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**PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH A COLOUR
COMPONENT IN THE ENGLISH AND TURKISH
LANGUAGES**

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Typological and Contrastive Linguistics

AUTHOR'S ABSTRACT
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE THESIS

The thesis under review is a research in contrastive phraseology focused on phraseological units (PU) with a colour component in the English and Turkish languages.

Phraseological units with a colour component in such unrelated languages with typological differences as the English and Turkish languages have never been the object of a contrastive thesis research. At the same time, they represent quite a wide and idiosyncratic group of elements with their own distinctive features that are quite often used in speech. The importance of systematization of these phraseological units as part of a contrastive analysis, the significance of their study in terms of functionality, the lack of enough research of their semantic aspect are altogether the factors that testify to the **relevancy** of the research.

The object of research is the phraseological units with a colour component in the English and Turkish languages. The total amount of the PUs analysed is 846 (460 English PUs and 386 Turkish PUs).

The subject matter of the research is the semantic characteristics of the English and Turkish phraseological units containing a coloronym component in terms of motivation of their meaning, their occasional functions and interlingual equivalences.

The thesis **objective** is to carry out a comprehensive research on phraseological units containing a colour component in terms of motivation/non-motivation of their meaning and contextual behaviour, as well as to reveal interlingual phraseological equivalences in the English and Turkish languages.

The theoretical and methodological background to the research is the fundamental findings pertinent to phraseological matter in national and international science, represented in studies by E.F.Arsentieva, R.A.Aiupova, L.K.Bairamova, R.V.Gibbs, D.N.Davletbaeva, D.O.Dobrovolskiy, A.V.Kunin, V.M.Mokienko, A.Nachischione, E.M.Solodukho, Yu.P.Solodub, V.N.Teliya, H.L.Schadrin and etc.

Academic novelty of the thesis. The thesis is the first contrastive study of phraseological units containing a coloronym component focused on such unrelated languages with different structural characteristics as the English and Turkish languages. It is for the first time in linguistic literature that the results of the experiment with the informants, native English and Turkish speakers,

conducted to study different types of occasional transformations of the phraseological units in focus in the contrasted languages, have been featured and analysed. With consideration to the achievements in the theory of phraseology at the current stage of development of the science of language, isomorphic and allomorphic features of the motivation of the phraseological meaning of phraseological units containing a coloronym component have been discovered as part of contrastive analysis and the types of equivalences of phraseological units in the English and Turkish languages have been defined.

Theoretical relevance of the thesis research is attributable to the statement and solution of a number of theoretical problems related to phraseological semantics in terms of motivation/non-motivation of the phraseological meaning. Study of different types of occasional transformations of phraseological units containing a coloronym component contributes to the investigation of the problems of phraseological occasionality, while the analysis of the results of the experiment carried out with native speakers of the two languages in focus contributes to the development of the theoretical background for the experimental study of phraseological units. The contrastive analysis of the interlingual equivalences of PUs of the two unrelated languages can, in its turn, facilitate further development of the typological research in linguistics.

Practical relevance - the results of the research can be used for the benefit of the theory and practice of teaching of the English and Turkish languages, especially for training courses in lexicology, phraseology, semasiology, typology and cultural linguistics. The contents and the results of the research can be relevant for the lexicography and can be used for compiling monolingual and bilingual phraseological and explanatory dictionaries such as general and special-purpose as well as learner's dictionaries.

The objective of the research determines the **tasks** below:

1. To study the relevant literature and to determine the research gaps in analysis of phraseological units containing a colour component;
2. To select English and Turkish phraseological units containing a coloronym component from monolingual and bilingual phraseological and explanatory dictionaries;
3. To determine the semantic features of phraseological units containing a coloronym component in terms of motivation of their meaning and to determine the factors that contribute to the motivation of the phraseological meanings of these units, which are also dependent on the national and cultural aspects attributable to the native speakers of the languages in focus;

4. To carry out a comprehensive contrastive analysis of the occasional transformations of the phraseological units in focus following the experiment conducted with the informants who are native English and Turkish speakers;
5. To determine interlingual equivalences of the English and Turkish phraseological units containing a coloronym component as well as to define and characterise the English and Turkish equivalents and counterparts;
6. To describe the method used to translate the English non-equivalent phraseological units containing a coloronym component into the Turkish language.

The major research methods used were the following: contrastive method, method of phraseological description developed by A.V.Kunin, analysis of dictionary definitions, componential analysis, method of contextual analysis, experimental method involving informants, continuous sampling method and quantitative analysis.

The following findings are to be defended:

1. The contrastive study of phraseological units containing a coloronym component reveals common phenomena based on the similarity of human associative and creative thinking and idiosyncratic features determined by national and cultural characteristics of native English and Turkish speakers as well as by a number of other extralinguistic factors.
2. Phraseological units containing a coloronym component feature complex semantics in both English and Turkish languages. Three criteria determine if the meaning of phraseological units containing a coloronym component is motivated or non-motivated, they are: component, semantic and etymological criteria;
3. Experimental study of occasional use of phraseological units in both languages, including different types of their transformations, is one of the latest trends in modern linguistics;
4. The essential conditions for successful use of different types of occasional transformations of phraseological units by native speakers of different languages include quite a high level of language proficiency, creative and logical thinking, as well as the understanding of the principles underlying these transformations and their stylistic effect. The distinctions revealed in the experiment are attributable to certain differences in mentality and national psychology of native speakers of the

languages in focus as well as to the current linguistic situation in English-speaking countries and in Turkey.

5. The interlingual phraseological equivalences of phraseological units containing a coloronym component in the English and Turkish languages constitute phraseological equivalents and analogues chosen based on similarity of their semantics, component (lexeme) structure and structural and grammar pattern.

6. The effective means to translate English non-equivalent phraseological units containing a coloronym component into Russian are descriptive translation, lexical and combined translation. The choice of translation equivalents is determined by the necessity to comply with the norms of the receptor language.

Thesis validation: the findings of the study are available in eight publications by the author, including three articles in scientific journals recommended by the Russian State Commission for Academic Degrees and Titles. The major statements and findings of the research were reported at the annual scientific conferences held for the professors and associate professors in Kocaeli University, Turkey (2013, 2014, 2015), at the international scientific conference “Germanic Studies Today” (Kazan, 2015), at the international scientific and practical conference “New Science: from Idea to Result” (Sterlitamak, 2015), at the international scientific and practical conference “New Science: Problems and Prospects” (Sterlitamak, 2015), at the international scientific and practical conference “Trends and Prospects of Science Development in the 21st Century” (Yekaterinburg, 2015), and was discussed at the Department of Germanic Philology of the Kazan Federal University (Kazan, 2015).

The structure of the thesis is determined by the objectives and tasks of the research. The thesis consists of the introduction, three chapters, the conclusion and the bibliography. Detailed findings discovered following the analysis of the facts are provided at the end of every chapter. The conclusion summarises the major results of the research. The total volume of the thesis is 160 pages.

MAIN CONTENTS OF THE THESIS

The **introduction** of the thesis sets out the objective and tasks, object and subject matter of the analysis and explains the choice of the research data as well as its relevance, reveals what research methods and methodology are chosen, explains the academic novelty, presents the major findings to be defended, establishes the theoretical and practical significance of the research and provides the validation for its results.

The **first chapter** provides a review of the literature related to the issue in focus so that to determine gaps in research related to phraseological units with a colour component. Semantic analysis of the units is carried out for the purpose of identifying the motivation criteria of the meaning of PUs with a colour component in the English and Turkish languages.

The analysis of the theses revealed the research gaps, primarily including those related to the study of semantics of phraseological units containing a coloronym component in terms of motivation of their meaning, including the direct meaning of a coloronym.

Our research proves the findings made by phraseologists who determined that the majority of the phraseological units are semantically motivated while relevant traces of their mental image can be considered as part of their plane of content taken in a general sense. The motivation of the meaning is primarily determined by the transparency of the inner form of phraseological units. At the same time, the obscure inner form does not always present an insuperable obstacle for determining the meaning of a phraseological unit containing a coloronym component in the English and Turkish languages.

A detailed contrastive research of the semantics of the native and borrower English and Turkish PUs containing a coloronym component has allowed to establish three criteria of motivation of their phraseological meaning: criterion of component structure of PUs, semantic and extralinguistic criteria.

The first criterion, component (lexeme) structure, has been examined by sampling three phraseological units where the colour component reveals its direct meaning that has not been reframed as part of the meaning of the entire phraseological unit. In most cases the semantics of PUs conveys the colour of clothes of a certain group of people or peculiarities of their appearance. A considerable amount of such units in the English language are traced to be historicisms and thus it allows us to consider the influence of an extralinguistic factor on the motivation of their meanings.

The second criterion, the semantic one, can be considered the main criterion in establishing the motivation of the meaning of phraseological units containing a coloronym component both in the English and Turkish languages as the phraseological meaning in this case evolves from metaphoric or metonymic reframing of the meaning of the prototype and/or the image that underlies the phraseological unit. The contrastive analysis revealed a number of units, which are based on a similar or close image in both languages, and as a rule such units are borrowed ones. The influence of the semantic criterion is pertinent mainly to phraseological units with a transparent inner form, where the figurative meaning of the phraseological units can be easily traced from the meaning of their prototypes and is determined by their imagery in both languages in focus.

The third criterion, the extralinguistic one, is functional in such cases where the meaning of a phraseological unit containing a coloronym component is motivated by some extralinguistic phenomena, such as: custom, tradition, belief, superstition, legend, historical event and etc. We have found the examples of borrowed units in which the same extralinguistic phenomena is observed in the motivation of meaning of phraseological units containing a coloronym component in both the English and Turkish languages.

In some cases, the motivation of the meaning of phraseological units can be established based on two or even three criteria above.

In the second chapter “Context use of phraseological units containing a colour component in the English and Turkish languages: experimental study” the results of experimental study of occasional behaviour of phraseological units of the two languages contrasted as well as a detailed analysis of different types of their semantic and structural transformations are provided.

Academic staff members of Kocaeli University (Turkey) who are native speakers of the Turkish and English languages teaching English at the University at the department of the modern English language and academic staff members of a number of US universities participated in the experiment. The experiment was aimed at revealing the major requirements needed to carry out different transformations of the English and Turkish phraseological units by the participants to the experiment, including complex techniques of occasional transformation of phraseological units and in this experiment as opposed to the previous ones not students but academic staff members were involved. The task

included phraseological units from the English and Turkish languages, as follows (12 phraseological units for each language):

green with envy – снедаемый завистью, позеленевший от зависти;

to look<as> black as night /as sin, thunder, thunder cloud/ – быть,

выглядеть мрачнее тучи, туча-тучей;

to talk till/until/ smb is blue /black/ in the face – заговорить кого-либо до потери сознания, до посинения;

<as>red as a beet /as a <boiled>lobster/ - 1) красный, багровый; 2) красный как рак (от смущения и т.п.);

<to be><as>white /pale/ as sheet / as a ghost/ – <быть>бледным как полотно /снег/;

to drag /draw/ a red herring /red-herring/ across the path /track, trail/ –

намеренно вводить в заблуждение; отвлекать внимание от обсуждаемого вопроса; сбивать с толку;

in the pink<of one's health> – в прекрасном состоянии (о здоровье);

blue devils – грусть, скука, тоска, уныние;

to have the blues – находиться в унынии, тоске;

to do things under the <red>rose – делать что-то исподтишка, секретно;

out of the blue – совершенно неожиданно, вдруг; нежданно-негаданно; = как гром среди ясного неба, как снег на голову;

disappear into the blue – растаять, раствориться в воздухе, бесследно

исчезнуть, испариться; = как в воду канул, как сквозь землю провалился;

kara borsaya düşmek – сложно найти какие-либо вещи; = днем с огнем не сыщешь;

kara gün – тяжелые дни, тяжелые времена;

akla karayı seçmek – применить все усилия для того, чтобы что-то сделать;

kırmızı kart göstermek – дать от ворот поворот, не одобрить, оштрафовать кого-либо;

mavi boncuk dağıtmak – пытаться угодить всем; = и вашим и нашим;

yeşil ışık yakmak – открыть /дать/ зеленую улицу кому-либо;

bahtlı kara olmak – быть несчастливым;

şakakları ağarmak – иметь огромный опыт за спиной;

sararıp solmak – сильно побледнеть, побледнеть(после болезни);

herşeyi toz pembe görmek – смотреть на мир сквозь розовые очки; =

видеть все в розовом свете;

ak sakaldan yok sakala gelmek - совсем одряхлеть;

al kanlara boyanmak - пасть на поле битвы.

These phraseological units were chosen due to their generic usage in the modern English and Turkish languages, as well as due to their vivid imagery.

This experiment was intended to identify the possibilities of usage of the right transformation mechanism for phraseological units with a colour component in the English and Turkish languages by the native speakers of these languages who had not been aware of these transformations earlier, as well as to determine their stylistic influence. The following types of occasional use of phraseological units in the English and Turkish languages were analysed: **phraseological pun, addition of a component/components, insertion, split usage of phraseological units, substitution of a lexical component/components, ellipsis, phraseological allusion, phraseological repetition, extended metaphor, phraseological context saturation.**

The data acquired as a result of the experiment demonstrated that **phraseological contamination**, which is a very complex cognitive process of merging two or, very rarely, several phraseological units with a similar component in its structure, is very rarely used in speech. Not a single instance of phraseological contamination was used in the Turkish language. The native Turkish speakers didn't use a single **extended metaphor**. The analysis of the examples of the extended metaphor used by the informants (native English speakers) has demonstrated that in order to create an extended metaphor the informants are required to possess creative and associative thinking and skills to

grasp both direct and figurative meaning of a phraseological unit, they also need to understand the mechanism of extension of the central metaphorical meaning of a phraseological unit and shall be able to construct a subimage/subimages, united into a single metaphoric chain, by using the mechanism of extension. It has been discovered that these examples represent a linear extension of the basic metaphor, while the most extended metaphor is one of the most vivid and rich types of occasional usage of phraseological units with a colour component.

Following the analysis three main types of interlingual relations of phraseological units with a colour component have been identified in the English and Turkish languages, they are: **phraseological equivalents, phraseological analogues and non-equivalent phraseological units.** Phraseological equivalents possess the maximum similarity across all three levels: the semantic level, the structural and grammatical level and the component level. Based on the level of similarity of PUs in different languages they can be classified as **full and partial phraseological equivalents.**

We consider that PUs with similar significative and denotative meanings, with similar subjective connotation as well as with similar functional, stylistic and expressive connotation, and with identical structural and grammatical organisation and component structure are **full phraseological equivalents** in the English and Turkish languages. The similarity of the emotive component of the meaning provides inter alia for the presence or lack of an identical evaluative emoseme in both contrasted PUs. Identical structural and grammar organization of phraseological units in different languages implies that the specifics of typological characteristics that are pertinent to one of the contrasted languages and are not applicable to the other one shall be considered. Such characteristics shall be especially considered when unrelated languages are contrasted:

«white lie» (adj. + noun) = «beyaz yalan» (adj. + noun) - «обман во благо, невинная ложь»;

«blue blood» = «mavi kan» - «голубая кровь, аристократическое происхождение».

Full phraseological equivalents comprise a considerable part of our research (10% of English and Turkish equivalents).

Following the analysis of the English and Turkish phraseological equivalents we consider that the vast majority of full phraseological equivalents have adj.+noun grammar structure and most of Turkish phraseological units that belong to this group were borrowed, primarily from the English language, by way of calquing.

Semantically equivalent PUs with certain component variations (and these variations are quite minor) belong to **partial phraseological units**. That said, the differences affect only the plane of expression.

Phraseological analogues are represented by the English and Turkish phraseological units that are identical or close at the plane of content but differ considerably at the plane of expression. It is the similarity of the significative and denotative component of meaning and consequently the similarity of the subjective connotation that is considered as the main criterion for identification of phraseological analogues.

The contrastive analysis resulted in two groups of phraseological analogues being determined. The first group is represented by English and Turkish PUs that belong to the same structural and grammar class (with the structure of a word combination, sentence, verb, substantive structure and etc.) regardless of their structure (model).

The second group is represented by phraseological units from different languages that belong to different structural and grammar classes.

For example, the adjectival phraseological unit «not worth a red cent» (букв. *нестоящий красного центра*) used in American English has verbal phraseological analogue «bir kuruş etmez» (букв. *Одну копейку не дать*) in the Turkish language. Both phraseological units have a meaning “useless” (никчемный, никудышный; грошамедного (ломаного) не стоит, за кого-либо и копейки не дадут), and their pejorative evaluative seme and expressive connotation (contemptuous) are similar. Their component structure and structural and grammar organization are completely different. The English phraseological unit can be used in the verbal form “be not worth a red cent” (букв. *БЫТЬ нестоящим красного центра*) in speech.

Phraseological units that do not have phraseological equivalents in the other language are **non-equivalent phraseological units**. There are four methods used to translate non-equivalent phraseological units: calquing (full and partial), descriptive translation, lexical and combined translation. At the moment, the latter three of them have been chosen as relevant to the units that we examine.

English phraseological units with a colour component that have one lexeme (monolexeme) in the Turkish language or a number of separate lexemes (as a rule, two) that are capable of conveying the semantics of the phraseological unit of the source language are translated into Turkish by means of **lexical translation**. Such shortcomings as the loss of imagery and expression are

inevitable in this case. Lexical translation also results in complete discrepancy between the plane of expression of the English phraseological unit and its Turkish lexical equivalent/equivalents. For example, the Shakespeare's expression "golden opinions" (букв. золотые мнения) with the Russian meaning "лестное мнение" can be conveyed into Turkish by way of two lexemes "**hürmet, saygı**", while the verbal phraseological unit "**turn/go/red**" (букв. становится /идти/ красным) with Russian meaning "покраснеть" is conveyed by way of lexical translation as "**kızarmak, kızıllaşmak**", which is a set of two lexemes. The phraseological unit from the American English "**not worth a red cent**" (букв. нестоящий красного цента) that has been considered in the previous section can also be translated into Turkish with a set of lexemes "**değersiz, neteliksiz**", while the PU "**show grey about**" (букв. показывать серое вокруг) with the meaning "feel bored, feel sad" ("скучать, грустить") can be conveyed by way of lexical translation "**kederlermek, üzülmek**".

A number of English phraseological units with a colour component were also translated into Turkish by way of free structures, word combinations and sentences, i.e. by way of **descriptive translation**. The obvious advantage of this translation method is the conveyance of the full semantics of English phraseological units into the Turkish language, while the disadvantage in this case is that the imagery of the source phraseological unit cannot be conveyed and this may lead to the loss of expressive features of a phraseological unit.

«**look black**» (букв. выглядеть черным) - «**ófkeli /kırgın/ görünmek**» - «выглядеть сердитым, мрачным, хмуриться»;

«**in the pink**» (букв. в розовом) - «**mükemmel fiziki durumda**» - «на пике чего-либо»;

According to our data, **combined translation** of non-equivalent PUs with a colour component is a combination of two methods of translation of adverb PUs: descriptive and lexical, and it helps convey the semantics of the English phraseological unit into Turkish in a more complete and adequate way:

«**golden mouthed**» (букв. с золотым ртом) – «**belâgatli; güzel konuşur**» - «красноречивый, обладающий даром красиво говорить»;

«**have a black eye**» разг. (букв. иметь черный глаз) – «**morarmak; gözü şişmek**» - в первом значении «иметь подбитый глаз, синяк под глазом; = иметь фонарь под глазом»;

«**yellow dog**» амер. разг. – «**korkaktır; cesur değildir**» - в первом значении «трусливый человек».

The **conclusion** provides the summary and findings acquired as a result of the research carried out as part of this thesis.

The analysis has revealed that the motivation of the PUs in focus in both contrasted languages is based on three factors: the factor of component structure, semantic factor and etymological factor and the influence of these factors can have a united character. It has been found out that the direct meaning of a coloronym component can be a decisive factor for the second reframing of the meaning of a small group of the phraseological units under analysis both English and Turkish. At the same time, it is the semantic factor that is key to the motivation of the meaning of these PUs with transparent inner form. The etymological factor becomes particularly important during the “decoding” of the meaning of a phraseological unit with obscure inner form.

To study the contextual behaviour of phraseological units containing a coloronym component an experiment involving native English and Turkish speakers was carried out and its results demonstrate that the experiment objective has been achieved. The examples of transformations of phraseological units by the informants convincingly prove the fact that the metaphors underlying metaphorical reframing of phraseological units with a colour component are “live” metaphors for the native English and Turkish speakers. The successful examples created by the informants also prove that the majority of transformations of phraseological units have the same mechanism at the background and the achieved stylistic effect in both contrasted languages, English and Turkish. The differences are pertinent to the most complex transformations, the phraseological contamination and extended metaphor, examples of which were received only from the informants who are native English speakers and this fact can be explained by the centuries-old tradition of language game that has been existent in English-speaking countries and is almost non-existent in Turkey. Another difference is that the examples of phraseological pun, provided by the informants, native Turkish speakers, were based solely on childish incomprehension of the reframed meaning of phraseological units, while native English speakers were inventive and created different examples of phraseological pun based on the author’s play upon the direct and figurative meaning of the PUs as well as using play upon meanings of the lexemes that are components of the PUs.

One of the main tasks of every contrastive phraseological research is the detection of interlingual equivalences of PUs in two or more languages. Following our analysis three main types of interlingual relations of phraseological units with a colour component have been identified in the English and Turkish languages, they are: phraseological equivalents, phraseological analogues and non-equivalent phraseological units that can be translated into the

other language by way of descriptive translation, lexical translation and combined translation. The necessity to comply with the norms of the receptor language (Turkish language in our case) is the key to choosing translation equivalents in all cases of translation. A number of Turkish PUs with a colour component were borrowed from the English language mainly by way of full calquing and now these units are incorporated into the Turkish vocabulary and are widely used.

Thus, the contrastive analysis of phraseological units with a colour component carried out in relation to the English and Turkish languages, which have so many structural differences, proves that the general prevails over the particular and isomorphic features prevail over the allomorphic ones that are represented across different levels: semantics, component, functional and structural.

The main findings of the thesis are provided in the following publications:

1. Быйык Я.А., Арсентьева Е.Ф. Полные и частичные фразеологические единицы с колоративным компонентом в английском и турецком языках / Я.А. Быйык., Е.Ф. Арсентьева // Филология и культура. Philology and Culture, 2015, 1 (39). – С. 16-21 (перечень ВАК), автора – 0,21 п.л.
2. Быйык Я.А. Фразеологическое насыщение контекста: экспериментальное исследование / Я.А. Быйык // Филологические науки. – Казань: Казанская наука. – 2015. - № 10. – С. 169-171 (перечень ВАК), автора – 0,11 п.л.
3. Быйык Я.А. Замена лексического компонента/компонентов как один из типов контекстуального использования фразеологических единиц с колоративным компонентом в английском и турецком языках / Я.А. Быйык // Филологические науки. – Казань: Казанская наука. – 2015. - № 11. – С. 131-133 (перечень ВАК), автора – 0,065 п.л.
4. Быйык Я.А. Расширение компонентного состава фразеологических единиц с колоративным компонентом в английском и турецком языках /

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