁵ These are fixed idiomatic expressions which cannot be replaced with other words. He emphasizes that alqış phrases are characteristic of the spoken Azerbaijani language and may be included in official events, so they are considered literary language, but that they are not normally used in written form. As further evidence that they are part of the spoken language, Bağırov notes that they are often accompanied by raised intonation and physical gestures (he lists examples

¹² Bağırov, Quşdan. *Azərbaycan Bədii Nəsrində Danışiq Dilinin Leksik və Qrammatik Xüsusiyyətləri*. Bakı, “Maarif” nəşriyyatı, 1991. 172 s.

¹³ Bağırov, 47.

¹⁴ Bağırov, 42.

¹⁵ Bağırov, 42.

such as clapping hands, smiling, slapping a knee, standing up, or other body movements).¹⁶ Alqış phrases can be single words, word pairings or phrases, but in any case they have stabilized into fixed forms over time.

Bağirov specifies that alqış phrases and *dualar* (prayers) are different categories of speech acts. Prayers, he states, are normally connected to a desire to see good things happen in the future, while alqış phrases are used as a result of good works completed in the (recent) past.¹⁷ However, I would agree with Həkimov's classification of all his compiled phrases as alqış phrases, because the distinction Bağirov makes between alqış phrases and prayers is artificial: all the phrases have some kind of situational or conversational trigger that could be considered a "good" thing (i.e. a baby is born; someone gives a kind greeting; a person is setting out on a journey), and all of them are grammatically structured in the same way, indicating a wish for the future (see the discussion on grammatical forms later). For example, Bağirov may consider "adınla yaşayasan" (may you live with/ live up to your name, said to infants) a prayer because it is focused on the future, but aside from intent of the speaker, it is hard to differentiate that phrase from "sənin toyun olsun" or "toyunu görüm" (may it be/ may I see your wedding, said to a child as specific reinforcement for something good or helpful he has just done). Even phrases that are said in reaction to a good work completed in the immediate past are future-oriented. It could also be argued that the functions of alqış phrases and prayers, as Bağirov sees them, are the same; both exist to express an emotion and offer a positive wish for the listener in some way (functions will also be further discussed later in this paper).

Discussing Bağirov's distinction in English is made even more complicated by the fact that the word prayers, *dualar*, is closely related to the word blessings, *xeyir-dualar* (lit. "good-prayers). Bağirov may be automatically including the concept of "blessings" in his category of "prayers" because of this lexical characteristic. Thus we will not try to draw a firm distinction between prayers and blessings, and we will let it suffice to say that blessings and alqış phrases can be placed into overlapping categories in the Azerbaijani view.

In as close as Bağirov comes to discussing functions, he mentions that alqış phrases are used to attract the listener's attention to the thought being stated, influence his/her emotions and cause the accompanying thought to stick in the listener's mind for a longer period of time.¹⁸ They

¹⁶ Bağirov, 43-44.

¹⁷ Bağirov, 45.

¹⁸ Bağirov, 44.

are most commonly used in speech among intimates, friends, within relationships of respect, etc. in which relations are positive. They are also used in individual relationships, but not (or not frequently) in large-group settings. Psychologically, alqış phrases are accompanied by pleasant emotions.¹⁹

Bağirov divides alqış phrases by emotional content and by grammatical structure. The latter categorization is unconnected to function and is less useful to our research; we propose that it is also somewhat meaningless except from a strictly grammatical standpoint (i.e. those structured as one word, as phrases, and in sentence form). Bağirov's divisions of alqış phrases by emotional content are: 1) those expressing satisfaction, 2) those expressing wishes, and 3) those expressing happiness or gladness.²⁰

Thus, the closest thing we have to this research is Bağirov's discussion of alqış phrases, but he does not fully answer the question of what social functions they fulfill, nor does he compare them to any other language.

P. Əfəndiyev writes in Russian that alqış phrases, together with other genres of folklore, reflect the “ethics and aesthetics, social / philosophical views, spiritual foundations and moral norms” of the Azerbaijani culture.²¹ In a separate book in Azerbaijani, Əfəndiyev²² says that alqış phrases offer examples of ancient people's beliefs (although certainly some alqış phrases came into use more recently, such as during the 18th and 19th centuries)²³. Among the earliest oral genres, alqış phrases and *qarğışlar* (curses), their opposites, “arose in connection to perceptions of good and bad” (respectively), and are the most direct way to state the people's ideas of good and bad. Alqış phrases are spoken in “appreciation of good works.”²⁴ He lists two specific categories of alqış phrases:

1. Those that relate to the wishes and desires of the people in their families and lives. His examples include “bəxtin üzünə gülsün” (may luck smile in your face); “oxun daşa dəyməsin” (may your arrow not strike a rock); “sözün ötkəm olsun” (may your word be courageous); “düz

¹⁹ Bağirov, 45.

²⁰ Bağirov, 48.

²¹ *Azərbaycan xalq ədəbiyyatı*. Ed. P. Əfəndiyev, Gyandzhlik, 1990, pg. 1 and 11. (in Russian). p 1

²² *Azərbaycan şifahi xalq ədəbiyyatı*, Maarif nəşriyyatı, Bakı 1992. p. 85

²³ One notable example of a phrase that came into use due to Russian influence over the past centuries is “molodets,” which is a Russian word. Interestingly, this word already seems to be falling from vogue as the use of Russian declines in some regions, evidenced by the automatic response in at least one village family when they hear it used: “molodets eşşəyə dəyirlər,” “they say molodets to donkeys.”

²⁴ Əfəndiyev (*Azərbaycan şifahi xalq ədəbiyyatı*), 85

çörəkli olasan” (may you have bread and salt); “sürülərin artıq olsun” (may your flocks be bountiful); “adın qalsın” (may your name remain).

2. Those that relate to events or ceremonies. These include “anan toyunda əlinə xına qoysun” (may your mother put henna on your hand at your wedding); “balan üzünə gülsün” (may your baby smile in your face); “istəklə qovuşasan” (may you get whom you want); “gəlinlik lampasını yandırım” (may I light your bridal lamp, referring to a practice of lighting a lamp for a bride at her wedding to symbolize taking light into her husband’s home); “bəylik taxtını görəim” (may I see your groom’s throne, which can refer either to the decorated head table where the groom sits at his wedding, or to the same type of throne-like setup created for little boys at the celebration following their circumcision).²⁵

Əfəndiyev’s two categories are helpful in emphasizing that alqış phrases reveal the deep values of the culture, although they are a bit limited in scope and they overlap arbitrarily (i.e. both of the above categories reflect wishes and desires that are closely related to cultural values, whether or not they are directly related to specific rituals). More of a discussion on alqış phrases revealing cultural values will be conducted in Chapter 5.

b. Sources from Russian Literature

I have used material from several sources in Russian, although I note that most of these sources include alqış phrases as a minor topic, not as their main theme of discussion. In the context of the broader Caucasus geographical region, Zarifa Tsallagova lists “praises” and “blessings” among other phenomena of folklore, claiming that they exist for the purpose of educating children. In the cultures of the North Caucasus (which are geographically separate from, but close enough to be compared to, Azerbaijan), parents have a negative attitude toward using violence or physical force in disciplining children, so they resort to using the effects of their speech in order to teach lessons.²⁶ She explains that these national aphorisms and phrases came about because of a belief in the “magic” of words: “in ancient civilizations, people knew about the effects of words on the psyche and even on the health of a person.”²⁷ While she focuses on proverbs and their specific teaching functions, Tsallagova mentions that the goal of these

²⁵ Əfəndiyev (Şifahi), 85.

²⁶ Zarifa Borisovna Tsallagova, “‘Ne speshi s poritsaniem, opazdyvaya s pokhvaloj’: etnopedagogicheskie nastavleniya narodov Severnogo Kavkaza,” Kavkazskie Nauchnye Zapiski No. 3, Akademiya Nauk Abkhazii and Russian State Business-Economics University, 2010. 204-216, p 205.

²⁷ Tsallagova, 205.

nationally-colored phrases is to teach people the national values (i.e. respect for elders, upholding honor).²⁸

Likewise, Azerbaijani alqış phrases reflect the national values and encourage addressees to continue in pursuit of them. For example, upholding honor (“abrın tökülməsin,” may your honor not fall); serving and believing in God (“imanına qurban [olum],” may I be a sacrifice for your faith, and “imana gələsən,” “may you come to faith); living and working righteously (“halal olsun sənə,” may it be halal²⁹ for you, and “halal nemətin bol olsun,” may your halal blessings be many); showing hospitality (“qapın qonaq üzünə açıq olsun,” may your door be open to guests, and “qapın qıfil görməsin,” may your door never see a lock); and even eating well (“iştahada olasan,” may you have an appetite).

The Belorussian author Pivovarchik writes from a pragmatics perspective that the word “God,” when used in Russian and Belorussian speech formulas, adds a measure of authority to the statement made; for example, it seems to “guarantee the realization of the wish.”³⁰ Making frequent use of the word God can be a reflection of the religious understanding of a people, but it can also be a “speech habit” bearing no conscious traces of the involvement of God on the part of the speaker.³¹ These God phrases “begin to fulfill the role not of religious motivation of speech acts, but of social- and etiquette- regulating... and expressive.”³² They are used because, by including the idea of God (as if calling on him as a witness or as an executor of the goal of the utterance) they are capable of expressing high levels of emotion and of convincing the listener of the speaker’s sincerity.

Pivovarchik also notes that invoking God’s name can be a way for the speaker to save positive face, avoiding a direct refusal of something that he cannot or does not care to do on his own. For example, he can say “May God give it to you!” rather than “I am not giving it.”³³ People invoke the name of God specifically in blessings, curses, thanks and similar situations because they are incapable of enacting the desired results on their own.³⁴ For example, the statement “may God help you” has two pragmatic levels: explicitly, the speaker (S) is telling the

²⁸ Tsallagova, 206.

²⁹ Halal, from Arabic, is the Muslim concept of acceptability before God

³⁰ T. A. Pivovarchik, “Rechevye formuly s imenem Boga v povsednevnoj kommunikatsii,” Belarus (Grodenskij Gosudarstvennyj Universitet imeni Yanki Kupaly), 2009, p.2.

³¹ Pivovarchik, 2.

³² Pivovarchik, 2.

³³ Pivovarchik, 4.

³⁴ Pivovarchik, 3.

listener (L) that S is praying for L; and implicitly, S is expressing his wish for or his gratitude toward L.³⁵ Similarly, the Azerbaijani “Allah köməyin olsun” (may God be your help) is simultaneously a wish that the listener be aided in some difficult task and an admission that the speaker is incapable of doing anything to affect the listener’s plight. Many interview respondents added the phrase “... because I can’t help you” to the end of this alqış in their explanations of its meaning. More discussion on alqış phrases as face-saving politeness strategies will be conducted in Chapter 3.

c. English Literature Review

No English sources were found directly referring to Azerbaijani alqış phrases and/or comparing them with English, although there are many books and articles available commenting on specific aspects of routine formulas, politeness formulas, pragmatics, and linguistic connections to worldview. There have been studies performed on similar (and more broadly grouped) routine phrases in Greek³⁶ and Turkish,³⁷ psycho-ostensives in Yiddish,³⁸ and politeness strategies in various languages. In addition, comparisons have been made of the English and Azerbaijani grammar systems, proverbs and sayings,³⁹ and other aspects of culture, but not specifically alqış phrases.

One similar study was performed on the Farsi language regarding speakers’ reactions using routine formulas, although the contexts included in the study were limited to situations in which a speaker was congratulating the listener on some happy event.⁴⁰ This study concluded that Farsi routine phrases are politeness formulas according to Levinson and Brown’s politeness theory.⁴¹

Among the English publications available, the most similar study that has been performed is one by Deborah Tannen and Piyale Cömert Öztekin, “Health to Our Mouths: Formulaic Expressions in Turkish and Greek” in which the authors compare “formulaic expressions,” which they define as “combinations of words which have become associated in everyone’s mind and are

³⁵ Pivovarchik, 4.

³⁶ Tannen and Öztekin

³⁷ Doganchay

³⁸ Matisoff

³⁹ Tofiq Abasquliyev

⁴⁰ Hamid Allami and Maryam Nekouzadeh, “Congratulation and Positive Politeness Strategies in Iranian Context,” *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 11, pp. 1607-1613, November 2011

⁴¹ Levinson and Brown

often repeated in sequence,” in the two languages.⁴² Tannen and Öztek claim that the USA is lacking in many of the routine phrases that Greek and Turkish have, leaving Americans in many situations “feel[ing] that something must be said, but they don’t know what would be appropriate.”⁴³ The Turkish and Greek phrases that are commonly used in such situations are fixed into formulas, and are “used by everyone in that culture in the appropriate situation, no one in that culture would use any other expression, and the failure to use it is socially marked.”⁴⁴

A related essay by Seran Dogancay⁴⁵ covers formulated phrases used in everyday Turkish speech for the purposes of politeness, but includes a broader scope of formula than my study (i.e. proverbs, one-word farewells and greetings, etc). Dogancay concludes that certain formulated sayings are expected in conversation, even though they may not be obligatory (as is evidenced by parents’ reinforcement of their children’s usage of the phrases), and that they reveal aspects of the Turkish culture.

The controversial Sapir-Whorf hypothesis of linguistic determinism presents the idea that “humans... are very much at the mercy of the particular language which has become the medium of expression for their society”⁴⁶ and that “the background linguistic system of each language is not merely a reproducing instrument for voicing ideas but rather is itself the shaper of ideas.”⁴⁷ That theory would suggest that the things Azerbaijani people say actually influence their view of the world. I would like to take the simpler converse perspective that the Azerbaijani view of the world strongly influences the things that Azerbaijani people say. The frequently-used alqış phrases are a useful indicator of the culture’s worldview.

Another related study is that of Florian Coulmas on many aspects of conversational routine. Coulmas emphasizes the necessity of defining speech acts’ functions. For example, “in the case of a formulaic expression such as *help yourself!*, a specification of the conditions of its use is more important than with a lexical item such as “butterfly” whose meaning is best

⁴² Deborah Tannen and Piyale Cömert Öztek, “Health to Our Mouths: Formulaic Expressions in Turkish and Greek,” in Florian Coulmas, ed., *Conversational Routine: Explorations in Standardized Communication Situations and Prepatterned Speech* (The Hague: Mouton Publishers, 1981), 37-54.

⁴³ Tannen and Öztek, 38.

⁴⁴ Tannen and Öztek, 38.

⁴⁵ Dogancay

⁴⁶ Sapir 1929

⁴⁷ Whorf 1940

described in terms of a categorical definition or class membership.”⁴⁸ Therefore our analysis should be based on the functional uses of the alqış phrases, not on their lexical meanings. Another reason for such a distinction is that the phrases have become idiomatic over time and no longer retain their original lexical meanings (in the way that Coulmas remarks, “erosion of its literal meaning is one way in which an expression can turn into an idiom. . . . meaning is a function of use. Linguistic routines. . . furnish the most powerful testimony of the cogency of this view. Their meanings often are quite different from the sums of their parts, and cannot be properly explained without reference to the conditions of their use.”⁴⁹ Coulmas also claims that “even if routinely employed expressions are not idiomatic in a grammatical sense, they thus have a special status in the language, owing to the frequent and situation-bound use that the speech community makes of them.”⁵⁰

Coulmas makes a distinction between two methods of analysis that proved helpful in the overall shaping of this paper’s argument. He points out that routines can be analyzed with either of two approaches: via a “form-centered” perspective, i.e. “as conventionalized, pre-patterned speech units to be analyzed with regard to the communicative functions they are suited to perform,” or via a “function-centered” perspective, in which they are “detected on the more abstract level of strategies and action patterns or procedures.”⁵¹ In this analytical division, a “form-centered” analysis of alqış phrases would take us through a list of specific alqış phrases and their immediate meanings in the context in which they are used. We do plan to highlight several of the phrases that way (Appendix A), but first we will use the “function-centered” approach to take a general look at the overall strategies of using alqış phrases and their intended purposes (i.e. as “blessings” to affect the future or give the listener positive feelings; to prevent offense; etc) in order to classify them in English.

In addition, regarding the observation of speech acts such as alqış phrases using a comparative methodology, Coulmas comments on the topic of defining speech acts that comparison is necessary but not straightforward: “The question of how a given communicative function is verbally realized in another speech community must always be conjoined with the question of how this function itself is defined by the members of the community in question, and

⁴⁸ Florian Coulmas, ed., *Conversational Routine: Explorations in Standardized Communication Situations and Prepatterned Speech* (The Hague: Mouton Publishers, 1981), 5 (quoting Charles J. Fillmore, “On the Organization of Semantic Information in the Lexicon,” *Mimeo* 1978, p. 38.

⁴⁹ Coulmas, 5.

⁵⁰ Coulmas, 5.

⁵¹ Coulmas 10.

what status it has in the framework of its overall communicative pattern... The difficulty boils down to the general question of how speech acts can be cross-culturally compared and ‘translated.’ To treat speech acts such as thanks and apologies as invariable abstract categories is surely a premature stance. What we can do without too much or too little naivety is hence to start out with kinds of speech acts as defined in a given socio-cultural and linguistic system, and then proceed to look for similar or equivalent linguistic acts in another culture.”⁵² Thus, alqış phrases will be analyzed within their Azerbaijani context and their functions will be defined before they are compared to American English “equivalents.”

Dell Hymes further develops the classification of “conversational routines,” the analysis of which “includes identification of idiomatic units, not only greeting formulas and the like, but the full range of utterances which acquire conventional significance, for an individual, group or whole culture.”⁵³ Alqış phrases do have conventional significance for the whole Azerbaijani culture, as well as variations that depend on geographical regions—a topic which is unfortunately outside the scope of this paper, but would be an excellent subject for future research.

Part 3. Summary of Research Question

To review, the question that my research aims to answer is “what are the linguistic and sociological functions of “alqış phrases” in Azerbaijani, and what are their functional equivalents (i.e. what fulfills the same functions) in American English?” While certain elements of the question have been addressed by the scientific community (i.e. the nature of alqış phrases in Azerbaijani alone; the pragmatic uses of various types of utterances in English and other language), there is a profound lack of material directly comparing Azerbaijani and English. Thus, according to my literature review, the question of the functions of alqışlar in the Azerbaijani language and a comparison to their functional equivalents in American English has not been answered by the scientific community.

Chapter 2: Definition and Classification of Alqış Phrases

This chapter will attempt to define alqış phrases, first by describing the common features of the entire set of such phrases in Azerbaijani, taking into account the comments of Azerbaijani

⁵² Coulmas, “Poison to Your Soul: Thanks and Apologies Contrastively Viewed,” in Coulmas, 69-91. 70.

⁵³ (quoted in Coulmas): Dell Hymes, [“The Ethnography of Speaking” in *Anthropology and Human Behavior*. Thomas Gladwin and William C. Sturtevant, eds., Washington, D.C., Anthropological Society of Washington, 1962. pp.13-53.], 38ff.

scholars and grammatical observations of the phrases. A list will be developed to roughly outline the criteria for what may be considered an *alqış* phrase. Then common patterns of *alqış* phrases will be described in order to more clearly illustrate them for non-Azerbaijani speakers. Finally *alqış* phrases will be described in relation to English terminology for similar types of phrases, and they will be defined as “blessing formulas” in English.

Part 1. Classification of *alqış* phrases in Azerbaijani

It is necessary to define which phrases were included in the overall consideration of *alqış* phrases. Short of translating the term “*alqış*,” what are the common features describing the phrases that are included in this set? One obvious criterion I used for determining whether a phrase was an “*alqış*” or not is whether native speakers categorize it as so. Həkimov’s comprehensive compilation is the most authoritative resource in that regard. Thus, an *alqış* phrase

1. is “officially” accepted as an “*alqış*” by native speakers, according to published lists. The next most important set of criteria is whether the phrase fits Bağırov’s description of “*alqış*,” namely, whether it:

2. occurs commonly in spoken language (“commonly,” though a subjective term, will be taken to mean that an average native speaker recognizes the phrase as something he has heard before, knows the intended meaning of, and is able to use in fluent conversational speech);
3. is a fixed idiomatic expression (i.e. it occurs in the same form, or with only slight variations, and innovative forms of it are not readily accepted by native speakers, in the same way that American English speakers repeat “good morning” but reject or react to “happy morning” as marked behavior);
4. expresses a certain range of positive emotion (whether feigned or sincere) on the part of the speaker, and may be accompanied by raised intonation and/or physical gestures such as raised or clapped hands, a smile, a knee slap, a head nod, etc.

Another criterion I used in defining *alqış* phrases is their grammatical structure. The vast majority of accepted *alqış* phrases end in a verb in third person singular imperative form (-sun, -sün, -sin, -sın in Azerbaijani, as in the English “let it be” or “may it be”). Many of these phrases also end with the verb “to be” in the same form, “olsun.” Those that do not include the imperative verb most often end in a verb in the optative mood, i.e. in the form of a wish (known as the “*arzu*” form in Azerbaijani grammar and signaled with the infix –a/ə), indicating that something

is desired. This form is absent in the English language, so in translation it still resembles the imperative; i.e. “adınla yaşayasan” (“may you live with your name,” said to newborns in reference to their future reputation and honor); and “yüz yaşayasan” (“may you live to 100;” a birthday wish). Most often alqış phrases with a third-person subject have their verbs in the imperative mood, and phrases with second-person subjects have their verbs in the optative mood. This is logical, because a person being wished a happy birthday in the imperative mood would effectively find himself being commanded to live to 100. The actor of a second-person imperative verb is the listener, but the actor of a second-person optative verb is some undefined outside force (perhaps fate or God). I defer to the previous discussion about undefined actors referring to God in spoken prayers to justify my conclusion that the second-person optative verb puts the responsibility on God to carry out the stated wish.

There are a handful of alqış phrases in the list that do not end in a second-person optative or third-person imperative verb. These include: phrases with no verb at all; phrases with an omitted but implied third-person singular or second-person optative verb; and phrases with a first-person imperative verb. Phrases that do not include a verb at all include “həmişə təmizlikdə” (“always clean/ in cleanliness,” said to someone who has just bathed or had a haircut) and “həmişə toyda” (“always at a wedding,” said to a guest who is about to go to, or has just come from, a wedding); and “gözünə işıq” (lit. “light to your eyes”). If these phrases were to be elucidated or continued by a native speaker, by grammatical necessity the next word uttered would be a verb, and most likely “olsun” (the third person imperative “to be”) or “olasan” (the second person optative “to be”). There are a few phrases that are alternatively said with or without the “olsun” at the end, i.e. “toyunuz mübarək [olsun]” (“may your wedding be happy”) or “gözün aydın [olsun]” (lit. “may your eyes be clear”), but these phrases in their shortened forms can be considered abbreviations since the long forms are equally recognized and are used in equal frequency. The only remaining grammatical structure that can be found among the alqış phrases is the verb in first person imperative. For example, “sənə quzu kəsim” (literally “may I cut a lamb for you,” meaning “may I sacrifice a sheep in your honor”); “sənə qurban olum” (literally “may I be a sacrifice for you,” used as a term of endearment); “başına dönüm/ dolanım” (will be discussed below) and “qadan alım” (literally “may I take your pain”), all also used as terms of endearment). As we can see, phrases using the first-person imperative verb reflect the same wishful tone of the other grammatical forms.

As a note, several alqış phrases also begin with set introductions such as “səni görüm...” (“may I see you,” as in the phrase “səni görüm min yaşayasan,” meaning “may I see you live to a thousand”), or “o gün olsun...” (“may the day come...” as in “o gün olsun anan toyunda oynasın,” meaning “may the day come when your mother dances at your wedding). However, many such phrases are variations of their shorter, introduction-less forms, so I have not included them in the compilation of alqış phrases in this study. Such phrases end in with the same verb forms as other alqış phrases (either first- or third-person imperative or second-person optative).

Thus, we can add to the above list of criteria for the set of phrases accepted as alqış phrases:

5. is grammatically structured as a “command” in first or third person, as a “wish” in second person, or as an abbreviated form of one of the above.

Functionally, it is also possible to add the criterion that alqış phrases be spoken somewhat automatically, as if they are triggered by certain words, concepts in dialogue, or situations. For example, I have yet to see an Azerbaijani enter a room with wet hair after having taken a shower without hearing someone else make the comment “həmişə təmizlikdə.” When people are reading in a dim room and someone comes in and turns on the light, someone will often utter a variation of “ışığığa çıxasan” (“may you come out light”). Some alqış phrases are even triggered by words in conversation like a call-and-response; for example, “toyunuz mübarək [olsun]” (lit. “happy wedding”) which, when spoken by a single person, is followed by “sənin üçün də olsun” (“may it also be for you”); or “gözəl günün olsun” (“may you have a beautiful day”) after commenting that something is “gözəl” (“beautiful”). (One piece of anecdotal evidence pointing to this fact was given by an interview respondent who was distracted and looked away for a moment. I tried to get his attention by giving him the next alqış as a prompt, saying “canınız sağ olsun.” He robotically replied with “sağ olun,” and then after a pause, looked at me, registered and said “oh!” realizing that I was waiting for his commentary on the alqış I had said, not his response to it.) Other alqış phrases are triggered by conversation about certain topics, such as “Allah rəhmət eləsin” which is said when the name of a deceased person is spoken, or “Allah köməyiniz olsun” which is often uttered when someone is talking about his problems.⁵⁴ Thus, we have a sixth criterion for an alqış:

6. is uttered as a response to a circumstance, topic of conversation, or word.

⁵⁴ Interview with G.A., 22-year-old female receptionist, 25 October 2011.

In observing a comprehensive listing of alqış phrases, patterns become evident. Although the published compilations by Həkimov and Nəbiyev each contain over 700 alqış phrases, many of these phrases are variations of the same themes. The most common structures and themes of alqış phrases will be presented here. I have selected 11 of the most common patterns to analyze (the majority of alqış phrases are covered by these 11 patterns, although there are other miscellaneous phrases that are not. Those phrases can be viewed in the comprehensive listing of alqış phrases in Appendix A).

Patterns 1-4: “... olsun.” (may it be)

Many alqış phrases are variations of this structure. The following main groupings to be discussed include: “[some good thing] olsun” (may [some good thing] happen), “Mübarək olsun,” (congratulations), and “[some bad thing] səndən uzaq/iraq olsun” (may [some bad thing] be far from you).

Pattern 1. (sənin-optional) [adj- optional] [noun in 2nd person possessive case] olsun, meaning may you have [adjective][noun], (as in “Sənin toyun olsun” (may it be your wedding/ may you have a wedding) . Common examples filled into the first pattern are: toyun (wedding), ağ günün (a white/good day), bazarın (business), sənin qismətin olsun (may it be your destiny), and axır qəmin olsun (may this be your last grief).

Pattern 2. (sənin-optional) [noun- optional] [adjective] olsun, meaning may (your) [noun] be [adjective], as in “yuxun şirin olsun” (may your dreams be sweet), “ağzın şirin olsun” (may your mouth be sweet), or “nuş olsun” (may [it, meaning food] be good, as in “bon appétit”). Common examples filled into the second pattern are: Canın sağ olsun (may your body be healthy), payın çox olsun (may your portion be large), cibin dolu olsun (may your pocket be full), gözün aydın olsun (lit. may your eyes be clear/bright), işin avand olsun (may your work be prosperous), əlin xınalı olsun (may your hand be painted with henna), iştahan artıq olsun (may your appetite be big), and çörəyin bol olsun (may your bread be plentiful).

Pattern 3. Another variation is “**var olsun,**” may it exist/ be strong, as in “başın var olsun” (lit. may you have a head, implying “may your head be healthy” or, less directly, “thank you”) or “əllərin var olsun” (may you have [healthy/powerful] hands, said to thank someone for working with his/her hands). Other “good things” that can be wished upon the listener using this formula are brave hands and arms.

Pattern 4. “... mübarək olsun.”

Translated in English as “congratulations” but literally meaning “may it be happy,” this phrase is combined with many events and circumstances that merit recognition: ad günü (birthday), şənlik (party), nişan (engagement), toy (wedding), ev (new home), mənzil (new apartment), nübar⁵⁵ (first taste of fruit or some harvest), bayram (a holiday), qohumluq (on our becoming relatives- said at a wedding), iş (new jobs), or purchases.

Pattern 5. “... səndən uzaq/iraq olsun.”

This means “may [some “bad” noun] be far from you.” Other variations of this idea include “Allah . . . səndən iraq eləsin” (“may God put [bad noun] far from you”), “...dan uzaq olasan” (“may you be far from...”), and “... görməyəsən” (“may you not see...”).

Examples of “bad things” often filled into this pattern include bəla (troubles), qara gün (a black day), pis nəfs (bad desires), ax-ox (sighing), bədbəxtlik (bad luck), qada-bala (grief and pain), qarğış (curses), qəm (grief), Allahın qəzəbi (God’s wrath), çətinlik (difficulty), and fəlakət (tragedy). Other “bad things” may include: illness, treachery, betrayal, bitter days, crooked faces (people), unmerciful faces, injustice, disaster, funerals, needless slander, meekness/poverty, oppression, the sorrow of your children/family, the face of need, intrigue, discord, and the tricks of cowards.

Pattern 6. “... olasan.” (may you be...)

This phrase can be completed by an adjective (which is commonly accepted as positive, of course) or by a noun in locative case. Examples include hörmətli (respected), əziz (dear), bərəkətli (abundant), kərəmətli (generous), xoşbəxt or ağbəxt (happy), sağ-salamat (healthy), istəkli (desireable), mümkünlü (able), pir (a wise person), bəy (a groom), nazlı xanım (a flirty/ attractive lady), cah-calal sahibi (the owner of grandeur/luxury), iştahada or iştahalı (“in”/ having a good appetite), təmizlikdə (in cleanliness), and Allah amanında (in God’s mercy).

Pattern 7. “...görəsən.”

This type of phrase, literally meaning “may you see...” (using the second-person verb in optative mood) indicates a wish for the listener to see or experience something. Like patterns 1-2, a commonly accepted “good thing” is inserted to complete the phrase. Examples of words representing generally desirable things that are wished upon people using this pattern include “hörmətindən hörmət” (may you see respect from your respect, i.e. may you be very respected) and “nəvə toyun” (may you see your grandchild’s wedding), ağ gün (a white/ good day),

⁵⁵ Nübar is a person’s first taste of something for the season that it is available, especially a fruit that was harvested.

aydınlıq (clarity), uğur (success), əkdüyindən xeyir (the benefit/fruits of what you have planted), and nəvə-nəticə (your grandchildren and great-grandchildren).

Pattern 8. “...görüm.”

Another pattern uses a first-person verb in imperative mood but carries the same meaning as the second-person optative above, meaning “may I see (something good happening to the listener). Examples are “cavan toyunu görüm” (may I see your wedding when you are young), “qızın toyunu görüm” (may I see your daughter’s wedding) and “sağlığını görüm” (may I see your health).

Pattern 9. “(mən- optional) ...olum/ alım/ kəsim.”

This pattern is used to express an intention of the speaker toward the listener, often in the same sense that a term of endearment would be used in English. The verb at the end of the phrase is in first-person imperative form, translated as “let me...” or “may I ...be/take/sacrifice.” Common examples are qadan alım (may I take your pain), dərdin alım (may I take your sorrow), sənə qurban olum (may I be a sacrifice for you), sənə quzu kəsim (may I sacrifice a lamb for you). Other variations on these phrases allow kind intentions toward the listener to be expressed via the speaker offering oneself as a sacrifice not directly for the listener but for some close relative of the listener, or for the listener through metonymy (for example, “may I be a sacrifice for your life/ name/ geographical region/ voice/ faith/ health.”

Pattern 10. “Allah... eləsin/ versin.” (may God do/ give [something good]).

This form contains the alqış phrases beginning with the word “God,” using a third-person imperative form to tell the listener that the speaker is asking God to intervene in some way. Common examples of this pattern include Allah xoşbəxt eləsin (may God give you happiness), Allah şəfa/ sağlıq versin (may God heal/ give health), Allah qəbul eləsin (may God accept it), Allah xeyir eləsin/versin (may God give good/ make it good), Allah payını versin (may God give you your portion), Allah bərəkət versin (may God give abundance), Allah var eləsin (may God give [what you need]), Allah rəhmət eləsin (may God have mercy), Allah ömrünü uzun eləsin (may God give you a long life), Allah səbr versin (may God give you patience). Sometimes this pattern is also used with “olsun,” as in Allah köməyin olsun (may God be your help) or Allah razı olsun (may God be pleased with you).

Pattern 11. “Allah ...saxlasın/ qorusun.” (may God protect).

Like pattern 10, this structure is a plea for God to intervene in the listener’s life, in this case by protecting him/her or some close relative, either in a general sense or from some specific

“bad” thing (by adding a noun in ablative case, “[bad thing]-dan,” before the verb). Examples of this pattern include Allah səni saxlasın (may God protect you), Allah uşağını saxlasın (may God protect your child), səni pis gözden saxlasın (may God protect you from the evil eye), Allah səni yaman gözden qorusun (may God protect you from the evil eye), Allah səni oddan-alovdan qorusun (may God protect you from fire and flame), and Allah səni qada-baladan qorusun (may God protect you from trouble and pain).

Part 2. Classification of alqış phrases in English.

It may be necessary to clarify why I feel the need to begin with a discussion on the classification of “alqış” in English, and why I feel that a simple translation of the word “alqış” (i.e. into “praise” or “blessing”) is inadequate. Coulmas makes the point that even the categorization of speech acts does not necessarily cross cultural lines. He says “we should not assume that names of speech acts of individual languages define universal types of speech acts,” drawing the parallel that even the words “thanks” and “apology” reflect Western concepts of thanking and apologizing which may not be applied universally or may not adequately describe similar acts in other languages and cultures.⁵⁶ If we refer to alqış phrases as “blessings” or “routine formulas,” we are applying Western stereotypes to them which may mislead us in our ideas about their pragmatic functions. In order to fully understand these utterances for what they are (before trying to squeeze them into any English category), I have chosen to use the term “alqış phrases” throughout the paper. I will discuss possible English translations for the term in order to help English readers understand the category and in order to facilitate discussion about the functions of these phrases.

The first question we set out to answer is how to classify “alqış phrases” in English. In order to answer this question, we will define the Azerbaijani terms “*alqış*” (as well as we can considering the limitations of translation into English) and “*nitq etiketleri*” (*speech tags*), followed by several related English terms.

In order to determine how to classify alqış phrases in English, it would be prudent from an “emic” perspective, borrowing Kenneth Pike’s term,⁵⁷ to survey their classification in Azerbaijani. In one Azerbaijani language textbook for native speakers, they are categorized under

⁵⁶ Coulmas, 81.

⁵⁷ Thomas N. Headland, Kenneth L. Pike, and Marvin Harris, eds., “EMICS AND ETICS: The Insider/Outsider Debate,” Sage Publications, 1990. Accessed 25 October 2011 at <http://www.sil.org/~headlandt/ee-intro.htm>.

“nitq etikətləri” or “nitq yarlıqları,” meaning literally “speech tags.” This category is defined in the textbook as “formulae or expressions of appeal, greeting, leave-taking, congratulation, etc. used in communication.”⁵⁸ Incidentally, the definition is followed by the comment that “speech tags correspond to the people’s national culture and mentality, and are considered an important indicator of the speech habits.” Thus “speech tags” are similar to English “routine formula.”

Bağirov includes alqış phrases under the broad header “lexical units unique to the spoken language.”⁵⁹ That would group them, in English, under “speech acts.” An Azerbaijani book published in Russian (during the Soviet period) considers alqış phrases a category of spoken folklore, calling them alternately “khvala” or “blagopozhelaniya” (praises and blessings, respectively).⁶⁰

One possible categorization for alqış phrases is “stereotypes,” defined by Maria-Liudvika Drazdauskiene as “segments of speech identical to or larger than a word combination which recur syntactically and even lexically unchanged generally in identical contexts of situation... They are routinized discourse units caused by standardized conditions of communication and identical contexts of situation.”⁶¹ Examples she gives include openers (“I think,” “I wonder”), concluding phrases (“something like that,” “and that’s all”), and responders (“how about you?”), none of which are relevant to the present discussion.

The one applicable part of Drazdauskiene’s discussion is her commentary on emotive evaluators (i.e. “it’s lovely,”), in which she states that “English evaluative stereotypes were found more emotive in positive evaluation than Lithuanian ones....It we were to judge a people by their language, it might be possible to assume that Lithuanian speech testifies to the reserved nature and extreme reticence of its speakers.”⁶² If we consider alqış phrases to be emotive evaluators, we can observe that many of the alqış phrases are indeed carriers of a certain emotion. Bağirov even states in his description of alqış phrases that they are “completed works having powerful emotional influence that express broad meanings with just a few words.” (42) However, Drazdauskiene’s stereotypes are mainly meant to fulfill the “phatic function,” which “serves the expression of contact establishment, sharing and involvement in communication.”⁶³ Thus, these

⁵⁸ Möhsün Nağısoylu and Mehman Zeynallı, *Azərbaycan dili: Abituriyentlər üçün dərs vəsaiti*, Baku, Araz Yayınları 2009, pg. 192. (in Azeri)

⁵⁹ Bağirov, 41

⁶⁰ *Azərbaycazhanskiy Folklor*. Ed. P. Afendiyev, Gyandzhlik, 1990, pg. 1 and 11. (in Russian).

⁶¹ Drazdauskiene, “On Stereotypes in Conversation, Their Meaning and Significance” in Coulmas, 67.

⁶² Drazdauskiene, 66.

⁶³ Drazdauskiene, 56.

phrases have very little meaning on their own; rather, they are meant to be markers in discourse and in some sense to keep conversation flowing smoothly while assuring all the involved parties that they are “on the same page.”

I would argue that alqış phrases serve a larger function than the phatic function; while there are some alqış phrases that can act as routine conversation markers (such as those that can even be interjected by speaker B while speaker A is still talking in order to show speaker B’s agreement with speaker A, i.e. “xeyir olsun,” “may it be good,” when speaker A is telling a dream; or “Allah rəhmət eləsin” when speaker A mentions a death), on the whole these phrases seem to be fulfilling a larger pragmatic role than that of simple emotion markers.

One possibility for the classification of alqış phrases, looking at them from a pragmatics perspective, is “politeness formulas,” or more specifically within that category, “blessing formulas.” According to Charles Ferguson, politeness formulas are “the fixed expressions conventionally used in many societies for such purposes as greeting, taking leave, thanking, apologizing, congratulating, and expressing various kinds of wish.”⁶⁴ He elucidates that these are “little snippets of ritual used in everyday encounters between people, expressions like good morning, or thank you, or God bless you said when someone sneezes, or bye-bye said to an infant by a departing guest.”⁶⁵ In some ways, Ferguson’s politeness formulas are very similar to the Azerbaijani set of alqış phrases. For example, Ferguson draws a sub-set within “politeness formulas” that he labels “blessing formulas,” including Arabic phrases that are used in certain situations, such as after blood-letting, as a thanks for some service performed with the hands, during a harvest, or after purchasing clothing. These phrases are each called for under specific circumstances.

In addition, Ferguson describes politeness formulas that require another formula for a response. Some phrases may simply be echoed (i.e. “good morning”) and some can be followed with a stock “you too” type of response, but some call for specific phrases in response⁶⁶ (for example, the Arabic greeting ‘assalamu  alaykum,’ ‘peace be on you,’ and its response ‘wa alaykumu ssalam,’ ‘and on you peace,’ which are the same Azerbaijani except for minor pronunciation differences and the optional variation of saying only the word “salam” as a greeting or response). Other examples of call-and-response formula in Azerbaijani are “baş  ste”

⁶⁴ **Ferguson, C. A.** 1976. The structure and use of politeness formulas.' *Reprinted in Coulmas, 21-35. p21.*

⁶⁵ Ferguson (in Coulmas)

⁶⁶ Ferguson, 27

(lit. “on the head,” meaning “as you wish,” a declaration of consent and intent to carry out a command or request) which is followed by either “başın var olsun” (may you have a [healthy/powerful] head) or “başın güllər üstə” ([may] your head be on the flowers); or “toyunuz mübarək [olsun]” (happy wedding) which, when spoken by a single person, is followed by “sənin üçün də olsun” (may it also be for you); or “gözəl günün olsun” (may you have a beautiful day) after commenting that something is “gözəl” (beautiful). Another possible response for Ferguson’s formulas is the statement “amen” to be made by onlookers, especially for “welfare wishes involving God.”⁶⁷ This is also true of Azerbaijani alqış phrases, especially including but not limited to those involving God. This feature is a result of the alqış phrases’ structure; most of the alqış phrases end in a verb in third person singular imperative form (i.e. “let it be” or “may it be”). Many of these phrases end with the verb “to be” in the same form, “olsun.”

In such cases the actor who is meant to “make it be so,” although left unspecified, is usually meant to refer to God. As supporting evidence, the prayers of the Azerbaijani people can take the exact same grammatical form, for example “may our blessing not be taken from us” or “may so-and-so be healthy;” even though they are meant to be addressed to God (and this is often made clear by the accompanying gesture of outstretched hands), his name is not stated in them and they end with the same third-person singular imperative verb form. Prayers, in the same way as alqış phrases, are followed by the word “amin” (“amen”) stated by listeners or sometimes by the speaker him/herself. In the same vein, other possible responses to many alqış phrases include “Allah qoysun” (may God make it so) and, more frequently, “inşallah” (God willing). Another piece of anecdotal evidence supporting the claim that an unstated actor is God emerged during the interview process: one interview respondent pointed to the list of five alqış phrases she had just finished describing and said, “God does all of this. You see? The word God was used in every one of these.” But in three out of the five phrases under her finger, the word God was not present (“göz dəyməsin,” “canın sağ olsun,” and “gözün aydın”).

As a result, following Ferguson’s model, alqış phrases should be classified as “blessing formulas.” They are “formulas,” carrying the pragmatic bearing of routine formulas or politeness formulas. At the same time, they are also “blessings,” grammatically and lexically speaking about the future of the listener and carrying some form of positive wish for him/her. It is possible to disregard Bağırov’s distinction that alqış phrases should be completely separate from “prayers” or “blessings” because Bağırov was approaching alqış phrases from an expressive approach,

⁶⁷ Ferguson, 27

categorizing them based on emotional expression. His approach is the reason for his classification of *alqış* phrases into those expressing satisfaction, those expressing wishes, and those expressing happiness or gladness. However, if *alqış* phrases are approached grammatically (as can be seen from the patterns above) or pragmatically (as will be seen in Chapter 3), they can all be used to “bless” the listener’s future with some kind of positive desire.

Chapter 3: Functions fulfilled by *alqış* phrases in Azerbaijani

In order to analyze *alqış* phrases and/or compare them to English, it is first necessary to find their functions in discourse. Simply to translate the phrases without taking their functions into account would be meaningless. For example, one of the possible literal interpretations of the phrase “*başına dönüm*” is “may I circle around your head,” coming from a folk belief in which a healthy person attempts to take on a loved one’s illness by walking around the seated sick person a fixed number of times (usually three or seven).⁶⁸ A modern-day speaker of Azerbaijani does not think of that literal image when saying “*başına dönüm*,” rather, the term is used simply as a term of endearment. In fact, many younger speakers have not even heard of the above or other explanations and make no literal connection to the phrase’s meaning (except perhaps for a vague conception of the speaker busily moving about the beloved one as the speaker brings tea or otherwise serves him/her, as one speaker described her connotations of the phrase.⁶⁹) If we were to translate “*başına dönüm*” directly into English, we would not find an equivalent for it; however, if its function is considered (i.e. as a term of endearment or as an “in-group marker” to soften a request, as will be discussed below), the English functional equivalents of “sweetheart” or “dear” can be offered. These English words are still do not carry the full meaning of “*başına dönüm*,” which has connotations such as “you are more important or more valuable than me.”⁷⁰

The most literal understanding of the functions of many *alqış* phrases is to positively affect the listener. While the primary goal of saying these phrases isn’t necessarily to have a *direct* effect on the future life of the listener, one suggestion is that people do believe their words have consequences. One markedly unscientific article from a national Azerbaijani newspaper validates this, suggesting that blessings and curses actually are a way to send energy (positive or

⁶⁸ Interview with 50-year-old housewife M.Q., 17 October 2011.

⁶⁹ Interview with 26-year old female R.M., 15 October 2011.

⁷⁰ Hamlet Isaxanlı

negative) toward the listener which will eventually effect that person psychologically, if not paranormally.⁷¹ The late folklorist Bəhlul Abdulla states that routines such as blessings, curses, and vows in the Azerbaijani language have no direct effect on the outcome of events, but the way they are structured presents them almost as a type of magic spell, reflecting the ancient beliefs of the people that these phrases would actually carry some type of power.⁷²

Short of these types of literal interpretations, Tannen and Öztek classify formulaic expressions in three functional categories: “anxiety-provoking events, happy events and rapport establishment.”⁷³ The first category includes events in which people feel a lack of control, such as when facing in health struggles, death, loss, departure on journeys, etc. “Happy events” include occasions for celebration (and congratulatory remarks), new purchases or things obtained, and visits and arrivals. The authors describe “rapport establishment” as formulas used in social situations in which the speaker puts him/herself down and/or builds up the listener (while there are several routines in Azerbaijani related to the ones they quote in Turkish, for example “buyurun” (please, literally “condescend yourself”) and “sizden iyi olmasin” (“may he/she not be better than you,” used when talking favorably about an absent third party), these fall outside the boundaries of the “alqış phrases” category in Azerbaijani, so I will not be discussing this third category. Indeed a more appropriate classification for Azerbaijani may be in order.

Part 1. Expressive: Showing emotion and offering blessing

In agreement with Coulmas’s “function-centered” model of analysis, Tannen and Öztek divide Turkish and Greek routine formulas into the following groups: those that are situation-specific (i.e. required by a situation such as a death, receipt of a gift, or certain comment in conversation), and those that are “psycho-ostensive” (“showing the speaker’s attitude toward what s/he has said”⁷⁴). The psycho-ostensive concept was developed by Matisoff in several studies on Yiddish phrases used to express emotion.⁷⁵ Some of the Azerbaijani alqış phrases are also emotional indicators (for example, “maşallah!” which connotes asking God’s protection over something, but carries an emotional undertone of awe or wonder, or “Allah eləməsin” which is a request for protection from some just-mentioned bad situation, carrying an emotional tone of

⁷¹ “‘Səni görün...’: Alqış və qarğışların sirri”, Day.Az newspaper 13 April 2011 (in Azeri)

⁷² Bəhlul Abdulla, “Sözə inam,” Khazar View Feb 2010, pp 30-36, p. 30.

(<http://dspace.khazar.org/jspui/bitstream/123456789/1038/1/Behlul%20Abdulla%2030-36.pdf>) (in Azeri)

⁷³ Tannen and Öztek, 39.

⁷⁴ Tannen and Öztek, 42

⁷⁵ James A. Matisoff, “Psycho-ostensive Expressions in Yiddish.” Philadelphia: ISHI Publications. 1979.

foreboding, as if it is said with a shudder). Among the psycho-ostensives, there are two main categories proposed by Matisoff: “bono-petition, or wishing for good, and malo-fugition, or warding off evil.”⁷⁶

In fact Matisoff’s categorization is a bit more complex: “The relatively passive attitude of acceptance of good or evil we call *recognitive*; the (more active) attitude of seeking or desiring we call *petitive*; and the (more active) attitude of shunning or fearing we call *fugitive*. Add to these the Greek roots for ‘self’ and ‘other’ (auto- and allo-) and the Latin roots for ‘good’ and ‘evil’ (bono- and malo-)... thus, for example, auto-malo-recognitive means ‘recognizing that evil has come to oneself.’”⁷⁷ Azerbaijani alqış phrases are slightly different from Matisoff’s psycho-ostensives in that they are used not only as a way to express emotion after certain comments are made in speech but also in direct response to (and/or desire to influence) the actions or situations of others, but it is possible to borrow and apply Matisoff’s categories in analyzing them. Thus we can divide the Azerbaijani alqış phrases into four groups. For the most part, the alqış phrases under consideration in this study are “allo-“ according to Matisoff’s distinction, since such phrases do not often refer to the speaker. Thus the following categories apply to Azerbaijani alqış phrases:

Allo-malo-recognitive (recognizing that evil has come to others)

Allo-malo-fugitive (wishing for others to avoid evil)

Allo-bono-recognitive (realizing that good has come to others)

Allo-bono-petitive (wishing for good to come to others)

The other two types of “allo-” phrases that Matisoff identifies, allo-bono-fugitive and allo-malo-petitive phrases, are considered curses, and while these do exist in the Azerbaijani language (in quite a vast number, including creative inversions of blessings) they do not fall within the scope of this paper.

Some brief examples of the alqış phrases fitting into the above categories include:

Allo-malo-recognitive (recognizing that evil has come to others):

Allah rəhmət eləsin (may God have mercy, said when someone dies) (Note: this particular phrase could also be considered allo-malo-fugitive and allo-bono-petitive at the same time, given its literal meaning)

⁷⁶ Tannen and Öztekin, 42

⁷⁷ James A. Matisoff, *Blessings, curses, hopes, and fears: psycho-ostensive expressions in Yiddish*. Stanford University Press, 2000.

Canın sağ olsun (may you be healthy, said in comfort when someone fails, loses or breaks something)

Suyun bulanmasın (may your water not be cloudy- said in comfort when something bad happens, as in “may this be the only thing”)

Allo-malo-fugitive (wishing for others to avoid evil):

Allah sənin evini yıxmasın (may God not tear your house down)

Əllərin ağrıməsın (may your hands not hurt)

Pis gün görməyəsən (may you not see a bad day)

Yorulmayasan (may you not be tired)

Göz dəyməsın (may the eye not touch it; referring to the “evil eye”)

Allo-bono-recognitive (realizing that good has come to others)

Bayramın mübarək olsun (happy holiday)

İştahalı olasan (may you have an appetite, said to someone eating); also bono-petitive

Nuş olsun (may it be good/ bon appétit- said to someone eating by the giver of the food); also bono-petitive

Allo-bono-petitive (wishing for good to come to others)

Ağzın şirin olsun (may your mouth be sweet)

Allah səni güldürsün (may God make you laugh)

Uğurlar olsun (may you be successful)

Sənin toyun olsun (may you have a wedding)

We note that there are no *purely* recognitive phrases included in the alqış phrases. Even in the “recognitive” categories above, the structure of the phrases makes them petitive. All the verbs are in third person singular imperative form, the closest English translation to which is “*may* (it be so) or *let* (such-and-such happen).” These tend to reflect future action, thus even in examples which clearly respond to the past (as in “gözün aydın,” which is said after a long-awaited event happens), the literal meaning of the phrase is some form of blessing in the future (in this case, “may your eyes be clear,” as in “may you see happy things in the future”⁷⁸). Thus, from the standpoint of phrases’ functions the alqış phrases form four groups (as above), but when looking at the phrases’ literal meanings it is possible to break down Azerbaijani alqış phrases into just two groups: bono-petitive and malo-fugitive.

⁷⁸ Interview with 30-year-old female salesclerk G. I., 24 October 2011.

If any alqış phrases could be squeezed into the category of **bono-recognition**, they would be those structured according to pattern 4 above (Chapter 2), the “mübarək olsun” (congratulations, may it be happy) phrases. By nature these phrases could be grouped into the bono-recognition category, since the speaker is acknowledging that something good has happened to the addressee. Expressively, they reflect a positive emotion and indicate that the speaker joins in the joy of the addressee. Pragmatically, they are both a way to “earn points” with the addressee by indicating shared feelings with him/her and a way to avoid offense or the addressee’s fear that the speaker is envious. If the speaker does not congratulate a friend on a wedding, for example, the friend might assume that the speaker did not approve of the wedding, or worse, is envious of the match. Allami and Nekouzadeh claim that the same phenomenon is true among Iranian speakers of Persian: “It is considered a sign of jealousy if the other person who hears the good news doesn’t show or express his/her pleasure on what has happened to the addressee.”⁷⁹

In the Azerbaijani culture, envy is considered a great social danger. An envious person has the power to “look badly” upon someone and in effect curse that person, even unintentionally. Several interview respondents commented that if a speaker leaves certain words unsaid, such as “göz dəyməsin” (another congratulatory remark meaning “may the [evil] eye not touch it”), the listener will either fear that the speaker is jealous (thus potentially damaging their relationship) or will actually blame the speaker later for cursing him/her if something goes wrong. It is important, then, for people in cordial relationships to affirm their happiness at each other’s good fortune.

Tannen and Öztekin emphasize the “concrete substance given to the utterance of words” in Greek and Turkish, noting that speakers seem to believe their words can literally ward off evil or even accidentally bring it on themselves (thus necessitating protective measures such as physically biting the tongue after speaking about something bad in Greek⁸⁰ or quickly neutralizing the bad statement with a plea for protection such as “Allah eləməsin” (“May God not bring it to pass”) in Azerbaijani). We will look at this type of belief as it is manifested in both the bono-petition and malo-fugition categories of speech acts.

The category of malo-fugition includes all of the alqış phrases falling under pattern 5 above (in Chapter 2). These phrases wish the avoidance of something that the speaker and addressee mutually consider negative or harmful. They are often used when speaking about some

⁷⁹ Allami and Nekouzadeh, 1607.

⁸⁰ Tannen and Öztekin, 43

misfortune that another person has suffered, and they are spoken quickly and sometimes accompanied by pulling earlobes or making kissing-type noises with the lips or mock spitting (making the sound “tfu-tfu-tfu”), indicating the belief that if these phrases are left unsaid, the misfortune that is being discussed might come to pass in the speaker’s life.

Expressively, phrases of this type can reveal three separate levels of emotion. One, they can reveal that the speaker cares for the addressee and desires to keep him/her safe from harm. Two, they reveal the speaker’s fear of the abovementioned elements and the general cultural understanding of them as negative. Three, at times they can reveal the speaker’s regret at having faced such troubles in his/her own life, and the desire that others not have to go through them. For example, some variations of this structure are used by a person who is undergoing some type of grief in order to “shield” others from facing it as well. For example, “ölüm qapını tanımasın” (may death not recognize your door) and “istəklindən əlin üzülməsin” (may your hand not be separated from whom you want/ your darling), both implying “may you not lose a loved one,” are often said by someone grieving the loss of a loved one to those offering him or her their support at a funeral. Likewise, “səni yamanlıq görməyəsən” (may you not see bad) can be uttered by someone to whom some misfortune has occurred in order to “protect” listening loved ones from the same misfortune.

Speakers seem to believe that their words have power to protect against evil in some way. In Azerbaijan, just as in Turkey and Greece, “the concept of the evil eye is very powerful... that is the process by which good fortune is ‘jinxed.’”⁸¹ In fact, reflections of this belief in the Azerbaijani culture are not limited to the folklore; people’s efforts to guard themselves and others from the negative effects of envy (the “evil eye”) can be seen in the ubiquitous eye-like blue and white glass beads (*göz muncuğu*) in homes, shops, on jewelry, printed on shopping bags, and pinned to children’s shirts; can be smelled wafting through the air as housewives burn salt and certain herbs like incense to be circled around the heads of loved ones in a protective ritual; and can be sensed as people carefully choose their words to avoid expressing envy or when they claim that an unfortunate event happened “because it was touched by the eye.” In addition to making frequent use of routine phrases to protect themselves and others from the evil eye, people often make gestures for the same reason. Some interview respondents automatically made such gestures when they were discussing the meaning of “göz dəyməsin” (literally “may the eye not touch it”); for example, one lady pantomimed spitting three times into the air with a “tfu-tfu-tfu”

⁸¹ Tannen and Öztekin, 42

sound and another respondent made a kissing noise and pulled on her earlobes. (Interestingly, both respondents later seemed embarrassed or self-conscious when they noticed I was writing down their physical actions as well as their words, which I take to be evidence that they perform such actions subconsciously and must have internalized the routine of doing them on some level, like superstitions, even though in their conscious minds they refuse to admit that gestures could protect them.)

May alqış phrases are intended to guard the addressee against misfortune. For example, the directly stated “göz dəyməsin” is, according to one native speaker, like a form of “insurance.”⁸² The effects of the “evil eye” belief are present on two levels: one, on some metaphysical (perhaps spiritual) level (i.e. speakers claiming protection from the evil eye actually believe that their words alone will ward off some kind of negative force, resulting in safety for the addressee) and two, on a pragmatic or psychological level (i.e. a speaker claiming protection from the evil eye does so in order to make it clear to the listeners that she herself is not envious of the addressee, mainly in an attempt to protect her own relationship with the addressee from undue tension and/or cause the addressee to fear the potential jealousy of the speaker). An example of this second level of intervention was given by an interview respondent who, when asked “what would happen if you didn’t say ‘göz dəyməsin?’” said immediately, “if I don’t say it, that person I’m speaking to] thinks that I’m jealous of him.”⁸³ Even a well-intentioned person can unknowingly cast the evil eye on another person; for example, one informant told me that babies are most commonly cursed by their parents’ admiration of them. For this reason, a person cooing over a baby will add “göz dəyməsin” in an attempt to shield the baby even from his or her own admiration.⁸⁴

The use of “göz dəyməsin” to prevent harm and/or to let the listener know the speaker’s good intentions is an example of Goffman’s politeness theory of “virtual offence.” In this theory, Goffman argues that a polite speaker imagines the worst possible way that the listener could interpret his statement, and then pre-empts it, or at least “orients to it,” showing the listener that he understands the listener’s perspective and concerns.⁸⁵ Thus in this case, a speaker who adds “göz dəyməsin” after a compliment shows the listener that he understands the perceived risk of

⁸² Interview with 26-year-old female master student S. S., 24 Oct 2011

⁸³ Interview with 30-year-old female salesclerk G. I., 24 Oct 2011.

⁸⁴ At times parents will also comment that their babies are ugly when what they really mean to say is beautiful; the meaning is understood by the listeners but this type of reverse compliment seems to be “safer” from the evil eye.

⁸⁵ Goffman, 138ff

making such a compliment and does not desire for it to bring harm; he has respected the listener by orienting his statement toward the listener's worst possible interpretation of it.

In the category of bono-petition, there seems to be a weak underlying belief or hope that things said frequently enough will actually come to pass. Although it may not be true that everyone giving the birthday wish “yüz yaşayasan” (may you live to 100) actually believes that those words will cause the speaker to live to the age of 100, there is still a sense of hope in the statement. However, the bono-petition phrases generally carry less weight than the malo-fugition phrases. As evidence, many malo-fugition phrases are obligatory (i.e. someone who fails to say “bizdən uzaq” (may it be far from us) or “Allah iraq eləsin” (may God make it be far from us) when talking about a disease will be noticed, and listeners will wonder what he/she was trying to communicate by leaving the phrase unsaid, or more likely, they will fill it in themselves or make an equivalent gesture or noise.) However, bono-petition phrases are less “urgent;” leaving them unsaid does not necessarily create tension among listeners. Many bono-petition phrases are also used to reinforce or respond gratefully to an action that was just performed; if A does a good deed and B fails to say thank you, A may assume that B will say it later or reciprocate in some other way. (The concept of reciprocation will also be discussed in more detail below.)

Bono-petitive phrases include those falling under patterns 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 10 in Chapter 2. These types of phrases fulfill the function of wishing some kind of socially-accepted good thing or event to come to the listener. Expressively, these types of phrases display positive emotion and well-wishes. Pragmatically, they are also used to affirm a positive value or an action that the listener has displayed (i.e. “may you see the fruit that will make the hard work you are doing worthwhile.”) Some of them may be grammatically stronger than others; for example, pattern 8 phrases (“may I see...”) are more potent than pattern 7 phrases (“may you see...”). Expressively, first-person phrases hold even more relational significance than the second-person versions because they indicate that the speaker is personally invested in seeing the wish fulfilled, will likely be present when it happens, and is close enough to the listener to be gladdened by something good happening to the listener. This type of personal involvement in well-wishing also serves to ensure the listener that the speaker cares for his/her wellbeing and is not envious of him/her. To compare examples from patterns 7 and 8, any well-meaning speaker can say “nəvənin toyunu görəsən” (may you see your grandchild's wedding), but it takes a family member or close friend to say “nəvənin toyunu görüm” (may I see your grandchild's wedding).

This is also an example of using Levinson and Brown's politeness strategy of an "in-group marker,"⁸⁶ which will be discussed in more detail below.

Part 2. Pragmatic: politeness strategy

Another element of alqış phrases' function is that pragmatically, they are a politeness strategy (used to maintain acceptable relationships between speakers by maintaining each person's dignity, or "face"). Many alqış phrases fit into the categories of Levinson and Brown's theory of politeness, in which every speaker is a rational being with both "positive face" (the desire for others to approve of him; to want what he/she wants) and "negative face" (the desire to be free in his/her actions; not to be controlled by others). Each speaker tries to maintain both his or her own face and those of others (because, being a rational being, he/she recognizes that actions are mutual, and damaging another's face will lead to damaging his/her own face).⁸⁷ He/she must use politeness strategies to maintain face, especially when making "face-threatening acts," which are statements that create a risk of damaging either speaker's face.

Some statements are made to help **maintain "positive face,"** or to show the hearer that the speaker approves of the hearer and the speaker shares his/her desires and wants.⁸⁸ Pragmatically, these are a way for the speaker to "earn points" or develop rapport with the hearer. These types of statements often reveal the values of the society and are indicative of what I will discuss in more detail in Chapter 5 as the "Azerbaijani dream." Alqış phrases in this category include bono-petitive phrases that relate to events in the hearer's life, as if the speaker is affirming that those events are positive and they should happen. Some examples are "sağlıqla geyin/ işlət" (wear it/ use it with health) to someone who is showing off a recent purchase, "iştahalı olasan" (may you gave a good appetite) to someone who is eating, "bərəkətli olsun" (may it be fruitful) to someone cooking, planting, or working on something with some kind of metaphorical harvest-type outcome, "adınla yaşasın" (may he live up to his name) about a newborn, "həmişə toyda" (may you always be at weddings) to a guest at a wedding, "həmişə təmizlikdə" (may you always be clean) to someone who has just showered or had a haircut, "Allah xeyir versin" (may God give good) to someone doing something with an uncertain outcome such as taking medication, "gözün aydın olsun" (may your eyes be clear/bright) to

⁸⁶ Levinson and Brown, 57.

⁸⁷ Levinson and Brown, 60.

⁸⁸ Levinson and Brown, 62

someone whose long-awaited desire has come to pass, i.e. a baby was born or a relative came home, “gəlinin ayağı yüngül olsun” (may your new bride be lucky/ bring prosperity) to a family whose son has just gotten married, “dərdindən qurtarasan” (may your pain end) to a pregnant lady, “sağ-salamat gəlsin” (may he come back healthy) to a family waiting for a son to come home from serving in the army, “sənin qismətin olsun” (may it be your destiny) to someone who is not yet married or does not yet have children while on the topic of someone else’s marriage/children, and more.

Socially, these “positive face” maintaining phrases are a way for people to guard their relationships and earn trust with one another by showing that they are in agreement. Prolonged failure to use these phrases may eventually cause the hearer to think that the negligent speaker does not care about the hearer’s positive face, i.e. the speaker does not agree with the hearer’s values or does not want these positive things for his life. Agreeing with one another’s positive desires is especially important in the Azerbaijani culture because of the heavy stigma carried by jealousy. There is a folk belief that jealousy can actually bring harm to the envied person, so it is important for people to use these phrases to demonstrate that they are not jealous of another’s wedding, purchases, eating, etc.

Many alqış phrases can be classified as politeness strategies meant to protect either the speaker’s or the hearer’s negative face. Levinson and Brown’s concept of **protecting “negative face”** is broken down into categories according to different types of face-threatening acts. Some of those that we will consider are **requests, offers/promises, expressing thanks, compliments, and the mention of taboo topics.**

A request is a face-threatening act for the hearer because it imposes some future action on him/her,⁸⁹ possibly infringing on his/her freedom in some way. Thus the speaker employs one of several possible strategies in order to prevent the listener from losing face. One such strategy which is often used with small requests, according to Levinson and Brown, is the use of “language that stresses in-group membership.”⁹⁰ Several Azerbaijani alqış phrases such as “qadan alım” and “başına dönüm” are often used in conjunction with (just before or after) a request. Their literal translations (as discussed above) are “may I take your pain” and “may I circle your head [to take your pain],” but expressively they mean something like “I like you very much; you are close and dear to me” and pragmatically they are used to fulfill the above function of letting

⁸⁹ Levinson and Brown, 66

⁹⁰ Levinson and Brown, 57

the listener know that the speaker is in his “in group;” the speaker is asking for a favor by virtue of his closeness to the listener (or, at least, the closeness that he claims). In this sense, a statement like “qadan alim” really says something like “you are very dear to me and I would sacrifice myself for you, so please don’t feel subordinated or offended by the request I am about to make,” or “I am asking you for something now, but we are very close and you can assume that my relationship with you ensures that I will not leave you in this lower-status position of serving me; I will appreciate what you have done and/or reciprocate it by means of our relationship.”

Offers or promises are face-threatening because they create the risk that the hearer may be put in debt. According to the theory, all speakers are rational and actions are mutual, so any time person A does something for person B, that damages person B’s negative face [because he now faces pressure to reciprocate somehow, as if he has incurred a debt to person A]⁹¹ and it also means that person A has violated the principles of mutual face protection by knowingly trying to give person B a debt. One common alqış phrase that protects the speaker’s and hearer’s negative face after an offer has been made is “Allah qoysun” (may God allow it), said as a way to soften the effect of the promise or offer, partly stemming from the simple truth that we don’t know what will happen but also partly indicating “if God allows it to happen, then I will be in debt to him, not to you.”

According to the same principle stated above that any time person A does something for person B, both of their faces are damaged, there must be a way for person B to repay the debt. One strategy for this is for person B to thank person A, thus indicating an acknowledgment of the debt and “buying time” in order to repay it. Person A will not be offended that person B has not reciprocated the debt as long as person A knows that person B appreciated it and acknowledged it. This strategy of **expressing thanks** is thus another way to protect negative face. Thanks are “reactive speech acts,” occurring in sequence with an event “calling for an acknowledgement.”⁹² In other words, person A feels indebted to person B. By expressing his thanks, person A effectively acknowledges his debt, so he is damaging his own negative face by being forced to humble himself before person B.⁹³ (Coulmas also affirms that expressing thanks is always an acknowledgement of the speaker’s indebtedness towards the listener.⁹⁴) This concept of being in debt springs from the idea of reciprocity, which is a universal in anthropology although it takes

⁹¹ Levinson and Brown, 61,66.

⁹² Coulmas 71.

⁹³ Levinson and Brown, 67.

⁹⁴ Coulmas, 8.

very different expressions in different cultures.⁹⁵ The general idea of reciprocity is that, in some way or another, people are expected to pay one another back with gifts or services that are approximately equivalent to those they have received. In some cultures this happens quickly and is openly expected; in other cultures parties may prefer to maintain a debt for a longer period of time as a means to ensure the continuation of their relationship (i.e. they choose not to “close out all the books” immediately.)

In America, reciprocity is generally expected to be fairly quick and clear. A gives B a gift, and in general, B will return a gift of similar value to A at the next suitable occasion. In some subcultures of the USA when person B’s neighbor gives him a gift of food in a non-disposable dish, B will not return the dish empty. It is even acceptable for B to give a gift card or small gift in return for services that A provided involving time but no monetary expense. In circumstances where gift-giving is clearly one-way (for instance, on B’s birthday), then B’s debt is written off (or at least postponed until A’s birthday) by means of a thank-you note. For this reason, it is acceptable for B to thank A by means of utterances such as “I owe you one” or “I’ll get you back.”

In Azerbaijan, reciprocity is much more long-term. It would cause person A to lose face if he/she were thought to have done some kind deed for the sake of its being reciprocated (this idea is sometimes verbalized with statements like “of course I’m not expecting you to pay me back! Do you think I did this just so that you would pay me back?” Sometimes when B offers to repay A for an expense, A replies “bu nə ayıb söhbətdir?” (What kind of shameful talk is that?) In other words, it would cause the giver to lose face if he/she admitted having intentionally put the receiver into debt (because of the rules of mutual face protection). Nonetheless, there is still an underlying expectation that B has been put into debt and will repay A somehow, as is indicated by statements like “mənə xəcalət verdin”/ “məni utandırdın” (you gave me shame) to someone who has just given an excessive gift or service. There is also a tradition of writing down donations in a notebook at weddings and funerals (to which guests who come and partake of the food are expected to bring a monetary gift). Later when person A is preparing to attend person B’s wedding (or person B’s relative’s wedding), he sometimes looks in his notebook to see how much person B gave at his (person A’s) last event and then gives the same amount or more. This is a strong indicator of mutual reciprocity in the Azerbaijani culture, even though it is stretched

⁹⁵ Gouldner 1960, “The Norm of Reciprocity” section heading.

out over a period of months or years and it is not openly admitted that gifts given to others are expected to be returned somehow.

In accordance with this cultural mentality of unwillingness to admit having put someone into debt, *alqış* phrases allow the recipient of a gift to restore his negative face by dodging the debt, at least verbally, by means of calling upon God to repay the giver. This also lines up with Pivovarchik's ideas that God is often included as a powerful third party to allow the speaker to express a desire (or add authority to a statement) that he/she is not individually able to fulfill.⁹⁶ Examples are "Allah razı olsun" (may God be pleased with you), "Allah əvəzini versin" (may God replace it/ reimburse you), "Allah bərəkət eləsin" (may God give you prosperity/blessing), and "Allah var eləsin" (may God provide). Thus, these *alqış* phrases are a politeness strategy intended to preserve the negative face of the recipient of a gift or service by preventing that person from having to take on a debt, but at the same time preserving the positive face of the giver by acknowledging the gift.

Compliments, similar to requests, are face-threatening because they express the speaker's desire for something belonging or pertaining to the hearer. This could indicate envy, or could create pressure for the hearer to either protect the item or give it to the speaker.⁹⁷ In the Azerbaijani culture, as was previously mentioned, the main problem arising from compliments is the fear of envy. If A compliments B's new baby, B often begins to feel afraid that A's admiration will bring harm to the baby because of the "evil eye" concept. B no longer feels uninhibited in his actions, damaging his negative face. Person A does not want to be seen as one who envies and brings harm to another; that would damage A's positive face. Therefore person A employs a politeness strategy that protects both his positive face and B's negative face: he accompanies his compliment with certain *alqış* phrases to counteract the potential for envy. These include "maşallah" (may God protect), "göz dəyməsin" (may the eye not touch it) and "Allah saxlasın" (may God protect).

The **mention of taboo topics** is also face-threatening because it indicates that the speaker does not fear the same things the listener does, or is unwilling to share the listener's values.⁹⁸ In Azerbaijan, topics that are approached very tentatively (although they may not be defined as strictly "taboo") include death, tragedies, and sicknesses such as cancer. When person A wants to

⁹⁶ Pivovarchik

⁹⁷ Levinson and Brown, 66.

⁹⁸ Levinson and Brown, 67.

talk about another person's misfortune, he must avoid being seen as a person who lacks the community values of avoiding those topics (damaging his positive face) so he marks his speech with phrases such as "Allah eləməsin" (may God not do it), "Allah uzaq/ iraq eləsin" (may God make it far from us), or "bizdən iraq" (may it be far from us). If person A fails to add one of these phrases, often the listener will quickly insert one for him.

From the discussion on using alqış phrases as a way to save face above, the conclusion may be drawn that many alqış phrases are a politeness strategy. They are used in certain places in conversational discourse where they are "expected" in order to save the face of either the speaker or listener, and a failure to insert them creates the risk of tension in the conversation. In this way, alqış phrases are used to maintain culturally expected politeness and avoid offense.

By stating that alqış phrases are a politeness strategy, however, we do not mean to imply that they are "empty" formulas. Alqış phrases are often used to express emotion, either genuine or generated to meet the expected response for a certain situation. Bağırov agrees that many alqış phrases are expressions of emotion, evidenced by their accompaniment by gestures or raised intonation.⁹⁹ In fact, these phrases not only serve the pragmatic functions of politeness and the expressive functions of conveying emotion; they can also make a literal statement about a hope or wish (this is considered their referential function). As in the example of "qadan alım" in the requests section above, a single speech act can have multiple levels of meaning. For example, a statement can be one thing referentially but another expressively, and yet another rhetorically.¹⁰⁰ Alqış phrases may also be analyzed using these levels. For example, "Allah evini yıxmasın" ("may God not tear your house down," said with ironic intonation in a teasing manner after someone comes home late or says something foolish) is referentially a prayer, expressively a mock threat or an ironic joke, and functionally a kind way to chide the listener for whatever has just occurred. Another alqış, "yorulmayasan" ("may you not grow tired," said to someone working), is referentially a hope about one's physical condition, expressively a wish, and functionally a statement of praise for the work being done.

⁹⁹ Bağırov, 43-44.

¹⁰⁰ Hymes, 53.

Chapter 4: Comparison of Azerbaijani *alqış phrases* with their functional equivalents in American English.

The Azerbaijani and American cultures bear distinct differences, so not all situations that occur in one culture find direct parallels in the other. Ferguson beautifully describes the problem that arises when we try to list English equivalents to *alqış* phrases: cultural differences preclude many direct equivalents. Ferguson's example is also relevant to Azerbaijan: he lists a fixed formula, "naṣīman," in Syrian Arabic that is "addressed to someone who has just had a bath, a haircut, or a shave, or has just awakened from a nap."¹⁰¹ This formula is problematic for English speakers because there is no set equivalent for it;¹⁰² no single phrase can apply to all those situations (Ferguson calls them "appropriateness conditions"). He remarks that this phrase is used in parts of the Arabic-speaking world where the bathhouse is present, and that all the possible uses of it can be historically linked to the functions of the bathhouse. Thus the use of "naṣīman" in Arabic is an anthropological reflection of the bathhouse culture present in Syria.

In conclusion, Ferguson states that "although a particular phenomenon is universal in human societies—in this instance the phenomenon of exchange of politeness formulas—the structures and incidence of use are so culture specific and tied to the cultural history of the particular society or group that the structural or functional universals must be sought at other levels." Thus, in many cases it is impossible to compare *alqış* phrases to English politeness phrases directly (i.e. "Azerbaijanis say 'nuş olsun' and Americans say 'enjoy your meal.'") However, we can compare the use of such phrases on a higher, functional level (i.e. "Azerbaijanis have some type of phrase that is used to prevent offense when taking leave after a failed dealing, and Americans also say something in this situation.") We can also draw conclusions about the cultural differences based on the differences in routine phrases.

Rather than attempt to force all the *alqış* phrases listed in Appendix A into comparable situations in the Azerbaijani and American cultures to search for equivalents, I have chosen to begin the comparison by focusing on eight situations that could occur in either culture and discussing native speakers' common utterances in reaction to them. What follows is commentary on those eight situations and the potential cultural differences revealed by speakers' reactions to them from an anthropological perspective.

¹⁰¹ Ferguson, 26.

¹⁰² Perhaps for the same reason, Ferguson does not offer an English translation of the word; he only describes its functional use.

1. Seeing a newborn baby for the first time.

In both cultures, this situation creates positive feelings, since children are desirable. Azerbaijani speakers react to this situation with an inevitable “maşallah” or “Allah saxlasın” (may God protect) to protect the baby from evil and envy as well as to show that they are not envious of the baby themselves. They may also add a blessing for the baby’s future such as “adınla yaşayasan” (may you live with/ live up to your name) or “ata-analı böyüyəsən” (may you grow up with your father and mother).

American English speakers respond quite differently, often choosing to compliment the baby for some feature. The most common compliments make use of the words “beautiful,” “precious,” “cute,” “adorable,” “sweet,” or “perfect.” The American culture does not include a strong element of fear of envy, so compliments are accepted as well-meaning statements and they do not put the speaker at risk for being misunderstood as envious, nor do they put the baby being discussed at risk for being harmed by someone’s envy (as they would in Azerbaijan) after having been pronounced beautiful, precious, etc.. Likewise, many Americans do not mention God in relation to protecting the baby as Azerbaijanis would, although they may sometimes make a comment about children being a “miracle,” “gift” or “blessing” (often alluding to God as the giver). Alternatively, they may simply say “congratulations.”

2. Talking to the bride and groom at a wedding reception.

This situation offers perhaps the closest parallel between the two cultures. Weddings are a happy public occasion, and those in attendance are expected to celebrate in agreement with the union. Azerbaijanis typically say “mübarək” (congratulations) or “Allah sizi xoşbəxt eləsin” (may God give you happiness) in this situation. Likewise, Americans inevitably say “congratulations,” often adding a comment like “I am so happy for you two” or “I am so excited for you two.” Many also comment that the bride is beautiful or that the wedding ceremony was beautiful.

In a similar fashion to example 1, Azerbaijanis include the word “God” in their utterances more frequently than Americans do. In both examples 1 and 2, Americans tend to make evaluative comments to express their emotions (appraising some current situation or event that has just occurred, i.e. “the baby is beautiful” or “that was a great ceremony”), while Azerbaijanis tend to focus on the future, at least grammatically (“may God make you happy;” “may you live up to your name”). Other wedding alqışlar focusing on the future are “qoşa qarısınlar/ qoşa

qarıyasınız” (may you/they age together) and sometimes “oğullu, uşaqılı olsunlar” (may they have sons, children).

3. Greeting a close relative of someone who has died

By far the most commonly uttered Azerbaijani alqış phrase when speaking about someone who has died is “Allah rəhmət eləsin” (may God have mercy). In fact, stating “Allah rəhmət eləsin” has come to be so expected that the failure to utter it is marked behavior.¹⁰³ Other phrases commonly offered as condolence include “axır qəminiz olsun” (may this be your last grief) and “qəbri nurla dolsun” (may his/her grave fill with light). Some are future-oriented regarding the mourners, such as “torpağı sanı yaşayasınız” (may you live as much as the dirt, implying: may you live as many years as the grains of dirt in which he/she was buried) and “Allah səbr versin” (may God give you patience).

Funeral ceremonies are very different in America and in Azerbaijan, so it is difficult to pick out an exact equivalent situation within the funeral context. Azerbaijanis commemorate deaths with a series of gatherings, often including a meal or a trip to the cemetery, that can be held on the 1st, 3rd, 7th, 40th days after the death (this is variable regionally) and on any Thursday after the death, as well as annually on the person’s death day and birthday. Since there are many more occasions and a longer span of time in which the deceased is mentioned, there is a greater variety of phrases that can be uttered, and the set of traditional alqış phrases for mourning situations also includes several phrases that are said by the close family members of the deceased back to those offering condolences (i.e. “ölüm qapını tanımasın,” may death not recognize your door).

Americans typically gather once within a few days of a person’s death for a wake and then a funeral ceremony, and most of their condolences will be offered during that time. Thus the standard American phrases reflect sympathy for the person dealing with a recent loss: “I am so sorry for your loss.” Additional comments can include “he/she is in a better place,” “he/she was a wonderful person,” or “you’re in my thoughts and prayers.” In contrast to the mandatory nature of uttering “Allah rəhmət eləsin,” the American phrases in this situation are not obligatory. It is possible to refrain from saying anything at all and still express respect and sympathy toward the mourner. In fact, many American interview respondents mentioned that they usually don’t say anything in this situation, or that they would hug or touch the listener rather than offering words.

¹⁰³ Interview respondents affirmed this with comments such as “it doesn’t come out well if you don’t say this,” “it’s just what everyone says,” “you have to say it; it’s tradition” and “we say this for the sake of respect; it’s not good if you don’t say it.”

It is also acceptable to state “I don’t know what to say” as an expression of sharing in the shock and grief of the loss. 10% of the interview respondents actually wrote that they would not say anything or “try not to say too much,” indicating that silence is an acceptable response and that talking too much may even be markedly impolite.

4. Hearing that a friend is sick

Azerbaijanis usually respond to this situation with “Allah şəfa versin,” may God give healing. Again, it is apparent that the word “God” plays a key role in many alqış phrases. The Azerbaijani response is also future-focused, wishing the listener health rather than choosing to sympathize with his or her current state.

In contrast, Americans typically show sympathy for the sick person’s discomfort with a statement such as “I’m sorry” (41% of interview responses) or a similar response such as or “Oh, no,” “bummer,” “that stinks” or “that’s too bad” (19% of responses included one of these phrases). After showing sympathy, they may then make a comment similar to the intent of the Azerbaijani phrases, such as “I hope you feel better [soon]” or “get better.”

5. Walking in on someone working or building something

Azerbaijanis typically respond to this situation with alqış phrases such as “yorulmayasan” (may you not be tired), “işin avand olsun” (may your work be successful), “əllərin var olsun/ağrımасыn” (may you have brave/powerful/working hands/ may your hands not grow tired) if the work being done is beneficial to the speaker, or phrases such as “bərəkətli olsun” (may it be fruitful) or “barını görəsən” (may you see the fruits) if the work involves cooking with dough or planting something. As in the previous situations, the grammatical focus of their utterances is in the future, wishing the listener some positive outcome for his/her work.

The most common American response was a question such as “what are you working on?”, “what are you doing?”, or “how is it going?” Americans may also offer a compliment about the work (i.e. “good job” or “looks good”). As in other situations, the primary focus of Americans’ statements is to “sympathize” with the listener in some way (either emotionally or, in this case, in the sense of trying to understand what the listener is doing and trying to share interest in that activity).

Interestingly, the initial reaction of many Americans was to be sorry for interrupting. 12% of respondents listed their first statement in this situation as some variation of “excuse me” or “sorry for interrupting.” Several respondents actually wrote that they would immediately walk away. These answers reflect the American tendency toward independence and allowing others the space

to accomplish tasks individually. Incidentally, that same feature of American culture is one reason why there are not direct equivalents for some alqış phrases such as “təhnən bin-bərəkətli olsun,” “may your flour container be abundant,” which is used when women borrow flour from each other—a very rare occurrence in many developed parts of the USA.

6. Hearing a friend’s plan or aspiration

The Azerbaijani responses for this situation include “muradıma çatasan” (may you reach your dream), “ağzın fal olsun” (may what you have said come to pass), “istədiyinə çatasan” (may you reach what you want), “istəyin pozulmasın” (may your desire not be broken), “kamın kamala çatsın” (may your dream reach perfection), “ümidin hasil olsun” (may your hope bear fruit), “barını-bərəkətini görəsən” (may you see the fruits) and many more. As in other examples, these utterances focus on the future and on the outcome of the plan.

The American responses in this situation are typically “that’s great,” “that sounds great / exciting / right / interesting,” or “that sounds like a good plan.” The American tendency is to offer commentary on the plan as a way to express sympathy with the friend. As in other situations, the goal of the speaker is often to “be on the same page” with the listener; i.e. to be able to share emotions or interest with him/her.

It may be suggested that there exists a twinge of fatalism in the Azerbaijani culture making it appropriate to wish someone success or good luck as if the eventual conclusion of the plan or aspiration (i.e. reaching or failing to reach some goal) depends on outside forces, not on the person with the plan. In the American culture, however, the tendency is to believe that the conclusion of a plan or goal depends entirely on the person planning and implementing it, so others’ comments tend to appeal to the planner’s own skills, diligence in carefully planning, or ability to generate results rather than to some abstract concept of the plan being destined to succeed. 28% of American respondents wrote that they would include follow-up questions to the listener to clarify aspects of the plan, help brainstorm ways to make it more thorough, or refine it (presumably in an attempt to help ensure its success).

7. Hearing that a friend is fasting

This situation occurs in both Azerbaijani and American cultures, but for different reasons. In Azerbaijan, fasts are most often for religious reasons, and the appropriate response to hearing that someone is fasting is “Allah qəbul eləsin” (may God receive it) or its specific variation “orucun qəbul olunsun” (may your fast be accepted). It is also possible to praise someone’s piety with a

statement such as “cənnətin qapıları üzünə açıq olsun,” “may the gates of heaven be open to you,” or “imanın kamil olsun,” “may your faith be perfect.”

One of the surprises in my research was that in this situation, 7 out of 93 American respondents volunteered the information that they would immediately ask whether the fast was for religious or medical reasons. (It is common enough for people to fast for medical cleansing or testing that it is not safe for a speaker to assume the listener is fasting for a religious reason without asking a clarifying question.) The majority of the remaining respondents simply wrote “oh, okay” or “good for you.”

The contrast between the Azerbaijani and American responses in this situation is an obvious difference of faith. In Islam as it is practiced in Azerbaijan, doing pious acts (such as fasting) are a way to earn God’s favor in the form of “savab,” almost a point system that will be weighed out to compare each person’s good and bad deeds on judgment day. The desire for good deeds to be recognized before God and included into an individual’s “good count” is reflected by several other alqış phrases as well, such as “halal olsun sənə” (may it be halal to you), “əməlini Allah xeyrə yazsın” (may God write good for your work), and “Allah senden razı olsun” (may God be pleased with you).

In Christianity as it is practiced in America, God’s favor cannot be earned; it can only be accepted as a gift that sinful people are allowed to obtain because of the sacrifice of Jesus. Therefore there is no “good or bad count” on judgment day, and good works such as fasting are seen as “extras” performed out of gratitude. Additionally, the Bible cautions against fasting for the sake of other people’s recognition (to avoid hypocrisy), so American Christians treat fasting as a private matter and often avoid commenting on it altogether (almost as if praising a person who is fasting could negate the benefit of the fast in some way). In this vein, several respondents noted that they would change the subject or move on.

8. Seeing a new car that someone has just purchased

This situation is similar to seeing newborn babies in example 1: in both cultures, “congratulations” (or “mübarək”) is also an expected response to express sharing in the purchaser’s joy. However, Azerbaijanis consider this somewhat a sensitive issue because the new car, like the new baby, is vulnerable an “enviable,” and it is necessary for a person who praises it to state his or her desire that God would protect it (or that it would not be affected by the evil eye.) They also respond to a new purchase with “sağlıqla (işlət/ geyin),” “use it/ wear it (depending on what has been purchased) with health.”

In contrast, Americans praise and compliment the purchase. Most responses begin with the word “wow!” (indicating admiration). Then some comment is offered evaluating the car (the word “nice” was included in 41% of responses, and “great” in 13%). Then they move on to make specific comments or ask questions. The contrast between the two cultures is visible in the lack of phrases claiming protection for the purchase or the user. As in other examples, the Azerbaijani phrases focus on wishes for the future and on protection from envy, while the American phrases focus on finding common ground with the listener by sharing in his/her positive emotion or by admiring the purchase that he/she has made.

Having compared the typical Azerbaijani and American responses in these eight situations, it is possible to draw the conclusion that Azerbaijani phrases often focus on future wishes and on protection from the negative effects of envy, while American responses often focus on sympathizing with the listener by sharing a thought or emotion that the listener is presumed to have.

The same function of sympathy is sometimes served in American English not lexically, but with a smile or with other body language. Russian friends visiting the United States have commented that everyone smiles, absolutely all the time. When they greet each other, even if they don't know each other, or even if it “doesn't really mean anything,” they smile.¹⁰⁴ But the smile does carry meaning, and the very reason they fail to recognize its meaning is because they have come to expect a statement rather than a facial expression. Indeed, Hymes asserts that it is a misconception to assume that each language fulfills parallel functions. He writes, “[generalizations] lead us to act as though...all languages have the same functions and that each community has just one language having these functions. The facts are otherwise.”¹⁰⁵ Even communities' entire views on speech can differ. For example, some languages are used for “phatic communion, ' talking for the sake of talking,” while other cultural groups frown upon talking at all, and adults nearly cease talking by the age of 40.¹⁰⁶ Thus we can make the claim that the Azerbaijani language uses *alqış* phrases to fulfill functions that are fulfilled in the American society by something entirely separate from speech acts. (Salzmann agrees that phatic

¹⁰⁴ This phenomenon, which occurs in both America and Azerbaijan, of course depends on individuals in both countries. Just as some Americans smile more than others or older Azerbaijanis tend to use more *alqış* phrases than younger ones, these are only stereotypes and there will always be individuals who do not match them.

¹⁰⁵ Hymes, 127.

¹⁰⁶ Hymes, 127.

communion can be accomplished by “a hug or a hearty handshake,” in situations when speaking is intended to create a certain feeling or rapport rather than to convey information.)¹⁰⁷

When someone says “my relative died,” the function that must be fulfilled in America is some form of sympathy. The listener must avoid offense by demonstrating that he feels the same way as the speaker. This is often achieved by means of sympathetic noises (“ohh...”) or body language (a hand placed on the speaker’s arm or shoulder, a hand drawn to the listener’s own mouth or heart, slightly slumping posture) or even in words (such as “I’m so sorry”), but the lack of a fixed phrase in this circumstance allows the listener to express speechlessness, which is also an appropriate response demonstrating grief (as well as, in that same light, a statement such as “what can anyone say at a time like this?” which Tannen and Öztekin report is the statement most commonly heard at funerals).¹⁰⁸

Thus, while the Azerbaijani culture expresses politeness and sympathy by means of future wishes or appeals to God for future benefits/protection, the American culture prefers to use evaluative statements about current circumstances or body language in order to establish sympathy.

Chapter 5: What Azerbaijani alqış phrases reveal about the Azerbaijani culture

From an anthropological perspective, alqış phrases are a revealing piece of Azerbaijani culture, so it is useful to analyze their themes and what they reflect. This study will also lay the foundation for a comparison of American culture and Azerbaijani culture based on the equivalent (or lack of equivalent) phrases they use. American and Azerbaijani routine phrases differ because of differences in their cultures. Coulmas claims that “frequency and distribution of routine formulae are determined by two factors: the social organization of the speech community, and the structural make-up of its language.” For example, “Japanese etiquette calls for the expression of gratitude or apology on many different occasions, and the language provides a great variety of suitable formulae.”¹⁰⁹ Likewise, the Azerbaijani culture calls for defense against jealousy on many occasions, and provides many of the malo-fugitive alqış phrases as one way to express concern regarding that. One of the concepts reinforced by the alqış phrases is the “evil eye,” which is lacking in the American mentality and thus fails to be manifested in routine expressions

¹⁰⁷ Salzman, 249.

¹⁰⁸ Tannen and Öztekin, 38.

¹⁰⁹ Coulmas, 11.

in American English. In this chapter, we will highlight several major motifs of alqış phrases and discuss what they reveal about the Azerbaijani culture.

In order to discuss the way alqış phrases reflect the Azerbaijani culture, it is necessary to briefly clarify the word “culture.” According to Zdenek Salzmänn, there are three spheres of culture (that is, nonverbal culture, not including a language): mental, behavioral, and material. Mental culture includes “worldview or value orientations.”¹¹⁰ The Azerbaijani mental culture is expressed in alqış phrases through the formation of an “Azerbaijani dream” that becomes visible when the phrases are examined as a whole; this is a representation of the major values of the people and will be illustrated below. The mental culture is also expressed through the alqış phrases’ references to the belief system of the people. Behavioral culture includes the customs and traditional behaviors of a people group. The Azerbaijani behavioral culture is somewhat visible through the alqış phrases in their references to traditional gatherings and rituals. Material culture includes the physical objects that a people group uses or has created reflecting their activities. The alqış phrases also reflect the Azerbaijani material culture in their references to objects and tools traditionally used in Azerbaijani rural life and agriculture, carpet making, music and cooking.

Part 1. Mental culture

The Azerbaijani **mental culture** is represented in alqış phrases through repeated motifs and desires. It is possible to see from the “good” things wished upon people via alqış phrases that the Azerbaijan value system generally includes family (including weddings, having children and grandchildren), gladness/gatherings (also evidenced by the wedding motif and other references to parties), good harvests and/or return for one’s labor, money or material provision, food/appetite, and health. It is also possible to see the key values of the people based on positive characteristics they reinforce in one another via alqış phrases. Such values include cleanliness, eloquence, hospitality, courage, and righteousness/nobility. In a dissertation about using oral folklore as part of the education process, Mənsurə İsmayılova writes that teachers should emphasize examples of alqış phrases to their pupils in order to reinforce their national values of “uprightness, righteousness, and courage.”¹¹¹

¹¹⁰ Salzmänn, 57.

¹¹¹ Mənsurə İsmayılova, *Azərbaycan Təhsil problemləri İnstitutunun dissertantı*, <http://marketing.ucoz.org/ifahixalqdbiyyatnntdrisi.doc>

Common examples of the Azerbaijani values listed above include:

Wedding motif

sənin toyun olsun, “may it be (to) your wedding”
həmişə toyda, gəzməkdə “may you always be at a wedding, out having fun”
evində toy olsun “may there be a wedding/party in your house”
balanın toyunu görəsən “may you see your baby's wedding”
əlin xınalı olsun, “may your hand have henna on it”
toyun davaya düşməsin, “may your wedding not turn into a brawl”
gəlinin ayağı sayalı, qədəmli olsun, “may your bride's foot be fruitful” (implying prosperity)
subaylar üçün olsun, “may it [i.e. a wedding] be for the singles”
qohumluğumuz var (mübarək) olsun ”congratulations on our becoming relatives” or “may we become relatives”
qızın göyünlə qoşa qarısın “may your daughter meet her husband (your son-in-law)”
övladın (balanın) bay olsun “may your child be a groom”
cavanların subaylıq daşını atsın “may your young ones cast off the stone of singleness”
elinə elçi gəlim “may I come to your people as a messenger (to negotiate a marriage)”
oğlun göyüm (kürəkənim) olsun “may your son be my son-in-law”
cavan toyunu görüm “may I see the wedding of your youth”
evinə elçi gəlsin “may a messenger come to your house (to negotiate a marriage)”
önünə nişan güzgü tutum “may I hold an engagement mirror in front of you”

Children/Descendants

evindən layla səsi ucalsın, “may the sound of lullabies be heard from your house”
Allah sənə övlad versin, “may God give you offspring”
gözəl-göyçək nəvən olsun, “may you have a beautiful grandchild”
barın başacan olsun, “may your fruits be to the end” implying “may you see the whole process of raising your children, to your grandchildren”
görüm, körpənin barını dərəsən (böyüsün), “may I see you picking the fruit of your children” implying “may your children grow up and bless you”
balanın balası sənə baba (nənə) dəsin “may your baby's baby call you grandmother (grandfather)

Other gatherings/ gladness motif

şənliyidə aşiq oxusun “may an ashug sing at your party”
ev-eşiyin şən olsun “may your home and yard be festive”
evində "El Havası" çalınsin “may "el havasi" (a party/wedding song) be played at your house”
şən-şux olasan “may you be festive and jolly”
şənlik el-obadan əskik olmasın “may your people not be lacking in parties”

Harvest motif

ilk barın bəhrəli olsun “may your first harvest be fruitful”
zəhmətinin barını yeyəsən “may you eat the fruits of your labor”
balan bar gətirsın “may your baby bring fruit”
anan barını yesin “may your mother eat your fruits”
əlin boşa çıxmasın “may your hand not come up empty”
barın başından aşsın “may your fruits hang from your head (be plentiful)”
əkdiyın qurumasın (bitsin) “may what you have planted not dry up (take root)”
əkinin binli-bərəkətli olsun “may what you have planted be fruitful”
əkdiyindən xeyir görəsən “may you see the good of what you have planted”
bağın barlı olsun “may your garden be fruitful”
oxuduğın barını dərəsən “may you pick the fruits of your studies”
kərəntin kəsərli olsun, “may your scythe be sharp” i.e. “may your words be effective”

Money or material provision

(elinin) var-dövlətin başından aşsın-daşsın “may riches (of your people) hang and overflow from your head”
varın tükənməsin “may your riches not end”
varın var gətirsın “may your riches bring riches”
Allah ruzini (bərəkət) yetirsın “may God give you blessing”
bərəkətin artıq olsun/ Allah bərəkət eləsin (versin) “may your abundance be extra/ may God give you abundance”
camın dolu olsun “may your pot be full”
ruzin bol olsun “may your blessing be great”
qazancın artıq olsun, qardaşının qazancı qazan doldursun “may your earnings be great”

Food/appetite motif

iştahada olasan “may you have an appetite”

nuş olsun “may it be good” (about food)

payın çox/ böyük olsun (Allah payını versin)/ Allah süfrənin var eləsin “may your portion be great, may God give you a large portion”

ağzın şirin olsun “may your mouth be sweet”

çörəyin bol olsun, Allah çörəyini bol eləsin “may your bread be plentiful”

Health

Allah şəfa/ sağlıq versin “may God give health”

canın sağ olsun “may your body/spirit be healthy”

sağlam ol “be healthy”

sağlıqla geyin “wear it with health”

cehizin can sağlığına qismət olsun “may a dowry of health be your destiny”

sağ ol (qardaşın... sağ olsun) “thank you/ be healthy (may your brother be healthy)”

sağlığını görüm “may I see your health”

sağ-salamat (olasan) “be healthy (may you be healthy)”

Other Values

Cleanliness:

həmişə təmizlikdə, həmişə təmizlik içində olasan “may you always be clean”

Eloquence:

sözün məclislər yaraşığı olsun “may you be the one who speaks eloquently at gatherings”

sözün ötkəm olsun, “may your words be confident”

kərəntin kəsərli olsun, “may your scythe be sharp” i.e. “may your words be effective”

Hospitality:

qapın qonaq üzünə açıq olsun “may your door be open to guests”

qapından qonaq ayağı kəsilməsin “may the feet of guests not stop coming through your door”

Courage and strength:

mərd canın sağ olsun, “may your brave soul be healthy”

mərd əlin var olsun, “may your brave hand be [healthy]”

namərdin hiyləsindən uzaq olasan, “may you be kept far from the tricks of cowards”

gücün dağlar yıxsın, “may your strength tear down mountains”

Righteousness/Nobility

halalın haram görməsin, “may your halal not see haram, i.e. may what is acceptable before God in you not become unacceptable”

halal nemətin bol olsun, “may your righteous intentions be many”

haqqın halal olsun, “may your righteousness be acceptable to God”

halal süd əmənlərin bay olsun, halala qismət olsun, əmmiş gəlinin olsun, südün balalarının halalı olsun, “may you drink halal milk, may your bride be one who was raised on halal milk”

From the above set of alqış phrases, it is possible to piece together a picture of the typical “Azerbaijani dream,” i.e. the general things that Azerbaijani people want to obtain/achieve or consider desirable in life. From observation of the “good” things commonly mentioned or wished for in alqış phrases, we can see that several key elements of the “Azerbaijani dream” are marriage, children, health, protection from evil and jealousy, innocence before God, having enough or extra money, harvesting the fruits of one’s labor, having family nearby and healthy, and good food/eating well, preferably with guests.¹¹²

Əfəndiyev’s idea that alqış phrases “arose in connection to perceptions of good” and are the most direct way to state the people’s ideas of good leads us to an analysis of what these “good elements” are in the Azerbaijani culture.¹¹³ Tannen and Öztekin also apply this idea, concluding that Greek formulas indicate the cultural values of long life, good health, and children, while Turkish formulas most commonly emphasize long life, health and happiness.¹¹⁴ (Here it is necessary to note that Tannen and Öztekin chose to rank Greek and Turkish phrases in order of “obligatoriness,” allowing them to make judgment about the relative rank of cultural values. My research does not include this element, so I will not attempt to compare or order these Azerbaijani values by their importance, although that would be a possible topic for further sociolinguistic study.) Their analysis is patterned after that of Matisoff, who grouped Yiddish psycho-ostensives

¹¹² We note that the value of family is evidenced not only by the “wedding” and “children” categories of alqış phrases listed above, but also by the fact that many alqış phrases are directed toward the listener’s relatives, regardless of topic (i.e. “may your brother be healthy” or “may your son get married). The ability to bless or curse someone indirectly through his or her family members shows the closeness of family and the value of family relationships in the Azerbaijani culture. As supporting evidence, Bağirov mentions that qargış phrases (curses, the negative counterpart of alqış phrases) are often aimed at the listener’s friends or family members because “just as a tree cannot live without branches and a bird cannot fly without wings, a person cannot live without relatives and friends” (p. 59) Blessing or cursing one’s family is an indirect, but still very effective, way to bless or curse the person himself.

¹¹³ Əfəndiyev, Şifahi, 85.

¹¹⁴ Tannen and Öztekin, 45.

according to “certain key desiderata, in the order of desirability: long life, good health, a good living, and children.”¹¹⁵

The second element of the Azerbaijani mental culture evidenced by alqış phrases is the belief system. An analysis of Azerbaijani alqış phrases can also reveal elements of the Azerbaijani worldview, including traditional religious and folk spiritual beliefs. Tannen and Öztekin also mention the worldview of Turkish and Greek speakers based on their routine formulas; namely, that they believe in “the capriciousness of fortune—a preoccupation with the precariousness of good fortune and the imminence of bad. Thus much energy is devoted to performing proper verbal rituals and to not offending God with complacency or pride.”¹¹⁶

Alqış phrases also include many references to the folk belief system of the people. Such references occurring in alqış phrases include protection from envy or the evil eye (*nəzər*); protection from evil, grief and sickness; innocence before God; the desire for God’s acceptance of good works; and the concept of sacrifice (*qurban*), including one person being a form of sacrifice for another. See the following examples:

Protection from envy or the evil eye

bədənin bədnəzər görməsin, “may your body not see the evil eye”

Allah səni (yaman gözdən) qorusun “may God protect you from the evil eye”

Allah səni pis gözdən saxlasın, “may God protect you from the evil eye”

Protection from evil, grief and sickness

Allah uzaq/iraq eləsin, Allah bələdan uzaq eləsin “may God make it far from you/ keep trouble far from you”

qara gün səndən uzaq olsun “may black days be far from you”

fitnə-fəsaddan uzaq olasan “may you be far from intrigue or dischord”

Allah səni pis nəfsdən uzaq eləsin “may God keep you far from (others') bad desires”

ax-ox səndən uzaq olsun “may "ah-oh" (sighing) be far from you”

bəxtin bağlanmasın “may your luck not close”

bədbəxtlik səndən uzaq olsun, “may bad luck be far from you”

canın ağrı-bəzar görməsin, “may your body not see illness or pain”

Innocence before God

ağ günlü, ağ çörəkli olasan “may you have a white day and white bread”

¹¹⁵ Tannen and Öztekin, 45.

¹¹⁶ Tannen and Öztekin, 46

dünyada ağ gün görəsən “may you see a white day in the world”

Allahın yanında üzün ağ olsun “may your face be white before God”

The desire for God’s acceptance of good works

Allah qəbul eləsin “may God accept (it)

əməlini Allah xeyrə yazsın “may God write good for your work”

Allah razı olsun “may God be pleased”

nübarın qəbul olunsun “may your *nübar* be accepted”

əməyini Allah qiymətləndirsin “may God appraise your work”

haqqın halal olsun “may your righteousness be acceptable to God”

əziyyətinə allah qıymasın, “may God give to you willingly for your labor”

The concept of sacrifice (*qurban*), including one person being a form of sacrifice for another

canına canım sadağa olsun “may my body/spirit be a sacrifice for yours”

əndamına dolanım (başına dönüm...) “may I turn around your body”

başına qurban kəsım “may I make a sacrifice for your head”

başının sadağası olsun (olum) “may I be your head's sacrifice”

başına gələn qada, canıma gəlsin “may the trouble coming to your head come to mine”

sənə qurban olum “may I be a sacrifice for you”

Other folk beliefs regarding fate

sağ əlim sənın başına/ sağ əlin başıma olsun “may my right hand be on your head,”

implying “may the good that has come to me also come to you” or vice versa)

yazın pozulmasın, “may your writing not be erased,” in which "writing" implies fate, which is traditionally thought to be written on one's forehead, thus this means "may your fate be good."

From the previous examples, we can see that the Azerbaijani folk belief system includes elements of Islam (such as God’s acceptance of fasting, prayers, and other good works as part of a type of scoring system), elements of folk Islam or ancient Shamanism (such as the “evil eye”), and also elements of fatalism (such as the idea of a person being able to take on another’s disease or share his good fortune with another by placing his right hand on that person’s head).

Part 2. Behavioral culture

Alqış phrases reflect elements of the Azerbaijani **behavioral culture**, which includes the ritual activities and gatherings of the people. The major gatherings of the Azerbaijani people

include weddings, children's circumcision parties, engagement parties, funerals and funeral repast gatherings. Examples of phrases showing behavioral culture are:

- Vətənin (el-obana) qara geyməsin, “may your people not dress in black” (i.e. may people around you not grieve), reflecting the custom of dressing in black during mourning periods
- Gəlinin gərdəkdə qalması, “may your bride not remain behind the curtain,” in which the curtain referred to was historically used to hide a new bride from her husband's family when she first moved into their home. This implies, “may the new bride in your family be a good/worthy bride.”
- Anan toyunda əlinə xına yaxsın, “may your mother paint henna on your hand at your wedding,” referring to the tradition of painting henna on the bride's (and sometimes groom's) hands at the wedding.
- Xeyir-ehsanın qəbul olunsun, “may your good memorial be accepted,” referring to the tradition of offering a feast in honor of the 12 imams during the holy month of Maharram.
- Şirinliyini içim, “may I drink your sweetness,” referring to the tradition in which someone whose work goes well or who receives extra money (or his first salary) buys sweets for other people. This can mean “may your work go well.” It can also mean “may someone come and get engaged to you” (see explanation for “may your sweetness be sweet”).
- Şirinin şəkər olsun, “may your sweetness be sugar,” referring to the tradition in which the parties drink sweetened tea to seal the contract after a marriage is arranged successfully.
- Evinə elçi gəlsin, “may a messenger come to your house,” referring to the tradition of sending a messenger to another family in order to arrange a marriage between young people of the two families.
- Önünə nişan güzgü tutum, “may I hold an engagement mirror in front of you,” referring to a tradition in which a mirror is held in front of a couple during various parts of the wedding ceremony.
- Şanında oynayım, “may I dance at your party,” referring to the tradition of dancing at parties as a way to celebrate and to honor the hosts.
- Sözün məclislər yaraşığı olsun, “may your words be the beauty of assemblies,” referring to the tradition of holding assemblies for various purposes and the value of eloquent speech at such meetings.

From the previous examples, it can be observed that the Azerbaijani behavioral culture includes specific traditions related to arranging marriages, engagements, parties and gatherings, and funeral ceremonies.

Part 3. Material culture

Alqış phrases also reflect the Azerbaijani **material culture**, which includes the physical objects made and used by the people in accordance with their traditional activities. The following phrases maintain references to traditional Azerbaijani arts and activities such as agriculture and village life, carpet making, spinning wool, music, etc. All of these phrases have ancient roots in Azerbaijani society, but the current uses of the phrases often carry metaphorical meanings rather than literal (for example, “may your scythe be sharp” often refers to the power of spoken words). For explanations of the possible metaphorical meanings of each phrase, please see Appendix A.

Agriculture/ animal husbandry related

xırmanından bin-bərəkət əskik olmasın, “may your threshing-floor not be lacking in abundance”

kəməndin boşa çıxmasın, “may your lasso not come up empty”

qapından mal-qara əskik olmasın, “may there not be a lack of livestock in your gate”

ilxın doğsun-törəsin, “may your herd reproduce”

sağının sağılsın “may your milking give milk”

xalxalın davarlı olsun, “may your sheep-pen be full of sheep”

zəmin quraqlıq görməsin, “may your ground not see drought”

çəməninin solmasın, “may your meadow not fade”

mal-qaranı davax tutmasın, “may a disease not take your livestock”

National musical instruments

sazının avazı ötkəm olsun, “may the voice of your saz (lute) be confident”

şənliyidə aşığı oxusun, “may an ashug (folk musician similar to a bard) sing at your party”

Carpet making/ textile arts

zəhmətlə toxuduğun zili cehizin olsun, “may the carpet you have woven with hard work be your dowry”

iyin dükçəli olsun, “may your spindle be fruitful”

xanan qurulu qalmasın, “may your loom not remain finished,” referring to a tradition in which a young girl wove her own carpet on a loom, then took it with her as her dowry

Other references to tools and implements of village life¹¹⁷

iskənən paslanmasın, “may your chisel not rust”

ipin qırılmasın, “may your rope not be broken”

(anbar) bərən boş qalmasın (ərzaqlı olsun), “may your warehouse not remain empty (have food)”

kərəntin kəsərli olsun, “may your scythe be sharp”

karxanan boş qalmasın, “may your quarry not remain empty”

xurcunun boş qalmasın, “may your saddle-bag not be empty”

şahə qalxan köhlənin büdrəməsin, “may your steed not stumble”

Allah sənin evini yıxmasın/ sənin evin yıxılmasın, “may God not tear your house down/
may your house not fall down”

heybən dolu olsun, “may your sack be full”

yanan çırağın sönməsin, “may your burning lamp not go out”

atın büdrəməsin, “may your horse not stumble”

çəpərin basılmasın, “may your fence not be defeated”

təhnən bin-bərəkətli olsun, “may your flour container be abundant”

As Coulmas articulated, “routine formulae are heavily loaded with social meaning and closely linked with rules of conduct.”¹¹⁸ As the above examples show, the alqış phrases contain a rich collection of traditional Azerbaijani values, ritual behaviors, and lifestyle elements. It also becomes apparent that many of the above phrases have no American English equivalents because they are specific to the Azerbaijani culture and traditions.

Chapter 6: Conclusions

Part 1. Conclusions

From the interviews of Azerbaijani speakers, the conclusion was made that Azerbaijani alqış phrases are used in very specific situations or conversational contexts, indicating that they are routine formulas. Some of them are obligatory (failure to use them is marked behavior), so they are politeness formulas. Finally, their meanings are somewhat difficult for native speakers to

¹¹⁷ We note that most of the phrases in this category also reflect on the mental and/or behavioral culture.

¹¹⁸ Coulmas, 10.

explain without relying on the context in which they are said, demonstrating that they are both idioms and routine formulas.

From the interviews with American English speakers, the conclusion was made that Americans use very different utterances that Azerbaijanis do in the same contexts. Americans' politeness formulas or routine phrases often place emphasis on directly establishing a sense of sympathy between the speaker and listener, rather than emphasizing some wish for the listener's future (as in Azerbaijani phrases). It was also concluded that at times that same function is fulfilled in American English by means of asking questions, making sounds or gestures, or using body language rather than through routine phrases.

From the literature and discussion of how *alqış* phrases should be defined, it was concluded that these phrases could be called "blessing formulas" in English because they are both pragmatically weighted as politeness formulas and are used in expected ways in conversational interactions; and because they are lexically and grammatically structured as well-wishes towards others.

Alqış phrases were categorized according to their grammatical structures, their syntactical patterns, their expressive functions, and their pragmatic functions. It was concluded that an "*alqış* phrase" can be defined as a phrase that:

1. is officially accepted as an "*alqış*" by native speakers
2. occurs commonly in spoken language
3. is a fixed idiomatic expression
4. expresses a certain range of positive emotion (whether feigned or sincere) on the part of the speaker, and may be accompanied by raised intonation and/or physical gestures such as raised or clapped hands, a smile, a knee slap, a head nod, etc.
5. is grammatically structured as a "command" in first or third person, as a "wish" in second person, or as an abbreviated form of one of the above; and
6. is uttered as a response to a circumstance, topic of conversation, or word in conversation.

It was also concluded that most *alqış* phrases are grammatically distinguished by second or third person verbs in optative or imperative mood. Most of them fit into the eleven patterns defined in Chapter 2. They can have the expressive functions of being bono-recognitive, bono-petitive, malo-recognitive or malo-fugitive, although the most common are bono-petitive and malo-fugitive because they also carry the meaning of blessings.

Alqış phrases were also shown to be politeness strategies according to Levinson and Brown's politeness theory. They can be used to protect the speaker's positive face or to protect the listener's negative face by softening the face-threatening acts of requests, offers/promises, expressing thanks, compliments, and the mention of taboo topics.

From the analysis of how alqış phrases reflect the Azerbaijani culture, it was shown that the phrases contain shining examples of all three of Salzmänn's levels of non-linguistic culture: mental, behavioral, and material. In the category of mental culture, alqış phrases show the Azerbaijani values of family (including weddings, having children and grandchildren), gladness/gatherings (also evidenced by the wedding motif and other references to parties), good harvests and/or return for one's labor, money or material provision, food/appetite, health, cleanliness, eloquence, hospitality, courage, and righteousness/nobility. They also show Azerbaijani folk beliefs including protection from envy or the evil eye (*nəzər*); protection from evil, grief and sickness; innocence before God; the desire for God's acceptance of good works; and the concept of sacrifice (*qurban*), including one person being a form of sacrifice for another; and fatalism. In the category of behavioral culture, alqış phrases reveal many miscellaneous traditions regarding weddings, engagement parties and marriage arrangement gatherings, funerals, and more. In the category of material culture, the phrases preserve illustrations of traditional Azerbaijani arts and activities such as agriculture and animal husbandry; music; carpet making, spinning and textile arts; and other aspects of village life. In addition, it was shown that many Azerbaijani alqış phrases lack direct English equivalents because they are specific to the Azerbaijani mental, behavioral and material culture.

From all of the conclusions listed above, we can see that alqış phrases are a significant piece of the oral folklore of the Azerbaijani society and must not be neglected by scholars or by foreigners learning the Azerbaijani language. They reveal the values and elements nearest to the heart of the Azerbaijani culture.

Part 2. Summary of Contributions

This research defined Azerbaijani alqış phrases in English for the first time. It classified alqış phrases according to their linguistic functions in Azerbaijani, defined the ways in which they reveal the Azerbaijani culture, and compared them to their functional equivalents in American English.

Part 3. Future Research

As was suggested previously in this paper, more research is needed to determine the differences in the way that alqış phrases are used across the geographical regions of Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani-speaking world (including sections of Iran and Georgia). Variations of the phrases and their meanings even within Azerbaijan could reveal regional subcultures.

It would also be a good topic for future research to explore variations of each alqış phrase. They could also be discussed regarding their contributions to the linguistic history of Azerbaijani; for example, some alqış phrases were introduced during the Soviet period (such as the borrowed Russian word “molodets” (meaning good for you), which I have not chosen to include in this paper) and some include borrowed words or concepts from Farsi and/or Arabic.

In addition, alqış phrases could be examined as a form of socialization in the culture because of their status as a corpus of memorized information, because of the way they are passed on from generation to generation (including not only words but corresponding emotions and gestures), and because of the material they themselves carry regarding cultural values.

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Appendix A: Compilation of Azerbaijani alqış phrases

The present appendix consists of a list of several hundred compiled Azerbaijani alqış phrases. Each one is explained, if necessary, and for the interest of non-Azerbaijani speakers, I have offered a gloss of each one. I offer the caution that it is, in fact, dangerous to offer such “literal” word-for-word translations of each alqış phrase, because it may lead to misunderstanding. The reason is that native speakers do not necessarily interpret phrases as the sum of their lexical parts; they are idiomatic phrases and thus their felt meanings may no longer correspond to their lexical roots. Salzmann offers examples of this to help English speakers understand the danger of such translation: “Suppose that the speakers of a foreign language were to interpret literally *breakfast* as ‘breaking the fast (abstinence from food),’ *bonfire* as ‘a fire of bones, bone fire,’ and *spinster* as ‘a woman whose occupation is spinning.’”¹¹⁹ It becomes obvious that these terms no longer reflect the denotational meanings they originally held.

In order to minimize potential misunderstanding, I have offered explanations for those phrases for which it is necessary. Where there are clear American English equivalent phrases, I have included those as well; where there are not, I have included a brief comment about why not (i.e. “no equivalent situation” applies to those phrases that are specific to the Azerbaijani culture and would not apply in America; “no equivalent speech situation” applies to those phrases that are uttered as a response to a certain statement made in conversation, automatically disqualifying them from having direct American English equivalents).

Part 1. Most commonly used alqış phrases

Alqış phrase:	Allah bağışlasın
Literal translation	may God forgive you
Explanation if needed	(as in, "I have forgiven you; may God also forgive you")
Situation in which phrase is used	as a response to <i>bağışla</i> ("forgive me")
USA situational equivalent	no worries, no problem, don't worry about it, it's OK

Alqış phrase:	Allah xoşbəxt eləsin (xoşbəxt olasan)
Literal translation	may God give you happiness (may you be happy)
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	at a wedding; at an engagement ceremony; talking about a recent wedding or engagement; also as a general thanks
USA situational equivalent	

¹¹⁹ Salzmann, 59

Alqış phrase:	başına dolanım
Literal translation	may I turn around your head
Explanation if needed	used like "sweetheart," but literally implies "may all your pain and sickness come to me instead"
Situation in which phrase is used	just before or after making a request, or as a term of endearment
USA situational equivalent	some other term of endearment (honey, dear, sweetie)

Alqış phrase:	başına dönüm
Literal translation	may I turn around your head
Explanation if needed	used like "sweetheart," but literally implies "may all your pain and sickness come to me instead"
Situation in which phrase is used	just before or after making a request, or as a term of endearment
USA situational equivalent	some other term of endearment (honey, dear, sweetie)

Alqış phrase:	qadanı (qardaşının qadasını) alım
Literal translation	may I take your pain (your brother's pain)
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	just before or after making a request, or as a term of endearment
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase:	sənə qurban (olum)/ ağlına qurban olum/ əminə qurban olum...
Literal translation	may I be a sacrifice for you
Explanation if needed	used like "sweetheart"
Situation in which phrase is used	just before or after making a request, or as a term of endearment
USA situational equivalent	some other term of endearment (honey, dear, sweetie)

Alqış phrase:	bayramın mübarək (olsun)
Literal translation	may your holiday be happy
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	on a holiday
USA situational equivalent	happy holiday; merry Christmas; He is Risen; etc

Alqış phrase:	sənin toyun olsun
Literal translation	may it be (to) your wedding
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a single person when they have just done something good
USA situational equivalent	thanks; great work

Alqış phrase: **Allah şəfa/ sağlıq versin**

Literal translation	may God give health
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to or about someone who is ill
USA situational equivalent	I hope you feel better/ get well soon (more in writing)

Alqış phrase: **ıştahada olasan**

Literal translation	may you have an appetite
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone eating
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase ("that looks good")

Alqış phrase: **Allah qəbul eləsin**

Literal translation	may God accept (it)
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone praying, fasting, giving money, or doing some religious act
USA situational equivalent	good for you!

Alqış phrase: **həmişə toyda, gəzməkdə**

Literal translation	may you always be at a wedding, out having fun
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone preparing to go to or coming back from a wedding, party or trip
USA situational equivalent	

Alqış phrase: **bazarın olsun**

Literal translation	may you have business
Explanation if needed	may your business/sales go well
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone selling something
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase... encouraging statement (go get 'em)

Alqış phrase: **xeyir olsun/ Allah xeyirə yozsun**

Literal translation	may it be good, may God give it a good interpretation
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone telling a dream he/she saw
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **nuş olsun**

Literal translation	may it be good
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone to whom the speaker has just given food, as a response to their thanks

USA situational equivalent	I'm glad you like it; enjoy it
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Alqış phrase: **canın sağ olsun**

Literal translation	may your body/spirit be healthy
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who failed to complete a task, lost or broke something, or was in an accident
USA situational equivalent	it's ok; don't worry about it; it's just stuff; stuff breaks, etc.

Alqış phrase: **Allah (səni, canını, uşağını...) saxlasın**

Literal translation	may God protect you (your soul, your child)
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has a child, upon seeing or hearing about the child, or to someone who has just said or done something slightly foolish
USA situational equivalent	meaning 2: be careful! Or "oh my gosh!"

Alqış phrase: **Allah xeyir versin/ xeyirli olsun**

Literal translation	may God give good/ may it be good
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has bought or acquired something new; to someone beginning a project
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase; possibly a compliment

Alqış phrase: **halal olsun (sənə)**

Literal translation	may it be halal to you
Explanation if needed	(may God accept it)
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has done or said something good or witty
USA situational equivalent	

Alqış phrase: **payın çox/ böyük olsun (Allah payını versin)/ Allah süfrənin var eləsin**

Literal translation	may your portion be great, may God give you a large portion
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given food
USA situational equivalent	thank you; compliment

Alqış phrase: **Ağzın şirin olsun**

Literal translation	may your mouth be sweet
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given food to the speaker
USA situational equivalent	thank you; compliment

Alqış phrase:

cibin dolu olsun

Literal translation	may your pocket be full
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given money or a gift
USA situational equivalent	thank you; compliment

Alqış phrase:

həmişə təmizlikdə, həmişə təmizlik içində olasan

Literal translation	may you always be within cleanliness
Explanation if needed	may you always be clean
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just come from the shower or gotten a haircut or shave
USA situational equivalent	

Alqış phrase:

gözün aydın (olsun)

Literal translation	may your eyes be clear
Explanation if needed	may you see what you are waiting for
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just had a long-awaited good thing happen to them, especially a relative come home or a baby born
USA situational equivalent	That's great! Congratulations

Alqış phrase:

Allah razı olsun

Literal translation	may God be pleased
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said something good or done something worthy of thanks
USA situational equivalent	thank you

Alqış phrase:

sağlam ol

Literal translation	be healthy
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just sneezed
USA situational equivalent	Bless you! or Gesundheit!

Alqış phrase:

mübarək olsun

Literal translation	congratulations
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has made a purchase or has obtained a new job, office, etc.
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase:

sağlıqla geyin

Literal translation	wear it with health
Explanation if needed	

Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has purchased clothing
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **Allah köməyin olsun**

Literal translation	May God be your help
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who is beginning a difficult project, is in a difficult situation, or to someone who has helped the speaker somehow
USA situational equivalent	1- good luck; I hope it goes well; 2- hang in there; it's going to be ok; 3- thank you so much; I owe you one

Alqış phrase: **işin avand olsun**

Literal translation	may your work be prosperous
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working
USA situational equivalent	good work; looks great

Alqış phrase: **yorulmayasan**

Literal translation	may you not be tired
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working
USA situational equivalent	looks good; keep up the good work

Alqış phrase: **əllərin ağrmasın**

Literal translation	may your hands not hurt
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working with his/her hands
USA situational equivalent	good work; looks great

Alqış phrase: **maşallah**

Literal translation	may God protect
Explanation if needed	also used like "wow"
Situation in which phrase is used	when amazed, to someone who has done something good or has an attractive feature, to someone re: their children
USA situational equivalent	Wow

Alqış phrase: **Allah uzaq/iraq eləsin, Allah bəladan uzaq eləsin**

Literal translation	may God make it far from you/ keep trouble far from you
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	when talking about someone else's misfortune
USA situational equivalent	knock on wood

Alqış phrase: Allah rəhmət eləsin	
Literal translation	may God have mercy
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	when talking about someone who has died
USA situational equivalent	I'm so sorry; I'll keep you in my prayers

Part 2. Alqış phrases used in specific contexts

Alqış phrase: haqqın qapısı üzünə açıq olsun (gözü üstündə olsun, üzü səndən dönməsin, üstündən əskik olmasın)	
Literal translation	may the door of justice be open to you
Explanation if needed	may God hear your words/prayers
Situation in which phrase is used	as a blessing, when actually praying for someone
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: karxanan boş qalmasın	
Literal translation	may your quarry not remain empty
Explanation if needed	literal or metaphorical (used jokingly with "quarry" referring to "head/brain")
Situation in which phrase is used	as a joke
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase; depends on situation

Alqış phrase: Allah səni heç kimə borclu eləməsin	
Literal translation	may God not make you indebted to anyone
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	as a response to "borcumdur" (it's my duty)
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: aydınlıq görəsən	
Literal translation	may you see clarity
Explanation if needed	may you see what you are waiting for
Situation in which phrase is used	as a response to "gozun aydın olsun"
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: Allah səni istəsin	
Literal translation	may God love you
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	as a response to "onu çox istəyirəm" (I really like/love him/her) about one of the hearer's loved ones
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent speech situation

Alqış phrase:	uğurun xeyir olsun
Literal translation	may your success be good
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	as a response to "uğur olsun!"
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase:	əziz (xələf) olasan
Literal translation	may you be beloved
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	as a response to a compliment (i.e. you are pretty)
USA situational equivalent	thank you- or a return compliment

Alqış phrase:	ürəyin ağrmasın
Literal translation	may your heart not hurt
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	as a response to ürəyinə qurban ("a sacrifice for your heart," used as a term of endearment)
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent speech situation

Alqış phrase:	canına canım sadağa olsun
Literal translation	may my body/spirit be a sacrifice for yours
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	as a term of endearment
USA situational equivalent	other endearment phrases (sweetie, honey)

Alqış phrase:	əndamına dolanım (başına dönüm...)
Literal translation	may I turn around your body
Explanation if needed	implying "may all your body's pain and troubles come to me instead"
Situation in which phrase is used	as a term of endearment
USA situational equivalent	other endearment phrases (sweetie, honey)

Alqış phrase:	canın yanmasın
Literal translation	may your soul/body not burn
Explanation if needed	may you not feel distressed
Situation in which phrase is used	as a term of endearment to someone close, used jokingly
USA situational equivalent	some term of endearment

Alqış phrase:	ömrün ömür-günə çalansın
Literal translation	may your life last a lifetime

Explanation if needed	may you have a long life
Situation in which phrase is used	as a term of endearment, usually by parents to children
USA situational equivalent	other endearment phrases (sweetie, honey)

Alqış phrase: **suyun bulanmasın**

Literal translation	may your water not be clouded
Explanation if needed	may things not turn sour in your life
Situation in which phrase is used	as comfort to someone for whom something has gone wrong (i.e. may this be the only thing)
USA situational equivalent	it'll be ok

Alqış phrase: **taxtın yana dönməsin**

Literal translation	may your board/chair/table not turn to the side
Explanation if needed	may things not go wrong for you
Situation in which phrase is used	as comfort to someone for whom something has gone wrong (i.e. may this be the only thing)
USA situational equivalent	it'll be ok

Alqış phrase: **əvvəlin gəlinə, axırın gəlsin**

Literal translation	may the end come as the beginning comes
Explanation if needed	may this grief pass by quickly
Situation in which phrase is used	as comfort to someone who is suffering somehow
USA situational equivalent	it'll be ok; I hope it's ok; don't worry about it

Alqış phrase: **qanın durulsun**

Literal translation	may your blood not become thin
Explanation if needed	may you not be upset
Situation in which phrase is used	as comfort to someone who is suffering somehow
USA situational equivalent	it'll be ok; I hope it's ok; don't worry about it

Alqış phrase: **qanın qaralmasın**

Literal translation	may your blood not become black
Explanation if needed	may you not be upset
Situation in which phrase is used	as comfort to someone who is suffering somehow
USA situational equivalent	it'll be ok; I hope it's ok; don't worry about it

Alqış phrase: **vay-şivən (şüvən) səndən iraq olsun**

Literal translation	may sobbing and worry be far from you
Explanation if needed	may God not give you sorrow
Situation in which phrase is used	at a funeral (as a response to "Allah səbr versin"- may God give patience)
USA situational equivalent	I'm sorry; I don't know what to say; he's in a better place

Alqış phrase: gəlinin ayağı sayalı, gədəmli olsun	
Literal translation	may your bride's foot be fruitful
Explanation if needed	may the new bride in your family bring prosperity to you
Situation in which phrase is used	at a wedding
USA situational equivalent	congratulations

Alqış phrase: gəlinin gərdəkdə qalmasın	
Literal translation	may your bride not remain behind the curtain
Explanation if needed	The curtain referred to was historically used to hide a new bride from her husband's family when she first moved into their home. This implies, "may the new bride in your family be a good/worthy bride."
Situation in which phrase is used	at a wedding
USA situational equivalent	congratulations

Alqış phrase: gəlinin toyu mübarək	
Literal translation	may your bride's wedding be happy
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	at a wedding
USA situational equivalent	congratulations

Alqış phrase: subaylar üçün olsun	
Literal translation	may it be for the singles
Explanation if needed	may the singles present also get married
Situation in which phrase is used	at a wedding
USA situational equivalent	congratulations; I'm happy/excited for you

Alqış phrase: mərəkən mübarək	
Literal translation	congratulations on your crowd
Explanation if needed	congratulations on your party
Situation in which phrase is used	at a wedding or engagement ceremony
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: mərəkən pozulmasın	
Literal translation	may your crowd not be broken
Explanation if needed	may your party go well
Situation in which phrase is used	at a wedding or engagement ceremony
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **gözəl-göyçək nəvən olsun**

Literal translation	may you have a beautiful grandchild
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	at a wedding or to a pregnant lady
USA situational equivalent	congratulations; I'm happy/excited for you

Alqış phrase: **qohumluğumuz var (mübarək) olsun**

Literal translation	congratulations on our becoming relatives
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	at a wedding, engagement party, or at a meeting to arrange a marriage
USA situational equivalent	congratulations; I'm happy/excited for you

Alqış phrase: **başına qurban kəsim**

Literal translation	may I make a sacrifice for your head
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	just before or after making a request, or as a term of endearment
USA situational equivalent	some other term of endearment (honey, dear, sweetie)

Alqış phrase: **başının qadasını alım**

Literal translation	may I take the troubles from your head
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	just before or after making a request, or as a term of endearment
USA situational equivalent	some other term of endearment (honey, dear, sweetie)

Alqış phrase: **başının sadağası olsun (olum)**

Literal translation	may I be your head's sacrifice
Explanation if needed	implying "may all your head's pain and troubles come to me instead"
Situation in which phrase is used	just before or after making a request, or as a term of endearment
USA situational equivalent	some other term of endearment (honey, dear, sweetie)

Alqış phrase: **Allah imanını versin**

Literal translation	may God give you faith
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	often to older people (i.e. for whom faith is becoming more important)
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **yaradanın sənə yar olsun**

Literal translation	may the creator be satisfying to you
Explanation if needed	may you be close to God
Situation in which phrase is used	often to someone going on a trip, preparing for an exam, or

used	working
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **sazının avazı ötkəm olsun**

Literal translation	may the voice of your saz (lute) be confident
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	often to someone playing the lute
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **adın dillərdə əzbər olsun**

Literal translation	may your name be memorized on tongues
Explanation if needed	May you be famous.
Situation in which phrase is used	often while praising teenagers
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **adın yaşar olsun**

Literal translation	may your name live on
Explanation if needed	May you leave a legacy.
Situation in which phrase is used	often while praising teenagers
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **Allah qapını (bağlamasın) açsın**

Literal translation	may God open (not close) your door
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	said by a guest in a home, to the host
USA situational equivalent	thanks/ compliment

Alqış phrase: **evində toy olsun**

Literal translation	may there be a wedding/party in your house
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	said by a guest in a home, to the host
USA situational equivalent	thank you; some compliment

Alqış phrase: **qapın qıfıl görməsin**

Literal translation	may your door not see a lock
Explanation if needed	may you always have guests coming
Situation in which phrase is used	said by a guest in a home, to the host, upon leaving
USA situational equivalent	thanks so much; we had a good time

Alqış phrase: **qapın qonaq üzünə açıq olsun**

Literal translation	may your door be open to guests
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	said by a guest in a home, to the host, upon leaving
USA situational equivalent	thanks so much; we had a good time

Alqış phrase: **qapından qonaq ayağı kəsilməsin**

Literal translation	may the feet of guests not stop coming through your door
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	said by a guest in a home, to the host, upon leaving
USA situational equivalent	thanks so much; we had a good time

Alqış phrase: **qardaş deyən dilinə qurban olum**

Literal translation	may I be a sacrifice for the tongue saying "brother"
Explanation if needed	thank you for saying "brother"
Situation in which phrase is used	to a brother, or to someone mourning a brother's death at a funeral
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **təzə gəlinin qədəmi sayalı olsun**

Literal translation	may the steps of your new bride be fruitful
Explanation if needed	may the new bride in your family bring prosperity to you
Situation in which phrase is used	to a family into which a bride has just married
USA situational equivalent	congratulations

Alqış phrase: **piranın-nurani qocalarının ömrü uzun olsun**

Literal translation	may the wise, enlightened old people have long lives
Explanation if needed	long live the wise old people (in your life)
Situation in which phrase is used	to a friend with good parents
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **Allah bəxtini versin (açsın)**

Literal translation	may God give you (open for you) luck
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a girl who has just made a wish, or generally to praise young people, especially girls
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **ciyərpərana quzu kəsim**

Literal translation	may I sacrifice a lamb to your liver's half
Explanation if needed	may I sacrifice a lamb to your beloved offspring
Situation in which phrase is used	to a grandparent (about their grandchildren)

USA situational equivalent	some compliment (they are so cute/precious)
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Alqış phrase: **əlin ətəyindən uzun olsun**

Literal translation	may your hand be longer than your hem
Explanation if needed	this wasn't entirely clear to native speakers- possibly meaning "may you be carrying something, i.e. so that your hand extends below the hem of your skirt"
Situation in which phrase is used	to a guest who has come bringing too much (with irony), or jokingly to a guest who has shown up with empty hands
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **evindən ətir iyi gəlsin**

Literal translation	may the smell of perfume come from your house
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a host of a house that smells nice
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **nemətin bol olsun**

Literal translation	may your blessings be great
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a host serving a meal, or to someone who has just given food
USA situational equivalent	thanks/ compliment

Alqış phrase: **Allah səni dərdə qoymasın (dərddən qurtarsın)**

Literal translation	may God end your grief/ not give you sorrow
Explanation if needed	May you be close to God
Situation in which phrase is used	to a lady in labor or late in pregnancy
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase (I hope the baby comes soon)

Alqış phrase: **qızın göyünlə qoşa qarısın**

Literal translation	may your daughter meet her husband (your son-in-law)
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a lady with a daughter
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **səni yamanlıq görməyəsən**

Literal translation	may you not see bad
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a loved one when something bad happens to the speaker
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: sağ əlim sənin başına/ sağ əlin başıma olsun	
Literal translation	may my right hand be on your head
Explanation if needed	meaning, "may the good that has come to me also come to you"
Situation in which phrase is used	to a loved one when something good happens to the speaker
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: zaval görməyəsən	
Literal translation	may you not see disaster
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a loved one when the speaker has grief/trouble
USA situational equivalent	knock on wood

Alqış phrase: istəklindən əlin üzülməsin	
Literal translation	may your hand not be separated from whom you want/ your darling
Explanation if needed	may you not lose a loved one
Situation in which phrase is used	to a loved one when the speaker is grieving
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: qonşuluqdan əskik olmayasan	
Literal translation	may you not be lacking in neighbors
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a neighbor who does a favor/ helps
USA situational equivalent	thank you

Alqış phrase: ayağın sayalı-qədəmli olsun	
Literal translation	may your foot be fruitful
Explanation if needed	may your coming bring prosperity; may prosperity follow you
Situation in which phrase is used	to a new bride
USA situational equivalent	congratulations; I'm so happy for you

Alqış phrase: atalı-analı böyüyəsən	
Literal translation	may you grow up with your father and mother
Explanation if needed	(i.e. may you not be orphaned/ abandoned)
Situation in which phrase is used	to a newborn
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: baçılı-qardaşlı olasan	
Literal translation	may you have brothers and sisters

Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a newborn first child, or to someone whose siblings have done something worthy of thanks
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **ata-anandan yarıyasan**

Literal translation	may you be satisfied with your father and mother
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a newborn or small child
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **balacan (körpən) böyüsün, boya-başa çatsın**

Literal translation	may your baby grow and reach maturity
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a newborn or small child
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **adınla yaşayasan**

Literal translation	may you live with your name
Explanation if needed	may you live up to your name
Situation in which phrase is used	to a newborn or to someone on his/her birthday
USA situational equivalent	ooh, so precious (some compliment)

Alqış phrase: **barın başacan olsun**

Literal translation	may your fruits be to the end
Explanation if needed	may you see the whole process of raising your children, to your grandchildren
Situation in which phrase is used	to a parent
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **görüm, körpənin barını dərəsən (böyüsün)**

Literal translation	may I see you picking the fruit of your children
Explanation if needed	may your children grow up and bless you
Situation in which phrase is used	to a parent
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase; maybe a compliment

Alqış phrase: **Xudam (Allah) balalarını saxlasın**

Literal translation	may God protect your children
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a parent

USA situational equivalent	compliment
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Alqış phrase: **Allah gözü dolusu versin**

Literal translation	may God give you an eye-full
Explanation if needed	may God let you see beautiful things (also implying "may God let you see your child the way you want him to be")
Situation in which phrase is used	to a parent (about their children)
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **zəhmətinin bərimə yeyəsən**

Literal translation	may you eat the fruits of your labor
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a parent (for their investment in children)
USA situational equivalent	some compliment, or "someday your kids will thank you"

Alqış phrase: **ilk bərim bəhrəli olsun**

Literal translation	may your first harvest be fruitful
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a parent at his/her first child's wedding, or when you see someone's nice fruit trees
USA situational equivalent	some compliment

Alqış phrase: **balan (körpənin) üzünə gülsün**

Literal translation	may your baby smile in your face
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a parent with a baby or small child
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **balan (övladın, əzizin) yarısın**

Literal translation	may your baby be satisfying
Explanation if needed	may you always be happy with your baby
Situation in which phrase is used	to a parent with a baby or small child
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **balan böyüsün**

Literal translation	may your baby grow up
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a parent with a baby or small child
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **balan üzünə bozarmasın**

Literal translation	may your baby not be cheeky to you
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a parent with a baby or small child
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **balanın boyuna (körpənə) qurban (quzu) kəsim**

Literal translation	may I sacrifice a sheep for your baby('s body)
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a parent with a baby or small child
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **balanın toyunu (qardaş toyu) görəsən**

Literal translation	may you see your baby's wedding
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a parent with a baby or small child
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **züryəət (züriyyət) dağı görməyəsən**

Literal translation	may you not see the sorrow of your children
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a parent, by someone who has suffered
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase (I wouldn't wish this on anyone?)

Alqış phrase: **cavanların ciyərləri olsun, ürəkli olsun**

Literal translation	may your young ones have livers and hearts
Explanation if needed	may your youth be courageous and strong
Situation in which phrase is used	to a people going to war
USA situational equivalent	godspeed

Alqış phrase: **məhəbbətin qayım-qədim olsun**

Literal translation	may your love be ancient
Explanation if needed	may you always have this love
Situation in which phrase is used	to a person who loves someone (esp in the context of talking about it)
USA situational equivalent	something like "aww, sweet"

Alqış phrase: **məhəbbətin üzünə gülsün**

Literal translation	may your love smile in your face
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a person who loves someone (esp in the context of talking about it)

USA situational equivalent	something like "aww, sweet"
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Alqış phrase: **evindən layla səsi ucalsın**

Literal translation	may the sound of lullabies be heard from your house
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a pregnant woman or at a wedding
USA situational equivalent	congratulations; I'm happy/excited for you

Alqış phrase: **bədənin bədnəzər görməsin**

Literal translation	may your body not see the evil eye
Explanation if needed	implying "may others' envy not hurt you physically"
Situation in which phrase is used	to a pretty person
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **ləyaqətin artıq olsun**

Literal translation	may you have great (extra) dignity
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a respected person
USA situational equivalent	I respect you so much; you have earned so much respect

Alqış phrase: **Əzrayıl qapını tanımasın (evindən boş çıxsın)**

Literal translation	may Isra'il (here, the angel of death) not recognize your door (and leave your home empty-handed)
Explanation if needed	may no one from your household die
Situation in which phrase is used	to a sick person to whom a doctor has given a hopeful diagnosis
USA situational equivalent	oh, that's so wonderful; I'm so glad; praise God

Alqış phrase: **anan toyunda əlinə xına yaxsın**

Literal translation	may your mother paint henna on your hand at your wedding
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a single person
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase. Often more like "don't rush," "you still have time," "what's meant to be will happen"

Alqış phrase: **əlin xınalı olsun**

Literal translation	may your hand have henna on it
Explanation if needed	implying "may you get married"
Situation in which phrase is used	to a single person
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase. Often more like "don't rush," "you still have time," "what's meant to be will happen"

Alqış phrase: iskənən paslanmasın	
Literal translation	may your chisel not rust
Explanation if needed	literal or metaphorical
Situation in which phrase is used	to a skilled worker
USA situational equivalent	good work; looks great

Alqış phrase: mahalın batıb-barınsın	
Literal translation	may your region prosper
Explanation if needed	may the geographical region in which you were raised prosper
Situation in which phrase is used	to a talented person
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: mahalın yamanlıq görməsin	
Literal translation	may your region not see bad
Explanation if needed	may the geographical region in which you were raised not face harm/bad days
Situation in which phrase is used	to a talented person
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: mahalına quzu kəsım	
Literal translation	may I sacrifice a lamb for your region
Explanation if needed	praise to the geographical region in which you were raised
Situation in which phrase is used	to a talented person
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: mahalından əlin üzülməsin	
Literal translation	may your hand not be separated from your region
Explanation if needed	may you not be separated from the geographical region of your origin
Situation in which phrase is used	to a talented person
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: balan bar gətirsın	
Literal translation	may your baby bring fruit
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a woman with children
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **zamanına quzu kəsım**

Literal translation	may I sacrifice a lamb for your time
Explanation if needed	implying "it's good that you were born"
Situation in which phrase is used	to a young person
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **anan barını yesin**

Literal translation	may your mother eat your fruits
Explanation if needed	May your mother benefit from you
Situation in which phrase is used	to a young person doing good work
USA situational equivalent	good job! Keep up the good work!

Alqış phrase: **zəhnin iti olsun**

Literal translation	may your mind be sharp
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a young person who gives good advice
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **toyun davaya düşməsin**

Literal translation	may your wedding not turn into a brawl
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to a young person who has just/said done something foolish, as a joke
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase; depends on situation

Alqış phrase: **imzan pozulmasın**

Literal translation	may your signature not be erased/ruined
Explanation if needed	implying "may you always have this job"
Situation in which phrase is used	to an official who signs a paper for you
USA situational equivalent	thank you (if anything)

Alqış phrase: **gücün dağlar yıxsın**

Literal translation	may your strength tear down mountains
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to athletes, young men
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **cehizin can sağlığına qismət olsun**

Literal translation	may a dowry of health be your destiny
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to brides

USA situational equivalent	compliment or congratulations
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Alqış phrase: **anan boy-buxununa qüvərrənsin**

Literal translation	may your mother be proud of your height
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to children
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **duruşuna qurban olum**

Literal translation	may I be a sacrifice to your standing
Explanation if needed	used as in "I really love you"
Situation in which phrase is used	to close relatives
USA situational equivalent	endearment phrases

Alqış phrase: **xırdaların böyüsün, ərsəyə çatsın (bay olsun)**

Literal translation	may your little ones grow fully
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to grandparents or parents
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **nazlı xanım olasan**

Literal translation	may you be a flirty young lady
Explanation if needed	"flirty" has positive connotations here, i.e. "may you grow up into an attractive young lady"
Situation in which phrase is used	to little girls
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **naz-nemət içində böyüyəsən**

Literal translation	may you grow up within flirtiness and blessing
Explanation if needed	"flirty" has positive connotations here, i.e. "may you grow up with gracefulness and with blessings"
Situation in which phrase is used	to little girls
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **balanın balası sənə baba (nənə) dəsin**

Literal translation	may your baby's baby call you grandmother (grandfather)
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to middle aged people
USA situational equivalent	I hope you have grandkids?

Alqış phrase: canından usanmayasan	
Literal translation	may you not grow tired of your body
Explanation if needed	implying "may you age gracefully"
Situation in which phrase is used	to middle-aged people
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: qara gün səndən uzaq olsun	
Literal translation	may black days be far from you
Explanation if needed	"black" implying sad or bad
Situation in which phrase is used	to mourners
USA situational equivalent	I'm sorry; I don't know what to say; he's in a better place

Alqış phrase: qəddi-qamətin əyilməsin	
Literal translation	may your back not slump
Explanation if needed	may you not slump from grief
Situation in which phrase is used	to mourners
USA situational equivalent	I'm sorry; I don't know what to say; he's in a better place

Alqış phrase: kərəntin kəsərli olsun	
Literal translation	may your scythe be sharp
Explanation if needed	metaphorically, may your words be effective
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone about to say something important (i.e. To boss)
USA situational equivalent	good luck; I hope it goes well; break a leg

Alqış phrase: kəməndin boşa çıxmasın	
Literal translation	may your lasso not come up empty
Explanation if needed	may you reach your goal
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone about to take a risk or try something
USA situational equivalent	good luck; go get 'em; godspeed; I hope it works out

Alqış phrase: güllən boşa çıxmasın	
Literal translation	may your bullet not come up empty
Explanation if needed	may you hit your target/ make your goal
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone about to take a risk, or to someone with an eye on a potential lover (like cupid's arrow)
USA situational equivalent	good luck; go get 'em (but not necessarily in this situation)

Alqış phrase: yar-yaraşığına qurban olum	
Literal translation	may I be a sacrifice to your love/ your beauty
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone beautiful

used	
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **yaxşı gün yaraşığın olsun**

Literal translation	may a good day suit you
Explanation if needed	may you have a day as beautiful as you are
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone beautiful
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **Allah səni naümid qoymasın**

Literal translation	may God not leave you disappointed
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone beginning a difficult project or job, when it is uncertain what the results will be
USA situational equivalent	good luck, I hope it goes well for you, I hope it works out, you can do it/ I believe in you

Alqış phrase: **əlin boş çıxmasın**

Literal translation	may your hand not come up empty
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone beginning a difficult project or job, when it is uncertain what the results will be
USA situational equivalent	good luck, I hope it goes well for you, I hope it works out, you can do it/ I believe in you

Alqış phrase: **ilin ildən xoş gəlsin**

Literal translation	may your year come pleasantly from a year
Explanation if needed	happy new year
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone celebrating new year
USA situational equivalent	happy new year

Alqış phrase: **fitnə-fəsaddan uzaq olasan**

Literal translation	may you be far from intrigue or dischord
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone comforting the speaker when he/she is facing a bad time
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **xörəyin xeyirliyə yeyilsin**

Literal translation	may your food be eaten to goodness
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone cooking
USA situational equivalent	smells good; compliment; comment about the food

Alqış phrase: evindən un-urvan əskik olmasın	
Literal translation	may there not be a lack of flour at your house
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone cooking or giving away baked goods
USA situational equivalent	thanks/compliment

Alqış phrase: mərd canın sağ olsun	
Literal translation	may your brave soul be healthy
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone doing something brave/resolute
USA situational equivalent	good for you; more power to you; godspeed

Alqış phrase: mərd əlin var olsun	
Literal translation	may your brave hand be healthy
Explanation if needed	may you always be this brave
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone doing something brave/resolute
USA situational equivalent	good for you; more power to you; godspeed

Alqış phrase: iştahan artıq olsun	
Literal translation	may you have a good (big) appetite
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone eating
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase ("that looks good")

Alqış phrase: iştahandan kəsilməyəsən	
Literal translation	may you not be cut off from your appetite
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone eating
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase ("that looks good")

Alqış phrase: duru suyun bulanmasın	
Literal translation	may your pure water not be clouded
Explanation if needed	metaphorically, may things go well for you; may this good streak not end
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone for whom things are going well
USA situational equivalent	I'm glad things are going well for you

Alqış phrase: əlin abad olsun	
Literal translation	may your people be prosperous

Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone from a region you visited and liked
USA situational equivalent	compliment about the region

Alqış phrase: **nişanın mübarək olsun**

Literal translation	congratulations on your engagement
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone getting engaged
USA situational equivalent	congratulations; I'm excited for you; that's great

Alqış phrase: **nişanlından yarıyasın**

Literal translation	may you be satisfied with your fiancée
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone getting engaged
USA situational equivalent	congratulations; I'm excited for you; that's great

Alqış phrase: **nişanlının barını yeyəsən**

Literal translation	may you eat the fruits of your fiancée
Explanation if needed	may your marriage be fruitful for you
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone getting engaged
USA situational equivalent	congratulations; I'm excited for you; that's great

Alqış phrase: **nişanlınla qoşa qarıyasın**

Literal translation	may you grow old together with your fiancée
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone getting engaged
USA situational equivalent	congratulations; I'm excited for you; that's great

Alqış phrase: **Allah sənə övlad versin**

Literal translation	may God give you offspring
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone getting married or newly married
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase ("May you have children" is not used!)

Alqış phrase: **şahə qalxan köhlənin büdrəməsin**

Literal translation	may your steed not stumble
Explanation if needed	literal or metaphorical (i.e. may your work go well)
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone getting on a horse, or to someone improving in work
USA situational equivalent	keep up the good work

Alqış phrase:

ürəyinə görə Allah payını versin

Literal translation	may God give you your portion because of your heart
Explanation if needed	thank you for your kind/good heart
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone giving a portion of produce/food or doing a good deed
USA situational equivalent	thank you; good for you

Alqış phrase:

ulu tanrı uğruna çıxsın

Literal translation	may the great God come to your success
Explanation if needed	may God give you success
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone going on a trip
USA situational equivalent	have a great/safe trip; have fun; take pictures for me

Alqış phrase:

laylan (yuxun, yuxuların) şirin olsun

Literal translation	may your sleep (dreams) be sweet
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone going to bed
USA situational equivalent	good night; sweet dreams; don't let the bed bugs bite

Alqış phrase:

sabahın sabahlara qovuşsun

Literal translation	may your tomorrow connect to your tomorrows
Explanation if needed	may you reach tomorrow
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone going to bed
USA situational equivalent	good night; sweet dreams; don't let the bed bugs bite

Alqış phrase:

sabahın üzünə gülsün

Literal translation	may tomorrow smile in your face
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone going to bed
USA situational equivalent	good night; sweet dreams; don't let the bed bugs bite

Alqış phrase:

səhərin üzünə xeyirliyə açılısın

Literal translation	may your tomorrow open with goodness to you
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone going to bed
USA situational equivalent	good night; sweet dreams; don't let the bed bugs bite

Alqış phrase:

uğur deyəndə, uğur görəsən

Literal translation	when you say success, may you see success
Explanation if needed	

Situation in which phrase is used	to someone going to work
USA situational equivalent	have a good day

Alqış phrase: **uğurdan yarıyasın**

Literal translation	may you be satisfied with your success
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone going to work
USA situational equivalent	have a good day

Alqış phrase: **uğurun səni dar-damanda qoymasın**

Literal translation	may success not leave you wanting
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone going to work
USA situational equivalent	have a good day

Alqış phrase: **uğuruna uğurlar çulansın, uğurun uğur gətirsin**

Literal translation	may your success bring success
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone going to work or on a trip
USA situational equivalent	have a good day; have a great/safe trip

Alqış phrase: **uğur ulduzun şütüməsin**

Literal translation	may success not skim over your star
Explanation if needed	may success not pass you by
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone going to work or on a trip (i.e. don't end up in trouble)
USA situational equivalent	have a good day; have a great/safe trip

Alqış phrase: **Allah uğrunu xeyir eləsin (uğur versin)**

Literal translation	may God give you success
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone going to work or to the market
USA situational equivalent	good luck; I hope you find what you're looking for

Alqış phrase: **ürəyın sevincindən dağa dönsün**

Literal translation	may your heart turn to the mountains from joy
Explanation if needed	may you be extremely joyful
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone happy
USA situational equivalent	it's good to see you so happy

Alqış phrase:

eynin açılsın

Literal translation	may your goodness open
Explanation if needed	may you be happy
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone happy; often from a guest to a host
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase:

əlin sayalı olsun

Literal translation	may your hand be fruitful
Explanation if needed	may your hands bring healing
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone helping an ill person (i.e. by giving a massage, bringing pills)
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase:

şanın mübarək

Literal translation	congratulations on your party
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone hosting a party
USA situational equivalent	have fun! Great party!

Alqış phrase:

şanın sanlı olsun

Literal translation	may your party be respected
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone hosting a party
USA situational equivalent	have fun

Alqış phrase:

Allah sənə (ata-anana) qıymasın

Literal translation	may God not rebuke you
Explanation if needed	(literally means "may God not kill you," but used similarly to "may God have mercy")
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone ill
USA situational equivalent	I hope you feel better/ get well soon (more in writing)

Alqış phrase:

azar-bezar görməyəsən, Allah ağrı-bezarı səndən iraq eləsin.

Literal translation	may illness be far from you (may God keep illness far from you)
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone ill
USA situational equivalent	I hope you feel better/ get well soon (more used in writing)

Alqış phrase:

şirin ağzın acı dadmasın

Literal translation	may your sweet mouth not taste bitter
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone in a good mood
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **oxun daşa dəyməsin**

Literal translation	may your arrow not strike a rock
Explanation if needed	metaphorically, may you reach your goal
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone in love, or wanting to arrange a marriage/engagement for their child
USA situational equivalent	good luck; go get 'em (but not necessarily in this situation)

Alqış phrase: **başına gələn qada, canıma gəlsin**

Literal translation	may the trouble coming to your head come to mine
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone in pain or trouble, often accompanied by giving nəzir ¹²⁰ or circling loved one's head with üzərlik ¹²¹
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **başına gələn qada-bala səni istəməyənlərə getsin**

Literal translation	may the trouble coming to your head go to the people who don't like you
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone in pain or trouble, often accompanied by giving nəzir or circling loved one's head with üzərlik
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **oturub-duranda Allah üstündə olsun**

Literal translation	sitting and standing, may God be over you
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone leaving on a journey
USA situational equivalent	have a safe trip

Alqış phrase: **Allah amanında / amanda olasan**

Literal translation	may you be in (God's) mercy
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone leaving on journey/ to be soldier
USA situational equivalent	good luck, safe travels, be safe, have a great trip, hang in there

¹²⁰ Nəzir is a tradition of giving money to a mosque or holy person, sometimes in the form of a small amount (like a deposit) alongside making a promise to give or do something more if a certain result is obtained.

¹²¹ Üzərlik (Peganum harmala) is burned like incense to protect people from the evil eye.

Alqış phrase:	barın başından aşsın
Literal translation	may your fruits hang from your head
Explanation if needed	may you see great rewards
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone loaning money or giving a gift
USA situational equivalent	thanks; compliment

Alqış phrase:	axtardığın qəşərinə gəlsin
Literal translation	may what you have been searching for come to you easily
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone looking for something (mostly said by old people)
USA situational equivalent	I hope you find it!

Alqış phrase:	zəhmətlə toxuduğun zili cəhizin olsun
Literal translation	may the carpet you have woven with hard work be your dowry
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone making a carpet
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase:	diləyin başa çatsın
Literal translation	may your wish reach maturity
Explanation if needed	may your wish come true
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone making a wish or request
USA situational equivalent	may your wish come true; I hope that works out for you

Alqış phrase:	çörəyin bol olsun, Allah çörəyini bol eləsin
Literal translation	may your bread be plentiful
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone making bread or giving food
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase:	gedənin gəlsin, üzün gülsün
Literal translation	may the one who has left you come and smile in your face
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone missing someone
USA situational equivalent	he'll be back before you know it; it must be hard to be apart

Alqış phrase:	istəklinə qovuşasan
Literal translation	may you be given the one you desire
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone missing someone

used	
USA situational equivalent	I'm sorry; it must be hard to be so far apart

Alqış phrase: **axır qəmin olsun**

Literal translation	may this be your last grief
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone mourning a death
USA situational equivalent	so sorry

Alqış phrase: **qapından qara yel əsməsin**

Literal translation	may a black wind not blow through your door
Explanation if needed	may you not lose loved ones
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone mourning a death
USA situational equivalent	I'm sorry; I don't know what to say; he's in a better place

Alqış phrase: **köçün uğurlu olsun**

Literal translation	may your migration be succesful
Explanation if needed	may your move be successful
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone moving
USA situational equivalent	good luck; I hope things work out well for you

Alqış phrase: **xeyir-ehsanın qəbul olunsun**

Literal translation	may your good memorial be accepted
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone offering a feast for the 12 imams during the holy month of Maharram
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **ölüm qapını tanımasın**

Literal translation	may death not recognize your door
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone offering support when the speaker is grieving
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase... I wouldn't want anyone to go through this

Alqış phrase: **cənnətin qapıları üzünə açıq olsun**

Literal translation	may the gates of heaven be open to you
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone performing a religious act or praying for someone who died
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **əkdiyin qurumasın (bitsin)**

Literal translation	may what you have planted not dry up (take root)
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone planting
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase- compliment

Alqış phrase: **əkinin binli-bərəkətli olsun**

Literal translation	may what you have planted be fruitful
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone planting
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase- compliment

Alqış phrase: **gülün solmasın**

Literal translation	may your smile/flower not fade
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone planting flowers, or when seeing beauty or seeing someone with flowers
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase- compliment

Alqış phrase: **əkdiyindən xeyir görəsən**

Literal translation	may you see the good of what you have planted
Explanation if needed	may you see the fruits of your labor
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone planting or working
USA situational equivalent	good job; good work

Alqış phrase: **bağ-bostanın bəhrəli olsun**

Literal translation	may your garden be fruitful
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone planting or working in yard
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase- compliment

Alqış phrase: **bağın bərli olsun**

Literal translation	may your garden be fruitful
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone planting or working in yard, or seeing someone's fruit trees
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase- compliment

Alqış phrase: **xeyir-duan qəbul olunsun**

Literal translation	may your blessing be accepted
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone praying

USA situational equivalent	no set phrase
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Alqış phrase: **camalın saralıb-solması**

Literal translation	may your beauty not yellow and fade
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone pretty
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **camalına quzu kəsım**

Literal translation	may I sacrifice a lamb for your beauty
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone pretty
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **Allah səni (yaman gözdən) qorusun**

Literal translation	May God protect you from the evil eye.
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone pretty/ someone who has bought something new/ someone "enviable"
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase (usually just a compliment)

Alqış phrase: **Allah səni pis nəfsdən uzaq eləsin**

Literal translation	may God keep you far from (others') bad desires
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone pretty/ someone who has bought something new/ someone "enviable"
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase (usually just a compliment)

Alqış phrase: **Allah qurbanını qəbul eləsin**

Literal translation	may God accept your sacrifice
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone sacrificing an animal or eating/giving meat that was sacrificed
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **gəmin qərq olmasın (batmasın)**

Literal translation	may your ship not sink
Explanation if needed	metaphorical; "May you not have problems"
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone sad
USA situational equivalent	statement of consolation (it'll be ok; don't cry)

Alqış phrase: **bazarın bazarlı (bol) olsun**

Literal translation	may your business be much
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Explanation if needed	may your business/sales go well
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone selling or harvesting something to sell
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase. I hope you have a good harvest; good business

Alqış phrase: **bazarın kasad olmasın**

Literal translation	may your business not be stagnant
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone selling or harvesting something to sell
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase. I hope you have a good harvest; good business

Alqış phrase: **ayağın yüngül olsun, düşərli olsun**

Literal translation	may your foot be light and prosperous
Explanation if needed	may you be lucky; may prosperity follow you
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone setting out on a task or helping someone else with a task
USA situational equivalent	good luck; I hope it goes well

Alqış phrase: **naçar olmayasan (qalmayasan)**

Literal translation	may you not remain desperate
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone sick
USA situational equivalent	I hope you feel better/ get well soon (more in writing)

Alqış phrase: **çöhrən saralıb-solmasın**

Literal translation	may your jewel not fade
Explanation if needed	"jewel" meaning "smile"
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone smiling
USA situational equivalent	compliment the smile

Alqış phrase: **iyin dükçəli olsun**

Literal translation	may your spindle be fruitful
Explanation if needed	literal or metaphorical
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone spinning wool
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **iyin ayrilsin, cəhrənin səsi gəlsin**

Literal translation	may your spindle spin and may there be the sound of spinning
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone spinning wool
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: ruzkarın üzünə gülsün	
Literal translation	may nature smile in your face
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone starting a journey (re: nature, weather, mood)
USA situational equivalent	I hope the weather holds out for you

Alqış phrase: yolda heç yorulmayasan	
Literal translation	may you not grow tired at all on your way
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone starting a project/journey/task
USA situational equivalent	good luck, I hope it goes well for you, I hope it works out, you can do it/ I believe in you

Alqış phrase: yolun işıqlı olsun	
Literal translation	may your road be light
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone starting a project/journey/task
USA situational equivalent	good luck, I hope it goes well for you, I hope it works out, you can do it/ I believe in you

Alqış phrase: yolun yaxın olsun	
Literal translation	may your road be near
Explanation if needed	may your road be easy (literal or metaphorical)
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone starting a project/journey/task
USA situational equivalent	good luck, I hope it goes well for you, I hope it works out, you can do it/ I believe in you

Alqış phrase: oxuduğun barını dərəsən	
Literal translation	may you pick the fruits of your studying
Explanation if needed	may your studies be fruitful
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone studying
USA situational equivalent	study hard; do well; some piece of advice

Alqış phrase: oxuduğun hədər gətməsin	
Literal translation	may your studying not be in vain
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone studying
USA situational equivalent	study hard; do well; some piece of advice

Alqış phrase: **fəhmin itməsin**

Literal translation	may your intelligence not be lost
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone studying or doing something smart
USA situational equivalent	study well! Get a good grade! Good luck!

Alqış phrase: **fəhmin yanılmasın**

Literal translation	may your intelligence not make a mistake
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone studying or doing something smart
USA situational equivalent	study well! Get a good grade! Good luck!

Alqış phrase: **fəhmini Allah əlindən almasın**

Literal translation	may God not take your intelligence from your hand
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone studying or doing something smart
USA situational equivalent	study well! Get a good grade! Good luck!

Alqış phrase: **ərdən yarıyasın**

Literal translation	may you be satisfied with your husband
Explanation if needed	implying "may you remain with him;" "may he not die"
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone talking about her husband
USA situational equivalent	I hope you have many good years together; may you grow old/ enjoy life together

Alqış phrase: **pisini istəyinin üzü gülməsin**

Literal translation	may the face of the person who wants bad for you not smile
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone talking about someone who wishes bad upon them
USA situational equivalent	some sympathetic statement (that's terrible)

Alqış phrase: **pisliyini istəyinin dili ağzında kösöv olsun (qurusun)**

Literal translation	may the tongue of the person who wants bad for you dry up in his mouth
Explanation if needed	also may their tongue be a fire-brand in their mouth
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone talking about someone who wishes bad upon them
USA situational equivalent	some sympathetic statement (that's terrible)

Alqış phrase: **layla deyən dilinə qurban olum**

Literal translation	may I be a sacrifice to the tongue saying a lullaby
Explanation if needed	thank you for praising my children

Situation in which phrase is used	to someone talking about the speaker's children (unclear)
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **öyüd verən dilinə qurban olum**

Literal translation	may I be a sacrifice to the reprimanding tongue
Explanation if needed	than you for teaching someone a lesson
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone teaching a lesson to someone else the speaker cares about
USA situational equivalent	maybe thank you

Alqış phrase: **şirinliyini içim**

Literal translation	may I drink your sweetness
Explanation if needed	traditionally, someone whose work goes well or who receives extra money (or his first salary) buys sweets for other people. This can mean "may your work go well." It can also mean "may someone come and get engaged to you" (see explanation for "may your sweetness be sweet")
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone telling good news, or whose work is going well (meaning he should buy the listener sweets) or to someone single who is thinking about getting engaged
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent phrase

Alqış phrase: **şirinliyin şirin olsun**

Literal translation	may your sweetness be sweet
Explanation if needed	traditionally, someone whose work goes well or who receives extra money (or his first salary) buys sweets for other people. This can mean "may your work go well." It can also mean "may someone come and get engaged to you"
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone telling good news, or whose work is going well (meaning he should buy the listener sweets) or to someone single who is thinking about getting engaged
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase (or equivalent tradition)

Alqış phrase: **əzilən düşmənin olsun**

Literal translation	may the one who gets crushed be your enemy
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone to whom something bad happens
USA situational equivalent	sorry; that's terrible (sympathy)

Alqış phrase: **şirinin şəkər olsun**

Literal translation	may your sweetness be sugar
Explanation if needed	when a marriage is arranged successfully, the parties drink sweetened tea to seal the contract. Thus this implies "may you be successful in arranging a marriage."
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone visiting as a messenger to arrange a marriage

used	
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **xeyirxahlığın qarşına çıxsın**

Literal translation	may your goodwill meet its match
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who does a favor for the speaker
USA situational equivalent	thank you

Alqış phrase: **sənin qismətin olsun**

Literal translation	may it be your destiny
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who does not yet have something (i.e. a spouse; a child) in the context of conversation about those things
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase; maybe "hopefully someday you will get to experience that too"

Alqış phrase: **sevincin aşıb-daşsın**

Literal translation	may your joy overflow
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who expresses happiness
USA situational equivalent	it's good to see you so happy

Alqış phrase: **Allah birini min eləsin**

Literal translation	may God turn your one into a thousand
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who gives a gift
USA situational equivalent	thanks/ comment about gift

Alqış phrase: **Allah ver dedikçə versin**

Literal translation	may God give when "give" is said
Explanation if needed	May God give to you quickly (right after you say "give")
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who gives a gift
USA situational equivalent	thank you/ compliment

Alqış phrase: **azın çox olsun**

Literal translation	may your little be much
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who gives a gift
USA situational equivalent	thank you

Alqış phrase: el-obandan ağsaqqal-qarasaqqal əskik olmasın	
Literal translation	may your people never be lacking in old men and young men
Explanation if needed	may you always have (strong) young men and (wise) old men around
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who gives or receives advice
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: nübarın mübarək olsun	
Literal translation	congratulations on your <i>nübar</i>
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who gives you some of his/her <i>nübar</i> (firstfruits)
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: nübarlara çatasan	
Literal translation	may you reach <i>nübar</i>
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who gives you some of their <i>nübar</i>
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: fürsətin üzünə gülsün	
Literal translation	may your opportunity smile in your face
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has a chance at something
USA situational equivalent	good luck; break a leg; go get 'em; do well

Alqış phrase: mənzilin mübarək	
Literal translation	congratulations on your apartment
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has bought a new apartment
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: mənzilində çırağ yansın	
Literal translation	may a lamp burn in your apartment
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has bought a new apartment
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: təzə mülkün (evin) mübarək olsun	
Literal translation	congratulations on your new home
Explanation if needed	

Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has bought a new home
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **imanın kamil olsun**

Literal translation	may your faith be perfect
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has demonstrated piety (i.e. has prayed or fasted), especially during holy months
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent phrase (good for you; that's great)

Alqış phrase: **imanına qurban (olum)**

Literal translation	a sacrifice to your faith
Explanation if needed	you have such faith! (Connotations of "praise God for it/ may God notice it")
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has demonstrated piety (i.e. has prayed or fasted), especially during holy months
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **əlin eldən üzülməsin**

Literal translation	may your hand not be taken from the people
Explanation if needed	may you always be there for your people
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has done a good deed
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **əməlini Allah xeyrə yazsın**

Literal translation	may God write good for your work
Explanation if needed	implying "may God count this as a good work on judgment day"
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has done something good
USA situational equivalent	thank you/ compliment

Alqış phrase: **halalın haram görməsin**

Literal translation	may your halal not see haram
Explanation if needed	may what is acceptable before God in you not become unacceptable
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has finished a job or who gives a gift or money
USA situational equivalent	good work; thanks

Alqış phrase: **halal nemətin bol olsun**

Literal translation	may your righteous intentions be many
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has finished a job or who gives candy or food

used	
USA situational equivalent	good work; thanks

Alqış phrase: **(elinin) var-dövlətin başından aşsın-daşsın**

Literal translation	May riches (of your people) hang and overflow from your head.
Explanation if needed	May your cup be overflowing.
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given a gift or money
USA situational equivalent	thank you/ you shouldn't have/ comment about gift

Alqış phrase: **varın tükənməsin**

Literal translation	may your riches not end
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given a gift or money
USA situational equivalent	thanks/compliment

Alqış phrase: **varın var gətirsin**

Literal translation	may your riches bring riches
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given a gift or money
USA situational equivalent	thanks/compliment

Alqış phrase: **Allah ruzini (bərəkət) yetirsin**

Literal translation	may God give you blessing
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given food or a gift
USA situational equivalent	thank you/ compliment

Alqış phrase: **bərəkətin artıq olsun/ Allah bərəkət eləsin (versin)**

Literal translation	may your abundance be extra/ may God give you abundance
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given food or a gift
USA situational equivalent	thank you/ compliment

Alqış phrase: **camın dolu olsun**

Literal translation	may your pot be full
Explanation if needed	may you always have plenty
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given food or a gift
USA situational equivalent	thank you/ compliment

Alqış phrase:

ruzın bol olsun

Literal translation	may your blessing be great
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given food or is working land, harvesting
USA situational equivalent	

Alqış phrase:

ağzın bal dadsın

Literal translation	may your mouth taste like honey
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given food to the speaker
USA situational equivalent	thanks/ compliment the food

Alqış phrase:

səxavətin artıq olsun

Literal translation	may your generosity be great
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given food to the speaker
USA situational equivalent	thank you; compliment the food

Alqış phrase:

ağlın azalmasın, Allah ağlını almasın, ağlını qurban olum

Literal translation	may your intelligence not decrease (may God not decrease your intelligence)
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given good advice or who is studying
USA situational equivalent	no comment at all

Alqış phrase:

xəzinən boş qalmasın

Literal translation	may your treasury not remain empty
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given money
USA situational equivalent	thank you; I'll pay you back

Alqış phrase:

xəzinən dolu olsun

Literal translation	may your treasury be full
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given money
USA situational equivalent	thank you; I'll pay you back

Alqış phrase:

doldursun

qazancın artıq olsun, qardaşının qazancı qazan

Literal translation	may your earnings be great
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has given money or a gift
USA situational equivalent	thanks/ compliment

Alqış phrase: **kəlamın şirin olsun**

Literal translation	may your words be sweet
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has greeted the speaker
USA situational equivalent	just a return greeting

Alqış phrase: **kömək əlin kəsilməsin**

Literal translation	may the hand of help not be cut (from you)
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has helped
USA situational equivalent	thank you

Alqış phrase: **böyüksüz qalmayasan**

Literal translation	may you not remain without adults
Explanation if needed	may you always have wise adults in your life
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just been given good advice by an elder
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **nahaq böhtan görməyəsən**

Literal translation	may you not see needless slander
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just been slandered, or by someone who has been slandered to a loved one
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **yaxşılığın itməsin**

Literal translation	may you not lose your good
Explanation if needed	may what you have done be counted for you as good
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just done a good deed
USA situational equivalent	good for you; good on you

Alqış phrase: **şöhrətin dünyanı tutsun**

Literal translation	may your glory hold the world
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just done a good thing, or as a term of endearment

USA situational equivalent	endearment phrases
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Alqış phrase: **şöhrətinə-şanına quzu kəsim**

Literal translation	may I sacrifice a lamb for your glory/fame
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just done a good thing, or as a term of endearment
USA situational equivalent	good for you; good on you

Alqış phrase: **çanağın dolu olsun, çanağın çatlamasın**

Literal translation	may your bowl be full
Explanation if needed	may you always have plenty
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just given a gift
USA situational equivalent	thanks, compliment

Alqış phrase: **başın salamat olsun (often preceded by "əsas məsələm,")**

Literal translation	may your head be healthy
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just had an accident
USA situational equivalent	I'm just glad you're ok; as long as you're ok; praise God you're ok

Alqış phrase: **əlin daşa dəyməsin**

Literal translation	may your hand not strike a rock
Explanation if needed	may your work always be easy
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just helped
USA situational equivalent	thank you

Alqış phrase: **muradına çatasan**

Literal translation	may you reach your dream
Explanation if needed	may your dream come true
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just made a wish
USA situational equivalent	I hope it comes true

Alqış phrase: **Allah səni güldürsün**

Literal translation	may God make you laugh
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just made the speaker laugh
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase (good one; you're hilarious; you're too much)

Alqış phrase: **körpə deyən dilinə qurban olum**

Literal translation	may I be a sacrifice to the tongue saying "baby"
Explanation if needed	thank you for praising my children
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just praised the speaker's children
USA situational equivalent	thank you

Alqış phrase: **Ağzın fal olsun**

Literal translation	may your mouth be your fortune
Explanation if needed	may what you have said come to pass
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said a good intention, wish, or plan
USA situational equivalent	I hope that works out

Alqış phrase: **Allah niyyətini versin (çatdırsın)**

Literal translation	may God give you your intention
Explanation if needed	may your intention come to pass
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said a good intention, wish, or plan
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **deyinin boya-başa çatsın**

Literal translation	may what you have said reach maturity
Explanation if needed	may what you have said be fulfilled
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said a good intention, wish, or plan
USA situational equivalent	great!

Alqış phrase: **deyinin deyikli qalmasın**

Literal translation	may what you have said not remain as words
Explanation if needed	may what you have said be fulfilled
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said a good intention, wish, or plan
USA situational equivalent	great!

Alqış phrase: **istədiyın ismətli olsun**

Literal translation	may what you (or the one you) want be honorable
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said a good intention, wish, or plan
USA situational equivalent	I hope your wish comes true; I hope it works out

Alqış phrase: **istədiyinə çatasan**

Literal translation	may you reach your desire (i.e. be given the one you want)
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said a good intention, wish, or plan

USA situational equivalent	I hope your wish comes true; I hope it works out
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Alqış phrase: **istəklilə boya-başa çatasan**

Literal translation	may you reach maturity together with the one you desire
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	
USA situational equivalent	

Alqış phrase: **istəyin pozulmasın**

Literal translation	may your desire not be broken
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said a good intention, wish, or plan
USA situational equivalent	I hope your wish comes true; I hope it works out

Alqış phrase: **kamın kamala çatsın**

Literal translation	may your dream reach perfection
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said a good intention, wish, or plan
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **kamına çatasan**

Literal translation	may you reach your dream
Explanation if needed	may your dream come true
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said a good intention, wish, or plan
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **əhdin pozulmasın**

Literal translation	may your vow not be broken
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said a promise or vow
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **əhdin tutulsun**

Literal translation	may your vow take hold
Explanation if needed	may your vow be fulfilled
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said a promise or vow
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **əhdin üzünə gülsün**

Literal translation	may your vow smile in your face
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Explanation if needed	may your vow be fulfilled
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said a promise or vow
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **əhdindən yarıyasan**

Literal translation	may you be satisfied with your vow
Explanation if needed	may your vow make you happy
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said a promise or vow
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **nə arzu deyibsən ona çatasan**

Literal translation	whatever wish you made, may you reach it
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said a wish
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **falın fal olsun**

Literal translation	may your fortune be your fortune
Explanation if needed	may your fortune come true
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said a wish or plan
USA situational equivalent	may your wish come true?

Alqış phrase: **ağzın xeyir-xoşluğa (xeyri) açılsın**

Literal translation	may your mouth open to goodness
Explanation if needed	may what you have said prove to be good
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said something good or a plan
USA situational equivalent	that sounds great; some piece of advice or question

Alqış phrase: **ümidin boya-başa çatsın, ümidin hasil olsun**

Literal translation	may your hope reach maturity/ bear fruit
Explanation if needed	may your hope be fulfilled
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said something he/she hopes for
USA situational equivalent	I hope so too

Alqış phrase: **ismətinə (ağlına) bərəkallah**

Literal translation	praise God for your honor (intelligence)
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just said something smart
USA situational equivalent	compliment (you're right; good for you)

Alqış phrase: ışığığa çıxasan	
Literal translation	may you come out light
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just switched on a light
USA situational equivalent	no comment at all

Alqış phrase: ışığa həsrət qalmayasan	
Literal translation	may you not be left longing for light
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just switched on a light, or to someone who has administered the speaker's eye drops
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: ışığın sönməsin	
Literal translation	may your light not go out
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just switched on a light, or to someone who has administered the speaker's eye drops
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: gözün ışığı görsün	
Literal translation	may your eyes see light
Explanation if needed	metaphorically, may you be gladdened
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just switched on a light, or to a parent
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent phrase

Alqış phrase: vayğan çin olsun	
Literal translation	may your dream be real
Explanation if needed	may your dream come true
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has just told a good dream
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: illər-aylar həsrətinə qovuşasan	
Literal translation	may you be joined with what you have been longing for for months and years
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has lost a close family member for a long time (i.e. a parent with prodigal child)
USA situational equivalent	my prayers/thoughts are with you

Alqış phrase: Allah evini tiksin	
Literal translation	May God build your house

Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has made a mistake, as a joke
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **Allah sənin evini yıxmasın/ sənin evin yıxılmasın**

Literal translation	may God not tear your house down/ may your house not fall down
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has made a mistake, as a joke
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase (sometimes "be careful")

Alqış phrase: **əhdinə qurban olum**

Literal translation	may I be a sacrifice to your vow
Explanation if needed	implying approval of the vow and willingness to make a sacrifice to see it through
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has made a vow
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **kəmərini qırılmasın**

Literal translation	may your belt not break
Explanation if needed	may your one chance work out
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has one chance to make something work out
USA situational equivalent	good luck; break a leg; go get 'em; do well

Alqış phrase: **körpünü uçmasın, kəsilməsin**

Literal translation	may your bridge not be cut/ fall down
Explanation if needed	metaphorically like in English: may your bridges not be burned/broken
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has reconciled someone, offered a connection, or acted as a bridge
USA situational equivalent	thank you

Alqış phrase: **Allah süfrənə bərəkət versin**

Literal translation	may God grant abundance to your table
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has served food or tea
USA situational equivalent	thanks; compliment the food

Alqış phrase: **qapından mal-qara əskik olmasın**

Literal translation	may there not be a lack of livestock in your gate
Explanation if needed	

Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has shared a portion of their produce or meat
USA situational equivalent	thank you

Alqış phrase: **sağının sağlısın**

Literal translation	may your milking give milk
Explanation if needed	may your animals' milk be plentiful
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who has shared milk products or is milking a cow
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **atan dar-damanda qalmasın**

Literal translation	may your father not remain in a tight place
Explanation if needed	may your father never have hardship
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who helps in some way
USA situational equivalent	thank you

Alqış phrase: **dünya başına dar olmasın**

Literal translation	may the world not be too tight for your head
Explanation if needed	may you not have problems
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who helps solve a problem
USA situational equivalent	thanks

Alqış phrase: **nə edim, neçə edim deməyəsən**

Literal translation	may you never say "what should I do, how should I do it"
Explanation if needed	may you never be stuck not knowing what to do
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who helps the speaker out of a tight spot
USA situational equivalent	you saved my tail; I owe you one

Alqış phrase: **şənliyində aşıq oxusun**

Literal translation	may an ashug sing at your party
Explanation if needed	may you have a great party
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who is about to have a party or gathering
USA situational equivalent	have fun

Alqış phrase: **ipin qırılmasın**

Literal translation	may your rope not be broken
Explanation if needed	implying "may this good streak continue"
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who is building or doing a project
USA situational equivalent	looks good

Alqış phrase: hörüyün möhkəm olsun	
Literal translation	may what you build be strong
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who is building or laying a foundation
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: zatına bərəkallah	
Literal translation	praise God for your family
Explanation if needed	similar to "God bless the family that raised/produced you"
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who is capable or does something impressive
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: barmaqların var olsun	
Literal translation	may you have [healthy/powerful] fingers
Explanation if needed	May you always have fingers; may your fingers be healthy
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who is cooking or doing work with his/her hands
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase (but similar to the prayer before eating "bless the hands that prepared this food")

Alqış phrase: nübarın qəbul olunsun	
Literal translation	may your <i>nübar</i> be accepted
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who is getting ready to share <i>nübar</i> with someone else (may they receive it)
USA situational equivalent	

Alqış phrase: səsinə-nəfəsinə quzu kəsim	
Literal translation	may I sacrifice a lamb for your voice/breath
Explanation if needed	I love your voice; may God protect your voice; "voice/breath" can also be metonymy
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who is heard coming from outside
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: ürəyində xal düşməsin	
Literal translation	may your heart not doubt
Explanation if needed	may you not have a loss
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who is seriously ill (or to his/her loved one)
USA situational equivalent	I hope you get better; praying for you

Alqış phrase: ağrın dağlara-daşlara	
Literal translation	may your pain go to the mountains and rocks

Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who is sick or in pain
USA situational equivalent	oh, no, I'm sorry! I hope you feel better.

Alqış phrase: **dostdan batıb-barınsan (əzizin batsın-barınsın)**

Literal translation	may you prosper in friends
Explanation if needed	may you have many good friends
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who is talking about his/her friend
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **əməlin azmasın**

Literal translation	may your work not decrease
Explanation if needed	work/study well!
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who isn't working/ studying well (exhortation)
USA situational equivalent	some other exhortation: keep trying; someday it will all pay off

Alqış phrase: **gölün qurumasın**

Literal translation	may your lake not dry up
Explanation if needed	may your money not run out
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who loans the speaker money
USA situational equivalent	I'll pay you back

Alqış phrase: **Allah səni pis gözdən saxlasın**

Literal translation	May God protect you from the evil eye.
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who looks pretty, for whom things are going well, or could otherwise be "enviable"
USA situational equivalent	any compliment appropriate to the occasion

Alqış phrase: **ilqarın pozulmasın**

Literal translation	may your loyalty not be broken
Explanation if needed	may you be loyal
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who makes a promise, especially to a friend
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **borclu qalmayasan**

Literal translation	may you not remain in debt
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who returns what he/she borrowed

USA situational equivalent	thank you
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Alqış phrase: **ətın tükülməsin**

Literal translation	may your flesh not fall off
Explanation if needed	implying "may no one say inappropriate things to you"
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who says an inappropriate or embarrassing thing
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent phrase

Alqış phrase: **günün gödəlməsin (qısalmasın)**

Literal translation	may your day not be shortened
Explanation if needed	may your day not be wasted with worry/stress
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who says he/she had a good day
USA situational equivalent	great! I'm glad!

Alqış phrase: **baharın barı qapında bardaş qursun**

Literal translation	may the bounties of spring sit cross-legged in your doorway
Explanation if needed	may spring bring bounty to you
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who shares food or a portion of their produce
USA situational equivalent	thanks

Alqış phrase: **heybən dolu olsun**

Literal translation	may your sack be full
Explanation if needed	metaphorically; may you always have what you need
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who shares food or a portion of their produce
USA situational equivalent	thanks

Alqış phrase: **ax-ox səndən uzaq olsun**

Literal translation	may "ah-oh" (sighing) be far from you
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who sighs or seems down
USA situational equivalent	keep your chin up; don't worry; it'll be ok; what's wrong?

Alqış phrase: **dur dağı kimi durasan**

Literal translation	may you stand like a mountain
Explanation if needed	may you be the anchor in your family
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who solves a problem or offers advice
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **ağzın qurumasın**

Literal translation	may your mouth not dry up
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Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who talks too much, as a joke
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **əyalına kəm baxana, Allah kəm baxsın**

Literal translation	may God look badly upon those who look badly on your family
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone who was tricked or had something bad done to him/her
USA situational equivalent	some sympathetic statement (that's terrible)

Alqış phrase: **qardaşına quzu qurban kəsım**

Literal translation	May I sacrifice a lamb for your brother.
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone whose brother the speaker appreciates
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase (I like your brother)

Alqış phrase: **elinə elçi gəlim**

Literal translation	may I come to your people as a messenger (to negotiate a marriage)
Explanation if needed	the messenger referred to here is someone who negotiates and arranged marriage. This implies, "may one of my close relatives marry one of your children."
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone whose children the speaker really likes (i.e. to marry the speaker's relatives)
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **soyuna elçi gəlim**

Literal translation	may I come as a messenger to your family (negotiating marriage)
Explanation if needed	the messenger referred to here is someone who negotiates and arranged marriage. This implies, "may someone in your household marry someone in mine."
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone whose relatives the speaker is fond of
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **oğlun göyüm (kürəkənim) olsun**

Literal translation	may your son be my son-in-law
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone whose son the speaker likes
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase:

yanan ırađın snmsin

Literal translation	may your burning lamp not go out
Explanation if needed	may things keep going well for you
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone whose work is going well
USA situational equivalent	that's great; I hope it keeps going well for you

Alqış phrase:

yanan ocađın qaralmasın

Literal translation	may your burning hearth not turn black
Explanation if needed	may things keep going well for you
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone whose work is going well
USA situational equivalent	that's great; I hope it keeps going well for you

Alqış phrase:

balan mlr qalmasın

Literal translation	may your baby not remain bleating
Explanation if needed	may your baby not be orphaned (like a bleating lamb)
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone with a baby
USA situational equivalent	compliment (so precious/beautiful)

Alqış phrase:

balanın barını drsn (yeysn)

Literal translation	may you eat your baby's bounty
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone with a baby
USA situational equivalent	compliment (so precious/beautiful)

Alqış phrase:

xalqdan yamanlıq grmysn

Literal translation	may you not see bad things from your people
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone with a government job or service
USA situational equivalent	thank you for serving our country (more to soldiers)

Alqış phrase:

(balan, hdin) boya-başı çatsın

Literal translation	May your child (your vow) reach maturity.
Explanation if needed	May your child fully grow up. May your vow be fulfilled.
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone with a newborn or someone making a vow
USA situational equivalent	ooh, so precious (some compliment)

Alqış phrase:

vladın (balanın) bay olsun

Literal translation	may your child be a groom
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone with a young boy

used	
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **oğlun noğul olsun**

Literal translation	may your son be candy
Explanation if needed	may your little son be sweet
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone with a young boy
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **gözün balalarının üstündə olsun**

Literal translation	may your eyes be on your children
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone with children
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **qoyun-quzu bərəkətli olsun**

Literal translation	may your sheep be abundant
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone with livestock
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **xalxalın davarlı olsun**

Literal translation	may your sheep-pen be full of sheep
Explanation if needed	may you have what you need
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone with livestock
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **pərənin pozulmasın**

Literal translation	may your good fortune not be broken
Explanation if needed	may your good fortune continue
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone with money
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase (no equivalent speech situation- taboo on talking about money)

Alqış phrase: **birin min olsun**

Literal translation	may your one be a thousand
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone with only one child
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase:

axırın xeyir olsun

Literal translation	may its outcome be good
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone with whose decision the speaker disagrees, or who is planning work
USA situational equivalent	good luck; I hope it works out

Alqış phrase:

Allah işini avand eləsin

Literal translation	may God make your work successful
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working
USA situational equivalent	looks good; what are you working on?/ sorry for interrupting

Alqış phrase:

başın ağrmasın

Literal translation	may your head not hurt
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working
USA situational equivalent	good work; looks great

Alqış phrase:

başladığın iş avand olsun

Literal translation	may the work you have begun be prosperous
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working
USA situational equivalent	good work; looks great

Alqış phrase:

dönəlgən dönməsin

Literal translation	may your fate not turn
Explanation if needed	may your work not be fruitless
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working
USA situational equivalent	good work; looks great

Alqış phrase:

əməlin üzünə gülsün

Literal translation	may your work smile in your face
Explanation if needed	may finishing your work bring you pleasure
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working
USA situational equivalent	good work; looks great

Alqış phrase:

əməyin barını yəyəsən

Literal translation	may you eat the fruits of your labor
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working

used	
USA situational equivalent	looks good; what are you working on?/ sorry for interrupting

Alqış phrase: **əməyini Allah qiymətləndirsin**

Literal translation	may God appraise your work
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working
USA situational equivalent	looks good; what are you working on?/ sorry for interrupting

Alqış phrase: **hanan qurulu qalmasın**

Literal translation	may your loom not remain finished
Explanation if needed	This may refer to a tradition in which a young girl wove her own carpet on a loom, then took it with her as her dowry. Thus this literally means "may you finish your carpet and then get married and take it with you," and metaphorically it could imply either marriage or enjoying the fruits of one's labor
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working
USA situational equivalent	keep up the good work

Alqış phrase: **haqqın halal olsun**

Literal translation	may your righteousness be acceptable to God
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working
USA situational equivalent	keep up the good work

Alqış phrase: **heydən düşməyəsən**

Literal translation	may you not fall from health/strength
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working
USA situational equivalent	good work; looks great

Alqış phrase: **ilacın kəsilməsin**

Literal translation	may your medicine (or your source of a remedy) not be cut off
Explanation if needed	may you always have the answers to your problems; may you not grow tired while working
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working
USA situational equivalent	good work; looks great

Alqış phrase: **iş-gücdən əlin soyumasın**

Literal translation	may your hand not lose interest in work
Explanation if needed	

Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working
USA situational equivalent	good work; looks great

Alqış phrase: **işin tərs gəlməsin**

Literal translation	may your work not go backwards
Explanation if needed	implying "may your work go well"
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working
USA situational equivalent	good work; looks great

Alqış phrase: **işinə bərəkallah**

Literal translation	bravo for your work (praise God for your work)
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working
USA situational equivalent	good work; looks great

Alqış phrase: **dizin taqətdən düşməsin**

Literal translation	may your knee not fall from strength
Explanation if needed	may you remain strong
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working or talking about a large job to be done
USA situational equivalent	good luck; godspeed; go for it

Alqış phrase: **Allah yarıtın**

Literal translation	may God satisfy (you)
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working or telling his/her plans
USA situational equivalent	good luck?

Alqış phrase: **əziyyətinə Allah qıymasın**

Literal translation	may God give to you willingly for your labor
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working or who has finished a task
USA situational equivalent	good job; good work

Alqış phrase: **barmaqların ağrıməsın**

Literal translation	may your fingers not hurt
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working with his/her hands
USA situational equivalent	good work; looks great

Alqış phrase:

əlin-qolun var olsun

Literal translation	may you have [healthy/powerful] hands and arms
Explanation if needed	implying "may your hands be healthy"
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working with his/her hands
USA situational equivalent	good work; looks great

Alqış phrase:

Allah gözünə işıq, dizinə taqət versin

Literal translation	May God give your eyes light and your knees endurance
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working, especially if he/she is helping with the speaker's work
USA situational equivalent	good work; looks great

Alqış phrase:

zəhmətin itməsin

Literal translation	may your labor not be lost
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone working, or when canning, taking care of sick (doing work for the future) or to parents (for their investment in children)
USA situational equivalent	

Alqış phrase:

köhlənin yorulmasın

Literal translation	may your steed not become tired
Explanation if needed	metaphorically, may your fingers/ writer's pen/ tools for the job you're doing work well for you
Situation in which phrase is used	to someone writing or working on a job
USA situational equivalent	keep up the good work

Alqış phrase:

zoruna zor çatmasın

Literal translation	may strength not match your strength
Explanation if needed	may you be the strongest
Situation in which phrase is used	to sportsmen
USA situational equivalent	some piece of "advice" or exhortation like "now go out there and show them what you're made of!"

Alqış phrase:

kamala dolasan

Literal translation	may you reach intelligence/perfection
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to teenagers, youth
USA situational equivalent	some compliment (you look like a smart one) or exhortation

Alqış phrase:

kamalın kamil olsun

Literal translation	may your intelligence be perfect
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to teenagers, youth
USA situational equivalent	some compliment (you look like a smart one) or exhortation

Alqış phrase: **uğurun urvath olsun**

Literal translation	may your success be esteemed
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to the first person the speaker meets on the way when going to a job, or to a person going to work
USA situational equivalent	greeting (have a good day)

Alqış phrase: **ev-eşiyin şən olsun**

Literal translation	may your home and yard be festive
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to the host of a party, upon leaving
USA situational equivalent	thanks!

Alqış phrase: **evin abad olsun**

Literal translation	may your home be prosperous
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to the host of a party, upon leaving
USA situational equivalent	thanks!

Alqış phrase: **evində "El Havası" çalınsın**

Literal translation	may "el havasi" (a party/wedding song) be played at your house
Explanation if needed	may there be a party/wedding at your house
Situation in which phrase is used	to the host of a party, upon leaving
USA situational equivalent	thanks!

Alqış phrase: **(anbar) bərən boş qalmasın (ərzaqlı olsun)**

Literal translation	May your warehouse not remain empty (have food).
Explanation if needed	May your pantry be full.
Situation in which phrase is used	to the host, as a guest in a home
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase (thank you; or a compliment)

Alqış phrase: **ilxın doğsun-törəsin**

Literal translation	may your herd reproduce
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to the owner of a herd or some material thing

used	
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **zəmin quraqlıq görməsin**

Literal translation	may your ground not see drought
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to the owner of a storehouse (when seeing it)
USA situational equivalent	probably something like "wow," "looks great"

Alqış phrase: **çəmən solmasın**

Literal translation	may your meadow not fade
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to the owner of a yard/garden
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **qoçun qurbanlıq olsun**

Literal translation	may your ram be a sacrifice
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to the owner of animals
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **damazlığın qapından kəsilməsin**

Literal translation	may your breeder not be cut from your door
Explanation if needed	may your breeder bull be healthy
Situation in which phrase is used	to the owner of cattle, when eating meat/drinking milk
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase; no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **damın damazlıqsız qalması**

Literal translation	may your cattle-yard not be without a breeder
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to the owner of cattle, when eating meat/drinking milk
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase; no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **damın davarsız qalması**

Literal translation	may your cattle-yard not be without sheep and goats
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to the owner of cattle, when eating meat/drinking milk
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase; no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **mal-qaranı davax tutması**

Literal translation	may a disease not take your livestock
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to the owner of livestock, when looking at the herd
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **sayan davax görməsin**

Literal translation	may your flock not see disease
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to the owner of livestock, when looking at the herd
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **sayan qada-baladan uzaq olsun**

Literal translation	may your flock be far from trouble and pain
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to the owner of livestock, when looking at the herd
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **bəxtin bağlanmasın**

Literal translation	may your luck not close
Explanation if needed	may you be lucky/happy
Situation in which phrase is used	to young children
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **bəxtin üzünə gülsün**

Literal translation	may your luck smile in your face
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to young children
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **həyatınə gəlin gəlsin**

Literal translation	may a bride come to your yard
Explanation if needed	may you or someone in your household get married
Situation in which phrase is used	to young men
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **uğruna xanım-xatın çıxsın**

Literal translation	may a lady come to your success
Explanation if needed	may you be successful and also attract a bride
Situation in which phrase is used	to young men

USA situational equivalent	compliment
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Alqış phrase: **atan-anan toyunu görsün**

Literal translation	may your father and mother see your wedding
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to youth
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **cah-calal sahibi olasan**

Literal translation	may you be the owner of luxury
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to youth
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **cavan toyunu görüm**

Literal translation	may I see the wedding of your youth
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to youth
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **cavanların batıb-barınsın**

Literal translation	may your young ones be fruitful
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to youth
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **cavanlığın hədər gətməsin, yarısın**

Literal translation	may your youth not be in vain/ may it satisfy you
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to youth
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **kəllən daşa dəyməsin**

Literal translation	may your skull not strike a rock
Explanation if needed	used as an admonition like "be smart; don't mess up"
Situation in which phrase is used	to youth
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Alqış phrase: **ulduzunuz barışsın**

Literal translation	may your stars meet
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Explanation if needed	may you two fall in love
Situation in which phrase is used	to youth who is in love
USA situational equivalent	comment like "you're young; your life is ahead of you; enjoy being young/free while it lasts"

Alqış phrase: **yarına qovuşasan**

Literal translation	may you be united with your love
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	to youth, single
USA situational equivalent	comment like "you're young; your life is ahead of you; enjoy being young/free while it lasts"

Alqış phrase: **gözün nurlansın**

Literal translation	may your eyes light up
Explanation if needed	metaphorically, may you be gladdened
Situation in which phrase is used	turning on light OR telling good news
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent phrase

Alqış phrase: **gözünə işıq**

Literal translation	light to your eyes
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	turning on light OR telling good news
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent phrase

Alqış phrase: **nəfsin tox olsun**

Literal translation	may your desire be filled
Explanation if needed	may you not have unmet desires
Situation in which phrase is used	usually to children, to teach them lesson not to covet others' things
USA situational equivalent	count your blessings

Alqış phrase: **ürəyin geniş olsun**

Literal translation	may your heart be wide
Explanation if needed	may you "be the bigger man" when someone has treated you unkindly
Situation in which phrase is used	when a friend/acquaintance does something unkind to the listener
USA situational equivalent	some consolation ("that's terrible;" "I'm sorry that happened to you")

Alqış phrase: **təhnən bin-bərəkətli olsun**

Literal translation	may your flour container be abundant
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Explanation if needed	may you always have what you need
Situation in which phrase is used	when borrowing flour (in village)
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **bin-bərəkətin əskik olmasın**

Literal translation	may you not be lacking abundance
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	when borrowing groceries from neighbors
USA situational equivalent	thank you (rare situation)

Alqış phrase: **binin bərəkətli olsun**

Literal translation	may you be abundant
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	when borrowing groceries from neighbors
USA situational equivalent	thank you (rare situation)

Alqış phrase: **başın-dişin ağrıməsın**

Literal translation	may your head and teeth not hurt
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	when eating <i>nübar</i> (firstfruits)
USA situational equivalent	no equivalent situation

Alqış phrase: **evində ocaq yansın, evinin çırağı sönməz olsun**

Literal translation	may a lamp burn in your home; may your home's lamp not go out
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	when giving something to a neighbor, seeing a neighbor cooking, or arriving in warm place
USA situational equivalent	comment like "it's nice and warm in here" or "your house smells so good"

Alqış phrase: **evin-eşiyin odsuz-ocaqsız qalmasın**

Literal translation	may your house and yard not remain without fire and hearth
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	when giving something to a neighbor, seeing a neighbor cooking, or arriving in warm place
USA situational equivalent	comment like "it's nice and warm in here" or "your house smells so good"

Alqış phrase: **Allah səni yandırıb-yaxmasın (yandırmasın)**

Literal translation	may God not burn you
Explanation if needed	

Situation in which phrase is used	when hearing bad news or thinking about something serious
USA situational equivalent	oh no, I'm sorry; I hope it turns out ok

Alqış phrase: **evin ağsaqqalı olsun**

Literal translation	may your home have an old man
Explanation if needed	implying "may you always have a wise person around"
Situation in which phrase is used	when hearing good advice or to thank someone for what their agsaqqal taught you
USA situational equivalent	

Alqış phrase: **amanın (gümanın) qırılmasın**

Literal translation	may your mercy (hope) not break
Explanation if needed	May you not give up hope; may your hope not fail you
Situation in which phrase is used	when hoping for something
USA situational equivalent	I hope it works out for you

Alqış phrase: **baharın üzünə gülsün**

Literal translation	may spring smile in your face
Explanation if needed	Happy spring
Situation in which phrase is used	when seeing someone after novruz holiday
USA situational equivalent	No set phrase

Alqış phrase: **qəbri nurla dolsun**

Literal translation	may (his/her) grave fill with light
Explanation if needed	may God have mercy on him/her
Situation in which phrase is used	when talking about a deceased person
USA situational equivalent	sorry

Alqış phrase: **Allah başını uça eləsin (vəzifədə, el içində başın uca olsun)**

Literal translation	may God lift your head (in your work, among your people)
Explanation if needed	may you be respected
Situation in which phrase is used	when talking about someone's job
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase: **fəsilələrin üzünə gülsün**

Literal translation	may the seasons smile in your face
Explanation if needed	may the seasons be happy for you
Situation in which phrase is used	when talking about the seasons
USA situational equivalent	no set phrase

Alqış phrase:	təzə-təzə nübarlar dadasan
Literal translation	may you taste new <i>nübar</i>
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	when tasting nubar or sharing produce
USA situational equivalent	compliment

Part 3. Alqış phrases used in general contexts

Note: The following phrases are used in such varied circumstances that it would be difficult to list out their usage situations here. Many of them are substituted for terms of endearment, and many of them can be used as a way to thank or praise the listener for doing some deed or saying a kind word.

Alqış phrase:	Allah kəramətini üstündən əskik elməsin
Literal translation	may God not let you lack his generosity to you
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	ərgənin dul qalmasın
Literal translation	may your marriageable (relative) not remain widowed
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	Acı gün görməyəsən
Literal translation	may you not see a bitter day
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	Adına (sənə) quzu kəsim, dilinə (el-obana) quzu kəsim
Literal translation	May I sacrifice a lamb for you (for your name, your tongue, your people)
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	ağ günlü, ağ çörəkli olasan
Literal translation	may you have a white day and white bread
Explanation if needed	"white" connotes "good," "pure"

Alqış phrase:	Allah həyanın olsun
Literal translation	May God be your honor
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	Allah hoyuna-dadına çatsın
Literal translation	may God come to your rescue
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	Allah ömrünü uzun eləsin / versin
Literal translation	may God make your life long/ give you long life

Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	Allah səni oddan-alovdan qorusun
Literal translation	may God protect you from fire and flames
Explanation if needed	can be literal or metaphorical (i.e. tragedy, bad things)
Alqış phrase:	Allah səni qada-bələdan qorusun
Literal translation	may God protect you from trouble
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	atan-anan pir olsun
Literal translation	may your father and mother be sages
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	atın büdrəməsin
Literal translation	may your horse not stumble
Explanation if needed	(can be literal or metaphorical)
Alqış phrase:	bədbəxtlik səndən uzaq olsun
Literal translation	may bad luck be far from you
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	canın ağrı-bezar görməsin
Literal translation	may your body not see illness or pain
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	canın cövhərli, güclü olsun
Literal translation	may your body be jeweled and strong
Explanation if needed	"jeweled" can also imply "smiling"
Alqış phrase:	cavan canın xata-baladan uzaq olsun
Literal translation	may your young soul be far from grief and pain
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	cənnətməkan olasan
Literal translation	may your home be in heaven
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	çəpərin basılmasın
Literal translation	may your fence not be defeated
Explanation if needed	implying "may friends enter your gate, not enemies"
Alqış phrase:	çətinlik səndən iraq olsun, görməyəsən
Literal translation	may difficulty be far from you/ may you not see difficulty
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: çırağın yansın, sönməsin	
Literal translation	may your lamp burn/ not go out
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: dünyada ağ gün görəsən	
Literal translation	may you see a white day in the world
Explanation if needed	"white" connotes "good"

Alqış phrase: əhli-əyalını Allah saxlasın	
Literal translation	may God protect your family
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: əlin ərsəyə çatsın	
Literal translation	may your hand be raised up
Explanation if needed	may you be able to live independently

Alqış phrase: əməyin itik, dizin sıyrıq qalmasın	
Literal translation	may your work not remain lost, and may your knee not remain scraped
Explanation if needed	may your labors not be lost

Alqış phrase: əminin başı sağ olsun	
Literal translation	may your uncle's head be healthy
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: evinə elçi gəlsin	
Literal translation	may a messenger come to your house
Explanation if needed	the messenger referred to here is someone who negotiates and arranged marriage. This implies, "may someone in your household get married."

Alqış phrase: fəlakətdən iraq olasan	
Literal translation	may you be far from tragedy
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: fərəhin yerə-göyə sığmasın	
Literal translation	may your joy not fit in the earth or sky
Explanation if needed	may you be boundlessly joyful

Alqış phrase: göylər səni pənahında saxlasın	
Literal translation	may the skies keep you in refuge
Explanation if needed	may the sky watch over you/ protect you

Alqış phrase: gözün əllərə baxmasın	
Literal translation	may your eyes not look at (others') hands
Explanation if needed	may you not be sick/ in need of help (or forced to beg from

	others)
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Alqış phrase: **gözün pis üzlər görməsin**

Literal translation	may your eyes not see bad faces
Explanation if needed	may you be far from bad people

Alqış phrase: **gözün yamanlıq görməsin**

Literal translation	may your eyes not see bad things
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **günün ağ olsun, ağ günün olsun, ağ günün ağarsın, ağ günlərə qovuşasan**

Literal translation	may you have a white day
Explanation if needed	may you have a good day

Alqış phrase: **hörmətin artıq olsun**

Literal translation	may you have extra respect
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **hörmətindən hörmət görəsən**

Literal translation	may you see respect from your respect
Explanation if needed	may you be respected

Alqış phrase: **hörmətli olasan**

Literal translation	may you be respected
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **hüzn görməyəsən**

Literal translation	may you not see funerals
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **İlahənin (Allahın) gözü üstündə olsun**

Literal translation	may God's eye be on you
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **İlahənin (Allahın) kölgəsi üstündən əskilməsin**

Literal translation	may you not be lacking God's shadow over you
Explanation if needed	May God always watch over you

Alqış phrase: **kağızın qara yazılmasın**

Literal translation	may your paper not be written in black
Explanation if needed	"black" implying death (may you not die)

Alqış phrase: **Kərəm əli sənə kərəmət gətirsin**

Literal translation	may the generous hand bring you generosity
Explanation if needed	May God be generous to you

Alqış phrase:	malım-payım ömür-gününə sadağa olsun
Literal translation	may my herd/belongings be a sacrifice for your life/days
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	mərhamətin əskik olmasın
Literal translation	may you never lack mercy
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	mümkünlü olasan
Literal translation	may you be able
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	müxənnət (xain) gözü (sözü) səndən uzaq olsun
Literal translation	may the word of (eye of) treachery/betrayal be far from you
Explanation if needed	may not not be betrayed

Alqış phrase:	nahaq söz-söhbət səndən iraq olsun
Literal translation	may needless rumors be far from you
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	namərdin hiyləsindən uzaq olasan
Literal translation	may you be kept far from the tricks of cowards
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	namərhəm üzü görməyəsən
Literal translation	may you not see an unmerciful face
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	o bir olan Allah amanında olsun
Literal translation	may he/she be in the mercy of the one God
Explanation if needed	may God have mercy on him/her

Alqış phrase:	ocağın sönməsin\ qaralmasın
Literal translation	may your hearth not burn out/ turn black
Explanation if needed	metaphorical; may you always be provided for

Alqış phrase:	önlərinə Allah rəhmət eləsin
Literal translation	may God have mercy on your deceased ones
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	önlərinin yeri behişt olsun
Literal translation	may the place of your deceased ones be in heaven
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **ömrün uzun olsun**

Literal translation	may your life be long
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **ömründən yarıyasın**

Literal translation	may you be satisfied with your life
Explanation if needed	i.e. have good days in life

Alqış phrase: **ömrünə sadağa olum**

Literal translation	may I be a sacrifice for your life
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **ömür-günün puç olmasın**

Literal translation	may your lifetime not be empty
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **önünə nişan güzgü tutum**

Literal translation	may I hold an engagement mirror in front of you
Explanation if needed	may you get engaged/married (traditionally, a mirror is held in front of a couple during various parts of the wedding ceremony)

Alqış phrase: **pir olasan**

Literal translation	may you be a sage
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **pis gün görməyəsən**

Literal translation	may you not see a bad day
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **qada-bala səndən uzaq olsun**

Literal translation	may grief and pain be far from you
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **qara gün görməyəsən (qızın...görməsin)**

Literal translation	may you not see a black day
Explanation if needed	"black" implying sad or bad

Alqış phrase: **qarğış səndən uzaq olsun**

Literal translation	may curses be far from you
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **qəm səndən uzaq olsun**

Literal translation	may grief be far from you
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **qızın qızılca görməsin**

Literal translation	may your daughter not see measles
Explanation if needed	may your daughter not catch measles

Alqış phrase: **rəhm əli üstündən əskik olmasın**

Literal translation	may you not be apart from the hand of mercy
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **rəhmətliklərinin yeri behişt olsun**

Literal translation	may the place of your deceased ones be heaven
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **sağ ol (qardaşın... sağ olsun)**

Literal translation	thank you/ be healthy (may your brother be healthy)
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **sağlığımı görün**

Literal translation	may I see your health
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **şah-şövkət sahibi olasan**

Literal translation	may you be the owner of a kingdom and grandeur
Explanation if needed	may you have a good reputation

Alqış phrase: **şanında oynayım**

Literal translation	may I dance at your party
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **şəninə söz qoşulsun**

Literal translation	may a word connect to your party
Explanation if needed	may you be an honored person (i.e. about whom others write kind words)

Alqış phrase: **şən-şux olasan**

Literal translation	may you be festive and jolly
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **şöhrətin artıq olsun**

Literal translation	may your glory be great
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **şövkətin şöhrətli olsun**

Literal translation	may your glory be glorious
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **sözün məclislər yaraşığı olsun**

Literal translation	may your words be the beauty of assemblies
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Explanation if needed	may you be the one who speaks eloquently at gatherings
Alqış phrase:	taxçan boş qalmasın
Literal translation	may your niche not be empty
Explanation if needed	may you have money
Alqış phrase:	uğurun uğurlu olsun
Literal translation	may your success be successful
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	uğuruna qurban kəsim (olum)
Literal translation	may I be a sacrifice for your success
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	urvatın artıq olsun
Literal translation	may your esteem be great
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	üzün ağ olsun
Literal translation	may your face be white
Explanation if needed	"white" implying "good," "innocent"
Alqış phrase:	üzün pis üz görməsin
Literal translation	may your face not see a bad face
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	üzün utanmasın
Literal translation	may your face not be ashamed
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	üzünün suyu tökülməsin
Literal translation	may your face not pour water
Explanation if needed	may you not cry
Alqış phrase:	var olasan
Literal translation	may you be
Explanation if needed	may you always exist/ live long
Alqış phrase:	vətəninə qurban olum
Literal translation	may I be a sacrifice for your country
Explanation if needed	implying "God bless the country that produced you"
Alqış phrase:	xata-baladan uzaq olasan
Literal translation	may you be far from grief and pain
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: xeyir-dua qapını döysün	
Literal translation	may blessings knock on your door
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: yağlı böyrək kimi yağ içində (yağ-bal içində) böyüyəsən	
Literal translation	may you grow up in butter like a buttery kidney (or grow up in butter and honey)
Explanation if needed	used like "sweetheart" to a child

Alqış phrase: yaman gün görməyəsən	
Literal translation	may you not see a bad day
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: yaradanın əli üstündən əskik olmasın	
Literal translation	may the hand of the creator not be lacking from you
Explanation if needed	may God be near you

Alqış phrase: yardan əlin üzülməsin	
Literal translation	may your hand not be separated from your love
Explanation if needed	may you not be apart from your love

Alqış phrase: yarınla qarıyasan	
Literal translation	may you grow old with your love
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: Yaxşı (qəşəng) günün olsun	
Literal translation	may you have a good (pretty) day
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	as a response to stating that something is good or pretty
USA situational equivalent	

Alqış phrase: yazın pozulmasın	
Literal translation	may your writing not be erased
Explanation if needed	"writing" implies your fate, which is traditionally thought to be written on one's forehead. Thus this implies, "may your fate be good."

Alqış phrase: yazından yarıyasan	
Literal translation	may you be satisfied with your writing
Explanation if needed	"writing" implies fate

Alqış phrase: zillət görməyəsən	
Literal translation	may you not see hardship
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	zülüm üzü görməyəsən
Literal translation	may you not see the face of oppression
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	imana gələsən (çatasan)
Literal translation	may you come to (reach) faith
Explanation if needed	

Part 4. Additional alqış phrases (rare, unclear or miscellaneous)

Note: the following phrases are derivatives of other phrases in the previous three sections, are rarely used in the given form, or were not immediately clear to some native speakers.

Alqış phrase:	Allah başından bir tük də əskik eləməsin
Literal translation	may God not let even one hair be missing from your head
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	Allah əli (Allahın gözü) üstündə olsun
Literal translation	May God's hand (his eye) be upon you
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	Allah səni xəta-bələdan qurtarsın
Literal translation	may God end your trouble
Explanation if needed	May God deliver you from trouble.

Alqış phrase:	Allahın qəzəbi səndən uzaq olsun
Literal translation	may God's wrath be far from you
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	Allahın yanında üzün ağ olsun, qızının üzü ağ olsun
Literal translation	may your face (your daughter's face) be white before God
Explanation if needed	"white" connotes "pure," "innocent," "acceptable"

Alqış phrase:	cavan canına canım qurban olsun
Literal translation	may my body/spirit be a sacrifice for your young one
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	boynun buruq qalmasın
Literal translation	may your body not remain bent
Explanation if needed	implying "may you never be left alone or in hardship; may you not slouch under grief"

Alqış phrase:	bəy olasan
Literal translation	may you be a groom
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: yaşın yüzü haqlasın	
Literal translation	may your age reach 100
Explanation if needed	may you live to 100

Alqış phrase: atana rəhmət	
Literal translation	mercy to your father
Explanation if needed	may your father rest in peace

Alqış phrase: yazın üzünə xoşbəxtliklə gəlsin	
Literal translation	may spring come to your face with happiness
Explanation if needed	may spring bring happiness to you

Alqış phrase: bağrın qan olmasın	
Literal translation	may your heart not be bloody
Explanation if needed	may you not be afraid (may your heart not pound)

Alqış phrase: atanın canı sağ olsun	
Literal translation	may your father be healthy
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: kösövün (ocağın, qanın) qaralmasın	
Literal translation	may your log/hearth/blood not become black
Explanation if needed	may you not get upset

Alqış phrase: izin itməsin	
Literal translation	may your trail not be lost
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: yaşadlarından (köçdən) geri qalmayasan	
Literal translation	may you not fall behind your peers (the herd)
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: uşaqların darda qalmasın	
Literal translation	may your children not remain in sorrow
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: uşaqlarını Allah saxlasın	
Literal translation	may God protect your children
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: mümkünün kəsilməsin	
Literal translation	may your ability not be cut off
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: ağbəxt olasan	
Literal translation	may you be happy

Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	ehtiyac üzü görməyəsən
Literal translation	may you not see the face of need
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	sağ-salamat (olasan)
Literal translation	be healthy
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	ömür-gününə quzu kəsım
Literal translation	may I sacrifice a lamb for your life
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	evlad/ övlad dərđi görməyəsən
Literal translation	may you not see the sorrow of your children
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	qəhər səni boğmasın
Literal translation	may anger not choke you
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	Allah səni evindən ayırməsın
Literal translation	may God not separate you from your home
Explanation if needed	
Alqış phrase:	gözünə qara su gəlməsın
Literal translation	may black water not come to your eyes
Explanation if needed	implying may you not cry
Alqış phrase:	arzuna çatasan (qovuşasan)
Literal translation	may you reach your wish
Explanation if needed	May your wish come true
Alqış phrase:	İmam əlindən əlin üzölməsın
Literal translation	may your hand not be separated from the imam's hand
Explanation if needed	may you always be in reach of help and faith
Alqış phrase:	vətənin (el-obana) qara geyməsin
Literal translation	may your people not dress in black
Explanation if needed	may people around you not grieve
Alqış phrase:	ev üzünə həsrət qalmayasan
Literal translation	may you not long for your home
Explanation if needed	[this was unclear to a native speaker of Azeri]

Alqış phrase:

abrin tükülməsin

Literal translation	may your decency not fall
Explanation if needed	may you not be ashamed.

Alqış phrase:

şıqqın sınması

Literal translation	may your good posture not break
Explanation if needed	may you not slouch under the weight of grief

Alqış phrase:

ocağın acliq görməsin

Literal translation	may your hearth not see bitterness
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:

canına bu qoca canım qurban

Literal translation	may this old body be a sacrifice for yours
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:

çuğulun yarımасы

Literal translation	may your tale-teller not be satisfying
Explanation if needed	may your messenger not gossip

Alqış phrase:

Allah gözünü işığa gətirsin

Literal translation	May God bring light to your eyes
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:

Allah sənə yar olsun

Literal translation	may God be your love
Explanation if needed	may you be close to God; may God help you

Alqış phrase:

cavan canına Allah qıymasın

Literal translation	may God not rebuke your young soul
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:

Allah balanı çiçəkdən qorusun

Literal translation	may God protect your child from smallpox
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:

Allah qismətini versin

Literal translation	may God give you your destiny
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:

Allahın kölgəsi üstündən əskik olmasın

Literal translation	may you never be lacking God's shadow over you
Explanation if needed	May God watch over you

Alqış phrase:

Allahın nəzəri (Allah) üstündən əskik olmasın

Literal translation	may you never be lacking God's watching over you
Explanation if needed	May God watch over you

Alqış phrase: **başın xəta-bələdan uzaq olsun**

Literal translation	may your head be far from troubles
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **cavanların subaylıq daşını atsin**

Literal translation	may your young ones cast off the stone of singleness
Explanation if needed	may the young people get married

Alqış phrase: **çörəyin isti olsun, suyun sərin**

Literal translation	may your bread be hot and your water sweet
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **cürətin artıq olsun**

Literal translation	may you have extra courage
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **dərdi-bələdan uzaq olasan**

Literal translation	may you be far from sorrow and trouble
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **əlin əllərdə qalmasın**

Literal translation	may your hand remain in hands
Explanation if needed	may you not be separated from help/ from those you love

Alqış phrase: **el-obandan ayrılmayasan**

Literal translation	may you not be separated from your people
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **əyri üzü görməyəsən**

Literal translation	may you not see a crooked face
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **əzizin ərşə ucalsın**

Literal translation	may your beloved (loved ones) rise to heaven
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **fağrılıq görməyəsən, çəkməyəsən**

Literal translation	may you not see/ experience meekness/poverty
Explanation if needed	
Situation in which phrase is used	
USA situational equivalent	

Alqış phrase: fürsəti heç vaxt əldən verməyəsən	
Literal translation	may you never miss an opportunity
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: gəmin dolu gəlsin	
Literal translation	may your ship come in full
Explanation if needed	metaphorical; "may you receive abundance"
Situation in which phrase is used	(rare)

Alqış phrase: gəminin yelkəni açılsın	
Literal translation	may your ship's sail open
Explanation if needed	metaphorical; "may things go well for you"
Situation in which phrase is used	(rare)

Alqış phrase: getdiyın yol boş olmasın	
Literal translation	may the road you have traveled not be empty
Explanation if needed	may your efforts not be in vain

Alqış phrase: halal süd əmənlərin bay olsun, halala qismət olsun, əmmiş gəlinin olsun, südün balalarının halalı olsun	
Literal translation	may you drink halal milk, may your bride be one who was raised on halal milk
Explanation if needed	may the people around you be honest and good

Alqış phrase: haqdan yamanlıq görməyəsən	
Literal translation	may you not see bad from justice
Explanation if needed	here "justice" refers to God (may God treat you with justice)

Alqış phrase: istəkli olasan	
Literal translation	may you be desireable
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: izin izlərə qarışsın	
Literal translation	may your path meet other paths
Explanation if needed	may you go the same way as others

Alqış phrase: kəramətli olasan	
Literal translation	may you be generous
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: nəvə toyun görəsən	
Literal translation	may you see your grandchild's wedding
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	nəvə-nəticə görəsən
Literal translation	may you see your grandchildren and great-grandchildren
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	qardaş dağı görməyəsən
Literal translation	may you not see the grief of your brother
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	qardaşın qada-baladan uzaq olsun
Literal translation	may your brother be far from grief and pain
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	qardaşına qurban olum
Literal translation	may I be a sacrifice for your brother
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	qardaşının ağrısını ürəyimə
Literal translation	may your brother's pain come to my heart
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	qardaşının qazancını yeyəsən
Literal translation	may you eat your brother's earnings
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	qardaşının toyunda əlimə həna/ xına yaxım
Literal translation	may I paint henna on your hand at your brother's wedding
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	qardaşının toyunda süzüm (oynayım)
Literal translation	may I dance at your brother's wedding
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	qızının (əmin oğlunun) toyunu görüm
Literal translation	may I see your daughter's (cousin's) wedding
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase:	qocan qoltuqlarda qalmasın
Literal translation	may your old man not remain on elbows
Explanation if needed	may you not end up weak/dependent; implying "may your kids turn out well and take care of you in your old age"

Alqış phrase:	şəhla gözün süzülməsin
Literal translation	may your blue eyes not water
Explanation if needed	implying "may you not meet people you don't like."

Alqış phrase: **sənin el-obanda dilin uzun olsun**

Literal translation	may your tongue be long among your people
Explanation if needed	may you not be ashamed among your clan/people surrounding you

Alqış phrase: **şənlük el-obadan əskik olmasın**

Literal translation	may your people not be lacking in parties
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **sözün ötkəm olsun**

Literal translation	may your words be confident
Explanation if needed	also "may you be respected and listened to"

Alqış phrase: **sözün yerə düşməsin**

Literal translation	may your words not fall to the ground
Explanation if needed	may you be respected; may people listen to you

Alqış phrase: **sürün qapından əskik olmasın**

Literal translation	may your flock not be missing from your door
Explanation if needed	may you always have what you need

Alqış phrase: **xırmanın bin-bərəkət əskik olmasın**

Literal translation	may your threshing-floor not be lacking in abundance
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **xurcunun boş qalmasın**

Literal translation	may your saddle-bag not be empty
Explanation if needed	literal or metaphorical

Alqış phrase: **yaddan da yarıyasın**

Literal translation	may you be satisfied with your memory
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **yadın da sənə yaman olmasın**

Literal translation	may your memory not be bad for you
Explanation if needed	

Alqış phrase: **zərin şeş dursun**

Literal translation	may your dice land on 6
Explanation if needed	

Appendix B Azerbaijani interview response data

[Respondent names have been removed from this data for confidentiality.]

Müsahiblərin danışdığı dili saxlanılıb.

Age/gender: 17 M

Occupation: şagird

Regional background: Gədəbəy

22 Oct 2011

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdir? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	Kimsə vəfat edəndə	Rəhm ərəb sözüdür (rəhm istəmək= üzr istəmək) Y= Heç nə, amma desən savabdır. Alqış kimidir.
Göz dəyməsin	Kimsə yaxşı iş görəndə	Nəzərdən qorumaq üçün
Canın sağ olsun	İstənilən vaxt- kimsə yaxşı iş görəndə Məsələn, maşın avariya olanda	
Gözünüz aydın	Məsələn, kimsə universitetə girəndə	V= xeyirli olsun
Allah köməyiniz olsun	Həmişə demək olar. Canın sağ olsun ilə eynidir.	
Qadan alım	Yalvarmaq üçün- bunu qoca qadınlar deyir.	

Age/gender- 26 F

Occupation: ofis assistenti (maqistr dərəcəsi qurtarıb)

Regional background: Gürcüstan

24 Oct 2011

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdir? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	Kiminsə qohumu rəhmətə gedəndə	Y= "Deməyəndə yaxşı çıxmır."
Göz dəyməsin	Nəsə xoşuna gəlir- çox vaxt balaca uşaqlara deyirlər	V= nə qəşəngdir. Və tfu-tfu eləyirsən (3 dəfə tüpürür)
Canın sağ olsun		V= Allah sənə şəfa versin
Gözünüz aydın	Əsgərlikdən uşağı gələndə. Uşaq olanda (xüsusən oğlan uşağı!)	
Allah köməyiniz olsun	Çətin iş düşəndə, elə bil bu işdə Allah sənə kömək eləsin ki, bu işdən yaxşı çıxasan. Problem olanda.	

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Age/gender: 45 F
Occupation: xadimə
Regional background: Füzuli rayonu
24 Oct 2011

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdə? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	Yaxın kimsə öləndə	N= Bilmirəm... baş sağlığı kimi. Y= “deyirlər axı.”
Göz dəyməsin	Əsas başın ağrıtanda, nəşə ağrıtanda. Və onda pambıq, duz, üzərlik yandırarsan, başından fırlayırsan.	
Canın sağ olsun	Elə bil, Allah sənə can sağlığı versin.	Çünki hər şeydən vacib can sağlığıdır.
Gözünüz aydın	Sənin uşağın olur (oğlan uşaq olsa lap ürəkdən deyirlər, qız uşaq olsa belə (sakit) deyirlər).	Y= heç nə.
Allah köməyiniz olsun	Bir işimi görürlər, onda deyirəm.	V= sağ ol kimidir.

Age/gender: 26 F
Occupation: ofis assistenti/ maqistr tələbəsi
Regional background: Lənkəran
24 Oct 2011

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdə? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	Bir adam öləndə	N= “rest in peace”. Allah rəhm eləsin-rəhm ərəb sözüdür. Yəni, o dünyada əzabları yüngül olsun.
Göz dəyməsin	Məsələn, sən bu gün qəşəngsən.	Qabaqcadan sığortalayıram. V=maşallah. Y= eləcə sığortalayıram. Yıxılısan, onda deyək ki, göz dəydi.
Canın sağ olsun	Məsələn, pul itirirsən (makes 3 kissing sounds and pulls earlobes!), təsəllidir. Telefon itirirsən deyərəm, canın sağ olsun, təzəsini alarsan.	Əsas canına bir şey olmasın.

Gözün aydın	Çoxdan gözlədiyın şey baş verir. Uşaq olur, təzə maşın alırsan, kimsə gec ərə getdi. Bir də “gözüm aydın” formada var, bir az pis mənada. Zarafat kimi. (sarcasm).	
Allah köməyin olsun	Kimsə çətin bir işi başlayır-məsələn, elmi iş başlayanda.	Yüngül olsun. V= işin avand olsun. Y= heç nə. Deməsən də olar.

Age/gender: 30 F

Occupation: Kitab satışı (hüquq sahəsində bakalavr dərəcəsinə qurtarıb)

Regional background: Bakı (mixed)

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdir? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	Biri öləndə	Allah günahlarını bağışlasın, rəhmli olsun N (in reply to Y, squirming)= təsəlli vermək üçün deyirik- mənim xətrimə Allah rəhmət eləsin. Qəmimizi bildirmək istəyirik.
Göz dəyməsin	Qibtə (paxıllıq) eləyəcək bir şey olanda.	N= yaxşı həmişə səndə olsun. Nəzərdən qorumaq üçün. Y= “adam elə bilər ki, mənim paxıllığım tutur ona”
Canın sağ olsun	Tutaq ki, iş tapşırımışam, birindən gözləyirəm, amma o, bacarmayıb, mənim yanımda utanmasın deyə deyirəm. Elə bil, “eybi yox”, “iş düzələr”. Və ya ciddi itkisi olursa- əsas sağlamlıqdır.	
Gözünüz aydın	Birinin başına xoş iş gələndə, çoxdan gözlədiyın hadisə (uşaq olanda, ərə gedəndə)	N= Məcəzi- gözün işıqlı baxsın, xoş şeylərə baxasan. Təbrik deməkdir. Sevindiyimi ifadə eləyirəm.
Allah köməyiniz olsun	İstənilən adamı çarəsiz görəndə. Ona kömək edə bilmirik, bizim əlimizdən heç nə gəlmir. Allah kömək eləsin.	V= Allah səbr versin. Allahdan ümid kəsilməz. Y= susmayasan deyə deyirik. Təsəlli üçün.

“bunları ağıllı babalarımız elə fikirləşiblər ki, söz tapmayanda onlardan istifadə edərək”

Age/gender: ~45 F

Occupation: nəşriyyat (kompüter işləri)

Regional background: Bakı

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdə? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	Kimsə öləndə	
Göz dəyməsin	Qəşəngsən, evin yaxşıdır	V= maşallah
Canın sağ olsun	Təsəlli verəndə, salamat qalsın	V= yox
Gözünüz aydın	Toy olub, ad günü, yaxşı şey olanda	
Allah köməyiniz olsun	İş əngələ düşüb və ya (alqış kimi) "Marta bu işimi görüb, Allah köməyi olsun!"	

"görürsən? Hər şeydə Allah sözü işlənilib" (pointing to all the phrases here one by one)

Age/gender: ~40 M

Occupation: nəşriyyatçı

Regional background: Gürcüstan

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdə? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	Ölənin adını ananda (yaxşı adam)	
Göz dəyməsin	Yaxşı bir şey haqqında danışanda	Y= adamın ürəyində qalır (sonra elə bilər ki, mənim gözüm dəymişdi)
Canın sağ olsun	İş alınmayanda.	Təsəlli.
Gözünüz aydın	-	
Allah köməyiniz olsun	Çarəsiz bir işdi. Allah köməyi olsun, yəni, mən kömək edə bilmirəm.	V= Allah yetirsin.

Age/gender: 23 M

Occupation: radio aparıcı

Regional background: Gürcüstan

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdə? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət	Adam öləndə	Allahın yazığı gəlsin, günahlarını

eləsin		bağışlasın, cəhənnəmə düşməsin
Göz dəyməsin	Tüpürürlər- tfu-tfu-tfu. Adamın çox təriflədiyi şeyə deyərsən, sonra başlayırsan tərifləməyə	N= gözlərin pis enerjisi təsir eləməsin
Canın sağ olsun	Adamın ayağını tapdalayanda, sən “bağışla” deyərsən, o sənə bunu deyir, və ya pulunu oğurlayıblar	N= o, boş şeydir, əsas can sağlığı. V= Allah bağışlasın V= keçmiş olsun
Gözünüz aydın	Kimsə sevinəndə. Çox sevinəndə.	N= bilmirəm. Yəqin ki, yaxşı şey olanda, məsələn çox pul götürürsən, o şeyə görə gözün bağlanmasın.
Allah köməyiniz olsun	Çətin vəziyyətə düşəndə- məsələn, sevdiyin qızı başqasına ərə gedir.	V= Allah səbr versin.

Age/gender: 22 F

Occupation: qəbulçu

Regional background: Tovuz

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdir? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	Kimsə öləndə	Y= bir şey olmayacaq, amma savabdı- ölənə rəhmət göndərirən.
Göz dəyməsin	Mən demirəm. Mən maşallah deyirəm. Özüm çəkinəndə deyirəm- hamının əvəzinə deyirəm. Qəşəng nəyə görəndə.	
Canın sağ olsun	Kimdənsə nəyə istəmişəm, alınmayıb	
Gözünüz aydın	Yaxşı xəbər eşidəndə, gözlədiyi şey olanda	N= eləcə gözlədiyən xəbər gəlib.
Allah köməyiniz olsun	Kimsə xəstələnəndə. Kimsə dərdini danışır, problemini danışır, onda deyirik.	

Age/gender: 48 M

Occupation: qarıçı

Regional background: Lənkəran

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdir? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	Adam rəhmətə gədəndə	Y= pis baxılır. Hörmət naminə deyirik.

Göz dəyməsin	Kimsə ev tikir.	V= mübarək. Xeyirli olsun, “Allah bəd-nəzərdən qorusun,” bərəkətli olsun, gəlin gətirsin (evə)
Canın sağ olsun*	Kimsə dalımızca gəlməli idi, amma başqa yerə getdi.	
Gözünüz aydın	Qohumuna qızı verir, kimsə nişanlanıb, xeyir duadır. Kimsə əsgərdən gələndə, xaricdən gəlib-göz aydınlığı o deməkdi.	
Allah köməyiniz olsun	Kimsə problemlərini danışanda deyirik.	V= Allah şəfa versin.

*I say this as a prompt and he automatically responds “sağ olun.” Then looks up and says “a! Canın sağ olsun” realizing it is one of the questions.

Age/gender: ~40 M

Occupation: jurnalist, müəllim

Regional background: Qarabağ

26 oct

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdi? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	Vəfat eləyən.	Hörmət əlaməti olaraq. İslam ilə bağlı, kitab olan dinlərə görə- həyat bu dünya ilə bitmir. Cənnət, cəhənnəm məsələsi var, soraqlamaq məsələsi. Allahdan günahlarımızın bağışlanmasını diləməkdir.
Göz dəyməsin	Gözəl qız görəndə, kimsə qəşəng maşın alanda deyirik.	Nəzərlə bağlı inam var- elmi izahı da var ki, insan baxışlarında enerji saxlanır- pis və ya yaxşı. İstəkdən, paxıllıqdan insanın, əşyanın vəziyyəti dəyişə bilər (ya pis, ya yaxşı tərəfə).
Canın sağ olsun	Bu arzu, istəkdir. Adətən itki ilə bağlı işlədirik. Və ya ümumi xoş söz kimi.	Canımızdan, sağlığımızdan qiymətli heç nəyimiz yoxdur. Psixologiyada insana təsir edir. Rahatlaşdıran tərəfi var- adama motivasiya verir. Daha yaxşı hiss edir. Əksinə gərginlik hiss edir (pis söz eşidəndə).
Gözünüz aydın	Xoş xəbər ilə əlaqədar. Yaxın kimsə gəlib, ABŞ-da təhsil alıb gəlib, əsgərlikdən gəlib. Sevincinə şərik olaraq. Sevinirik-gözlədiyimiz iş alanda. Kimsə universitetə qəbul olunur.	Həqiqi və məcazi mənası var. Məcəzi də həqiqiyə yaxındır. Gözün görməyini arzulayırıq. Aydın olmaq görmək deməkdir. Gözün işığı olsun- gözün funksiyası görməkdir. İşıq olmasa, gözün olmasının mənası yoxdur. İşıqlı olmaq ziyalı olmaq deməkdir.

Allah köməyiniz olsun	Çətinliyə düşəndə, işlə məşğul olduğunda. Allah hər kəsin üstündə güc mənbə olaraq. İşin daha rahat olmağı mənasında. Yerinə yetirmək mümkün deyil= əlavə güc lazımdır.	

Age/gender: ~40 M

Occupation: filosof

Regional background: Salyan

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdir? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	Mən onu işlətmirəm. Belə obraz düşündürür ki, Allah ya cəza verən, ya bağışlayandır...mənim üçün Allah obrazı elə deyil.	V= başın sağ olsun, son qəminiz olsun.
Göz dəyməsin	Uğurunuz var, yeni bir şey almısınız, toyda gözəl rəqs edirsiniz. Bunu işlədirəm- öz dünya görüşümə görə yox, başqasına görə- qardaşıma deyirəm. Universitetdə başa düşə bilər ki, mən fərqliyəm, onu işlətmirəm. Amma tutaq ki, uşaq olimpiadada 1-ci yer tutdu. Nə deyim ona? Bunu deyirəm.	Nəzər toxunmasın. Talisman zad asırlar-neqativ baxışları qovmaq kimi. Amma mən inanmıram, yox.
Canın sağ olsun	Məsələn, kimsə mənim karandaşımı götürüb və itirib. Deyirəm. Amma ironiya da var: ən yaxın dostuma deyirəm ki, sən köməyinə ehtiyacım var- görüşməliyik, amma o yatır- deyirəm “canın sağ olsun” ((başqa intonasiya ilə, not smiling)). Burada küsmək də var.	Yəni, “bunu <i>ignore</i> eləyirəm.” Problem deyil.
Gözünüz aydın	Təbrikdir. Tez-tez işlədirəm. Göz aydınlığı vermək- ev alıb, maşın alıb, həbsxanadan çıxıb- biz ona bunu deməliyik, onun yanına getməliyik.	Çətin vəziyyətdən çıxmaq elementi var. Çətinlikdən çıxdı. Qaranlıqdan çıxdı.
Allah köməyiniz olsun	Ümumiyyətlə işlətmirəm. Bir kontekst var: avtobusdan qoca qadın düşür, deyir, -pulum	V= yorulmayasan, qoluna qüvvət, minnətdarlıq eləyirəm. V= xətriniz əziz olsun, əziz olasınız.

	yoxdur. Deyirlər, -çix, get. O deyir, sağ ol, Allah köməyiniz olsun. Minnətdarlıq. Başqa kontekst var: ciddi əmək ilə məşğul olur (mənim üçün yox, eləcə). Dəstək kimi deyirəm. (V2).	V2= tək qalmayasan.
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Age/gender: 25 F

Occupation: bank üçün İngilis dili üzrə mütəxəssis

Regional background: Lerik

28 Oct 2011 (yarımçıq İngilis dilində danışib, elə də yazdım.)

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdir? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	After a person dies, to his relatives, close people	
Göz dəyməsin	Like “touch wood”. ən çox uşaqlara. Yaxşı olsun. Bu şey pozulmasın.	V= Like maşallah.
Canın sağ olsun	Like “never mind.” Mostly for small things- you drop a plate and it breaks, səhv edəndə, zərər vuranda. Response to bağışla.	
Gözün aydın	Like “congratulations.” Xoş bir şey olanda. 1 getting married (anasına deyirlər) 2 when a child is born 3 oğul əsgərlikdən gələndə 4 after illness is over	N= nə yaxşı ki, artıq aydın olub (NOT olsun! Not in future!) Like - I am glad that you are happy.
Allah köməyin olsun	Bəzən olur ki, kimsə yaxşılıq edir, does a favor for you. It is like “thank you.” OR when something bad happens, or someone is ill- as in, God will help you; it will get better.	N= like consolation.

Age/gender: 22 F

Occupation: qəbulçu

Regional background: Bakı

1 Nov 2011

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdir? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?

Allah rəhmət eləsin	Adam rəhmətə gedəndə	N= Allahın insafa gəlsin. Kömək eləsin.
Göz dəyməsin	Kimsə yaxşı görünəndə, nəzərdən qorumaq üçün	
Canın sağ olsun	Kefini pozma, yaxşı olacaq	
Gözün aydın	Yaxşı xəbər eşidəndə... çox yaxşı xəbər. Hansı ki, adam onu gözləyir. Alınır ki, gözün aydın.	N= aydın bax belə işıqdır (pəncərəyə jest edir)- qəşəng. Parıldayan. Yəni, işıqlığa çıxasan (amma o başqa vaxt işlənir). Eyni mənası var.
Allah köməyin olsun	İnsana bir şey olanda Allahdan başqa kim kömək edə bilər?!	Təsəlli verməkdir.

Kağızımda “qadan alım” sözünü görüb deyir ki, o, rayonlarda işlənir- “bizlik deyil!!”

Age/gender: 60 F

Occupation: mühasibatlıqda işləyir

Regional background: Qusar

2 Nov 2011

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdir? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	Adam rəhmətə gedəndə, adam haqqında danışanda.	Y= deməlisən. Adətdir. Deməyəndə, hörmətsizlikdir.
Göz dəyməsin	Gözəl olursan, qəşəng. Çox var-dövlət olur. Hər şeydə gözəl olanda, yaxşı hərəkət edəndə.	
Canın sağ olsun	İşi olur, nəşə eləyə bilmir, sənə baş çəkə bilmir	
Gözün aydın	Hər bir yaxşı hadisə olanda, uşaq anadan oldu, oğul əsgərlikdən gəldi, evləndi	
Allah köməyin olsun	Alqışdır. Sən mənə nəşə kömək elədin, deyirəm. Hər zaman deyilə bilən gözəl sözdür. Məsələn, sən oturmağa yer verəndə, çanta götürəndə.	

Age/gender: ~65 M

Occupation mühasib

Regional background: Gürcüstan (amma 66 ildən bəri Bakıdadır)

2 Nov 2011

Müsahibə təqdim etdim: “elmi işimi yazıram.” Dedi: “Allah xeyirlisini eləsin!”

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdir? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət	Eşidəndə ki, kimsə rəhmətə gedib	

eləsin		
Göz dəyməsin	Xanım yaxşı geyinib gələndə	N= adam var ki, deyəndə yaxşıdır, xəstələnir, pis iş əmələ gəlir.
Canın sağ olsun	Yolda narahatçılıq keçirir, deyirsən ki, indi eləmədin, gələcəkdə eləyəsən.	
Gözün aydın	Evləndirəndə.	N= məcazi çıxır. V= “Allaha şükür.”
Allah köməyin olsun	Metroda gedəndə, kimsə yer verəndə. Bir adam sənə yaxşı nəşə eləyir (deyirsən).	

Age/gender: 24 M

Occupation: peşə inkişaf mərkəzinin direktoru

Regional background: Sabirabad

2 Nov 2011

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdə? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	İki vaxt: həm sağ adama demək olar- diri-diri. Deyirlər, “diriyə də rəhmət var, ölüyə də.” Və ya yas yerinə gedəndə.	V= Allah qəbrini nurnan doldursun
Göz dəyməsin	Əgər sən mənimlə gəlirsən Sabirabada, sənə başına duz çevirəcəklər. Bir də, göz muncuğu qoyurlar ki, göz dəyməsin. Üzərlik də var- onu kimsə gələndə yandırırılar.	V= (see activities on left)
Canın sağ olsun	Məsələn, kiməsə USB fləşkamı verdin, o qayıtdı dedi ki, fləşkamı oğurlayıblar. Yəni, kefini pozma, olan olub.	V= (kefini pozma)
Gözün aydın	Çoxdan kimsə evləninib, övlad olanda. Uşaq qayıdır əsgərlikdən.	V= yəni, “şükür” N= tam məcazidir.
Allah köməyin olsun	Bu dini bir şeydir. Çətin işə düşürsən, məsələn, min nəfərin qabağında Con Rayder çıxış edəcək, sən də tərcümə edəcəksən, bunu sənə deyirəm.	V= Allah yardımçın olsun.

Age/gender: ~60 M

Occupation: fəhlə

Regional background: Quba

2 Nov 2011

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdir? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	Haçan işlərim yaxşı olanda- alqış odur. (<i>mən bu sualı düzgün vermədim.</i>)	
Göz dəyməsin	Tfu-tfu-tfu! Göz deyməsin! Katelne işə düşsə, deyərsən. Təzə şey alanda, deyərsən ki, tez cırılmasın, tez xarab olmasın.	
Canın sağ olsun	Xəstə olmayanda deyirəm ki, canım sağ olsun.	
Gözün aydın	Nəsə təzə bir şey olanda, yenilik-məsələn, nəsə evdə uşaq olur, nəvən oldu. Təzə məşin almısan. Katelneyi 1 noyabrda buraxıldı. (otopleniya)- göz deyməsin!	
Allah köməyin olsun	İşim nəsə getmir, çətinliyə düşürsən, deyirəm Allah köməyin olsun ki, düzələr.	

Age/gender: ~45 M

Occupation: Azərbaycanın Liviyadakı səfir

Regional background: Şirvan

2 Nov 2011

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdir? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	İnsan rəhmətə getdikdə, qohumlar ilə danışanda	
Göz dəyməsin	Kimsə yeni bir ev alanda, avtomobil alanda, toy olanda. Kiminsə uşağı olanda demək, çox xoş gəlir insana.	N= nəzər dəyə bilər.
Canın sağ olsun	Kimsə heyfslənəndə ki, bir şey edə bilmədim. Və ya qəzadan salamat çıxanda- nəsə itib, amma ən birincisi can sağlığıdır.	
Gözün aydın	Uşaq olanda, bizim kimi uzun müddət ölkə xaricində çalışanda (və qayıdanda), nəvən doğulanda	N= göz aydınlığı- indi aydın sözünü dəqiq başa düşmək lazımdır. Gözəl mənada. Yəni, böyük, açıq, nur verən. Gözün nurlansın. Biri var, katarakt gözü örtür. Bu daha genişləndirməkdir-

		sevinclə doldurmaq. Ama “sevinclə dolsun” bir az düzgün çıxmır Azərbaycan dilində.
Allah köməyin olsun	Hər hansı bir işi başlayanda. Məsəl üçün, Hamlet müəllim Xəzər Universitetini təsis etməyə başlayanda, biz demişik. Ruslar deyirlər ki, Bog v pomosh.	

Age/gender: ~40 M

Occupation: sürücü

Regional background: Şəki

2 Nov 2011

alqış	Nə vaxt deyirsiniz?	N= Niyə, nə deməkdir? V=ayrı variantlar? Y=deməsən nə olar?
Allah rəhmət eləsin	Rəhmətə gedən adam var. Nə bilim... Allah rəhmət eləsin.	
Göz dəyməsin	Yaxşı şey olanda.	
Canın sağ olsun	Bilmirəm... kontekstində deyərəm. Nəsə alınmır iş.	
Gözün aydın	Yaxşı şey olanda. Göz aydınlığı verirəm. Təzə xəbər olanda.	N= bizim millət öyrəşib sözə.
Allah köməyin olsun	Nəsə kömək etdin.	

Appendix C American English interview response data

Note: These interviews were conducted via an electronic survey form. I have not edited the responses in any way; they are recorded here in their full and original form as they were submitted.

[Respondent's names not included in this summary.]

1 Respondent's state

AL- 3
AR- 1
AZ- 3
CA- 1
CO- 14
CT- 1
GA- 1
ID- 1
IL- 1
KS- 2
MA- 2
MN- 3
NH- 1
NM- 1
NY- 1
OH- 34
PA- 4
TX- 17
WV- 1

Without thinking too much, please write out the first one or two things that you generally say, or that you would say right now, if the following occurred.

2 You see a friend's newborn baby for the first time

Beautiful. How are you feeling, Mom?

Oh, she's beautiful!

_He (she) is just precious! He (she) really has your (or baby's father's) eyes. (Whichever one baby resembles).

"Wow! (S)he's beautiful!"

He/she is just perfect. He/she is so sweet.

Wow! He/she is such a cutie! Congratulations!

Oh, she's beautiful. Or how handsome (for a boy). Then I'll comment on something specific about their appearance or demeanor.

What a cute baby. Are you getting used to having a little one around?

_SO CUTE

Oh, how precious. Can I hold him/her and get at "grandma fix?"

Oh! (S)he is SOO adorable! Yes, very much like his (her) father (mother). Looks smart/strong/fun/serious

Awww

Ohhh, what a sweet baby! He/she is precious!
 What a beautiful baby!
 oh how cute.
 How cute! may I hold him?
 Wow...what a precious and beautiful gift. How cute!
 Oh, how beautiful. Is he/she doing well? God is so good! Comment on how they look... excited,
 tired, etc.
 _? "Ahhh! What a perfect little angel" or "Ahhh! What a handsome little man"
 Oh, how adorable!
 Oh, she's sweet! or What a good-looking baby! Congratulations!
 What a cutie pie!
 Awww, how cute! to a guy: good thing baby takes after Mom! to a gal: how are you holding up?
 Oh my goodness what a cute little baby! Those eyes are so bright!
 Aw, what a beautiful baby!
 Aww...she's beautiful! Look at all that hair! (Look at those tiny little fingers! Look at those
 chubby cheeks!) She looks just like you! (He looks just like his Dad!)
 Frankly, I usually don't know what to say because a lot of people say how cute the baby is, but I
 don't think new-borns look cute at all, (except my own daughter :) I usually congratulate the
 parents, then say something to the baby like "hey so-and-so-baby, how are you!?" (I don't expect
 an answer :) and " You look like mom-or-dad."
 Oh my goodness!! Congratulations!! How precious/beautiful/amazing!
 How sweet! A baby brings such joy to a family.
 She/he is so precious!
 oh, he (she) is so cute. How are you doing? He (she) is beautiful
 "What a beautiful gift from the Lord!" "God has been so good to you!"
 He is so hairy!
 Oh, he/she is so cute. What a blessing.
 Aww... What a precious little one! You are very blessed to have _____.
 I look to see if the look healthy and happy
 _He/she is so cute. Look at those tiny feet.
 He or she is so 'cute' and looks a lot like You.
 "Oh...so precious! Congratulations!"
 How cute
 Congratulate them and make an encouraging comment
 Isn't he/she beautiful??
 What a beautiful baby! or You are so cute! (to the baby, obviously :))
 Ah, she/he is precious.
 Oh, how cute! How was your labor?
 _She is beautiful
 Oh, you've got a cutie there!
 What a precious gift!
 Oh what a gift you have been blessed with. She/he is precious. How are you doing?
 Oh, what a cute baby! How is he/she sleeping?
 Now the fun begins.
 Oh, he/she's precious! How did you pick out the name? Do you think he/she looks more like you
 or your husband? Is he/she a good baby? I love his/her outfit!
 Awwwww, he/she is so cute!
 Oh How beautiful! The miracle of life always causes me to be in awe

Congratulations! He/she is so cute!
 Aww! How precious!
 Oh aren't they precious ! (even if they look like a gourd) If I'm feeling silly: Oh My, how did this happen!
 SHe/He is adorable
 CONGRATULATIONS - I'm so happy for you! He (she) is so darling. He (she) looks like _____ (one of the parents or whoever).
 I'm so happy for you. How's the baby's health? How's mom's health? How are you sleeping?
 Kids are a gift from God.
 Oh, how precious! She is so beautiful. He is so cute.
 You can sure tell he/she belongs to your family. O, how cute. I just love the little fingers and toes. Congrats.
 What a beautiful baby! Looks like you!
 Awwww...
 congratulations, so cute!
 What a sweet, beautiful baby!
 Cute baby! How old is he/she?
 _What's his name?
 Your baby is beautiful!!! What a blessing!!!
 _Oh, isn't he/she cute.
 What a beautiful child! He looks like you! (even if not true)
 Oh, she/he is adorable - congratulations! My heart is happy for you!
 Oh how cute!
 Allah Saxlisiin Momma papa buyugun olsun myu myu...I am not an American :-)) I would say the Lord bless youname.
 _Aw he/she is precious! How is it going with you (mother) in having this new life in you life?
 _Oh, how darling! (or cute) Congratulations! He (she) is just precious!
 _Oh, how sweet!
 What a beautiful baby! He/she looks so alert.
 _What a blessing! We are so very happy for you!! She is so adorable!
 Oh, he/she is precious (maybe comment that baby favors them)
 Oh, how cute, how adorable. You're so lucky. What a blessing!
 Oh she's beautiful!
 how cute.
 _How precious! Is he/she well?
 _Oh he/she is so cute.
 "Oh, she is so beautiful - a hand maiden of the L."(Female) What a blessing! Oh he is handsome.
 A mighty man of G.(Male) When can I bring a meal for your family?
 Congratulations! Wow, she's beautiful! He's so cute! - some compliment about the beautiful baby.
 _What a "sweetie"! Or "she is beautiful" If the father is showing off his son I might make a sports reference like "looks like a quarterback to me".
 _Ooooh s(he)'s beautiful!!
 _Aw, so cute! Look at those dimples!
 _What a beautiful baby. What a blessing!
 _Oh, what an adorable little sweetie! How are things going so far?
 He/She is so cute! (may not be totally honest about that though) Congratulations! How are you feeling? How is the baby sleeping?

Oh, how beautiful. Congratulations!

3 You are talking to the bride and groom at a wedding reception

Great wedding. You look beautiful. <to groom> You are a lucky, guy - always know that.

_ Congratulations.

I am so happy for you both, hope you have many wonderful years together.

_"We are so happy for you! Congratulations!"

_ Congratulations! Where are you going on the That was a beautiful ceremony. Does it feel good to have it official?

_ Congratulations, you two! I'm so happy for both of you and praying for your success in marriage.

_ Congratulations to you both! Thank you so much for including me in your special day. I loved this or that about the ceremony (something specific).

_ Congratulations! Thank you so much for the invite. This is a lot much fun and I'm so happy for both of you!

_ BEST WISHES FOR A GREAT MARRIAGE

_ Congratuations to you both, May the Lord bless your new home.

_ Congratulations! What a great day. May you both grow in love each day of this new life

_ Congratulations

_ May your marriage partnership double your joy and cut your sorrow in half.

_ Best wishes to the bride, and congratulations to the groom.

_ congratulations

_ Congratulations! I am so happy for you both.

_ I am so happy for you both as you begin this amazing journey of marriage together. Know that I will be praying for you in these days ahead.

_ May you be as blessed in your marriage as you have been blessed today. Enjoy and cherish each other.

_"Congratulations!!" This or that about the service or questions about their honeymoon trip.

_ Congratulations, you two!

_ Congratulations! What a great wedding!

_ Congratualtions!

_ you look so happy! to the one I don't know, "now what do you do again?"

_ I would probably invite them to do something together with my wife and I in the near future.

Also I would inquire about their honeymoon or new living arrangements. If they are really good friends of ours I would make some kind of remarks about their newfound sexuality and any advice I can offer.

_ Remember that this union is an image of J and his body.

_ Congratulations! I'm so glad I got to be here and celebrate with you. You look gorgeous! The ceremony was beautiful. The reception was great!

_ Same deal, I don't know what to say. I try to stay away from so called joking remarks like: "she finally got you...!" or "life will be different now...!" They are degrading remarks for the institution of marriage, I think. So again I say some meaningless thing like "congratulations".

The couple at that point just wants to get the whole thing over with and be by themselves and are only half listening anyway :) If I know the couple real well and how they got together I may say something like "I am really glad for you two."

_ Congratulations... I wish you both the greatest joy!

_ What a lovely wedding - I wish you all the joy we have in our marriage.

_ Congratulations (to groom)/Best wishes (to bride). I'm so happy for you two!
_ It was a gorgeous reception...a really nice (meaningful) service. (I would only comment on the service if it indeed was meaningful)
_ Congratulations! I can't wait to see what God does in your life! (I try to be very intentional in the sort of settings mentioned in Q1-3 to avoid platitudes and point to the Lord Jesus with my greetings/well-wishes)
_ I'm excited about this story unfolding
_ I am so happy for you. Where are you going on your honeymoon/
_ Congratulations, I am excited for both of you. You put together a wonderful wedding.
_ I congratulate them on their marriage and offer blessings to them.
_ You look so beautiful. We will stand by you in your commitment to each other. We will be praying that God would bring you closer to Him as you grow closer to each other.
_ Congratulations, it was a lovely ceremony and I wish you all the best in your life together.
_ "Congratulations to you two! Wishing you much merriment and happiness--always!"
_ Congratulations
_ Hug them and congratulate them adding a blessing for their marriage
_ Congratulations and God bless.
_ Congratulations! You both look great!!
_ Congratulations! I am so excited for you both.
_ Congratulations! Have you eaten yet? Is your face getting tired from smiling?
_ Congratulations
_ I am so happy for the two of you. May God bless you as you become a new family unit in God's Kingdom.
_ I am so happy for both of you!
_ Congratulations! We are so happy to celebrate this special time with you. Bride, you are so beautiful. G's blessings to you.
_ Congratulations! Everything was beautiful!
_ Who would have thought it would have come to this?
_ Congratulations! All the best to the both of you! May God bless you and keep during good times and bad. The wedding was beautiful!
_ I am so happy for you guys!
_ Usually I would ask what THEIR plans are etc. instead of talking about myself
_ Congratulations! I'm so happy for you. May your love for each other just grow and grow and grow.
_ I know that God will do great things in and through your marriage.
_ So, what is the next step ? (a wide open question that invites discussion of work, home, kids, etc.)
_ Congratulations may your guys never break each other apart
_ CONGRATULATIONS! It was a beautiful ceremony. I wish you all the best (or I'm praying for God's blessings) in your new life together.
_ Wow, what an adventure you're embarking on. Marriage and parenting are the two most rewarding AND challenging things in my life. You'll love it. And it's a lot of work. Go for it!
_ Congratulations. I am so excited for you two!
_ What a wonderful wedding. You look so beautiful (to the bride).
_ I wish you a life filled with joy. May your love for one another continue to grow.
_ Congratulations! May the God bless your years together.
_ congratulations, i'm happy for you
_ Everything is lovely! You look so beautiful and happy!

_ Congratulations! Thanks for letting me share in this wonderful celebration.
 _ Congratulations!
 _ Thank you for inviting us to your special celebration.
 _ Where will you be honeymooning?
 _ We are very happy for you - then ask about their immediate future plans - where to live, etc.
 Depends on how well we know them.
 _ Congratulations, a lifetime of happiness ahead! We love you guys (if they are good friends)
 _ That was a beautiful wedding! You two are a wonderful couple!
 _ I hope that your life together is full of all that God has for you.
 _ You are beautiful! This wedding is wonderful. Where are you guys going on your honeymoon?
 _ The wedding was beautiful. Congratulations!
 _ I'm so happy for you!
 _ The wedding ceremony was beautiful, as was the bride.
 _ We wish you many blessings as you enter this new chapter in your lives.
 _ so happy for you guys (& talk about where they will be living; in town/out of town, if they have
 a house, etc)
 _ Congratulations. I'm so happy for you.
 _ I'm so happy for you.
 _ congratulations
 _ Lord bless you as you walk through life together.
 _ Congradulation. So do you feel different yet?
 _ It's good to see you both so happy. How did you first meet?(If I don't already know.)
 _ Congratulations! We're so happy we could join you and celebrate with you.
 _ "You guys clean up real nice" or "What a beautiful ceremony" or "What a God honoring
 ceremony"
 _ Congratulations! I'm so happy for you!
 _ Congratulations! I'm so happy for both of you!
 _ Congratulations! You're entering a new chapter in your lives.
 _ Congratulations! I pray God will build your relationship even stronger in your new life together!
 _ Congratulations! You look beautiful (to the bride). The wedding was lovely.
 _ Congratulations. May God grant you a long and happy life together.

4 You are at a funeral, greeting a close relative of someone who died

Tell me more about (name of deceased.)
 _ I'm so sorry about your loss.
 _ I am so sorry for the loss of your (mother, son, or other relationship). I will be praying for you.
 _ "We don't know what to say!"
 _ I'm so sorry, this must be so hard.
 _ I'm so sorry. I've been praying for you. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you.
 _ I am so sorry for your loss. I know he/she will be missed greatly.
 _ I feel so honored to have known _____. He/She is in an amazing place now. How are you
 doing? Is there anything I can do to help out?
 _ MAY G BE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
 _ I'm so sorry for your loss.
 _ I'm so sorry. What a huge loss. I really cannot imagine what this must be like for you. Wish
 there were something I could do
 _ I was so sorry to hear the news.

_ I am so sorry for your loss.

_ This is very sad, but I believe in life after death.

_ I am very sorry for your loss

_ I am very sorry about your loss. He was so kind to everyone.

_ I am so sorry for you in this great loss. I know these days ahead will be very hard, but please know that my prayers will be with you and your family.

_ I know that there is nothing I can do, but my heart goes out to you at this time. I am so sorry for your loss.

_ I would say something wonderful that I knew about the deceased. They were so much fun to be around. It will be great to see them again healthy, on the other side... I am so glad that they are there with Jesus.

_ Our hearts are grieving with you.

_ Well, this one is really hard. It depends a lot on how well I know the person and the situation. The standard phrase is "I'm sorry for your loss." But I'm more apt to say, "How are you bearing up?" if I know the person I'm talking to very well.

_ I am so sorry for your loss.

_ not too much talking, just hugs and listening

_ I would be likely to simply say that I am sorry and then simply be present and say as little as possible.

_ I love you...remember that He sympathizes with us.

_ X was such a special person. I feel so grateful that he/she was a part of my life.

_ I try to stay away from Christian cliches like "he/she is now praising the Lord..." That gives little or no comfort the left-behind loved one. There I find the best thing is to not say anything and just give them a tight hug, the tightness is proportional to how well you know the person. That may not go well in many other cultures.

_ On your head, life! (just kidding, that is what they would say in Afghanistan... ummmm...) I am so sorry for your loss. He/she lived a great/full life!

_ I am so sorry for your loss. May God's love bring comfort you and your family.

_ I'm sorry. I'll be praying for you. (Nothing at all but a hug/two-handed warm handshake and caring look.)

_ Your mom (dad or whomever) was so special. Can I share a story about them with you? (and then I would tell a story about a time that I recall)

_ Largely dependant on whether or not the person I am talking with and/or the deceased is/was a genuine Believer. If assured of the person's salvation, I would say something short like "I can't wait to see them again!" If not assured of their salvation, "I am praying that you feel the Lord's presence in a real way during this hard time."

_ [say relative's name and hug, no words]

_ I am so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my prayers.

_ I am very sorry for the loss of _____. I will be praying for you all.

_ I offer condolences and try to tell them a story about their relative who died

_ I am so sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

_ My heart goes out to you today in your grief...your 'mother' was a wonderful woman and touched many lives with her loving, caring ways. I know your memories will be a great comfort in the days ahead.

_ "I am sorry for your sadness and the loss, on Earth, of your loved one."

_ I'm so sorry for your loss

_ Hug, usually silent - followed by I love you

_ I'm so sorry for your loss - I'm praying for you.

_I'm so sorry. You're in my prayers.

_I am so sorry for your loss.

_Hi. How are you?

_I'm sorry for your loss

_Please accept my condolences at your loss. I pray that the good memories will be a cause for joy, not sadness, as you think of _____.

_My thoughts and prayers are with you. Blessings. (If I knew the person I try and share a fond memory)

_I am so sorry. *I would give them a hug.* I would share a memory of the person.

_I am so sorry for your loss; you are in my prayers.

_I am very sorry for you loss.

_I'm so sorry. I'll be praying for you and your family. Know that you are not alone. Let me know what I can do. He/She was such a special person. They will definitely be missed.

_I am really, really sorry. I'll be here for you for anything, and you will deffinitely be in my prayers. Keep your head high!

_I'm very sorry the loved one died. I'm sure that you will miss that person. I will pray for comfort from the Lord.

_"I'm so sorry," is what I probably would actually say. What I would want to say but probably wouldn't because I'm a wimp, "I'm here for you if you ever need a shoulder to cry on."

_I usually don't say anything much but just try to be close and put a hand on them

_I'm so sorry for your loss

_I am so sorry for I its such a loss for me

_I'm so very sorry. Only God fully understands your grief & loss. I'm praying for his comfort for you & your family.

_Believer died - I'm sure there are feelings of loss and feelings of joy bumping into each other as you know they're with the Lord but you're left behind. How're you doing with that? Well, my heart goes out to you in your loss. Nonbeliever dies - I'm so sorry for your loss. How's your heart doing in all this?

_I am so sorry. Please let me know if there is anything I can do.

_I am so sorry.

_I am so very sorry for your loss.

_I'm so sorry.

_i'm so sorry for your loss

_I'm so sorry for your loss. How are you doing?

_He/she was a great person who loved the Lord.

_Hello. Holding up OK?

_We are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you and your family.

_I'm very sorry for your loss.

_I know you will miss him/her - I remember her as (say something kind with a good memory or funny memory)

_I'm so sorry for your loss. Your ____ was wonderful in so many ways. I would personalize this if I knew them well

_I am so sorry!

_I am sorry for your loss.

_I am so sorry, your loved one was...(whatever they were good at, ex your loved one had such a huge heart to serve others and I got to see this first hand)

_I'm so sorry. I'd hug them or hold their hand briefly if a woman. Try not to say too much.

Maybe, "(Ernie) was an amazing man."

_I'm so sorry for your loss.

_I know that losing -- was very difficult for you, but she didn't want to live on in a nursing home and was ready to go home to God.

_My heart goes out to you. May you find comfort in your memories of their love.

_give them a hug and ask them how they are doing (listen as they tell of their loved one struggled i.e. with illness) let them know what that person meant to me (if I knew them) and let them know their whole family is in my prayers!

_It's sad/tough but they are in a much better place.

_I'm so sorry for your loss.

_im so sorry for your loss

_How are you doing?

_Hi _____, I am so sorry for your loss.

_I'm so sorry about your loss. Then I usually tell them a special memory I have of their beloved family member/friend.

_Hello, I'm Joie - I knew _____ from _____. I'm sorry about her death. She was such a joyful person and so encouraging. I'm sure you miss her very much. We're praying for you and your family.

_ "I am so sorry for your loss" Then say something complimentary about the deceased if I knew them well. "He/She was such a good friend"

_(Honestly I don't know what I would say, because the Listening Post class has taught me all these things NOT to say. I think I'd have to try it out.)

_(S)he was an incredible person. My prayers will be with you.

_I am sorry for your loss. I'll be praying for you.

_We're so sorry for your loss. May God comfort your heart as you grieve this dear one...

_I'm so sorry for your loss. How are you doing? (then the subject often gets changed to something totally unrelated; job, kids etc.)

_I am so sorry. He/she was a wonderful person (if I knew them). You are in my thoughts and prayers.

5 You are talking on the phone with a friend who tells you that he/she is sick

Aw. How can I help? Do you need me?

_I'm sorry you're not feeling well. I'll pray for you.

_How long have you been sick? Are you taking medication for it?

_"Really? What's wrong? Is there anything we can do to help?"

_That's terrible, can I bring you anything? I will be praying for you!

_Sorry to hear that. I hope you feel better soon.

_I'm sorry you are not feeling well. Is there anything you need?

_I hope you start feeling better. I will be praying for you and let me know if there is anything I can do.

_I'LL PRAY FOR A QUICK RECOVERY FOR YOU

_Can I pray for the Lord's healing on your body?

_No! Oh, too bad. What kind of sick? Is there anything I can do? Do you need some chicken soup?

_Hang in there!

_Sorry to hear that, hope your recovery is quick and complete.

_I am sorry, but I will pray for you. Please keep me informed.

_I am so sorry.

_ Oh! Whats wrong? What are your symptoms?

_ I am so sorry to hear that you are sick. Have you seen a doctor regarding your symptoms? Is there anything you need that I can help with right now?

_ I'm so sorry you are sick, can I pray for you? If yes, pray that the Lord will heal them in the name of Jesus.

_ I pray for health,... bind the sickness...

_ I'm so sorry.

_ "You sound awful! Have you been to the doctor?" Then at the close, it would be something like "Well, get some rest" or "Take it easy." Sometimes I would offer to bring a meal, but not usually. That would be more apt to happen if there was surgery involved.

_ Can I bring you something? Do you need me to go to the grocery store?

_ limited discussion on health, since it is probably very temporary. continue talking about other stuff.

_ I would say I am sorry to hear that and offer to do or bring them anything that I could that might be helpful. I might also inquire as to the source of the illness in order to help others avoid coming to the same fate.

_ I will be lifting you up to Him. Let me know if I can do anything to help.

_ Oh no! I'm sorry to hear you're not feeling well. Hope you feel better quickly! Let me know if you need anything or if there's anything I can do to help.

_ I usually say: "Oh no!" and try to find out what it is an then just listen. May be give some advice, or affirming the action the person is taking if I think it is the right thing to do.

_ please feel better soon! can I bring you anything?

_ Take your time to recuperate. We will be praying for your quick recovery.

_ Oh no. I'm so sorry. (Jokingly): You're not allowed to get sick!

_ Oh, that is too bad. How long have you been feeling bad?

_ "I'd love to bring you dinner tonight - what time would be good to drop it off?" OR "Do you need me to come take your kids for a few hours?"

_ Bummer

_ Let me pray for you.

_ I am sorry to hear you are sick.

_ I ask them if there is anything I can do to help them

_ Can I bring you a meal, some soup? Do you need anything?

_ So sorry, Jill, that you aren't feeling well today. I will pray that you feel better soon.

_ "I'm so sorry and I will pray for you. If there is something that I can do to help--vacuum your house, make some meals, listen...--please ask; I will do my best to help you."

_ I'm sorry, what can I do, I'll pray for you

_ Pray for healing

_ Hope you get to feeling better.

_ Oh no! What's wrong?

_ Oh, I hope you feel better soon.

_ Really? I'm sorry. How long has that been going on?...

_ I hope you get better soon

_ Oh, I am so sorry to hear that. I'll be praying that you will recover quickly.

_ I am so sorry. Is there anything you need or I can do for you?

_ I am sorry you are sick. Can I bring you some soup or a meal. Let me p for you.

_ That stinks! Is there anything that you need/I can do for you?

_ Take some Tylonol, drink plenty of fluids and REST!

_I'm sorry to hear you're still under the weather. Hope you get feeling better soon. Can I pray for you? Have you been to see the doctor? What did the doctor say?

_I'm sorry! What's wrong?

_May I pray for you on the phone? Pray for wisdom, healing, comfort from God

_I'm so sorry. If there's anything I can do for you let me know. (but I would only say the second thing if I actually had the time to be able to help if they needed me, which unfortunately is not very often)

_Get some rest!

_I'm so sorry that you are not feeling well. Does it seem serious?

_Chicken Soup? Doctors Visit will Pray

_Oh, I'm sorry. Have you seen doctors? Is there anything I can do for you?

_Oh, I hate feeling crumby/throwing up/fighting a cold/etc. I'll pray you're back on your feet soon.

_Oh, no, you're sick? I hope you feel better soon. Is there anything I can do for you?

_Can I do anything for you?

_May I pray with you? (Then pray)

_Ugh, that's not good! Is it the flu?

_i'm sorry, i hope you feel better

_Hope you're feeling better soon. Can I bring you some chicken noodle soup?

_I'll be praying for you.

_Ugh, that's a bother.

_I am so sorry to hear this news. Is there something I can do to help?

_Sorry to hear that; take care of yourself.

_What can I do to help you?

_I'm so sorry to hear this. Please let me know if I can help in any way. I understand how frustrating the medical process can be, and I am happy to help.

_How are you feeling? What are the symptoms? Can I get you anything?

_I'm sorry to hear that, get well soon.

_What does not feel good? What can I get you?

_Oh, bummer! Well, get some rest...

_Is there anything I can do? Bring over some food for your family?

_I am so sorry to hear that. Are you getting treatment for it and what does the doctor say?

_How can I help. I will keep you in my prayers.

_oh I'm sorry to hear that; ask more details (show I care; allows them to talk about it)

_Stay the heck away from me! No, I wouldn't say that - probably would say I'm sorry you're not feeling well - Is there anything I can do for you?

_I HATE feeling like that! I'm so sorry.

_i hope you feel better soon

_I'm sorry. Get better quickly.

_Thats no good. "Get better" to end the conversation.

_Oh no! Tell me your symptoms? Are you getting enough rest? How can I help?

_Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. What do you have? Have you gone to the doctor?

_"Oh I am sorry"..... "Is there anything I can get or do for you?"

_That really stinks. Let me know if I can get you some soup or something.

_Oh no! I will definitely be praying for you!

_I'm sorry you don't feel well. Can I pray for you?

_Could I pray for you right now? Could I bring a meal over today or tomorrow?

_I'm sorry! I hope you recover quickly. Is there anything I can do for you?

_Oh no. That's too bad. Have you been to the doctor? Get well soon.

6 You walk in on someone working on a car or building something

Cool! I'm impressed! Whatcha building/doing?

_Whatcha (as in "what are you") making? (fixing, doing)

_Hi, sorry to interrupt. I just need to ask a quick question.

_"Hey! How's it going there? Do you need any help?"

_Wow, what are you working on?

_What are you working on?

_Hello. You are doing good work here. I'm sorry to interrupt.

_What's wrong with her? Can I lend a hand?

_WHATCHA DOING?

_What are you doing? Are you having success?

_Hey! How is it going?

_What are you doing?

_What are you repairing/making?

_What are you doing?

_what are you doing?

_Oh I am sorry. Didn't mean to interrupt you.

_Hey....I don't mean to disturb you.....what are you working on? Wow...I had no idea you were skilled in that area!

_Wow! That looks complicated. I'm impressed! What are you doing? Where did you learn all this?

_"How is it going?"

_Excuse me,

_How are you doing?

_Where did you learn to do that?

_Whatcha working on? Feign or express interest in details ;)

_How's it coming? Hey now that's really starting to look like a...

_What are you building? Do you need any help?

_Hey! What are you working on?

_If I don't know the person, but need some info I try to talk in such a way that the person does not need to interrupt the work, like if the person is under the car I squat down there and ask the question. If it is a friend of mine, I may greet the friend and since I am retired I may start jokingly by saying: "some people have to work for a living!"

May you not be tired! (there goes the Afghan me again) or: need any help?

_I enjoy working with my hands too - may I help with anything?

_Wow. That's impressive.

_Hey, what are you making?

_"How long have you been a mechanic/craftsman?" OR "That's beautiful work."

_what are you working on?

_What are you doing?

_You are doing a good job.

_I ask them how it is going

_It looks like you have a big project going.

_Wow, I didn't know you were so skilled.....You certainly save a lot of money when you can repair your own vehicle.

_ "WOW!" I admire your ability to even think of fixing/building that!
 _ What are you doing?
 _ Encourage them
 _ What are you doing?
 _ Wow, cool! What are you doing?
 _ Hi, how's it going?
 _ (After watching for a minute)--Hi. Excuse me, I was looking for... (Or just walk around them if not looking for x.)
 _ How's it going?
 _ Hi, _____. What are you working on there? (Meaning the specific aspect of the task he/she is involved in at the moment.)
 _ Tell me what you are doing. I'd like to understand/or know.
 _ Hi, tell me about what you're working on. What a great skill you have been blessed with. How long have you been doing this?
 _ Hi, what is wrong with the car/building?
 _ I have always wanted to be able to do that.
 _ "Excuse me." (maybe, if I needed their attention, but if not I probably wouldn't say anything.)
 _ What are you doing?
 _ Wow! You are so smart! I admire people that can do.....
 _ Cool! What are you making/working on?
 _ What are you working on?
 _ Hey, What's up ?
 _ What are you doing? how interesting
 _ Hmm, not sure what I'd say!
 _ Wow, what's happening? Need some help?
 _ Wow, impressive. What are you working on?
 _ Looks like you are working hard. What are you doing?
 _ How is the job going?
 _ Hey, what are you doing?
 _ oh, excuse me
 _ How's it going? That looks complicated!
 _ Nice car, what are you working on?
 _ Ooh...what are you doing?
 _ Wow! It's great that you are talented in doing that.
 _ That looks like work!
 _ that depends on the look on their face and if they are fussing about it...
 _ that's cool or looks good - I admire you - so not my area of expertise!
 _ Hi, What are you doing?
 _ What are doing, do you need any help.
 _ Wow, this looks great! Anything you need?
 _ Wow, whatever you're doing it looks impressive.
 _ Is this a good time? Should I come back later to talk?
 _ Having car trouble? It looks as if you know what you're doing, which is more than most of us could say. Good luck with the process.
 _ Hello! what are you doing? May I see?
 _ Hi, sorry to interrupt (try to comment/compliment their work)
 _ What are you up do?
 _ I'm impressed. I wouldn't have the slightest idea what to do.

_what are you building
 _What are you working on?
 _what you doing.....would sound like "what cha doing"
 _Wow - you are so talented !! Show me how you do this.
 _Hey, whatcha workin' on? :) / Whatcha doin'?
 _Give a compliment like declaring their bravery or intelligence for taking on such a project. I may offer to help if I think I can.
 _Hello! (walkwalkwalk)
 _How's it going?
 _Hello, what are you doing or sorry to bother you.
 _Hello! Oh, what are you working on?
 _How is it going? Good work!
 _What's wrong with the car? OR What are you building?

7 A friend tells you his/her career development plans

So good for you. Is there anything I could do to help with that? (if good friend ...) (frankly, i do listen for gaps and try to ask questions that might help fill those gaps ...)
 _That sounds great! I know you can do well at whatever you put your mind to. You will be a great _____.
 _That's great! I know you have what it takes to make it to your goal.
 _"That's great to hear! How can you see that moving you toward your goals?"
 _That sounds great, what do you have to do to get there? or That's wonderful, I'm looking forward to using the professional part of my brain again.
 _Great! I hope the Lord brings all that about for you.
 _I think it's great that you are working toward your goals. This sounds like a good fit for you (if it really does sound like a good fit.)
 _That's exciting! It sounds like you really have a good plan. I wish you the best of luck and you'll have to keep me updated on how its going.
 _GREAT! MAY G BE WITH YOU
 _Sound exciting!
 _That's great! Good luck.
 _That sounds exciting.
 _How interesting! I will pray for your success
 _that's great
 _Wow. I admire you for your ambition.
 _That is really interesting to hear.....how did you develop this career plan? Did you have anyone helping you with this process?
 _If it sounds appropriate to me: Wow, you have really thought this through! May the Lord bless you and guide you through it.
 _I tend to always encourage, but a couple of times I have needed to help with a reality check.
 _It sounds like you've given this a lot of thought.
 _That sounds like a good plan. I'll pray about that with you.
 _That is exciting...good luck!
 _that sounds interesting, when did you first become interested in that? where do you hope that leads you?
 _I would complement points of their plan that I find to be particularly creative or insightful and might ask them an even more distance plan question that would unveil a more distant goal that

they have and offer any encouragement as to how their plan is likely to bring them even further towards that ultimate goal.

_Very neat! What brought about this interest?

_Sounds exciting! I'm looking forward to hearing more about it as things progress.

_Just listen. Than maybe give some comments if asked for. I usually respond by "Sounds good!" if the person is not really seeking advice and has made up his/her mind.

_sounds like you're headed in a great direction -- proud of you! Do you feel at peace with it? Are you excited?

_Best of luck in your pursuits. It's good to set goals.

_(Listen and ask questions)

_So, help me understand what you are thinking? (Since I was in the career field for years, counseling people...I would get deep pretty fast)

_Depends again - this time on whether or not I think they are sound! Hopefully, I'd be able to say: "I think that is a great match for your gifts." OR "What made you decide to go that route?"

_What is your eventual goal?

_It is so great that you have a plan. Please tell me how I can pray for you.

_I know you will do this well. What is the first step of your plan

_I tell them how great that sounds for their future

_Your hard work will pay off in the future.

_I am so glad that you are focused in this area but do you think this is really where your 'talents' lie?

_ "I hope that what you are thinking of doing/studying/applying for --job--works well for you, indeed; good luck!"

_Well good for you

_Ask questions and discover their options and hopes

_Sounds like a great plan.

_That sounds exciting... where do you want to end up?

_That's great!

_Really? (Repeat some of what they've said for clarifying). (Would feel around for why they chose such and such).

_I wish you the best

_It sounds exciting, though, if you work hard at it, the rewards will make it all worth it. I'll pray that God will guide you along the way if this is what He wants for you.

_How interesting! What do you want to do first?

_Sounds like you have thought this through. When did you first become interested in this? Have you thought about.....

_Wow, that sounds really interesting. I hope you enjoy it!

_Stick to your plans and do everything possible to reach your goals, but, don't get complacent.

_That's great! Go for your dreams! Wish you all the best! It sounds interesting, I hope that all works out for you.

_That's amazing, I hope everything works out for you.

_Oh how interesting. I hope you can acheive those goals.

_I would thoughtfully consider what they said with what I know about them, and offer encouragement (that sounds like a good plan, that really fits who you are.) give advice (have you thought about ... Maybe you should ...) or ask questions (How do you feel about that plan? does that direction excite you?).

_I'm not sure about this one...

_It sounds like you have given this a lot of thought.

_That sounds wonderful

_Fascinating! I'd love to hear how you reached these decisions. How will you implement these plans?

_I know God can use your career path to majorly guide you on HIS path. I'll pray he does.

_That is really cool. Why did you choose that?

_Sounds like you have really thought things through. What has influenced this direction?

_That sounds really exciting, tell me more about it.

_Wow, that is so neat!

_tell me more

_Great! Hope it all goes well for you! How did you decide to do that?

_Sounds good, have you asked God what He thinks?

_OK, sounds interesting.

_I will support you in whatever you decide G-d calling you do.

_Interesting, tell me more.

_If you work very hard and focus, not letting the distractions of every day life and our culture get in your way, you will reach your goals - but you must set goals!

_That's cool! I would then ask questions pertaining to the information they are sharing.

_Wow, that sounds like a good plan.

_Well I hope that works out for you

_wow, that is so interesting, What are you most excited about it?

_That's awesome! go for it!

_I hope it works out for you.

_That sounds like an exciting plan for your future. How does that play out with what you are doing now?

_How exciting! I know it will go well!

_that's great (then ask questions to show interest & encourage them that I am happy for them)

_Sounds interesting - good luck.

_It sounds like you're feeling pretty excited about your career.

_sounds like you have a clear plan

_May God bless you with His best.

_So do you do that for the rest of your life or is there more to the plan?

_Way cool!! How much schooling/training will this take? You will make it!!

_Cool. That's a neat idea. (then ask some related questions).

_Depending on their spiritual interest I may make a statement about something to trust God with, or get excited with them about the journey ahead or ask clarifying questions about how they came up with such plans or interests.

_WOAAAH COOOOL! (cause most of my friends want to do SWEET things)

_Those sound awesome! It sounds like you have some wonderful goals!

_That sounds great/interesting/different.

_I hope this effort brings you a lot of satisfaction and steady employment!

_Wow, that sounds great! What is your timeline, or other details regarding achieving that?

_That sounds just right for you. I wish you the best.

8 You offer a friend a cookie but she says “no thanks; I can’t- I’m fasting”

<never had this happen, EVER>

_Oh, okay. Sorry! (my mom would say "That's one more for me!")

_Oh, okay.

_"Oh! I see! No problem!"
 _Oh, sorry. Is there anything I can be praying for you about?
 _Ok, no problem. What are you fasting for?
 _Alright. Sorry to tempt you.
 _Oh wow, can I ask what for? I always have a lot of respect for people who are fasting.
 _CONGRATULTIONS. WIH I HAD YOUR IWLLPOWER
 _O.K. No problem
 _Really? For health? Good for you- that takes a lot of work, and self control, really.
 _Cool. Good for you.
 _Good for you. I honor your commitment
 _I think that is commendable. I should do the same.
 _oh, okay that's cool
 _Oh I'm sorry. I hope I did not offend you..
 _Oh....thanks for letting me know. (If I know the person well....I might ask them if they are comfortable talking about it...I am curious if it is something they do often or for a specific reason?)
 _Great! I love the closeness I have with the Lord when I fast. As you seek the Lord, may He reveal His plans for you.
 _Cool! If you need anything, let me know.
 _Oh, OK.
 _Oh, good for you!
 _Good Luck with that I will pray for you.
 _Cool, do you fast often? Cool, is this a regular thing, or is there something specific that you are praying for?
 _Oh fantastic! What's the occasion?
 _Oh I'm sorry. I will be considering you through this.
 _Oh okay, sorry about that! Would you water or juice? Are you drinking anything?
 _"Sorry, I didn't know. Why are you fasting?"
 _oh--so sorry! are you fasting for something in particular?
 _What a blessing - perhaps you can partake tomorrow.
 _Ok.
 _Wow, that is cool. Are you doing it for health or for religious reasons?
 _Probably say nothing - just nod and move on (not out of rudeness, but since Biblically it is a private matter).
 _Nice, good for you.
 _I understand. May G give you the grace to endure.
 _Okay.
 _I would say okay
 _I admire your self-control.
 _Okay, I admire your discipline.
 _"Okay."
 _Oh I'm sorry
 _Offer juice
 _Sorry - I didn't know.
 _Oh- what are you fasting for?
 _Oh, okay.
 _Oh really. For anything in particular?
 _Okay

_O.K. Would you care for a drink of water instead? (Possibly: "Would you mind if I had one at this time?")

_Really? Tell me about that - I'm really interested in why.

_Okay, I understand. I'd be interested in learning about your practice if you'd feel comfortable sharing with me sometime.

_Oh, what are you fasting for?

_How long are you fasting?

_Oh I'm sorry, I didn't know. Is there a special reason you're fasting? or Oh okay. sorry.

_How long have you been fasting?

_That's O.K. Tell me about your beliefs.

_say, "ok". then politely move them out of reach or put them away so as not to tempt him or her.

_I understand.

_Is that for religious reasons or for health reasons?

_Oh fasting? FOR what? ITs ok More for Me yeah!

_I admire your discipline. Do you mind telling me why you're fasting?

_Cool. I need to do more of that.

_Oh, I didn't know. Sorry.

_How about some water?

_That's no problem; I will support you in prayer through your fast.

_Oh, ok, I didn't realize you were.

_what are you fasting about?

_Would you like me to save it for you for when your fast is over?

_That's great, what has the Lord been showing you?

_Oh well. Keep it up!

_I'm sorry. I didn't know.

_Oh well, more for little fat me.

_I can respect that.

_OK. If I knew them well I would certainly have more questions.

_Oh, that's cool. What kind of fast are you doing?

_Oh sorry, what for?

_Oh good for you. What are you fasting for?

_Oh, really? Is that for a health reason, or to pray? (this doesn't happen much for God but a lot of people around here are often on various "cleanse" things....)

_What's going on?

_Fasting sounds sort of religious. Is it that kind of fast or are your just trying to lose weight.

_Good for you.I admire your perseverance.

_smile and say I understand (put it away quickly so not to make them feel awkward) and change the subject

_Good for you. I need to develop a discipline to fast. (and then I'd eat the cookie - just kidding :)

Well, I probably would eat the cookie later.

_Okay!

_no problem

_Oh. Good for you.

_That's cool. I will just eat it later.

_Awesome. I totally understand. Is there anything specific I could agree with you in prayer?

_Oh, ok. Sorry. What are you fasting for?

_I would say "I understand, good for you" , If they were a close friend I might ask if they want to share why they were fasting to see if there is something I should pray about.

_ "oh. okay. cool."
_ Good for you! That's awesome.
_ That's great.
_ Oh? For medical testing or participating in some part your faith?
_ good for you! you are disciplined.
_ Oh, okay. Is that for medical or religious reasons?

9 You see your neighbor outside and he has just bought a new car

<Do I like my neighbors? if so...> Ooooh, let me see! <and then I go sit in it>
_ Oh, you got some new wheels!
_ I like your car (if I do!). When did you get it?
_ "It that new car yours? Congratulations!"
_ Whoa, nice new ride! What happened to your old car?
_ Wow! Congrats on the new car. It looks good.
_ Congratulations! Are you enjoying your new ride?
_ What a beautiful car. When did you get it? I'd love to take a spin in it sometime in the near future!
_ GREAT LOOKING CAR
_ Hey, that's a beautiful new car. Congratulations?
_ New car? Nice! How did you find it?
_ Pop the hood, let's take a look!
_ Hey, check it out.....a new car....that's really nice!
_ I see you have a new car. It looks great. Enjoy!
_ Hey, love your new car
_ It's very nice. When did you get it.
_ Wow.....it looks like you bought a new car. Very nice! Did you buy it new or used....hope you got a great deal!
_ You must be so excited! Congratulations on your new car!
_ Hey! I hope it runs well for you!
_ Wow! Is that yours?
_ Wow, it's great!
_ Nice, how many miles per gallon does it get?
_ N - i - c - e ! Mostly admire it without too many words, unless I am familiar with the car and have specific positives...
_ Hey sweet car brother! I might inquire as to the source of the purchase or ask to hear the story of how they came to acquire the vehicle.
_ Wow, what a blessing!
_ Wow! Nice car! Did you just get that? Congratulations!
_ "Wow, you bought a new car? That is a very nice looking car." All new cars look nice, even though it may not be one that I would ever want to buy.
_ Congratulations on your purchase! what are the features you like most about it?
_ Very nice!
_ Oh, did you get a new car? (Yep, rather stating obvious...)
_ Hey, nice car.....how did you decide to get that one?----(but I probably would not go outside to discuss it....I'd only comment if I was right there with them)

_ I may not say anything - again not out of rudeness, but in an effort not to place undue focus on material things. But in some cases I may say "That's so wonderful how God has provided for you."

_ Nice car, how do you like it.

_ That is a nice car!

_ The car looks good. You must be excited about it.

_ I would go talk to him about it and tell him how great it looks

_ Did you kick the tires?

_ Hello John, very nice choice on your car. I really like it. Enjoy

_ "Congratulations! Great for you that you've been able to purchase a new car!"

_ New car?..... Nice

_ Ask for a ride in it

_ Hey - what a nice car.

_ Wow- nice car! Where'd you buy it?

_ Wow. Nice ride.

_ Wow! That looks great! How do you like it?

_ Nice wheels!

_ A new car! It looks great. How do you like it?

_ What a beautiful car! How did you decide on this one?

_ Hi, wow you have a new car. What do you like about it?

_ Hey, nice car! Glad things are going well for you guys!

_ Nice car!

_ probably wouldn't comment. I don't know my neighbors that well.

_ Wow, I like your car. What kind is it?

_ Wow! How very nice. I am happy for you. (What do you plan to do with your old car?) just kidding

_ Hey! Nice car.

_ Wow! Nice car!

_ Wow - look at you! Is this yours? This is terrific.

_ Can I have a Ride in it?

_ Wow, nice car! How did you decide on this car?

_ Nice ride! Are you pleased with it? Did you get a good deal?

_ Wow, nice car! Is it new?

_ Wow. A new car! How exciting!

_ Wow! I really like (whatever is likable about it)

_ Nice wheels, Joe!

_ wow! let me see inside!

_ Wow! Nice car!

_ Nice car bro, is that new?

_ Hi! What's up?

_ It's great when you get something new. What do you like about your new car?

_ Wow! Nice car.

_ that depends on if the neighbor's yard and house are in good repair or bad condition and whether I really think I need to keep my mouth shut. Also depends on whether it's a Kia or a Jaguar.

_ Wow! Look at those new wheels - good for you!

_ Hey, I love your car. Can I take a look at it?

_ Hey nice ride congrats

_ Wow, what a neat car. Can I look inside?

_ Can I see it? Wow- how cool! How fun to drive it!
_ Wow! Let me look at this! Cool!
_ What a sharp-looking car! What kind of mileage does it get?
_ Wow! What a great car!! I'm excited for you! Tell me about it.
_ wave & say hello as I make my way over there; ask about the car and compliment how nice it is
_ How do you like the car?!
_ Wow - nice car! How fun!
_ nice car
_ Do you like it?
_ What would Dave Ramsey think about this?
_ I'm so happy for you!! (as long as it's not a Ford...LOL) We'll have to go for a ride together
sometime.
_ Wow, nice car!
_ "Hey, nice ride, when did you get it" Since I am somewhat a "car guy" I may ask them questions
about the car like gas millage or 0 -60 time or features.
_ something about the color and how nice it is.
_ Nice car!
_ Nice car.
Wow, cool car! What do you like most about it?
wow, great car! what kind is it? when did you get it?
Congratulations! That is a great car! You must be excited.