

LINGUISTIC DESCRIPTION OF COLOR NAMES AND SEMANTIC FIELD OF COLOR

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ANNOTATION

This article examines the linguistic definition of colors and their shades may be semantic field, also known as a lexical field or semantic domain, refers to a group of words or expressions that are related in meaning.

Key words: *color, categorizing color, coloronym, semantic field, lexical field, primary colors, tertiary colors, shades.*

Color names can vary across languages and cultures, and they provide an interesting insight into how people perceive and categorize colors. Linguistic descriptions of color names can be complex, and different languages have different systems for organizing and naming colors.

Many languages have basic color terms, such as "red," "yellow," "green," "blue," "black," and "white." These basic color terms vary in terms of how they are used and how they relate to other colors in the language. Some languages have more basic color terms than others, and some have different categorizations for colors.

For example, some languages have more specific color terms for shades that English might lump together under a broader category. The Russian language has two different words for light blue ("голубой" for a specific light blue, "синий" for a darker, more grayish blue), while English just has one word for both shades. This phenomenon is known as "grue" in linguistic research and demonstrates how different languages carve up the color spectrum in different ways. [1:43]

Additionally, some languages also use metaphorical or descriptive terms for colors. For instance, some languages might use terms related to natural elements or specific objects to describe colors. This can reflect cultural associations or unique ways of perceiving color.

In English, the color black is often described as "the darkest color, the result of the absence or complete absorption of visible light." It is often associated with concepts such as darkness, mystery, elegance, formality, and strength. In linguistic terms, it is a basic color term. Similarly, the color white is described as "the lightest color, the result of the reflection or transmission of all visible light." It is often associated with concepts such as purity, innocence, cleanliness, and simplicity. [1:62]

In many languages, black and white are considered as polar opposites or binary contrasts. However, some languages may have different ways of categorizing and describing these colors. For example, some languages may have specific terms to describe different shades of black and white, reflecting cultural, environmental, or historical factors. Furthermore, the symbolic and metaphorical meanings associated with black and white can also differ across cultures. For instance, in some cultures, white may be associated with mourning or death, while in others, it may represent celebration and purity.

Yellow, often described as "the color of sunshine," is associated with concepts such as warmth, happiness, positivity, and energy. It can also be linked with caution or warning in certain contexts. In linguistic terms, yellow is a basic color term in many languages, and it often holds symbolic, cultural, and emotional significance. Green, often described as "the color of nature and life," is associated with concepts such as fertility, growth, renewal, harmony, and freshness. In some contexts, it can also be associated with jealousy or inexperience. Linguistically, green is a basic color term, but different languages may have specific terms to describe different shades of green, reflecting the diversity of plant life and natural environments across the world.

Like with black and white, yellow and green are often considered as polar opposites or binary contrasts, with their own unique symbolic and metaphorical meanings across different cultures. In some languages, there may be specific terms to describe different shades or variations of yellow and green, reflecting the cultural, environmental, or historical factors specific to those languages [3:16].

Overall, the linguistic description of yellow and green reflects the diverse ways in which different languages and cultures perceive and categorize these colors, often incorporating unique symbolic, emotional, and environmental associations.

Red, often described as "the color of blood and fire," is associated with concepts such as passion, love, energy, danger, and excitement. It can also represent anger or warning in certain contexts. Linguistically, red is a basic color term in many languages, and it often holds symbolic, cultural, and emotional significance.

Blue, often described as "the color of the sky and the sea," is associated with concepts such as calmness, stability, depth, trust, and intelligence. It can also be linked with sadness or melancholy in certain contexts. In linguistic terms, blue is a basic color

term in many languages, and different languages may have specific terms to describe different shades of blue, reflecting the variety of natural and environmental factors.

Like with other color pairs, red and blue are often seen as polar opposites or binary contrasts, each with its own unique symbolic and metaphorical meanings across different cultures. Some languages may have specific terms for different shades or variations of red and blue, reflecting specific cultural, environmental, or historical factors.

Overall, the linguistic description of red and blue reflects the multifaceted ways in which different languages and cultures perceive and categorize these colors, often incorporating unique symbolic, emotional, and environmental associations specific to each linguistic community.

The early periods of human color experience were limited to the choice of black and white, followed by the period of red-yellow hues. For example, clothes in the Iliad are purple, and things in the Odyssey are red. Also, the Roman world was dominated by red, not yellow. The ancient Greeks did not distinguish between certain colors [3:82]. At the beginning of the 20th century, intense discussions were held regarding this problem. The poverty of some ancient and "primitive" languages can be seen in the fact that they have blue and green, blue and yellow colors, and sometimes the complete absence of such color fields. This information may lead to the false conclusion that ancient people had poor color vision or that they were color blind. Of course, this assumption is not correct. For example, W. Gladstone studied the names of colors in the Homeric language and came to the conclusion about the "color blindness" of the ancient Greeks. Compared to coloronyms in modern languages, it is known that colors are expressed in small quantities and used very little in Homer's works [3:129].

Language is a secondary practical structure in relation to feelings and life, it does not reflect all life realities, and it does not show everything adequately, that is, clearly and completely. There is always a "gap" between words and things. Therefore, the conclusions given in linguistic studies about the quality of color vision may not be absolute truth.

The color universals developed by Berlin and Kay have stimulated new research on color perception and linguistic categorization based on materials from various systematic languages [2:98]. Many sources reliably show the primacy of the black and white binary, the opposite: initially human life was regulated by two factors - day and night. Many scientific works are devoted to the study of shades of red. This describes the second stage of coloronym development. Some scientists consider the white - black - red triad not only universal" ... already in the second (stage), in all languages, without exception, the red color, distinguished by its appearance, has a special position.

The importance of the next three color categories ("green", "yellow" and "blue") can primarily be the dominant factor in the presence of these colors. Specific changes in the human psyche, their interpretation in many cases depends on the impressions of color associations, connotations, signs and denotations.

Color takes a significant place in human mind. Therefore, it is not surprising for a man to research this phenomenon widely. Different fields of sciences research color. In physics the notion of "color" is explained as definite waves and frequencies of electrical and magnetic wiggling. Chemists are interested in structure of color connection. Specialists in the field of biology and physiology research the influence of color on human eyes, their transfer to the mind and processing, psychologists investigate the basis of cognition and perception of color. There are a lot of materials to study color but it is difficult to cover everything. This opinion can be referred to color studies in linguistics. Scientific discussions concerning this issue are continuing till the present time within traditional study of colors. In obtaining results of traditional color research according to this theme scientific discussions are continuing. [1:37]

Colors play an important role in human perception of the world. From the linguistic point of view it is an interesting aspect that in people's mind the meaning of main colors and their shades may be semantic field, also known as a lexical field or semantic domain, refers to a group of words or expressions that are related in meaning. These words or expressions typically share a common theme or topic and are used to express different aspects or nuances of that theme or topic. [4:57]

For example, the semantic field of "colors" includes words such as red, blue, green, yellow, etc. These words are all related in meaning, as they describe different hues and shades that we perceive visually.

Semantic fields are often used in language analysis and literary criticism to understand how different words and expressions are related to each other and how they contribute to the overall meaning of a text. By identifying the semantic fields present in a text, we can gain insights into the author's intended message, as well as the cultural and social context in which the text was produced. [3:132]

Some examples of semantic fields include colors, emotions, weather, food, and animals. Words or expressions within these fields share a common theme and are related in meaning.

Understanding semantic fields is important because it can help us to communicate more effectively by choosing the most appropriate words to convey our intended meaning. It can also help us to understand the meaning and context of words we encounter in everyday life, as well as in literature and other forms of communication.

A semantic field and a synonym group are similar in that they both involve words that are related in meaning. However, a synonym group consists of words that have

similar or identical meanings, whereas a semantic field consists of words that are related to a particular theme or topic but may have different shades of meaning or connotations.

What is the difference between lexical and semantic field? The lexical field of color refers to the actual words used to describe different colors, while the semantic field of color refers to the different categories or qualities that can be used to describe colors. The lexical field is more focused on the specific words and terms used to describe colors, while the semantic field is more focused on the broader concepts and characteristics associated with different colors. In other words, the lexical field is more about vocabulary, while the semantic field is more about meaning and context[2:73].

Lexical field of color in English:

Red, blue, green, yellow, orange, purple, pink, brown, grey, black, white

Semantic field of color in English:

Bright-, Dark, Pastel, Neon, Earthy, Metallic, Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, Cool, Warm, Bold, Muted, Vibrant, Subdued

The lexical field of white color includes words such as ivory, pearl, snow, alabaster, chalk, and milk. These words are used to describe different shades and variations of white. Other words that may be included in the lexical field of white color are off-white, cream, and beige. These words are often used to describe colors that are similar to white but have a slightly different hue or tone. Overall, the lexical field of white color is quite extensive and includes many different words that can be used to describe this popular color.

The lexical field of color can be categorized into several groups, including primary colors (red, blue, and yellow), secondary colors (orange, green, and purple), tertiary colors (yellow-orange, red-orange, red-purple, blue-purple, blue-green, and yellow-green), warm colors (red, orange, and yellow), cool colors (blue, green, and purple), pastel colors (light shades of colors), and neon colors (bright and vivid colors). Additionally, colors can also be categorized based on their hue, saturation, and brightness [2:86].

In linguistics, the approach to the field model in the context of conceptual analysis is currently considered as the most productive. Prof. L.M. Vasiliyev gives two proofs to this thesis:

1. The relationships between the lexical semantic field and the units included in it is considered as a basic knowledge for each person. It also proves that the difference in composition and structure of language units is one of the factors influencing on the differentiation of «the linguistic picture of the world».

2. Presence of mistakes in speech proves the objectivity of the field structure: when a person mixes an element of one micro field with the units of another one, he makes a slip of the tongue. [7:96]

The cooperation of the semantic field and the conceptual system is possible, because both the semantic field and the conceptual system are the results of special assimilation of information in any society. So, conceptual field stands on the base of semantic field. Concept «color» can be shown as a classic example of a semantic field. It consists of several color lines (*red-pink-crimson; blue-bluish* etc.) [6:34]. The word «color» acts as a common semantic component here. At the same time if we take a concept of a specific color as a common semantic component then the semantic field will be built around it. For example, the concept «White color» – *paint, light, snow, tidiness, wedding, etc.*

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