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COLOR IN DICTIONARY FIXATION: METHODS OF DEFINITION, POLYSEMY AND SET EXPRESSIONS

Milovanova Elena Valerevna
Lecturer Karshi State University
elenamila1822@gmail.com
ORCID:0009-0000-8728-5130

Hasanova Malika Rustambek kizi
2nd year master's student Karshi State University

Abstract: This article examines how color vocabulary is represented in various dictionaries. Dictionary entries allow us to see the "official" semantics of color words, including their main and secondary meanings, shades of meaning, fixed combinations, and stylistic notes. Comparing different types of dictionaries, such as academic dictionaries, normative dictionaries, frequency dictionaries, phraseological dictionaries, and poetry dictionaries, reveals that the representation of color has its own characteristics.

Keywords: thematic zones, color designations, author's color painting, portrait, landscape, portrait palette

Introduction: When exploring the lexical and semantic field of color, it is important to consider how color vocabulary is represented in various dictionaries. Dictionary recording allows us to see the "official" semantics of color words: their primary and secondary meanings, nuances of meaning, set phrases, and stylistic markings. A comparison of different types of dictionaries—academic explanatory, normative, frequency, phraseological, and poetic—reveals that their representation of color has its own unique characteristics. Let's consider the methods by which color words are defined, how their polysemy and figurative uses are preserved, whether collocation and style are taken into account, and how different lexicographic sources differ in their interpretation of color.

Theoretical Foundations of Color in Dictionary Semantics. Methods of Dictionary Definitions of Colors. Russian explanatory dictionaries traditionally use two main approaches to defining color terms: listing prototypical objects of a given color or using a scientific spectral description. For example, the word "red" may be explained differently in different dictionaries. In D. N. Ushakov's Explanatory Dictionary (1935–1940), the basic meaning of "red" is defined as "having the hue of one of the primary colors of the rainbow, a range of shades from pink to brown."[10: pp. 56–60] Here, the definition is based on a scientific concept (the spectral color of the rainbow) and covers a range of shades, specifying the boundaries (from pink to brown inclusive). Scientific information is added: for example, a fact from physics is cited: "The red rays of the spectrum are the least refractible." Hence, Ushakov describes color based on objective characteristics and its place in the spectrum.

For comparison, S. I. Ozhegov in his "Explanatory Dictionary of the Russian Language" gives a slightly different formulation: "red is the color of blood, ripe strawberries, a bright poppy flower." [9: pp. 28-45] Here the definition is through a list of characteristic objects: blood, berries, poppy - images familiar to any native speaker, allowing one to immediately imagine the desired color tone.

This descriptive and visual approach captures the prototypical Method: indicating the most typical representatives of color in the surrounding world. Both methods—spectral-scientific and figurative-enumerative—are widely used in lexicography. Dictionaries often combine them: for example, they might first provide a scientific definition ("the primary color of the spectrum between orange and violet") and then cite prototype examples ("the color of blood, fire"). The choice of method conveys the overall focus of the dictionary: academic publications often strive for objectivity and scientific accuracy, while educational and pocket dictionaries rely on visual aids and the user's life experience. [4: pp. 67-69]

Reflection of polysemy and figurative meanings . Color terms are often polysemantic. In addition to their primary, literal meaning (designating color as a physical attribute), they have a number of figurative or specialized meanings, developed historically or metaphorically. A good dictionary captures this polysemy, dividing meanings by numbers and providing them with notes. Let's consider again the example of "red" from Ushakov's dictionary, where polysemy is presented in great detail. After meaning 1 (literal, color), meaning 2 is given: "red" means extreme left in political beliefs, revolutionary (pre-revolutionary). This reflects the fact that the word "red" acquired a politically related meaning during a certain historical period (Reds are supporters of the revolution). Next comes meaning 3 (in the dictionary it is combined with 2 or marked as an adjective in the role of names): "red" as part of a series of names associated with Soviet symbols - the Red Army, the Red Fleet, etc. The old poetic meaning is given separately: "red" - beautiful, elegant, decorated (obsolete poetic and folk poetic). Ushakov explains that this is an obsolete meaning, citing examples: red devka (beautiful girl), red izba (a smartly decorated hut). Here, in the sub-meaning, the folk poetic meanings " honorable ", "valuable" are indicated (for example, the proverb "Na mir i smert krasna" - 'in public, even death is beautiful'). [10: p.66-70]

It's noteworthy that the dictionary captures even such subtle nuances, providing them with notes (obsolete, popular - poetic), thereby demonstrating the stylistic nuance of the meaning. Subsequently, various set phrases with "red" are listed, often placed outside the main definition after the main cluster of meanings. In the cited excerpt from Ushakov, we see a long list of phraseological units and terminological combinations: red corner, red mushroom, red tree, red price, red slovo, red lantern, and many others. They are given either after the main text of the entry or within it, with special notes (colloquial, obsolete, special, etc.). This approach is typical of large explanatory dictionaries: they strive to reflect not only individual meanings of a word, but also the most frequent phrases and idioms in which the word embodies a specific meaning.

Ozhegov's dictionary presents the polysemy of "red" in a similar way, although the wording is more succinct. After the first meaning (color), comes the second: "relating to revolutionary activity, to the Soviet system..." (example: Red troops). Ozhegov's third meaning combines poetic and folk usage: "in folk speech and poetry to denote something good, bright, solemn" - with examples such as a red day, a red corner, a red maiden, a debt repaid red (proverb). The fourth meaning: "designation of the most valuable breeds, varieties" - special (for example, red fish - sturgeon, red beast - valuable fur animals, red forest - coniferous forest). The fifth is "red" as a noun: "red - a supporter of the Bolsheviks, a soldier of the Red Army." And then the main phraseological units are also listed with the marks "colloquial": red line, red price, red word, red thread (to pass), etc., with a brief explanation of each. [9: pp. 40-45]

Thus, both classic dictionaries pay attention to the figurative and metaphorical meanings of color. We see that meanings like "red = beautiful" or "red = revolutionary" are far removed from

the literal meaning of color, yet they have become firmly entrenched in the language and are therefore reflected lexicographically. It is interesting to note that some colors have a rich metaphorical semantics. For example, in addition to the meaning "having the color of snow or milk," dictionaries invariably assign the figurative meaning "meaningless, futile" in the expression "white light" (as a synonym for "world, light in general" – "not to live in this world"), as well as "delirium tremens," "white death" (sugar in medicine), and, of course, the phraseological unit "white crow" – these combinations are recorded either as separate dictionary entries (for key phraseological units) or within the entry for "white." The color "black" includes figurative meanings such as "gloomy, ominous" (a black day, black ingratitude), "illegal" (black market), as well as literal and figurative expressions such as "in black and white," "black envy," and "to work under the table ." Dictionaries attempt to include the most established ones, whenever possible.

Phraseological connections between color words are an interesting field. There are specialized phraseological dictionaries where color designations can appear within idioms. For example, in the "Phraseological Dictionary of the Russian Language," we find entries for "white crow," "red as a lobster," "bluestocking," and so on, which provide the full meaning of the expression: "a white crow is a person who stands out from others, strange, different from everyone else."[15: pp. 51-60] Such dictionaries typically provide a source or cultural explanation for the image (why a white crow is a metaphor for rarity and strangeness, since ordinary crows are black). Importantly, a color word within a phraseological unit can have a figurative-metaphorical rather than a literal meaning, often losing its direct meaning. For example, "white" in "white crow" actually means "not like everyone else" (i.e., unusual, strange), and "black" in "black on white" simply refers to the contrast between ink and paper, expressing clarity. General-purpose dictionaries sometimes include the most common phraseological units in their entries, but by no means all of them. Therefore, to fully identify the phraseological connections between color vocabulary, a researcher must also consult specialized sources.

Conclusion. Dictionaries account for the compatibility and stylistic marking of color words through various notes and examples. In the examples by Ushakov and Ozhegov, we already saw notes (obsolete, poetic , colloquial, special) indicating the style of use of a meaning or combination. Furthermore , some dictionaries explicitly indicate typical combinations. For example, " Gramota.ru " or " pocket dictionaries of compatibility" may provide phrases: for example, for the word "blond" (fair - haired) – an explanation (about hair or a person with such hair). In other words, the compatibility restriction ("about hair") is directly included in the definition. In "Efremova's Dictionary," another modern explanatory dictionary, "blond" is defined in two ways: 1) having light-brown hair (about a person); 2) light-brown (about hair). As a result, the meanings there are divided depending on the grammatical property (adj. in relation to a person or in relation to hair), and, in essence, the compatibility is reflected: a person is blond, hair is blond. [6: p. 88-92] This reveals attention to the contexts in which the word is used.

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