

ETYMOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL INTERPRETATION OF COLOR  
IDIOMS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK*Nuraliyeva Zarina Panji**kizi**Termez State Pedagogical**Institute**1st course Master's**student*

**Abstract.** This article explores the semantic and cultural dimensions of color idioms in both English and Uzbek languages. Color idioms are fixed expressions that include color terms and convey figurative meanings, often rooted in historical, emotional, and societal connotations. The study aims to identify similarities and differences between English and Uzbek color idioms, tracing their etymological roots and cultural symbolism. The paper reveals that while some color idioms show universal meanings (such as “white” symbolizing purity), many others are deeply culture-specific. Through comparative analysis, this research enhances understanding of how colors metaphorically reflect human emotions, values, and worldview in two distinct linguistic and cultural contexts.

**Key words:** Color idioms, phraseology, English, Uzbek, cultural connotation, metaphorical meaning, comparative linguistics

**Аннотация:** В данной статье рассматриваются семантические и культурные аспекты цветовых идиом в английском и узбекском языках. Цветовые идиомы — это устойчивые выражения, включающие цветовые термины и несущие переносное значение, часто отражающее исторические, эмоциональные и социальные реалии. Цель исследования — выявить сходства и различия между цветовыми идиомами двух языков, проследить их этимологическое происхождение и культурную символику. В статье показано, что, несмотря на наличие универсальных образов (например, белый как символ чистоты), многие

идиомы являются культурно обусловленными. Сравнительный анализ позволяет глубже понять, как цвета отражают восприятие мира в английской и узбекской языковых традициях.

**Ключевые слова:** Цветовые идиомы, фразеология, английский, узбекский, культурная коннотация, метафорическое значение, сопоставительная лингвистика

Color idioms are an essential component of figurative language, offering rich insight into how languages use visual imagery to represent abstract concepts. In both English and Uzbek, colors are often used metaphorically in idioms to express emotions, character traits, or social attitudes. Understanding these idioms provides valuable perspectives into the cultural and psychological associations that speakers of each language attach to specific colors.

**Historical and Cultural Context.** Color symbolism has evolved differently across civilizations. In Western cultures, influenced by Christianity and Greco-Roman traditions, “white” symbolizes innocence, “black” denotes evil or mourning, and “red” often stands for passion or danger. In contrast, Uzbek color symbolism has roots in Turkic, Islamic, and Central Asian traditions. For example, “oq” (white) signifies purity and honesty, while “qora” (black) can represent both grief and strength.

#### Comparative Analysis of Selected Color Idioms

##### 1. White / Oq

English: “*White lie*” – a harmless or small lie told to avoid hurting someone.

Uzbek: “*Oq yo‘l*” – literally “white road,” used to wish someone a good journey or fortune. Interpretation: In both languages, white is associated with purity or good intentions, but its figurative use varies by cultural application.

##### 2. Black / Qora

English: “*Black sheep*” – a person who is an outcast or disgrace to a family or group. Uzbek: “*Qora kunlar*” – “black days,” used to describe hard or tragic times. Interpretation: “Black” reflects negativity in both languages, but English focuses on social exclusion, while Uzbek emphasizes hardship.

### 3. Red / Qizil

English: “*Red flag*” – a warning sign of danger or problems. Uzbek: “*Qizil chiroq*” – “*red light*,” also a symbol of danger or stop (same traffic metaphor). Interpretation: Universal warning color, used metaphorically in similar ways.

### 4. Blue / Ko‘k

English: “*Feel blue*” – to feel sad or depressed. Uzbek: “*Ko‘k osmonga talpinmoq*” – to aspire for something great (“reaching for the blue sky”). Interpretation: While “blue” in English relates to sadness, in Uzbek it often symbolizes peace, ambition, or divine connection.

### 5. Green / Yashil

English: “*Green with envy*” – extremely jealous. Uzbek: “*Yashil tabiat*” – “*green nature*,” symbolizing youth, health, and fertility. Interpretation: “*Green*” reflects different emotions: envy in English vs. life/health in Uzbek.

Semantic and Cultural Implications. Color idioms reflect not only linguistic creativity but also cultural psychology. While some meanings are globally understood due to shared human experiences (e.g., darkness = fear), many idioms are specific to a culture's values, religion, or environmental perceptions. Understanding color idioms offers a pathway to deeper intercultural competence and language mastery.

## Conclusion

The study of color idioms in English and Uzbek reveals that language is a mirror of cultural and emotional life. Both languages use color metaphorically, but the underlying meanings vary based on historical, social, and psychological contexts. English idioms often stem from Western symbolic systems, while Uzbek idioms reflect Central Asian traditions and Islamic influence. This comparative analysis enhances cross-linguistic understanding and highlights the importance of idiomatic competence in translation, language teaching, and cultural studies.

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