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ЛИНГВОКУЛЬТУРНЫЕ И ПРАГМАТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ ИДИОМ С КОМПОНЕНТОМ «BLACK» В АНГЛИЙСКОМ ДИСКУРСЕ.

THE LINGUOCULTURAL AND PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF “BLACK” IDIOMS IN ENGLISH DISCOURSE.

Аннотация: В статье рассматриваются одиннадцать английских идиом с компонентом black. Анализируются их лексико-семантические особенности, прагматические функции и лингвокультурная символика. Выявлено преобладание отрицательных значений, связанных с незаконностью и изоляцией, а также нейтральных и положительных ассоциаций, отражающих формальность и финансовую стабильность.

Ключевые слова: цветные идиомы, символика чёрного цвета, лингвокультурология, концептуальная метафора, семантическая коннотация, прагматика, английская фразеология, дискурсивный анализ.

Annotatsiya: Maqolada black rang komponentiga ega bo'lgan o'n bir ingliz idiomasi tahlil qilinadi. Ularning leksik-semantik xususiyatlari, pragmatik funksiyalari va lingvokulturologik ramziyligi o'rganiladi. Natijalar qora rang ko'pincha salbiy ma'nolarni, ba'zan esa rasmiylik va moliyaviy barqarorlik kabi ijobiy ma'nolarni ifodalashini ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar: rangli idiomalar, qora rang ramziyligi, lingvokulturologiya, konseptual metafora, semantik konnotatsiya, pragmatika, ingliz frazeologiyasi, diskurs tahlili.

Abstract: his article examines eleven English idioms containing the color component black. It analyzes their lexical-semantic features, pragmatic functions, and linguocultural symbolism. The study reveals predominantly negative meanings related to illegality and exclusion, alongside neutral and positive associations such as formality and financial stability in English discourse.

Keywords: color idioms, black symbolism, linguoculturology, conceptual metaphor, semantic connotation, pragmatics, English phraseology, discourse analysis.

Introduction: Color symbolism plays a crucial role in shaping idiomatic expressions across languages. In English, the color black is particularly productive in phraseology and metaphorical extensions. It frequently conveys meanings

associated with darkness, secrecy, illegality, grief, or formality. However, its semantic range is not exclusively negative; in some cases, it indicates financial stability or elegance.

Methods: This research employs a qualitative descriptive methodology aimed at providing a comprehensive linguocultural and pragmatic analysis of English idioms containing the color component black. The methodological framework integrates several complementary analytical approaches to ensure a multidimensional interpretation of the selected units.

Lexical-Semantic Analysis: First, lexical-semantic analysis was applied to determine both the literal and figurative meanings of each idiom. This stage involved identifying semantic shifts from the primary denotative meaning of the adjective black (referring to color) to its metaphorical extensions in idiomatic usage. Special attention was given to polysemy, semantic transformation, evaluative connotation (negative, neutral, positive), and metaphorical mapping. The analysis also considered semantic oppositions (e.g., black vs. white) as part of conceptual structuring.

Etymological Review: An etymological review was conducted to trace the historical development of each idiom and identify the sociocultural conditions under which it emerged. This approach allowed the study to reveal diachronic semantic evolution and to determine whether negative associations of black were culturally inherited, socially constructed, or metaphorically motivated. Historical sources, phraseological dictionaries, and etymological references were consulted to reconstruct origin patterns.

Pragmatic Analysis: Pragmatic analysis was employed to examine how these idioms function in real communicative contexts. The study explored speaker intention, expressive force, emotional intensity, and contextual appropriateness. Particular emphasis was placed on register variation (formal vs. informal usage),

communicative purpose (humor, criticism, warning, description), and pragmatic impact on the listener. This stage helped clarify how idioms operate as tools of evaluative and expressive discourse.

Linguocultural Interpretation: The linguocultural approach was used to investigate the symbolic meanings of the color black within English-speaking cultural traditions. This included examining its associations with darkness, secrecy, illegality, mourning, authority, and elegance. The study interprets idioms as reflections of culturally embedded conceptual metaphors, demonstrating how collective cultural memory influences semantic development.

Results: 1. Negative Physical and Emotional States

<i>N</i>	<i>Color idiom</i>	Meaning	Example	Cultural aspect
1	Black and blue	severely bruised	After the accident, he was black and blue all over.	Black symbolizes injury and bodily damage.
2	Black sheep	different member of a family or group	He was considered the black sheep of the family.	Black contrasts with white (purity), marking deviation.

2. Legal and Social Exclusion

<i>N</i>	<i>Color idiom</i>	Meaning	Origin	Example
1	Blackball	to exclude or reject from a group	18th-century voting practice using black balls to indicate rejection.	He was blackballed from the club.
2	Blacklist	a list of disapproved persons	He was considered the black sheep of the family.	The actor was placed on a blacklist.

3 Crime and Illegality

N	Color idiom	Meaning	Example:
1	Blackmail	extortion through threats	He tried to blackmail the company.
2	Black market	illegal trade	Goods were sold on the black market.

4 .Clarity, Formality, and Documentation

	Color idiom	Meaning	Example
1	Black and white	clearly written or defined	The agreement was in black and white.
2	Black tie	formal evening dress code	It was a black tie event.

5. Economic and Financial Meaning: In the black. Meaning: financially profitable .Example: The company is finally in the black. This idiom contrasts with in the red, where black historically indicated positive balances in accounting records.

6. Humor and Emotional Detachment: Black humor. Meaning: humor about serious or tragic topics. Example: The film is full of black humor.

7. Loss of Consciousness or Light.Black out. Meaning: to lose consciousness or experience a power failure Example: He blacked out after the shock.

Discussion :Analysis shows that idioms with the color black cluster around four main domains: darkness and illegality, social exclusion, formality and authority, and cultural symbolism.

Darkness and Illegality: Idioms like blackmail and black market reflect the metaphor DARKNESS IS ILLEGALITY, linking lack of light to secrecy and moral transgression.

Exclusion and Social Rejection: Expressions such as blackball, blacklist, and black sheep mark social deviation, emphasizing conformity and group boundaries, contrasting black with the purity of white.

Formality and Authority: Idioms like black tie and in black and white show that black can also signify elegance, clarity, and institutional respect, illustrating context-dependent symbolism.

Cultural Symbolism & Pragmatic Function: While black often carries negative connotations (death, sin, secrecy), some idioms are neutral or positive, showing cultural dynamism. Pragmatically, black idioms efficiently convey criticism, exclusion, or authority, compactly encoding cultural knowledge.

Overall, black idioms illustrate how color functions as a cognitive-cultural frame, structuring social experience and evaluative meaning in discourse.

Conclusion: The study confirms that the color component black in English idiomatic units carries predominantly negative connotations linked to illegality, secrecy, exclusion, and misfortune. Nevertheless, certain idioms demonstrate positive or neutral semantic shifts, particularly in formal and financial contexts. These findings support the hypothesis that color-based idioms reflect culturally embedded conceptual metaphors and serve as powerful pragmatic tools in English discourse.

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