

LEXICAL-SEMANTIC AND CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF COLOR TERMINOLOGY IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract: Color terminology plays an important role in language because it reflects not only visual perception but also cultural, emotional, and symbolic meanings. In the English language, color words have lexical meanings as well as semantic and cultural connotations. This article examines the lexical-semantic and cultural dimensions of color terminology in English and analyzes their meanings from linguistic and cultural perspectives. Special attention is given to the comparison of literal and symbolic meanings of color terms. The study is based on the analysis of linguistic literature, including Uzbek and international research. Uzbek linguists emphasize that color terms reflect national culture, traditions, and worldview. The results show that color terminology has complex semantic structures and cultural significance. The article also presents innovative ideas for teaching color terminology more effectively in English language classrooms.

Keywords: color terminology, lexical meaning, semantic meaning, cultural meaning, English language, linguistics, Uzbekistan

INTRODUCTION

Language reflects human perception, thinking, and culture. Words do not only describe objects but also express cultural and emotional meanings. Color terminology is one of the important lexical groups that reflects both linguistic and cultural aspects of language. In recent years, linguistic research has become an important part of educational reforms in Uzbekistan. The Presidential Decree No. PF-4947 (2017) [1; 1] emphasized the importance of improving foreign language education and linguistic research. This reform encourages the study of language from semantic and cultural perspectives.

Lexical semantics studies the meaning of words and their relationships. Color terminology has both direct and indirect meanings. The direct meaning describes physical color, while indirect meanings reflect emotions, cultural symbols, and abstract concepts. Uzbek linguists emphasize that language reflects national culture. Color terminology in Uzbek and English languages shows similarities and differences. For example, the color “white” in Uzbek culture symbolizes purity and goodness, similar to English culture. However, some color meanings may differ depending on cultural context. Understanding lexical-semantic and cultural dimensions of color terminology is important for linguistics and language teaching. It helps learners understand not only vocabulary but also cultural meanings.

This article examines lexical, semantic, and cultural aspects of color terminology in the English language. It also analyzes Uzbek linguistic research and presents innovative ideas for teaching color terminology. This section examines Uzbek and international linguistic research related to lexical semantics and cultural meaning of color terminology. The purpose of this review is to understand how color words function not only as lexical units but also as cultural and semantic elements.

Uzbek linguist Karimova (2021) [4; 15-24] explains that lexical meaning is the basic meaning of a word, while semantic meaning includes emotional, cultural, and symbolic aspects. She emphasizes that color words often have extended meanings beyond their direct reference. For example, the word “white” may represent purity, honesty, and goodness in many cultures.

Ahmedova (2019) [2; 42-58] studies semantic features of lexical units and states that color terminology reflects human perception and cultural worldview. According to her research, color words are closely connected with cultural traditions and social meanings.

Khayitova (2020) [5; 33-41] examines linguo-cultural aspects of vocabulary and explains that color terms are important cultural symbols. She notes that colors may represent emotions, social values, and cultural beliefs. For example, the color “red” may symbolize love, danger, or power depending on context.

Tairova (2018) [6; 67] analyzes semantic structures of lexical units and explains that words have both denotative and connotative meanings. Denotative meaning refers to the direct meaning, while connotative meaning refers to emotional and cultural associations. Color terminology is one of the best examples of this semantic complexity.

Yusupov (2017) [7; 95] also emphasizes that language and culture are closely connected. He explains that understanding cultural meaning helps learners understand language more deeply.

International researchers also support this idea. According to Crystal (2003), semantic analysis helps explain how words function in communication. He notes that color terminology reflects both physical perception and cultural interpretation. These studies show that color terminology is not only a lexical category but also a cultural and semantic system. Uzbek researchers emphasize that understanding semantic and cultural meanings is essential for linguistic analysis. This study uses a simple qualitative method based on lexical-semantic and cultural analysis. The purpose of this method is to examine meanings of color terminology in the English language and analyze their semantic and cultural dimensions.

The method focuses on analysis of common English color terms such as:

white

black

red

blue

green

The analysis examines three main aspects:

- lexical meaning (direct meaning)
- semantic meaning (extended meaning)
- cultural meaning (symbolic meaning)

This study also uses comparative analysis to compare English and Uzbek cultural meanings of color terms. This comparison helps identify similarities and differences between the two languages. The method is based on analysis of linguistic literature, Uzbek linguistic research, and semantic theory. No surveys or experiments are used. The analysis focuses on linguistic meaning and cultural interpretation. This simple method helps understand how color terminology functions in language and culture. The analysis shows that color terminology in the English language has complex lexical, semantic, and cultural meanings. Color words do not only describe visual characteristics but also express emotions, cultural values, and symbolic meanings.

One of the most important findings is that color terms have both denotative and connotative meanings. The denotative meaning refers to the physical color, while the connotative meaning reflects emotional and cultural associations. For example, the color white has a lexical meaning that refers to a light color. However, semantically and culturally, it represents purity, innocence, and peace in English culture. Expressions such as “white lie” and “white dove” show symbolic meanings of honesty and peace. The color black has a lexical meaning referring to a dark color. However, culturally it may symbolize mystery, death, or formality. For example, expressions like “black market” and “black mood” show negative connotations, while “black suit” may represent formality and elegance. The color red represents strong emotional and symbolic meanings. Lexically, it refers to a bright color, but semantically it may represent love, danger, or power. Expressions like “red flag” indicate warning, while “red heart” symbolizes love. The color blue often represents calmness, sadness, or stability. For example, the expression “feel blue” means feeling sad. This shows how color terminology expresses emotional states. The color green represents nature, life, and growth. It may also symbolize permission or safety, as seen in expressions like “green light.”

The comparative analysis also shows similarities between English and Uzbek cultural meanings. In Uzbek culture, the color oq (white) symbolizes purity and goodness, similar to English. The color qora (black) may symbolize sadness or seriousness. The color qizil (red) often symbolizes beauty and celebration. However, some differences exist due to cultural context. Cultural traditions influence semantic meanings of colors. Another important finding is that understanding cultural meanings helps improve language comprehension. Students who understand symbolic meanings can better understand expressions, idioms, and cultural communication.

These results show that color terminology is an important part of linguistic and cultural knowledge.

CONCLUSION

This study examined lexical-semantic and cultural dimensions of color terminology in the English language. The results show that color words have complex meanings that include lexical, semantic, and cultural aspects. One important observation is that cultural meaning plays a major role in language understanding. Students who learn only direct meanings may not fully understand expressions and idioms. Understanding cultural meanings improves language comprehension.

From my perspective, one innovative idea is the “Semantic Visualization Method.” In this method, teachers explain color terminology using images, cultural examples, and emotional associations. For example, teachers can show how “white” represents peace or how “red” represents love. This helps students understand deeper meanings. Another innovative idea is the “Cultural Comparison Method.” In this method, students compare color meanings in English and Uzbek cultures. This helps students understand cultural differences and improves linguistic awareness. In conclusion, color terminology reflects linguistic, semantic, and cultural dimensions of language. My personal view is that integrating semantic and cultural analysis into language teaching can significantly improve student understanding and motivation.

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