

**SEMANTIC-STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS CONTAINING THE
COLOR TERM “BLUE” IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK**

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20560319>

Sadoqat Dilshodbekovna Khakimova

*Lecturer at the 3rd Department of Theoretical Aspects of the English Language Uzbek
State World Languages University*

sadoqat.xakimova@mail.ru

<https://orcid.org/0009-0005-7740-1480>

Abstract: *Color symbolism plays a significant role in phraseology, as colors reflect cultural values, national identity, and emotional perception. This study examines the semantic and structural characteristics of phraseological units containing the color term “blue” in English and “ko’k” in Uzbek. Using comparative, semantic, and structural analysis, the research identifies similarities and differences between the two languages. The findings show that English expressions with “blue” often convey emotions such as sadness, distance, aristocracy, or surprise, while Uzbek expressions with “ko’k” are linked to the sky, spirituality, prosperity, and growth. Although both languages use similar grammatical structures, Uzbek phraseological units retain stronger connections with nature and traditional worldview. The study highlights how a single color concept develops distinct meanings across cultures.*

Keywords: *phraseology, color symbolism, blue, ko’k, semantic analysis, structural analysis, English language, Uzbek language.*

**INGLIZ VA O‘ZBEK TILLARIDA “BLUE/KO’K” RANG KOMPONENTLI FRAZELOGIK
BIRLIKLARNING SEMANTIK-STRUKTUR TAHLILI**

Sadoqat Dilshodbekovna Xakimova

O‘zbekiston davlat jahon tillari universiteti Ingliz tilining nazariy jihatlarini №3 kafedrasini o‘qituvchisi

Annotatsiya: *Rang ramziyligi frazeologiyada muhim o‘rin tutadi, chunki ranglar madaniy qadriyatlar, milliy mentalitet va hissiy idrokni aks ettiradi. Ushbu tadqiqot ingliz tilidagi “blue” va o‘zbek tilidagi “ko’k” rang nomi ishtirok etgan frazeologik birliklarning semantik hamda struktur xususiyatlarini o‘rganadi. Qiyosiy, semantik va struktur tahlil usullari orqali ikki til o‘rtasidagi o‘xshash va farqli jihatlar aniqlanadi. Tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko‘rsatadiki, ingliz tilidagi “blue” komponentli iboralar ko‘pincha qayg‘u, uzoqlik, aristokratiya yoki kutilmagan holatlarni ifodalaydi, o‘zbek tilidagi “ko’k” bilan bog‘liq iboralar esa osmon, ma’naviyat, farovonlik va o‘sish tushunchalari bilan chambarchas*

bog'liqdir. Har ikki tilda o'xshash grammatik tuzilmalar uchrasa-da, o'zbek frazeologik birliklari tabiat va an'anaviy dunyoqarash bilan kuchliroq aloqani saqlab qolgan. Tadqiqot bitta rang tushunchasi turli madaniyatlarda qanday turlicha ma'no kasb etishini yoritib beradi.

Kalit so'zlar: *frazeologiya, rang ramziyligi, blue, ko'k, semantik tahlil, struktur tahlil, ingliz tili, o'zbek tili*

СЕМАНТИКО-СТРУКТУРНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ ФРАЗЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ЕДИНИЦ С ЦВЕТООБОЗНАЧЕНИЕМ “BLUE” В АНГЛИЙСКОМ И “КО‘К” В УЗБЕКСКОМ ЯЗЫКАХ

Садокат Дилшодбековна Хакимова

преподаватель кафедры №3 «Теоретические аспекты английского языка»

Узбекского государственного университета мировых языков

Аннотация: *Цветовая символика занимает важное место во фразеологии, поскольку цвета отражают культурные ценности, национальное мировоззрение и эмоциональное восприятие. В данном исследовании рассматриваются семантические и структурные особенности фразеологических единиц с компонентом “blue” в английском языке и “ko'k” в узбекском языке. С помощью сравнительного, семантического и структурного анализа выявляются сходства и различия между двумя языками. Результаты исследования показывают, что английские выражения с компонентом “blue” часто передают такие значения, как грусть, отдалённость, аристократичность или неожиданность, тогда как узбекские выражения с “ko'k” тесно связаны с небом, духовностью, процветанием и ростом. Несмотря на наличие схожих грамматических структур в обоих языках, узбекские фразеологические единицы сохраняют более тесную связь с природой и традиционным мировоззрением. Исследование демонстрирует, как одно цветковое понятие может развивать различные концептуальные значения в разных культурах.*

Ключевые слова: *фразеология, цветовая символика, blue, ko'k, семантический анализ, структурный анализ, английский язык, узбекский язык.*

INTRODUCTION

Phraseological units are fixed combinations of words whose meanings are partially or completely transferred from their literal interpretations. They reflect the historical, cultural, and psychological experiences of a speech community. According to Vinogradov (1977), phraseological units constitute one of the richest layers of language because they preserve figurative thinking and cultural memory. Color symbolism within phraseology is particularly significant since colors are deeply connected with human cognition and perception.

The color blue has rich symbolic meanings in world cultures. In English, “blue” often represents sadness, nobility, distance, or suddenness. In Uzbek, the equivalent ko’k primarily symbolizes the sky, nature, elevation, spirituality, and prosperity. These symbolic meanings become visible in phraseological expressions and proverbs.

Recent studies emphasize the importance of color semantics in intercultural communication (Berlin & Kay, 1969; Wierzbicka, 1996). Comparative phraseological studies help reveal how languages conceptualize reality differently. Despite growing interest in phraseology, comparative analyses of English and Uzbek color phraseology remain limited, especially concerning the color blue.

The present study aims to analyze the semantic and structural characteristics of phraseological units containing the color term “blue” in English and “ko’k” in Uzbek. The study seeks to answer the following research questions:

1. What semantic meanings are associated with “blue” and “ko’k” in phraseological units?
2. What structural patterns are common in these phraseological units?
3. What similarities and differences exist between English and Uzbek phraseological representations of the color blue?

Methods

This research employs qualitative comparative analysis. The materials were collected from English proverb dictionaries, phraseological dictionaries, and Uzbek paremiological sources. Examples from The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs (Speake, 2008) and Uzbek proverb collections were used as the primary corpus.

The methods applied include:

1. Semantic Analysis – identifying metaphorical and symbolic meanings of phraseological units.
2. Structural Analysis – examining grammatical and syntactic organization.
3. Comparative Analysis – comparing English and Uzbek units to identify universal and culture-specific features.

Approximately 40 phraseological units and proverbs containing color references were examined, with emphasis on units involving “blue” and ko’k.

Results

Semantic Features of “Blue” in English Phraseology English phraseological units containing “blue” demonstrate several semantic categories.

1. Blue as Distance and Idealization

One common semantic meaning is romanticized distance: “Blue are the hills that are far away” (Speake, 2008, p. 64). This proverb suggests that distant objects appear more attractive than nearby realities. The semantic meaning here is idealization and dissatisfaction with the present. Similarly, English expressions such as out of the blue indicate suddenness and unpredictability. According to Kodirova (2021), expressions like a

bolt out of the blue metaphorically associate the sky's blue color with unexpected natural phenomena.

2. Blue as Sadness and Emotional Depression

English frequently associates blue with melancholy. Expressions such as feel blue symbolize sadness and emotional discomfort. This semantic development may originate from associations between gloomy weather and emotional states.

3. Blue as Nobility and Prestige

Expressions such as blue blood represent aristocracy and noble origin. In this case, blue symbolizes social superiority and high status.

4. Blue as Coldness and Spiritual Distance

Kodirova (2021) states that blue often represents "the sky, air, cold, and spiritual emotional distance." This semantic field demonstrates abstraction and emotional detachment.

Semantic Features of "Ko'k" in Uzbek Phraseology In Uzbek phraseology, ko'k demonstrates meanings different from English "blue."

1. Ko'k as Sky and Spiritual Elevation Many Uzbek phraseological units associate ko'k with heaven, greatness, and elevation:

"Boshi ko'kka yetdi" ("His head reached the sky")

This expression signifies extreme happiness and satisfaction.

Similarly: "Ko'kka bo'y cho'zgan binolar" ("Buildings stretching toward the sky") The semantic meaning emphasizes greatness and height.

2. Ko'k as Prosperity and Growth

Numerous Uzbek proverbs connect ko'k with fertility and flourishing life: "Duo bilan el ko'karar, yomg'ir bilan yer ko'karar". The proverb symbolically associates greenness/blueness with development and blessing. Another example:

"Mehnat bilan yer ko'karar". This expression connects labor with prosperity and growth.

3. Ko'k as Warning Against Pride

Some phraseological units express caution: "Ko'kka boqqan yiqilar". The proverb implies that excessive ambition or arrogance may lead to failure.

4. Ko'k as Nature and Vitality

The Uzbek worldview strongly links ko'k with nature and life. Expressions referring to greenness symbolize renewal, spring, and youth.

Structural Features

English Structural Patterns

English phraseological units involving blue commonly appear in the following forms:

1. Adjective + Noun – blue blood; blue sky.
2. Prepositional Phrases – out of the blue
3. Complete Proverbs – Blue are the hills that are far away.
4. Verbal Constructions – feel blue

English structures are generally concise and syntactically compact.

Uzbek Structural Patterns

Uzbek phraseological units show more syntactic flexibility:

1. Verbal Phrase Structures – boshi ko'kka yetdi; ko'kka boqma.
2. Parallel Proverbial Structures – “Duo bilan el ko'karar, yomg'ir bilan yer ko'karar.”
3. Comparative Structures – “Ko'kka tupurma, yuzingga tushar.”
4. Symbolic Sentence Proverbs – “Ko'kka boqqan yiqilar.”

Uzbek phraseology often uses rhythmic parallelism and metaphorical repetition.

Discussion

The comparative analysis reveals both universal and culture-specific features. In both English and Uzbek, the color blue/ko'k is associated with natural elements such as the sky. However, the conceptual development differs significantly.

English phraseology emphasizes emotional and psychological meanings. Expressions like feel blue and out of the blue reveal abstract emotional associations. These meanings reflect an individualized and psychological conceptualization of color symbolism.

In contrast, Uzbek phraseology demonstrates stronger connections with collective worldview, agriculture, spirituality, and social ethics. Expressions involving ko'k often symbolize growth, prosperity, divine blessing, and moral behavior. This reflects the agrarian and nature-centered orientation of traditional Uzbek culture.

Structurally, English phraseological units are often shorter and idiomatic, while Uzbek expressions preserve extended proverbial forms with parallel syntax and poetic rhythm. This difference may derive from the strong oral folklore tradition in Uzbek culture.

The findings support Wierzbicka's (1996) argument that color semantics are culturally embedded and cannot be fully translated without cultural interpretation. Although both languages use blue-related imagery, the symbolic meanings differ because of distinct historical and cultural experiences.

The results also align with cognitive linguistic theories suggesting that metaphorical thinking emerges from embodied cultural experience (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980). English speakers associate blue with emotional coldness and melancholy, while Uzbek speakers associate ko'k with nature, sky, and vitality.

Conclusion

This study examined semantic and structural characteristics of phraseological units containing the color term “blue” in English and ko'k in Uzbek. The analysis demonstrated that both languages employ color symbolism extensively, but they conceptualize blue differently.

English phraseological units primarily express sadness, distance, nobility, and suddenness. Uzbek phraseological units emphasize spirituality, prosperity, elevation, and natural growth. Structurally, English phraseology tends toward concise idiomatic expressions, whereas Uzbek phraseology preserves elaborate proverbial structures.

The research confirms that phraseological units reflect national worldview and cultural cognition. Comparative analysis of color phraseology contributes to intercultural communication, cognitive linguistics, and translation studies.

Future research may expand the analysis to other color terms such as black, white, and red across Turkic and Indo-European languages.

REFERENCES:

1. Berlin, B., & Kay, P. (1969). *Basic Color Terms: Their Universality and Evolution*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
2. Kodirova, N. U. (2021). Semantic meaning of the phraseological units with colors in the English and Uzbek languages. *Academic Research in Educational Sciences*. <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/semantic-meaning-of-the-phraseological-units-with-colors-in-the-english-and-uzbek-languages>
3. Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. (1980). *Metaphors We Live By*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
4. Speake, J. (2008). *The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs* (5th ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
5. Vinogradov, V. V. (1977). *Selected Works on Lexicology and Phraseology*. Moscow: Nauka.
6. Wierzbicka, A. (1996). *Semantics: Primes and Universals*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.