

СОПОСТАВИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ АНГЛИЙСКИХ, РУССКИХ И ИДИОМ ИВРИТА С КОЛОРАТИВОМ *СИНИЙ*

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CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, AND HEBREW *BLUE* IDIOMS

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В статье анализируются английские, русские и ивритские идиомы с лексемой blue/голубой, голубой/כחול (далее – BIs, “blue idioms”). Материалом для исследования послужили 327 BIs (240 на английском, 46 на русском и 41 на иврите) из трехязычных электронных лексических источников. В рамках лингвокультурологического подхода в работе используются качественные и количественные методы, а также контекстуально-функциональный, семантический и культурно-лингвистический анализ. На начальном этапе исследования различные значения BI объединялись в логические ассоциативные цепочки: А. *Оптический цвет природных объектов*: Небо – нечто безграничное; Вода; Медицина – кровообращение; Территория. Б. *Оптический цвет артефактов*: Одежда; Компьютер; Нечто официальное; Оппозиции: наш – чужой, военный – мирный; Профессиональная сфера. С. *Характеристики психических качеств*: Превосходство, социальное отличие – аристократические черты – усилия; Мечтательность, что-то романтическое – печаль, несчастье; Агрессия – что-то грубое, ругательства; Секс – Порнография – Пьянство – Наркотики.

В работе представлены уникальные BIs, связанные с религией, историей, культурой носителей трех языков, а также разнообразные по тематике неклассифицированные BIs. Рассматриваются синонимичные фразеологизмы с колоративами «синий», «черный» и «зеленый», антонимия BIs и фразеологизмов с лексемами «красный» и «розовый», их неколоративные русские эквиваленты, позитивные и негативные коннотации BIs, изменение эмоциональности английских BIs с течением времени, а также этноприоритетная для израильской языковой культуры сине-белая цветовая пара. В исследовании обсуждается неоднозначность BIs, позволяющая включать их в различные микросистемы, и различные способы формирования микросистем.

Результаты исследования могут быть использованы в сопоставительном и культурологическом языкознании, лексикографических и лексикологических работах, в обучении иностранному языку и переводу. Сравнительное изучение других трехязычных идиом, анализ менталитета, культурных особенностей и мировоззрения носителей этих трех языков является предметом нашего дальнейшего исследования.

Keywords: лингвокультура, контрастивная лингвистика, колоратив, идиомы с лексемой синий, ассоциативные цепочки, микросистема, английский язык, русский язык, иврит

The article analyzes English, Russian, and Hebrew idioms with the lexeme blue / синий, голубой / כחול (hereinafter – BI, “blue idioms”). The research material is 327 BIs (240 in English, 46 in Russian, and 41 in Hebrew) from trilingual electronic lexical sources. Within the linguoculturological approach, the work uses qualitative and quantitative methods, as well as contextual-functional, semantic, and cultural-linguistic analyses. At the initial stage of the study, various BI values were combined into logical associative chains: A. *Natural objects' optical color*: The Sky – something unlimited; Water; Medicine – blood circulation; Territory. B. *Artifacts' optical color*: Dress; Computer; Something official; The Opposition: our – alien, military – peaceful; Professionals. C. *Mental quality characteristics*: Excellence, distinction – Aristocratic features – Efforts; Dreaminess, something romantic – Sadness, unhappiness; Aggression – Something rude, swearsome – Sex – Pornography – Drunkenness – Drugs.

The work presents unique BIs related to religion, history, the culture of the speakers of these three languages, and unclassified BIs of varied subjects. The article discusses synonymous idioms with coloratives “blue”, “black”, and “green”, antinomy in BIs and idioms with “red” and “pink” lexemes, their non-colorative Russian equivalents, positive and negative BIs' connotations, the change in the emotiveness of English BIs over time, as well as the ethnic-priority for the Israeli linguistic culture: the blue-

white color pair. The investigation considers the ambiguity of BIs, which allows including them in various microsystems and using various ways of forming these microsystems.

The research results can be used in comparative and culturological linguistics, lexicographic and lexicological works, in teaching L2 and translation. A comparative study of other trilingual idioms and an analysis of the mentality, cultural characteristics, and worldview of the speakers of these three languages is the subject of our further research.

Ключевые слова: linguoculture, contrastive linguistics, colorative, blue idioms, associative chains, microsystem, English, Russian, Hebrew

Introduction

There are a lot of research works on colorative cultural linguistics. This work is part of the project “English, Russian, and Hebrew Colorative Idioms” (Kigel, *Red Idioms, Green Idioms*, 2021; *White Idioms, Gold Idioms* - in print).

The article aims to identify modern English, Russian, and Hebrew BIs from electronic lexical sources, to subsume them into logical groups (associative chains) and microsystems to better understand the worldview of the people speaking these languages. The findings can be used in teaching L2 and in translation, considering that colorative Hebrew idioms are a new field of Hebrew and cultural linguistics.

Blue is one of the three primary pigment colors (red, blue, and yellow) in painting, art, traditional color theory, and the RGB color model. The English word blue means both blue and azure. Russian and Hebrew have two terms for blue: синий/ כחול (dark blue) and голубой/ תכלת (azure).

A lingua-color worldview is a subject of many research works: there are theoretical papers, papers about one language colorative worldview, about all colorative idioms in one language, and one colorative idiom in many languages (contrastive research). Wierzbicka, A. [3, p. 100] asserts that language reflects the conceptualization of color terms and emphasizes their semantics, culture, and cognition meanings. Kövecses, Z. concludes that some conceptual metaphors appear to be near-universal or potentially universal (though not universal in an absolute sense) as a result of certain commonalities in human experience. He notes that metaphors vary not only cross-culturally but also within cultures because of several dimensions including the social, regional, ethnic, style, subcultural, diachronic, and individual aspects [4, p. 217]. According to Chielens [5, p. 83], blue is much less straightforward than black, white, or even red. Knodel [6, p. 289] writes that “the semantic structure of phraseological units can be represented as a microsystem with all its elements in close connection and interaction with each other”. The Explanatory Translation Dictionary [7] defines an association as a relationship between separate views, whereby one of the views triggers the other based on a formal or logical-semantic feature.

Association chains connect two entities that are not directly related by creating a chain of one or more intermediate associations.

Following Zavyalova [8, pp. 308–309], we present the percentage of all color idioms: English (black 23%, BIs, red, white -all 16%); 5% Russian BIs (red 30%, white 25%, black 24%). Knodel [6] presents an almost similar composition of all color idioms: English (white 24%, black 17%, BIs 7%, red 6%). Therefore, BIs have a different frequency in English and Russian. While white & black idioms in different languages are covered in many special works, BIs are studied in fewer papers: Alimpieva [9] on Russian idioms; on English and Russian idioms; Sadykova [10] on Kumik idioms, Erdyneeva [11] on French idioms; Starko [12] on Ukrainian idioms, Grossmann [13] on Italian idioms; Doinikova [14] on German idioms; Sagiv [15] and Kigel [1,2] on Hebrew idioms.

Materials and Methods

Our study uses a contrastive analysis of BIs, based on the corpus of trilingual BIs and their interpretation in electronic lexical sources (explanatory, phraseological dictionaries, and the Internet), and the methods of qualitative and quantitative contextual-functional analyses, as well as semantic and cultural-linguistic analyses.

The paper discusses the following questions: 1. What meanings and microsystems of BIs exist in the three languages. 2. What unique meanings of BIs exist in the three languages. 3. What the quantitative aspect of BIs in the three languages is. 4. What common and different features of BIs in the three languages are.

Results

1. Associative chains and microsystems of BIs.

This part presents 89 English, 34 Russian, and 33 Hebrew BIs.

A. Natural objects' optical color

The Sky, the heavens: the blue blanket / the blue hour/ синий час/ השעה הכחולה (photography, the sky is dark blue in 30 minutes before sunrise and after sunset); a ray of a bit of the blue sky (hope); a blue giant, supergiant / голубой гигант, сверхгигант/ ענק כחול, על ענק כחול (a hot star); clear as the

sky is blue (Russian, clear as a God's day); שמיים כחולים (positive thinking, Blue Skies, energy efficiency in Israel government hospitals); the blue moon /голубая луна/ ירח כחול (the second full moon in one calendar month, the moon turns bluish color for a different reason); **Something unlimited:** blue-sky thinking (brainstorming, the sky is the limit), Blue Ocean Strategy /стратегия голубого океана/ אסטרטגיה האוקיינוס הכחול (the market for a new product or a demand with practically no competition); כוכב כחול (a simulator flying computer game).

Water, the sea, the ocean: a blue planet/голубая планета (the Planet Earth, because of the abundant water on its surface.); blue water (open ocean vs green water - coastal waters, ports, harbors; brown water - navigable rivers and their estuaries)/голубая вода (Blue Water, recreation area)/ מי שמש כחולים (water placed in the sun in a blue glass vessel); the Blue Flag /голубой флаг/ הדגל הכחול (an international award for beaches and marinas, and environmental quality mark); the blue economy /голубая экономика/ כלכלה כחולה (economic activities related to oceans, seas, and coasts); between the devil and the deep blue sea (between two fires, Russian - между молотом и наковальней, between hammer and anvil).

Blood circulation, breathing, heart problems: blue in the face, blue with cold, blue as a badger /синий от холода (skin color); lips turn blue (cold or not breathing); a blue baby/ синдром синего ребенка/ תינוק כחול (a heart defect or lungs disorders); to beat/pinch somebody black and blue/go blue in the face/ в синяках / כחול (bruised).

Medicine: Code Blue /קוד כחול/ (Medical Emergency, Cardiac or Respiratory Emergency).

Territory, traffic: a blue continent/голубой континент (Europe); the Blue Line/קו כחול/ (the Demarcation line between Lebanon and Israel since 2000; the underground or rail line in many cities and countries); קווי הביילי כחול (a Friday and Saturday public bus line to the entertainment centers, to the sea, and hospitals); a blue envelope (the US, communication between a police officer and an autism driver);

B. Artifacts' optical color

Dress, clothing: blue jeans /голубые джинсы/ ג'ינס כחול (informality; equality between the sexes, classless respect for hard work); the blue gown (loyalty, peace, confidence, and success) /синий платочек (a blue scarf, a symbol of female devotion, women's fidelity during the Great Patriotic War).

Computer: Big Blue (IBM nickname for the big blue logo); the blue death /an error screen/Синий экран смерти, ошибка "синий экран"/ מסך המוות /הכחול/ (a critical error in the core of the Microsoft Windows operating system); BigBlueButton/ Боль-

шая синяя кнопка (open-source web conferencing software).

Something official: the Blue Book/ ספר כחול (specialized information often published under government auspices, information literature; a register of especially socially prominent persons), Project Blue Book/ проект "Синяя книга"/ פרויקט "ספר כחול" (the study of unidentified flying objects in the USA 1952–1969)/ הספר הכחול (General specifications for construction works); Blue sky laws/ Законы "голубого неба" / חוק שמיים כחולים (the US, state regulations against securities fraud); Blue Data Books (UN, information about stabilized, not endangered plants and animal species), Bluebook pharmacy (a drug dispensing system); the USA Troops Blue Book (Order and Discipline Regulations), the Bluebook (a uniform system of citation for legal professionals), Kelley Blue Book (an automotive price guide in North America), Blue Book (UN, parameters of inland waterways infrastructure in Europe; traineeship program).

Oppositions: Our - alien, military - peaceful: blues–reds/синие–красные / אדומים - כחולים (conflict oppositions, the colors in tactical games); blue fire, blue-on-blue (friendly fire, inadvertent firing toward friendly forces).

Peace: light blue berets, blue helmets /голубые береты, каски / כחולות, קסדות כחולות כומתות (the UN peacekeeping force).

Professionals: blue-white collar /синие - белые воротнички / צווארון לבן - צווארון כחול (labor-office people, manual labor people versus high professional managerial, administrative staff); blueprint /синька (a technical drawing depicting the model from any viewing angle on light-sensitive sheets).

C. Mental, quality characteristics

Excellence, distinction: Blue Zones / Голубые зоны / אזורים כחולים (regions with a high number of centenarians); a blue ribbon, the blue riband (high quality, awareness ribbons for many causes in many countries; a top-level expert commission; a blue month (a month of the highest trading activity); a blue-chip stock (a large, liquid, and reliable company).

Aristocratic features: blue blood / голубая кровь / דם כחול (membership in a noble or socially prominent family, Russian, Hebrew - ironic), a blue family.

Dreaminess, something romantic: a blue dream / голубая мечта/ הלום כחול (unattainable desires, Maeterlinck).

Effort: be blue in the face / until/till you are blue in face/до посинения (strong effort with no effect); like blue murder (quickly, with all one's might).

Sadness, unhappiness: blues / блюз/ בלוז (melancholic music, USA), blue Monday (first study or

work after a break, Russian—понедельник, день тяжелый). Only in English: to be in the blues, to have a bit of blues, to get blue, to go blue, to feel blue, to look blue, to be in the blues, in a blue mood, turning blue, a blue outlook, the blues, a blue man, blue as the devil, blue depression, things look blue (bad situation); blue study (gloomy reflections); to be blue /green/white around the gills (looks sick, ill, unwell, nauseated).

Aggression: Bluebeard/Синяя борода/ כחול זקן (a jealous, cruel, brutal husband from the tale of Charles Perrault).

Something/someone rude, vulgar, swearsome: By all that's blue! To burn with a low blue flame, hot as blue blazes /гори синим пламенем (the strongest angry curse, extreme confusion, surprise, or aggravation).

Sex: a bluestocking / синий чулок (a pedant, unfeminine woman, passionate about mental work); голубой (homosexual, English - gay), Blue Hair/ a Blue Head (gays or lesbians).

Pornographic: a blue comedy, movie/голубой фильм סרט כחול/ (a euphemism, a pornographic film); כחול ראש (a blue head, pornographic thoughts; non-standard thinking).

Drunkenness: blue /синий (severe alcoholic intoxication); green/blue devils (low spirits, alcohol delirium tremens); to drink till all's blue (Russian - упиться до чертиков, alcohol delirium), the Blue-Ribbon Army (Sobriety Society); The Blue Cross (alcoholism treatment).

Drugs: a blue pill/голубая таблетка (viagra); Blue Angels (barbiturates);

Discussion: trilingual BIs show pluralistic metaphorical meanings summarized in three key microsystems: Natural object's optical color (five associative logical chains); Artifact's optical color (six associative logical chains); Mental characteristics (11 associative logical chains). **A. Natural objects' optical color.** The Sky – Something unlimited; Water; Blood circulation – Medicine; Territory. **B. Artifacts' optical color.** Dress; Computer; Something official; The Opposition: our – alien, military – peaceful; Professionals. **C. Mental quality characteristics.** Excellence, distinction – Aristocratic features - Efforts; Dreaminess, something romantic-Sadness, unhappiness – Aggression – Something rude, swearsome – Sex – Pornography – Drunkenness – Drugs.

Quantitatively, the number of English BIs, related to natural objects and artifacts' optical color, is approximately equal to the ones in the group Mental Characteristics. The third concept is future BIs, with the domination of negative connotations, some with ironic meanings, and a few positive ones.

Unique and unclassified trilingual BIs. This part analyzes unique and unclassified idioms: 63 English, 12 unique Russian, and 8 unique Hebrew BIs associated with the religion, history, and culture of these countries and shows the differences in their peoples' social and cultural experiences.

English

Something unexpected, unforeseen, sudden: came out of the blue, out of the blue, a bolt /a shot from the blue, to disappear in the blue (melt in the air); once in a blue moon (very rare); a trip into the blue (an opportunity); the wild blue yonder, Cross into the Blue (US Air Force slogan).

Politics: blue (British and Canadian, Tory - conservatives; US - democrats vs conservatives, blue vs red): vote blue (vote for the conservative party), blue dogs, blue states, blue counties, blue people (democrats).

Police: a blue coat; men/boys in blue (the police, a police officer); blue light (police presence alert); the Thin Blue Line (a law enforcement personnel symbol, courage, and sacrifice while protecting the American people); Blue Line Wives (the health and security support of all law enforcement and their families); the Blue Alert (criminal incidents against law enforcement); Blue Lives Matter (the movement against the discrimination of law enforcement); Support the Blue Now (increasing the public's awareness of the police role in ongoing safety and security 24/7); a blue wall of silence (not reporting unlawful fellow officers' conduct); the blue flu (a type of strike, a sick-out staged by police officers).

Groups of people: a bluebonnet, a blue cap (Scot); dark blue vs light blue (Oxford – Cambridge); a blue-brick university (an old type university); blue-haired ladies, blue hairs (aged active women).

Positive Characteristics: to see a Blue Jay (courage, protection, intelligence, and communication); to be a true blue (faithful, constant), true blue will never stain (a decent person will never let you down).

Luck, success: blue-eye/a blue-eyed boy (favorite, unfounded sympathy, privileges, Russian, за красивые глаза, for beautiful eyes).

Fright, fear, darkness, panic: blue funk, blue fear, blue fit, fit of the blues, blue in the face (panic, terrible fear, rage), to cry/scream blue murder (loud, heart-rending scream); blue ruin (doom, fall, disaster).

Puritan: blue-nosed, blue-nose (a rigorous moral code); the blue law (prohibition of alcohol sales on Sunday).

Charity, poverty: a bluecoat school, a blue-coat boy (a charity school); a blue plate special (a set

meal at a reduced price); blue ruin (home-made low-end gin); to cry the blues (ironic, cry poverty).

Anger, despair, exasperation: to have a blue fit, to touch blue paper (extremely angry); **Something/someone rude, obscene, vulgar, offensive:** blue humor / a joke blue with oaths (rough, bawdy, vulgar); blush like a black/blue dog (between blue and black); to make/ turn the air blue (profuse hard swearing); to curse a blue streak (a rapid, unending stream of curse words); to get away with blue murder (do as someone wants to; remain unpunished).

Unclassified idioms: a blue pencil (editing content); blue-John (skimmed milk, without cream); blue meat (completely uncooked in the center; extra rare steak); Blue Cross (Veterinary Service); Blue Cross Canada (an anti-tobacco, anti-second-hand smoke campaign); blue-gum (a very dark-skinned black person); blue discharge (dismissal from the army without a positive attestation); blue smoke (exhaust, burning engine oil because of an oil leak);

Russian: energy - голубое топливо / золото (blue fuel / gold, natural gas with a bluish flame); голубой уголь (wind as a type of energy); fish farming - голубая ферма (a blue farm – a fish farm); голубой патруль (a blue patrol, the USSR reservoirs and fish resource protection; TV- голубой экран (a blue screen -TV); голубой огонек (the Blue Light, the TV festive performance evening); голубоглазый (blue-eyed); синие, синенькие (blue ones – eggplants); голубая душа (Russian ironic: a blue soul - pure, immaculate), на голубом глазу (with an azure eye, making naïve).

Hebrew: פתיל תכלת (an azure thread in the corners of the tallit, a Judaism prayer vestment); כחול ולבן (Blue & White, the two national colors of Judaism, Israel National; the state of Israel; the Israeli flag, the production of Israel, the best of Israel, the centrist party since 2019; a parking report); זכויות אדם כחולבן (Israeli Zionist Human Rights Organization); הקרן לרווחה כלכלית חברתית - כחולבן (the Foundation for Socio-Economic Welfare); כחול לבן - המכון (the Israel Democracy Institute); קווי הבילוי כחול לבן (Friday and Saturday public free transport to the centers, to the sea and hospitals); כיסא כחול (the blue chair, a journal section for problematic topics), מתחם כחול לבן (Israeli production shops). We should note that the blue color implies both light blue, dark blue, and azure.

Discussion

English has the biggest number of unique unclassified BIs with very different meanings that can be subsumed into several issue groups: Something unexpected, sudden; politics; police; groups of people; charity; poverty; positive characteristics; fright, fear, darkness, panic; anger, despair, exasperation;

something/someone rude, obscene, vulgar, swearsome. English speakers prefer to use blue in different situations to denote very different phenomena.

Russian BIs are related to energy, fishing, and TV, but not only. Alimpieva (1983) writes about extreme degrees of blue hue intensity (bright, saturated versus dim), but azure / голубой is commonly positive, associated with something tender, affectionate, and soft. The Hebrew Blue & White idiom כחול ולבן is the most important linguocultural symbol of Judaism and Israel. Its value is comparable to the significance of the red idioms in Soviet Russia in the 1920s-1940s.

English BIs have several parallels with black idioms (blush like a black/blue dog) and less often with green idioms (blue/green, blue around the gills). A part of English BIs matches black idioms in Russian (blue glasses - black glasses; and Hebrew (לראות שחורות see black). English BIs form antinomes with red colorative idioms (blue-red pill; military blues-reds) and rose colorative idioms (rose-tinted glasses). Some English idioms have Russian colorless equivalents (a blue-eyed boy - за красивые глаза, for one's beautiful eyes; between the devil and the deep blue sea, Russian: между молотом и наковальней - between hammer and anvil). English BIs have many negative and some positive connotations, most Russian BIs have positive connotations, and very frequent Hebrew BIs have very positive connotations of respect and pride.

Conclusions

The paper analyzes 253 English, Russian, and Hebrew BIs with the colorative lexeme blue/синий, голубой/כחול, and forms the initial stage of Hebrew colorative linguistics. Quantitatively, the number of English BIs exceeds the number of Russian and Hebrew BIs, especially concerning unique idioms. The diverse meanings of trilingual BIs are integrated into associative chains, 20 microsystems, and three key microsystems: **A. Natural objects' optical color:** The Sky – something unlimited; Water; Medicine - blood circulation; Territory. **B. Artifacts' optical color:** Dress; Computer; Something official; The Opposition: our - alien, military - peaceful; Professionals. **C. Mental quality characteristics:** Excellence, distinction – Aristocratic features - Efforts; Dreaminess, something romantic- Sadness, unhappiness - Aggression – Something rude, swearsome - Sex - Pornography - Drunkenness - Drugs. Besides, we present unique idioms associated with religion, history, and culture and unclassified BIs with unrelated meanings distinguished by various issues.

About half of the meanings of BIs are common in the three languages, so the BI *a blue gown* /сунуй

платочек (a blue scarf) means loyalty, peace, and devotion, but some BIs differ in their semantics in the three languages (e. g. *blue water*). A surprisingly large number of BIs describe sadness and unhappiness.

English BIs have several parallels with black idioms and less of them with green idioms.

A part of English BIs matches black idioms in Russian and Hebrew. English and Hebrew BIs form an antinomy with red and with rose (one-off case). Some English idioms have a Russian colorless equivalent. Over time, English BIs have become more informative and less emotional. A combination of blue & white as a symbol of Judaism and Israel is of a huge linguocultural value. The era of globalism contributed to the number of equivalent trilingual idioms related to technology, computers, and economics.

Three microsystems comprise several associative chains with logically connected lexemes (Excellence – Aristocratic features - Luck - Mental effort). They can include polysemic BIs from another microsystem (Blood Circulation - Medicine or Artifacts' optical color: Dress; Computer; Medicine). Thus, BI microsystems are not closed systems and may be organized in different ways.

The research results can be used in comparative and cultural linguistics, lexicographic and lexicological works, in teaching L2 and translation. A contrastive study of other trilingual idioms, the analysis of the mentality, cultural characteristics, and worldview of speakers of these three languages are the subject of our further research.

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