

The semantic analysis of colour idioms with component “black” in English and Karakalpak languages.

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Annotation

The research is devoted to the semantic analysis of colour idioms with components of “black” in two cultures and focuses on mental, cultural and conceptual differences and resemblances of these idioms in use. Current research focuses on the analysis of color terms used within color idioms across two languages: the English and the Karakalpak.

Key words: culture, concept, term, mental phenomena, negative and positive, figurative meaning, black and white colours, ethnolinguistic, colour naming, physical and psychological state of, social strata, human.

Element of color could be considered as part of visual perception, hence relying on Segall, Campbell and Herskovits it could be presupposed that representatives of different cultures perceive colors differently. The current study focuses on two languages: the English language and the Karakalpak language. The culture of Western world is addressed through the English language, whereas relying on the geographical location the Karakalpak language may belong to the Eastern culture. In Kazakhstan linguists the concept of the colour is largely investigated by Ph. N. Dauletov, A.T. Kaydarov, D. A.[23:95] Kazhygalieva whose works are devoted to the analysis of ethno- linguistic, linguistic culturological peculiarities of colour namings. One of the latest researches of Kazakhstan linguists in the field of colour namings is the research of many years by Sh. K. Zharkipova named as « Colour

concepts in Kazakh and Russian linguistic cultures. A. N. Kononov [25:81-86] being the first who investigated meanings of colour namings in Turkic languages distinguished 20 different meanings of black colour as an adjective. The black colour means not only darkness, piercing cold, dense, large, strong, fierce, mass, ordinariness, uncertainty, but also hardship, difficult anxiety, poverty. Some scholars consider names related to black colour dividing them on 6 groups: 1) evil; 2) crime, cruelty; 3) priority; 4) holiness, kindness; 5) simplicity; 6) grief and despondency. One more meaning of black colour is connected with beauty: Blackeyed, Blackhaired. Moreover, black colour is treated as natural colour of the earth, sign of prosperity. This is philosophical notion meaning constancy, statics: « naked earth», « common people», « matchlock gun», « Black horse», « maid who does spade work» [14. 145-153].

There is no investigation on the problem of Karakalpak idioms in Karakalpak language.

Our research is based on the classification provided by Berlin and Kay [8:43] as they indicated the presence of basic color terms.. Berlin and Kay identified the characteristics the color term should possess in order to be named as a color term. They stressed the importance of:

- 1) The meaning, as it should be easily recoverable from the meaning of its part (e.g. grayish);
- 2) the absence of signification in any other color term;
- 3) the term could be applied to an unlimited number of objects;
- 4) it must be psychologically easy recognizable. [4. 43]

Taking into account all the features the same color terms possess it is possible to draw a conclusion that the same color denotes a different phenomena across

different cultures, hence term culture should include not only traditions but also a geographical location as well as religious representation.

Current research focuses on the analysis of color terms used within color idioms across two languages: the English and the Karakalpak

Each language is analyzed separately in order to get a clear picture of the phenomenon color idioms as illustrative materials served in dictionaries of English and karakalpak languages by the way of entire selection of idioms .

As black colour expresses the following human feelings . The analyses are carried out with two principles which are peculiar to both languages .Here we try to differentiate their amount of less or more using these criteria in both languages.

Table-1. Black colour idioms with negative meaning:

#	English colour	meaning	Translation into Karakalpak
1	A black mark against someone	Something that someone has done that is disliked/disapproved by other people.	қара дақ ,жаман баха
2	A black spot	A notorious place ..	Атағы шыққан жаман жер.
3	Beaten black and blue	Physically attached and badly bruised .. Таяк жеу көзи көгеріу	Таяк жеу көзи көгеріу
4	Be in someone's black books	Be in disfavor with	Биреудин қара

		someone ..	дизиминде болуу
5	Beyond the black stump	Remote uncivilized country	Қара корим жер
6	Black and blue all over	Bruised ..	Биреудин көзин көгертиу
7	Black humor	.Morbid, bizarre form of humor	Қара юмор
8	Black market	.Selling of goods at illegal prices	Қара базар
9	Black out	.Temporary loss of consciousness	Көз асты қараиу , бираз есинен таныу
10	Black sheep (of the family)	Someone who is regarded by the other members of their family or a group as a failure or embarrassment.	Қара қой гез келген қорада болады ;
11	A black mark against somebody	Someone who has a bad opinion of you because of what you have done	биреу жаман пикирде болууы сен хаккында .
12	Black list	.a)ban from further employment in a particular field .b)a list of people , institutions,	Қара дизим

		organizations , book etc that do not employ official support	
13	To give somebody a black eye	give somebody reputation..	биреуге жаман көз бенен қарау
14	Paint somebody all black	describe someone or something as all bad	Биреуди қаралау жаманлап
15	In one's black list	In one's list of datable pretty girls	Биреудин қара дизимине тусиу
16	The pot calling the kettle black	criticizing another faults or errors of which oneself is guilty .	ози айыбы болып биреудин айыбын корсетиу

The amount of the idioms selected from the dictionaries, indicates that the presence of the black color in the linguistic system of the English language is obvious. Therefore, the black color is used to indicate negative concepts. Generally, as the black color is related to bad luck, it is reflected in the idioms, examples (1), (4), (5) and (13) indicate that the person is not accepted by the others or is not good enough to be a part of a particular community. *“I am in Lady Agatha’ black books at present “, answered Dorian, with a funny look of penitence .[26.2]* Another group of idioms with the element of the black color could be formed with regard to the physical appearance, idioms (3) and (6) indicate that the person has been abused physically.”*My first husband Captain Johnson used to thrash me regularly. He was a man . He was handsome , six foot three and when he was drunk there was no holding him. I would be black and blue all over for days at a time”[27.51.]* Moreover, the black is also related to the physical state of a human, idiom (9) is related to the loss of consciousness. As the black color is described as an extreme,

it possesses negative aspects and those aspects are reflected in the linguistic system. Black color in the English language reflects illegal, mysterious and extraordinary phenomenon(7); the idioms (11), (12) (13) (14) and (15) prove the fact that the black color is associated with somebody's negative attitude to others.

Table-2. Black colour idioms with positive meaning:

#	English colour	meaning	Translation into Karakalpak
1	Black and white	Ability to see complex issues in a simple terms of right and wrong . e.g. "If he (Cheng) wanted money, there was no money and accounts in black and white proved it"Edward Behr. The last Emperor.	Ақ қараны ажрата алыу .
2	Black tie	Formal evening dress .	Қара галстук расмий кийим .
3	In black and white	To have written proof .	Қаралаушы ақлаушы далийл
4	Not as black as you are painted	Not as bad as other people say;	биреудин яки бир нарсенин суретленгениндей жаман болмауы
5	A black hen lays a white egg	.Bad parents have	Жаманнан .

		good- disciplined children	жаксы тууылады ,кара сыйырдын сути ақ ,тури сулыу емес болганы менен ишки қасиети жаксы
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However, it could not be claimed that the black color is related to the negative phenomenon only. It could express positive character contrary to a deceptive appearance. Though he is ill-natured , he has brought his child as well-behaved . The black color could be related to the phenomenon related to justice as in some cases it may express the possession of written evidence (3) as well as it may reveal the unknown phenomena (1) but in a mysterious way. *“If he(Cheng)wanted money , there was no money and accounts in black and white proved it”*[28.134] The combination of the black and white color is the most probably the one which could be claimed as one of the most traditional ones, therefore the white color makes the effect of the black softer and as a result that combination has a meaning of not being as bad as it is presented by the others (4).”Finally, idiom with black color may be related to the clothes style which could be accepted at particular events and the traditional black tie (2) style is accepted at the official events.

All in all, the collection of the color idioms indicates that the role of the black color is truly important for the speakers of English. It could express a variety of phenomenon. It could be related to the negative aspects of a situation as well as to the positive ones. In combination with white color the black acquires a new meaning which could be applied to those of neutral.

Table-3.Karakalpak black colour idioms with negative meaning

#	Karakalpak colour	meaning
1	Қара бет-/ жузи кара	Evil, rude man

2	Қара нийет	Black intentions
3	Қара мийнет	Black, hard work
4	Қара қайғы	sorrow, worries
5	Қазанға жолама қарасы жугады	Don't touch black kazan, keep away from bad people
6	Қара қабағы ашылмау	Very angry, upset
7	Қара уайымға баты	Get into trouble, deep in trouble
8	Ақ ийт кирип, қара ийт шығады	Scold rudely, be aggressive
9	Иши қара	Black inside, has bad thoughts
10	Манлайы қара-	Black forehead- unlucky
11	қара жер(алыу , тартыу)	Positive meaning – native land, negative meaning- used as curse
12	қара ешекке шапан мингизиу	Speak badly behind smb.'s back

To my mind, in the Karakalpak culture black color is closely related to either hard life or hard work. The concept of difficult wellbeing is expressed through number of idioms and the examples (3) indicate that. The example (7) could also be ascribed to the group of bad living conditions as it expresses the idea of poor nutrition. The concept of hard work is expressed through idioms (3). Along with the hard life, black color is used to express worries and sadness about danger(4),(7). Black color idioms could be used for a character building describing negative aspects of a person(2) having ill thoughts, bad intentions. The description

may start with the representation of a social class, black color is used to describe people who belong to the lowest social strata (9). Personal characteristics such as being an extremely ill-natured person who is cruel to people and curse and scolds(1),(5), (8),(11) , being unfair to smb. (12) and being poor, gloomy and unsociable (6) could be expressed with the help of the Karakalpak black color idioms.

Table-4. Karakalpak black colour idioms with positive meaning

#	Karakalpak colour	meaning
1	кара коз	Dark-eyed
2	кара уй шанарак	A black mobile house of nomadic people
3	кара шашлы	Black-haired
4	Қара козли	Black-eyed
5	Казанга жакынласан карасы жугады	Keep away from bad people
6	Қарагым	My sweet
7	Қара қазан кайнап тур	There is no necessity to worry, be well-to-do
8	Кара жер	A fruitful native land

Therefore, the actions of treating politely (6) could be presented with the contribution of black color as well. In addition , black color could also be related to the positive phenomenon as it warns against being in touch with bad people as they can spoil good people(5)..

Obviously, black color is usually associated with the colour of a yurt and therefore, Karakalpak people used to take their house with them when moving from one place to another (2) has a figurative meaning “ A big united family” .
“Усы жерде осип оңип,

Кара шанарак ел болганбыз .

Ауыр мийнетине конип.

*Ислеп кара тер болганбыз” “ Кара уй ме, кийиз уй ме, Хиуа тараи хаули ме
я[29.3]*

One more meaning of black colour is connected with beauty : black- eyed , black- haired. (1), (3),(4). Writers to portray girl' s quality or more colours: black eye, black currant eye, eye like sheep, eyes like coal, black hair like silk. For example , if the girl's eyes were big and black, such eyes were compared with currant .(qaramiq)” *Ат тыпыршып болды биймаза. Хам изинше аппак денели, Кара шаишы боксесинен жауган ,Жаланаи кыз кирип келеди .”[29.65]*

Moreover, black colour is treated as natural colour: colour of the earth, sign of prosperity(8) .This philosophical notion meaning constancy , statics: « naked earth», « common people», « matchlock gun», « black horse», « maid who does spade work».

In conclusion, black color in the Karakalpak culture is mostly associated with the negative concepts, it reflects the temper of the Karakalpak culture, the culture where people work hard and still live hard, with the help of black color idioms it is possible to create a personality who belongs to the lowest social class, is bad looking, possesses a number of negative personal traits. Contrary concepts of darkness and clearness are expressed via black color idioms

Coming back to the description of black color provided by Wright[43:84] it could be claimed that both different cultures associate black color to negative phenomenon. The examples of color idioms provided in two languages indicate that it is used to express negative emotions, actions, personal traits. The fact that black color is associated with bad luck was proved by the examples of black color idioms across two languages.

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