BG Pulse Journal USA
ISSN:1947-2536 http://www.bgpulseusa.com/index.php/bg

# PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH A COLOR COMPONENT IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20512932

**Abstract:**
Phraseological units are an essential part of every language and represent a unique combination of linguistic and cultural knowledge. Among them, phraseological expressions containing color components occupy a special place because colors often carry symbolic meanings that reflect people's perceptions, emotions, and cultural values. This article investigates phraseological units with color components in English and Uzbek languages and presents a comparative analysis of their semantic and cultural features. The study identifies similarities and differences in color symbolism and examines the role of color terms in shaping idiomatic meanings.

**Keywords:**
phraseological unit, phraseology, color component, color symbolism, idiom, comparative linguistics, English language, Uzbek language, culture, semantics.

Phraseology is one of the most expressive and culturally significant areas of linguistics. Phraseological units enrich speech, enhance communication, and preserve the historical and cultural experience of a nation. Unlike free word combinations, phraseological units possess semantic integrity and are reproduced in speech as ready-made lexical structures. Their meanings are often figurative and cannot be understood through the meanings of individual words.

Color terminology occupies an important position in phraseological systems because colors are closely connected with human cognition, emotions, and cultural traditions. Throughout history, colors have acquired symbolic meanings that vary from one culture to another. As a result, phraseological units containing color components often serve as linguistic markers of cultural identity.

The comparative study of English and Uzbek phraseological units with color components allows researchers to identify common patterns of human perception as well as culture-specific interpretations of color symbolism. Such studies contribute to the development of comparative linguistics, cognitive linguistics, and intercultural communication.

The theoretical foundations of phraseology have been developed by numerous linguists. In English phraseology, the works of A.V. Kunin, N.N. Amosova, and V.V. Vinogradov have

significantly contributed to the understanding of phraseological units and their classification. Uzbek phraseology has been extensively studied by scholars such as Sh. Rahmatullayev and A.E. Mamatov, who examined the semantic, structural, and cultural aspects of phraseological expressions.

Modern linguistic research increasingly emphasizes the role of culture in phraseological meaning. Color symbolism is considered one of the most productive means of expressing cultural concepts through language. Therefore, phraseological units containing color components represent valuable material for cross-cultural analysis.

Colors perform not only descriptive but also symbolic functions in language. Their meanings are influenced by historical traditions, religious beliefs, social values, and collective experience. As a result, color terms frequently appear in idiomatic expressions, proverbs, and phraseological units.

The symbolic meanings of colors are often associated with emotional states, personal characteristics, social evaluation, and moral concepts. These symbolic associations become conventionalized within a language and are transmitted from generation to generation through phraseological expressions.

English phraseology contains a wide variety of expressions with color components. These phraseological units often reflect metaphorical thinking and cultural traditions.

One of the most common examples is **"white lie,"** which refers to a harmless lie told to avoid causing emotional harm. In this expression, the color white symbolizes innocence and purity, reducing the negative connotation associated with lying.

Another widely used phraseological unit is **"green with envy,"** which describes a person experiencing strong jealousy. Here, the color green symbolizes envy and dissatisfaction. Similarly, the expression **"black sheep"** refers to a family member or group participant who is regarded as different or undesirable. The negative connotation of black in this context reflects historical and cultural associations.

The phrase **"feeling blue"** is used to express sadness or depression. In English-speaking cultures, blue is often connected with melancholy and emotional discomfort. The expression **"red alert"** symbolizes danger and emergency, reflecting the psychological impact of the color red as a signal of warning.

These examples demonstrate that color terms play a significant role in creating vivid and expressive phraseological meanings in English.

The Uzbek language also possesses a rich collection of phraseological units containing color components. Many of these expressions are deeply connected with traditional values, customs, and social relationships.

For example, **"oq yo'l"** is a phrase used to wish someone success, happiness, and a safe journey. The positive symbolism of white reflects purity, honesty, and prosperity in Uzbek culture.

Another expression, **"oq ko'ngil,"** describes a kind-hearted and sincere person. Here, white symbolizes moral purity and goodwill. In contrast, **"qora kun"** refers to difficult times, misfortune, or hardship. The negative symbolism of black in this expression is associated with suffering and adversity.

The phraseological unit **"qora ko'z"** is frequently used as a term of affection and admiration for a beloved person. Unlike similar expressions in English, its meaning reflects specific cultural and emotional associations characteristic of Uzbek society.

These examples illustrate how phraseological units preserve national traditions and cultural values through symbolic color meanings.

The comparison of English and Uzbek phraseological units reveals both similarities and differences in the use of color symbolism.

One notable similarity is the positive perception of the color white. In both languages, white is generally associated with goodness, purity, honesty, and positive intentions. Likewise, black frequently carries negative connotations related to misfortune, exclusion, or undesirable characteristics.

However, significant differences can also be observed. Some colors acquire culture-specific meanings that cannot be directly translated from one language into another. For example, the symbolic interpretation of blue differs considerably between English and Uzbek cultures. While English often associates blue with sadness, Uzbek cultural traditions may connect the color with broader symbolic meanings related to spirituality, nature, or historical beliefs.

The use of green also demonstrates cultural variation. In English phraseology, green frequently symbolizes jealousy or inexperience, whereas in Uzbek culture it may be associated with youth, nature, and vitality. These differences reflect the influence of national culture on linguistic meaning.

Color components perform several important functions in phraseological units. First, they increase the expressiveness and emotional impact of speech. Second, they facilitate the communication of complex ideas through concise and memorable expressions. Third, they serve as carriers of cultural information, preserving collective knowledge and traditional values.

Furthermore, color phraseology contributes to the aesthetic richness of language by creating vivid imagery and strengthening figurative meaning. As a result, phraseological units with color components remain an important means of linguistic creativity and cultural representation.

**Conclusion**

Phraseological units with color components represent a significant element of both English and Uzbek linguistic systems. Their analysis demonstrates that color symbolism functions as an important mechanism for expressing cultural values, emotional states, and social attitudes. Although certain color associations appear universal, many phraseological units reveal unique national and cultural characteristics.

The comparative study of color phraseology contributes to a deeper understanding of linguistic diversity and intercultural communication. It highlights the close relationship between language and culture and demonstrates how symbolic meanings are reflected in everyday communication. Future research may expand this analysis by examining additional colors and exploring their phraseological representations in other languages.

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