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Article



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COLOR SYMBOLISM AS A MARKER OF NATIONAL WORLDVIEW IN FRENCH, RUSSIAN AND UZBEK LINGUOCULTURES

Abstract: Color symbolism occupies a significant place in the linguistic and cultural worldview of every nation. Colors function not only as visual phenomena but also as carriers of cultural meanings, historical experiences, social values, and collective beliefs. The present article examines the symbolic meanings of colors in French, Russian, and Uzbek linguocultures from a comparative linguocultural perspective. The study analyzes the semantic and symbolic representations of major colors, including white, black, red, blue, green, and yellow, and explores their reflection in phraseological units, folklore, literature, and everyday communication. The research demonstrates that despite the existence of universal color associations, each linguoculture develops unique symbolic interpretations conditioned by historical, religious, social, and cultural factors. The findings reveal that color symbolism serves as an important marker of national identity and worldview, reflecting the distinctive cognitive and cultural characteristics of French, Russian, and Uzbek societies. The study contributes to the understanding of intercultural communication and highlights the importance of color symbolism in linguistic and cultural studies.

Key words: color symbolism, linguoculture, national worldview, cultural semantics, color terms, intercultural communication, French language, Russian language, Uzbek language, linguistic worldview.

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Introduction

Language serves as a repository of cultural knowledge and reflects the worldview of its speakers. Among the numerous linguistic means through which culture manifests itself, color terms occupy a special place. Colors are not merely physical characteristics of objects; they are deeply embedded in the cognitive and cultural systems of societies. Through centuries of historical development, peoples have associated colors with specific emotions, values, beliefs, and social practices. Consequently, color symbolism has become an essential component of national identity and cultural consciousness.

The relationship between language, culture, and color perception has attracted the attention of linguists, anthropologists, psychologists, and cultural researchers. Scholars have demonstrated that color categories are influenced by both universal human perception and culturally specific interpretations [1. 155]. While some color associations may be shared

across different cultures, many symbolic meanings are unique to particular linguistic communities.

French, Russian, and Uzbek linguocultures represent three distinct cultural traditions shaped by different historical, religious, and social experiences. The study of color symbolism in these cultures provides valuable insights into their respective worldviews and systems of values. By examining the symbolic meanings attached to colors in language and culture, researchers can better understand how societies conceptualize reality and express collective identities [2. 288].

The purpose of this article is to investigate the symbolic functions of colors in French, Russian, and Uzbek linguocultures and to identify both universal and culture-specific features of color symbolism.

Theoretical Foundations of Color Symbolism

Color symbolism is a multidimensional phenomenon situated at the intersection of language,

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culture, cognition, and communication. According to linguistic anthropology, color terms represent conceptual categories through which speakers organize and interpret their environment. The meanings of colors extend beyond visual perception and become integrated into cultural narratives, myths, traditions, and social practices.

The concept of the linguistic worldview emphasizes that language reflects a community's understanding of reality. Within this framework, color names function as cultural signs that encode collective experiences and value systems. Different societies assign specific symbolic meanings to colors based on historical events, religious traditions, geographical conditions, and cultural practices [4. 175].

Linguocultural studies regard color symbolism as an important means of expressing national mentality. Through phraseological units, proverbs, literary texts, and everyday discourse, color terms reveal the attitudes and beliefs characteristic of a particular culture. Therefore, the comparative study of color symbolism contributes to a deeper understanding of intercultural differences and similarities.

White Color Symbolism in French, Russian and Uzbek Linguocultures

White is one of the most symbolically significant colors across cultures. In many societies, it is associated with purity, innocence, light, and goodness. However, specific interpretations vary according to cultural traditions.

In French culture, white (*blanc*) symbolizes purity, peace, honesty, and elegance. It is traditionally associated with weddings, religious ceremonies, and moral integrity. Expressions such as *être blanc comme neige* ("to be white as snow") convey the idea of innocence and blamelessness.

In Russian linguoculture, white (*белый*) possesses rich symbolic meanings. It is connected with purity, truth, spirituality, and moral perfection. Russian folklore frequently employs white imagery to describe beauty and virtue. Expressions such as "белая душа" and "белый свет" illustrate positive evaluations associated with the color.

In Uzbek culture, white (*oq*) occupies a particularly important place. The color symbolizes purity, sincerity, blessings, prosperity, and good intentions. Traditional expressions such as "oq yo'l" (safe journey) and "oq ko'ngil" (kind-hearted person) demonstrate the positive cultural value attached to whiteness. White bread, white clothing, and white fabrics often carry symbolic significance in ceremonies and celebrations.

Despite cultural differences, all three linguocultures associate white with positive moral values and spiritual purity.

Black Color Symbolism and Cultural Interpretations

Black is commonly associated with darkness, mystery, grief, and uncertainty. Nevertheless, its symbolic meanings are complex and sometimes contradictory.

In French culture, black (*noir*) often represents mourning, sadness, pessimism, and secrecy. Expressions such as *marché noir* (black market) and *idées noires* (dark thoughts) reflect negative connotations. At the same time, black is also associated with sophistication, luxury, and elegance in fashion and art.

Russian culture traditionally connects black (*чёрный*) with sorrow, misfortune, danger, and evil forces. Numerous phraseological expressions emphasize negative associations, including "чёрный день" and "чёрная зависть."

In Uzbek linguoculture, black (*qora*) may symbolize hardship, grief, and difficulties. However, unlike in some Western traditions, the color may also signify strength, authority, and endurance. Expressions such as "qora kun" refer to difficult times, while certain historical and social contexts attribute respectability and seriousness to black.

The comparison reveals that black generally carries negative symbolic meanings in all three cultures, although additional cultural nuances contribute to its semantic complexity.

Red Color as a Symbol of Life, Power and Emotion

Red occupies a central place in cultural symbolism because of its association with blood, fire, energy, and vitality.

In French culture, red (*rouge*) symbolizes passion, love, courage, and revolution. It frequently appears in artistic representations and political symbolism. The color conveys strong emotional intensity and dynamism.

Russian culture assigns particularly rich symbolic meanings to red (*красный*). Historically, the word "красный" was closely connected with beauty, as reflected in expressions such as "красна девица." Red also became associated with state ideology during the Soviet period, adding political dimensions to its symbolism.

In Uzbek culture, red (*qizil*) represents vitality, celebration, beauty, and festive spirit. Traditional textiles, embroidery, and decorative arts frequently employ red elements to symbolize joy, energy, and prosperity.

Thus, red functions as a symbol of life force and emotional intensity across all three cultures while retaining unique historical and cultural associations.

Symbolism of Blue, Green and Yellow Colors

Blue symbolizes the sky, water, tranquility, and stability in many cultures.

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In French culture, blue (*bleu*) is associated with calmness, nobility, loyalty, and national identity. In Russian culture, blue (*синий, голубой*) often symbolizes spirituality, depth, and emotional sensitivity. Uzbek culture associates blue (*ko'k*) with the sky, eternity, protection, and sacred values [7. 134]. The color occupies an important place in traditional architecture and decorative arts.

Green also demonstrates significant symbolic value. In French culture, it often represents nature, youth, hope, and ecological awareness. In Russian culture, green symbolizes renewal and vitality. In Uzbek linguoculture, green (*yashil*) is strongly connected with life, fertility, nature, and Islamic traditions, making it one of the most culturally respected colors.

Yellow presents more diverse symbolic interpretations. In French culture, yellow (*jaune*) may symbolize both sunlight and jealousy. Russian culture often associates yellow with separation, anxiety, or caution. In Uzbek culture, yellow (*sariq*) can represent autumn, maturity, harvest, and natural cycles, although certain contexts may attribute negative connotations related to illness or sadness.

These examples demonstrate that while some symbolic meanings derive from universal human experiences, cultural factors significantly influence color interpretation.

Color Symbolism as a Reflection of National Worldview

The analysis of color symbolism reveals important aspects of national worldview. Colors function as cultural codes through which societies express values, beliefs, emotions, and social norms. Through language, color symbolism becomes integrated into collective consciousness and transmitted across generations.

Understanding these symbolic systems is particularly important in the context of globalization and intercultural communication. Knowledge of culturally specific color meanings helps avoid misunderstandings and promotes effective interaction among representatives of different linguistic communities.

Conclusion

Color symbolism represents a significant component of the national worldview in French, Russian, and Uzbek linguocultures. The comparative analysis demonstrates that colors function not only as linguistic categories but also as cultural symbols reflecting collective experiences, values, and beliefs.

The findings confirm that color symbolism acts as an important marker of national identity and cultural consciousness. Its investigation contributes to the broader understanding of linguistic worldview, intercultural communication, and cultural semantics. Future research may explore color symbolism in literary discourse, media communication, and contemporary intercultural contexts.

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