



## **COMPARATIVE SEMASIOLOGY: SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF COLOR TERMS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH**

Kholmamatova Risolat

Termiz Economics and Service University Student

### **Abstract**

This article presents a comparative semasiological analysis of color terms in Uzbek and English. The study explores how color terms function semantically within each language, highlighting similarities and differences in cultural, psychological, and linguistic associations. The research uses both qualitative and quantitative methods, analyzing a corpus of texts, dictionaries, and native speaker input. The paper finds that while some basic color terms overlap in meaning and usage, there are significant differences shaped by cultural worldview and traditional symbolism. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of cross-linguistic semantics and aid translators, linguists, and intercultural communicators.

**Keywords:** Semasiology, Color Terms, Semantics, Uzbek Language, English Language, Cultural Symbolism, Comparative Linguistics.

### **Introduction**

Semasiology, a branch of semantics, investigates the meanings of linguistic signs. This paper focuses on color terms, which are essential components of vocabulary and hold strong cultural significance. Color words often go beyond describing visual perception and carry metaphorical, emotional, and symbolic meanings. Colors play a crucial role in human communication and cultural identity. Different languages not only label colors differently but also associate them with various symbolic, emotional, and cultural meanings. Comparative semasiology focuses on studying the meanings and functions of words across languages. This paper explores the semantic features of color terms in Uzbek and English, highlighting similarities and differences in usage, metaphorical meanings, and cultural associations. For example, while “white” symbolizes purity in both languages, “black” may carry negative connotations in English, whereas in Uzbek it may also



represent strength or authority. Understanding such differences enriches cross-cultural communication and translation practices.

### **Literature Review**

Previous studies in linguistic anthropology and semantics have shown that color perception and classification vary across cultures. Berlin and Kay's Basic Color Terms theory has been influential in identifying universals in color naming. Uzbek and English have both been examined individually, but few comparative semasiological analyses exist.

### **Methodology**

The study adopts a comparative descriptive approach. Data were collected from bilingual dictionaries, language corpora, literature, folklore, and surveys of native speakers. Semantic fields and associative meanings were analyzed using componential and conceptual analysis.

### **Analysis of Primary Color Terms**

#### **Red / Qizil**

In both English and Uzbek, red is associated with passion, danger, and celebration. However, in Uzbek culture, "qizil" also connotes communism and Soviet influence, while in English, red often symbolizes love and urgency.

#### **Blue / Ko'k**

English associates blue with calm, sadness, and trust. In Uzbek, "ko'k" may refer to the sky or nature and can symbolize hope, peace, or even immaturity.

#### **Green / Yashil**

Both cultures connect green with nature and growth. However, in Islamic culture (influencing Uzbek), green has sacred significance, unlike in English.

#### **Black / Qora**

In English, black is often linked with death, evil, or elegance. In Uzbek, "qora" also has dual meanings: negative (sadness) and positive (strength, richness, especially in metaphors).



## **White / Oq**

“Oq” and “white” symbolize purity and peace in both cultures. In Uzbek, white is also widely used in expressions indicating honesty, generosity, and high moral values.

## **Secondary and Culture-Specific Color Terms**

Color terms like “beige”, “turquoise”, or “olive” exist in English but lack direct equivalents in Uzbek. Conversely, Uzbek has terms such as “zangori” or “tilla rang” reflecting specific cultural perceptions.

## **Idioms and Symbolic Usage**

Color idioms reveal deep cultural differences. For example:

- English: “green with envy”, “feeling blue”,
- Uzbek: “oq yuvib, oq taramoq” (to forgive completely), “qora kunlar” (hard times).

These expressions showcase how color semantics extend into emotional and moral spheres.

## **Discussion**

The analysis illustrates both universal and culture-specific aspects of color semantics. Shared meanings indicate cognitive universals, while divergences highlight socio-cultural influences. The symbolic meanings in Uzbek are heavily shaped by history, religion, and tradition.

## **Implications for Translation and Language Teaching**

Understanding color semantics aids in translation accuracy and intercultural communication. Language learners benefit from cultural insights when learning idiomatic or figurative expressions.

## **Conclusion**

This comparative semasiological study shows that while color terms have some universal meanings, cultural contexts significantly affect their semantic range. Future studies may expand to other languages or focus on historical shifts in color perception. The semantic analysis of color terms in Uzbek and English reveals both



universal and culture-specific associations. While some color meanings overlap – such as red symbolizing passion or danger – others reflect unique cultural values. In Uzbek, green is strongly linked to Islam, while in English it may evoke nature or jealousy. Such findings highlight the importance of semasiology in revealing the deeper cultural and emotional layers of language. Comparing color terms allows linguists, translators, and language learners to grasp subtle nuances, avoid misinterpretations, and develop a richer appreciation for linguistic diversity and intercultural understanding.

### **References**

1. Berlin, B., & Kay, P. (1969). “Basic Color Terms: Their Universality and Evolution”
2. Wierzbicka, A. (1996). “Semantics: Primes and Universals”
3. Uzbek-English Bilingual Dictionary (2020)
4. Oxford English Dictionary (2023)
5. Karimov, S. (2015). “Cultural Codes in Uzbek Language”
6. Uzbek National Corpus
7. Crystal, D. (2003). “The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language”