

**LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF COLOR TERMS IN MODERN
ENGLISH AND UZBEK**

Nayimova Marjona Ulug'bek kizi

Asian University of Technology

Master's student, Faculty of Linguistics

nayimovamarjona027@gmail.com

+998880077833

Annotation: This article analyzes the lexical-semantic properties of color terms in modern English and Uzbek. Color words not only express the appearance of objects, but also reflect a person's emotional state, mental experiences and cultural views. The article discusses the lexical structure of color terms, basic and derived color names, their direct and symbolic meanings based on examples. It also shows the cultural interpretation of colors in English and Uzbek, their role in phraseological units and their artistic function in literature. The results of the study reveal the inextricable link between language and culture of color terms.

Keywords: color terms, lexical-semantic properties, basic colors, derived colors, symbolic meaning, cultural interpretation, phraseological units, English, Uzbek, language and culture

INTRODUCTION

Language is a mirror of human thinking. In human perception of the environment, great importance is attached to the environment. Through colors, we depict nature, objects, people's feelings and mental state. In modern English and Uzbek, color terms are very rich and diverse in lexical and semantic terms. In these languages, along with color names, derived colors, figurative colors, and symbolic expressions are also widespread. Color words enrich speech, make thought more impressive and expressive. These resources are an important linguistic tool in literature and oral speech.

Although color terms in English and Uzbek have their own style, their semantic range and cultural interpretation may differ. For example, the same color may mean something in one language, but in another language it may express a different emotional state.

This article is devoted to the study of the lexical and semantic support of color terms. It analyzes the direct, literal and symbolic meanings of color words in speech, collective materials. The study highlights the similarities and differences between color terms in English and Uzbek.

Studying this topic helps to deepen the connection between language and culture. The analysis of color terms reveals how human thinking, emotional state and national worldview are reflected. Therefore, color terms have an important scientific enterprise for the fields of linguistics, literary studies, translation and cultural studies.

Color is a universal aspect of human perception, yet the way it is encoded in language varies significantly across cultures and linguistic systems. The study of color vocabulary offers insights into the cognitive, semantic, and cultural dimensions of language.¹

The collection of words used within a language community to name color categories, along with the conceptual framework that underlies each of them, is called a color lexicon. An individual's personal collection of words that name colors is called his or her color idiolect. Essentially every human language includes a color lexicon, which consists of color terms (red,

¹ Berlin, B., Kay, P. Basic Color Terms: Their Universality and Evolution.

Berkeley: University of California Press, 1969.

green, blue, white, lavender, etc.), each associated with the color quale to which it refers (redness, greenness, etc.). Although color terms can stand alone in human thought and communication, as we have used them in this paragraph, they are generally used along with other category terms: a yellow banana or a green leaf. General-purpose color lexicons containing words for colors that can be applied to anything are sometimes augmented with specialized lexicons, such as the animal color terms used in some traditional pastoral cultures.

Communication involving color terms is necessarily imprecise, because the distinctions among members of a color category are lost when the color term is used. However, what is lost in precision is gained in generality: The use of a color term allows both speaker and listener to understand a color reference even though neither of them might ever have seen that particular color before, or their perception of that color might differ.²

1. Lexical properties of color terms

Color terms are words that denote color. For example:

In English: white, black, red, blue, green, yellow

In Uzbek: oq, qora, qizil, ko'k, yashil, sariq

These words are part of the vocabulary of the language and are considered the names of primary colors

1.1. Primary color terms

Both languages have primary colors:

oq / white

qora / black

qizil / red

ko'k / blue

yashil / green

sariq / yellow

These colors are the oldest and most commonly used.

1.2. Derivative Color Terms

New color names are formed from primary colors:

In English:

light blue; dark green; pink; brown

In Uzbek:

och ko'k; to'q yashil; pushti; jigarrang

These colors are created through word combinations or new words.

2. Semantic properties of color terms

Semantics is a concept related to the meaning of a word. Color terms are used in two different senses:

2.1. Direct (basic) meaning

This refers to the actual appearance of the color.

For example:

white snow – oq qor

red apple – qizil olma

black dress – qora ko'ylak

In this case, the term color refers to the external color of the object.

2.2. Symbolic meaning

² [https://www.annualreviews.org/docserver/fulltext/vision/7/1/annurev-vision-093019-](https://www.annualreviews.org/docserver/fulltext/vision/7/1/annurev-vision-093019-112420.pdf?expires=1771947145&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=ECDFF24BDEF0C8831FF347D4BFFFEF308)

[112420.pdf?expires=1771947145&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=ECDFF24BDEF0C8831FF347D4BFFFEF308](https://www.annualreviews.org/docserver/fulltext/vision/7/1/annurev-vision-093019-112420.pdf?expires=1771947145&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=ECDFF24BDEF0C8831FF347D4BFFFEF308)

Color symbolism in art, literature, and anthropology is the use of color as a symbol in various cultures and in storytelling. There is great diversity in the use of colors and their associations between cultures³ and even within the same culture in different time periods.⁴ The same color may have very different associations within the same culture at any time. Diversity in color symbolism occurs because color meanings and symbolism occur on an individual, cultural and universal basis. Color symbolism is also context-dependent and influenced by changes over time.⁵ Symbolic representations of religious concepts or articles may include a specific color with which the concept or object is associated.⁶

Colors often express feelings and states.

Oq / White

In English: white = purity, peace, innocence

In Uzbek: oq = halollik, yaxshilik, nur

Example:

white heart - pure heart

oq niyat – yaxshi niyat

Qora / black

In English: black = sadness, evil, mystery

In Uzbek: qora = baxtsizlik, g'am, og'ir holat

Example:

black day – qora kun

Qizil / red

In English: red = love, danger, anger

In Uzbek: qizil = go'zallik, jo'shqinlik, ba'zan xavf

Example:

red flag – xavf belgisi

qizil yuz – uyat yoki hayajon

Ko'k / blue

In English: blue = sad, depressed state

In Uzbek: ko'k = osmon, tinchlik, kenglik

Example:

feel blue – xafa bo'lish

ko'ngli ko'k – keng ko'ngilli

3. Cultural characteristics of color terms

Colors are interpreted differently in each culture.

For example:

In English, "black" is the color of mourning

In Uzbeks, mourning is often expressed as "black or blue"

In Uzbek "oq rang" nikoh, to'y va poklik ramzi.

³ Smith, N.S.; Whitfield, T.W.A.; Wiltshire, T.J. (April 1990). "The accuracy of the NCS, DIN, and OSA-UCS colour atlases". *Color Research & Application*. 15 (2): 111–116. doi:10.1002/col.5080150209. ISSN 0361-2317.

⁴ Birren, Faber (2006). *Color psychology and color therapy: a factual study of the influence of color on human life*. Whitefish, MT: Kessinger Publishing.

⁵ Edith Anderson Feisner; Ronald Reed, eds. (2016). "Color symbolism". *Color Studies* (3rd ed.). New York: Bloomsbury. pp. 184–205.

⁶ "Encyclopaedia Britannica". *Lexikon des Gesamten Buchwesens Online* (in German).

The meaning of these colors is related to the history, religion, and traditions of the people.

4. The role of color terms in phraseological units

Colors are often used in phrases:

In English:

white lie – zararsiz yolg'on

black market – noqonuniy bozor

green light – ruxsat

blue blood – aslzoda

In Uzbek:

white road; black day; red face; black heart

In these expressions, the word color does not mean the actual color, but a figurative meaning.

5. The role of color terms in literature

In works of fiction, colors convey the character's mental state, environment, mood, and power of imagery.

For example:

black color - sadness and grief

white color - hope and light

red color - excitement and strength

blue color - calm

Writers use colors to create an emotional impact on the reader.

6. Similarities and differences between color terms in English and Uzbek

Similarities:

The main colors are the same;

Colors are used in a symbolic sense;

There are phraseological expressions;

Differences:

Cultural interpretation varies;

Some colors can be positive in one language and negative in another;

Idioms and metaphors differ.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, in modern English and Uzbek, color terms are not limited to the color of objects. They also express human emotions, mental states, and cultural views. Color words are rich in lexical aspects, and the range of meanings is diverse and multifaceted. They enrich speech, enliven images, and describe the expression of language. The study shows that although the main thing is similar in both languages, the symbolic and cultural meanings of the document may be different. Color terms are used figuratively in phraseological units, making speech more expressive and meaningful. In fiction, they serve as an important tool for expressing the mental state of the main characters, the environment, and the general mood.

Studying color terms helps to understand the relationship between language and culture. The three subjects have a large scientific school for the fields of linguistics, translation, literary studies and cultural studies. Through colorful words, the worldview, emotional experiences and national thinking of each nation are reflected. For this, the study of color terms through lexical-semantic is important and solves the problem.

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