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Problems of colouronym research in modern Russian language

The article is devoted to the problems of research of the nominative units with the semantics of colour in modern Russian language. The modern scientific paradigm suggests an integrative approach to the study of the colour category. The aspects of the research of the colour terms, as linguocultural, ethnolinguistic, psycholinguistic and cognitive are the most relevant at present time. Examples of the use of terms for the lexical units naming colours, types of colour naming combination were studied. The classification and composition of colour vocabulary, its semantic features were considered as well. The authors of the article provide an overview of linguistic studies of the nominative units with the semantics of colour and give assessment to the current state of the problem.

Keywords: colour namings, linguistic culturology, colour perception, semantics, colour categorization, colour system, colour terms.

The phenomenon of colour is the object of study of many sciences: physics, psychology, cultural studies, philosophy, aesthetics and linguistics that provides evidence of the complexity and multidimensional scope of the phenomenon. The naming units of the colour spectrum have been studied by linguists for a long time, the study of words-colour terms from different positions on the material of different languages is a subject of many linguistic works. Colour terms have been studied by researchers in various aspects. The structure of colour lexis and its semantic structure have been described. The studies were conducted in ethnic-linguistic, comparative-historical and psycholinguistic aspects. Scientific paradigm of recent decades necessitates an integrative approach to the study of colour category. The synthesis of linguistic methods of the research of colour naming units with the methods of other sciences determines the complexity of the operation of the colour image in the mind of the individual. The study of the nominative units with the semantics of colour is marked by a number of psycholinguistic works and linguocultural studies research.

The following nominations are used in the linguistic literature denoting colour term, colour naming, name of colour, colouronym.

Colour term and colour naming are common terms that are studied by scientists. These concepts are often found in the works of «Colour, sense, similarity» by R.M. Frumkina, «System of colour terms in modern English» by V.A. Moskovich, «History of colour terms in the Russian language» by N.B. Bakhilina and others.

The use of the concept *colour* as a term for lexical units denoting colour, is not understood as a result, a specific word or phrase, for example, *blue* or *white*, or the colour of ripe cherries, but as a process. Colour term is a process of the colour designations in the language, i.e. the various ways nomination of the category of colours.

Speaking about the use of the terms name of *colour*, *colour naming*, it is necessary to note that the term *name* is used to refer to things or people. The distinctive features of names as type of words are also linked to the characteristics of the nomination process leading to the appearance of names and role of the names in the sentence. From a grammatical point of view, there are known the names in the division to the parts of speech: nouns, which in turn are divided into proper nouns, common nouns, and adjectives. Thus, the concept of the name relates primarily to the object and its properties. From a grammatical point of view, the term *name of colour* is improper, but in the nominative aspect, this term can only be used in the study of basic colour names, because they can be referred to the feature names, since such lexemes as *white*, *black* and others appeared as a result of the primary nomination.

The term colouronym (lat. «colour» + Greek. onym «name») came into use recently and can be used for notation of the names of any colors (including achromatic). This term was used in «Semantic-stylistic potential of phraseological units with the component-colouronym» in the Quebec and Metropolitan French language options» by S.L. Kiryanov and «Primary phrase formation in the Belgian version of French language: semantic aspect» by E.A. Nikolayeva. According to E.A. Nikolayeva, the term colouronym belongs to G.G. Sokolova.

As an independent scientific discipline, linguistics of colour has strong theoretical and methodological base. V.G. Kulpina expressed a fair opinion that «the concept of colour linguistics as an independent scientific paradigm in modern linguistics is acquiring more and more specific features» [1; 2-7].

Studying the verbalization of colour perception, linguists divide nominative units with the semantics of the colour into two groups: basic (absolute) and hue. Absolute colour terms, in turn, are divided into:

- chromatic (naming seven colours of the rainbow spectrum: *red, orange, yellow, green, light blue, blue, violet*);
- achromatic (*black, white, grey*).

All other colour terms are called hue ones, they vary in transfer of hue.

There is also a group of colour terms that serve to clarify the shades of colour:

- a) complex, with formants bright, light, dark, gentle, clarifying the intensity of the colour;
- b) two-part colour names that represent the names of mixed colours or polychromatic objects: *blue-white, yellow-green*.

In addition, structurally complex (genitive) nominative units (*the colour of honey, the colour of ivory*) and common figures of speech (*cheeks like poppy-red colour*) are distinguished.

Analyzing nominative units with the semantics of colour, E. Roche introduced the concept of the prototype. A prototype is a member of the category which fully embodies the properties and characteristics which are characteristic for this category, that is why the colour terms can be classified according to the principle of relatedness to the colour prototype (*emerald — it is a kind of green, bright green — it is green too*; where green is the prototype, the name of the category, and shades are the members of the category). The category is understood as having a center and a periphery that is more prototypical and less prototypical members [2; 41].

V.I. Ivarovskaya mentions ten basic colours in her research: *white, red, blue, green, yellow, brown, grey, black, orange, purple*. The field principle of division is laid into basis of the classification: all these colours have the ability to be part of the colour fields. In addition, all colour terms are considered by scientists from the perspective of motivation — non-motivation.

R.M. Frumkina notes that *naive picture of the world* in Russian language includes *seven colours of the rainbow*, as well as *pink, brown* and so-called achromatic colours — *black, white and grey*. These colors are considered as *basic* by Russian native speakers. The researcher calls other less used colours [2; 64–85].

E.A. Kosykh, who considers the colour terms-adjectives and combinations, that perform the function of colour adjectives also describes the nominative units with the meaning of colour as a system. She considers that the system of colour terms in Russian language can be represented in terms of the structure by the following units:

- a) monolexemic;
- b) compound adjectives, where two or three base are distinguished in the structure, which represent the name of equal colors and shades, or the colour name with the clarification of its intensity;
- c) compound colour terms with the structure «noun colour + noun name nominative case» (*khaki*);
- d) compound colour terms with the structure «noun colour + adjective + noun in the nominative case» or this structure is represented by a set of the same parts of speech, but in the form of genitive case (*colour of wet asphalt, colour of old rose*).

Continuing the theme, Yu.D. Apresyan lays the semantic feature of telicity in the basis of dividing the colour adjectives: 'If a range is divided into areas, called the main Russian colour names (*red, orange, yellow and others*), the middle of the relevant area will correspond to maximum extent (limit) of a particular colour. Indeed, for example, digression to one side will give a gradual transition to orange colour while digression to the other side will give transition to purple in the area of red colour. The middle of the area will match to red. The same situation is with all other colour names' [3; 44].

A number of scientists distinguish red, yellow, green, blue, white, achromatic black and grey, pink, blue, orange, brown, purple, which are conceptualized as a «mixture» of elementary colours as the main colours [4; 277].

With the development of industry, especially the ability to create varied colours and receive new colours by mixing them, the need for the nomination of colours and its shades increases significantly. In cases, when colour is the only discriminator of similar objects, its role is very important. When choosing yarn, fabric, and cars, wallpapers, cosmetics (eyeshadow, lipstick), and others in recent years, the perception of colours by the consumer, the buyer, and the desire to know the name of the tone, shade, colour become essential.

The colour terms with the complex structure «noun colour + noun in nominative case» acquire the status of professional words in recent time, as they act as naming units of artificially created paints or colours for painting cars, fabric, yarn, lipstick, hair dye, wallpaper. The possibilities of modern industry in the creation of paints are probably unlimited: mixing multiple colours into a single colour at different ratios of its constituent parts allow to obtain the shades, which are not always easy to distinguish. The newly created colour or shade may be named for the similarity to any object of reality that has the same colour. It is likely that in modern manufacturing, the development of certain colours are possible by the sample of colouring the object by scanning and computer processing and disassembly of its constituent colour components. Therefore, it is possible to assume that colour terms with the structure «noun colour+ noun in nominative case» and «noun colour + adjective + noun in genitive case» can be updated regularly by the inclusion of nouns in its structure that reflect the surrounding objects of reality (the colour of pine needles, the colour white lily, the colour of tea rose, ivory white colour, the colour of grey willow).

As you can see, there is no consensus among scientists in the linguistic literature in determining the type of combining the colour names. Some of them say about the system of colour names; others about lexical-semantic group (N.B. Bakhilina, S.M. Solovyev); the third ones say about the semantic field (V.L. Moskovich, V.G. Kulpina, G.K. Toishibayeva).

The following relevant directions can be distinguished in the study of colour terms in linguistics at present: linguoculturological, ethnolinguistic, psycholinguistic and cognitive aspects. The selection of areas of colour terms study is relative to a certain degree, as one research may include various aspects of description of the colour semantics. There are a considerable number of works devoted to the issues of colour terms: their etymology, semantics, use, origin of new meanings, formation of the lexical-semantic group of colour terms, relation with other words within a lexical-semantic group and beyond (N.B. Bakhilina, V.P. Moskovich, R.V. Alimpiyeva, A.A. Bragina, L.M. Granovskaya, I.S. Kuznetsova, K.S. Kulikova).

A task-oriented specification of colour vocabulary semantics, identifying the linguocultural traditions and determination of the functional significance of colours in different nations are carried out at linguoculturological study of colour terms. This direction usually implies a comparative study of colour terms in different languages (English — Russian, Polish — Russian and others). For instance, V.G. Kulpina notes in her work that the use of the lexeme *grey* brings no negative sense regarding to the person which is typical for Russian language. A *grey man* in Polish language is a simple, ordinary person, not ignorant and frankness [1; 470].

Ethnolinguistic aspect allows considering the colour terms from the point of view of their origin, significance and use. Researchers who work in this direction are actively using the dialectal material, enriching and elaborating conceptions on opportunities of colour functioning, on the possibilities of the use of the nominative units with the semantics of colour in language.

The problem of colour perception and colour sensitivity takes an important place in most of psycholinguistic works. Psycholinguistics investigates both interpretation of separate nominative unit with the colour meaning and the associative-semantic field and the impact of a particular colour or combination of colours on human. The works by Bakhilin or Vendin can serve as examples in this direction.

Cognitive consideration of the color terms helps to reveal the linguistic world picture, which is the general result of the linguistic and cognitive activities. Researchers of the cognitive direction investigate the issues of colour symbolic adaptivity socially, ethnically and mentally. The main categories of cognitive research are the concepts of the language world picture and colour prototype. For example, A. Vezhbitskaya writes in her work «Language. Culture. Perception» notes that the prototype for yellow is the sun, and Polish researcher R. Tokarski says that, in particular, the prototype of yellow is not only the sun, but also autumn (yellow leaves) in Polish language. In the study of nominative units with the semantics of colour, cognitivists can study both "colour" thinking of the people, and the specifics of creative thinking of an individual author. Besides that, in the framework of cognitive aspect, it is possible to consider linguistic and cultural studies. 'The semantics of colour terms today is the main cultural characteristics that unite people in a natural (for ontogenesis) semiotic principle of interaction of colour', 'colour is the form of information' [4; 97]. Colour terms take important place in international and intercultural communication. The system of colour terms is marked ethnoculturologically – it has two forms, being derivative of culture and culture-forming factor. Apparently, colour terms is ethno-centric and anthropocentric to a greater extent than any other sphere of language, as the perception of colour in different nations varies considerably, and the perception of colour by the artist of the word can differ from the mass, traditional one for national picture of the world.

The research of the nominative units with the semantics of colour takes a special place in psychology and psycholinguistics, which studies the emotional impact of colour and colour terms of human. In the framework of the psycholinguistic aspect such scholars as A.I. Belov, A.P. Vasilyevich, R.M. Frumkina study 'world of colour', 'names of colours', paintings of semantic fields of colour names, significance of colour 'meanings'. Psycholinguistic works have a tendency of denial from the systemic-structural methods of research of the lexemes with the meaning of colour, the experiment comes to the fore. Studying the processes of nomination, categorization and others, R.M. Frumkina analyzes the problem of interpretation of the nominative units with the semantics of color (primarily non-derivative etymologically) [5; 175]. R.M. Frumkina writes about denotative uncertainty of the colour names, along with that she notes the presence of the nominative uncertainty of the colour sample. The problem of colour perception and colour sensitivity takes an important place in most of psycholinguistic works.

The problem of colour symbolism becomes one of the main in the study of the relations between colour and mentality. In this regard, researchers analyze the following issues: the origin of the colour symbolic, its content, the attitude to the different phenomena and events in the lives of people, cross-cultural differences in colour symbolism.

Throughout the human history with human development, the content of the colour characters has undergone significant changes, the representation and attitude towards them changed gradually, but the core of colour symbolism still remained unchanged. This refers to the part of the content of the colour symbolic, which remains unchanged even in a hypothetical case, when the color loses all of its external, subject associations which depend on the cultural traditions and experience. Even without them the color is not deprived of its 'original', main meaning and turns into fiction. As V. Van Gogh wrote: 'paints express something themselves'. In other words, colour causes certain and specific changes in the mental world of human, the subsequent interpretation of which gives rise to what we call colour associations and symbols, impressions from colour. As A.F. Losev specifies: 'no one ever perceives colour without these and similar impressions... red colour rouses excitement itself, and we do not. Excitement is its objective property' [6; 46].

Another area of linguistic studies of colour terms are the colour terms in a literary text. Many works are done within the framework of this area, they analyze the functions of colour terms in a literary text and literature of a certain period, the colour symbolic of the certain colour terms in the language of writers, especially poets and a colour dominant in the writer's language, peculiarities of the use of colour terms and colour terms in the aspect of translation. In some studies, for example in the work «Functional-semantic colour field» by Kartasheva, the idiolect of the writer, that is, essential features of the author's worldview is analyzed.

Linguistics of colour with their own theoretical and methodological base, focusing on analysis of the problem of the colour names and colour terms research, has particular experience in the study of symbols and colour semantics and its shades. Identifying of lexical-semantic peculiarities of colour terms and its symbolism plays an important role in determining the national-cultural specificity of language and speech means. The semantic diversity of symbolism of the colour names is closely connected with psychological perception and has many cross-cultural differences in relation to phenomena and events in people's lives.

The system of the colour terms in Russian language is not only polysemic space, where colours of the real world are reflected, it is also a complex of the nominative units, diverse in terms of structure and etymology, in our opinion, its clarification is necessary in certain cases. The number of colour units does not remain the same: some words are lost or go to the periphery of language, used rarely, some of them can be found only in monuments of writing, art and reference books, others appear and can replace the word using its meaning, or specifically created to describe a new colour or shade. The fact, that the time intervals in the history of some people can have the colour name is interesting, it is possible to distinguish one or three colour terms, characterizing a certain direction, or time in literature.

Consequently, the study of nominative units with the semantics of colour within the framework of psycholinguistics and other modern directions of linguistics reveals the peculiarities of the relations between the colour, human mentality and language, which are based on the objective laws of the impact of color on human. Despite numerous literature on the subject of colour names, a number of issues remain unclear; the study of the nominative units with the meaning of colour at different levels of perception of modern speakers of different languages, the definition of universal and idioethnic, the study of the colour concepts in lexicographical, psycholinguistic and cognitive-cultural aspects and others.

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Заманауи орыс тіліндегі колоронимдерді зерттеу мәселесі

Мақала заманауи орыс тіліндегі түс семантикасы мен атаулы бірліктерінің зерттеу мәселелеріне арналған. Қазіргі ғылыми парадигма түс категориясын зерттеуге интегративтік тәсілін талап етеді. Бүгінгі таңдағы түс атауларын зерттеудің лингвомәдениеттік, этнолингвистикалық, психоллингвистикалық және когнитивтік аспектілері өзекті болып табылады. Түс білдіретін лексикалық бірліктерінің терминдерін қолдану мысалдары, түс атауларын біріктіру түрлері қарастырылған. Сонымен қатар колоративтік лексиканың құрамы және оны топтастыру, оның семантикалық ерекшеліктері зерттелген. Түс семантикасы мен атаулы бірліктерінің зерттеулеріне шолу жасалып, осы мәселенің қазіргі жағдайына баға берілді.

Кілт сөздер: түс атаулары, лингвомәдениеттану, түсті қабылдау, семантика, түсті жіктеу, түс жүйесі, түс терминдері.

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Проблематика исследований колоронимов в современном русском языке

Статья посвящена проблемам исследования номинативных единиц с семантикой цвета в современном русском языке. Современная научная парадигма предполагает интегративный подход к изучению категории цвета. Наиболее актуальными на сегодняшний день являются такие аспекты исследования цветообозначений, как лингвокультурологический, этнолингвистический, психоллингвистический и когнитивный. Рассмотрены примеры использования терминов для лексических единиц, называющих цвета, типы объединения цветоименований, классификация и состав колоративной лексики, ее семантические особенности. Выполнен обзор лингвистических исследований номинативных единиц с семантикой цвета, и дана оценка современному состоянию данной проблемы.

Ключевые слова: цветоименования, лингвокультурология, цветовое восприятие, семантика, категоризация цвета, цветовая система, термины цвета.

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