



## DENOTATIVE SPACE OF COLOR ADJECTIVES IN ENGLISH

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**Abstract:** *This article deal with denotative space of color adjectives in English Different denotative adjectives in English are explained and analyzed.*

**Key words:** *adjective, denotative meaning, denotative space, category, color.*

The current stage of development of linguistics is characterized by close attention to the study of various kinds of lexical associations or groups of words that have a strict system of organization, which is based on one or another concept. From this point of view, color designations in the language system represent one of the most structured fragments of the lexical system, easily isolated from the general composition of the language and forming a certain hierarchical system with a special status for each of its members.

The theoretical significance of this work is to establish the special role of color designations in the processes of human cognition in general and the categorization of the world, in particular, in their ability to reflect the cognitive foundations for the formation of an indicative vocabulary as a separate part of speech, as well as in determining color as one of the most important perceptual features of an object involved in the construction and organization of visual space and the entire linguistic picture of the world.

The practical value of the study lies, first of all, in providing rich factual material for its further use in various practical and theoretical courses, as well as comparative studies in describing the color naming system in other languages. Separate sections



of the dissertation can be used in training courses in psycholinguistics, cognitive psychology and semantics. This study can also serve as a theoretical basis for writing term papers and theses on the problems of word formation, the theory of nomination and the systemic organization of the vocabulary of the language.

"Among the perceptual features recorded by a person in the course of conceptualization and categorization of the world, visual, visual features come to the fore in terms of their significance, and among them, color features occupy an important place".

The role of color terms in the lexicon of modern English is also determined by their place in the definitions of words of non-color vocabulary, when color terms perform an identifying or classifying function within the definition itself.

Basic color terms occupy a special place in the general system of color terms in the English language. They perform the organizing role of focal points on the color continuum, around which the denotative space of color is formed. They also play a huge word-formation role, as they are included as a basis in numerous derivatives and adjectives of complex structure in English. The basic terms of color most often perform an identification and classifying function in the lexicographic description of the color characteristics of various objects.

The whole set of color terms in English can be represented as a denotative space with a strict system of its organization.

The denotative space of adjectives of color is formed around the nuclear centers expressed by basic color designations. Each of them forms its own subspace with fuzzy blurred boundaries and transition zones. The denotative space of color adjectives in English is divided into eleven zones, which are unevenly represented in the language. The zones of adjectives of color yellow (16%), brown (13%), red (13%), white (13%), blue (12%), gray (11%) have an almost equal ratio, the next step



is occupied by the zones of adjectives green (6%), black (5%), pink (5%) and an almost dotted share position have zones of the adjectives orange (3%) and purple (3%), which casts doubt on their full-fledged status as basic color terms distinguished in English language.

As can be seen from the structures of the denotative spaces of color adjectives presented above, they all form transitional zones with the intersection of two color tones and contain transitional units, as in the case of the adjectives coral and ruddy, which denote the transitions of red to pink. We can also detect intersections of three color zones, which, as a rule, are represented by structurally complex units, one of the bases of which already semantically represents a transitional shade of two tones. These units include the adjectives amber-green, ash-lilac, blondish-brown, gray-hyacinth, reddish-blond, the last of which, for example, denotes a reddish-yellowish-white shade of color and, accordingly, can be included in the denotative space of these three adjectives.

It is also interesting to note that the transition zones of the adjectives green, brown, white can form adjacent transition zones: green-brown-yellow (amber-green), white-brown-yellow (blondish-brown).

However, color designations, which are "homogeneous color tones", are much less quantitatively. Thus, the denotative spaces of color adjectives are replenished and developed due to transitional color designations, it is they that express the whole rich variety of various natural and artificially created shades of color.

An interesting fact is that the denotative spaces of the adjectives white and black have special boundary zones that do not pass into other color tones, but into a space with a common meaning of "light" and "dark", respectively. These transitions testify to the semantic similarity of the terms light and white, as well as black and dark, which was



discussed above when analyzing the lexicographic presentation of the basic terms of color.

Considering the transition zones of each denotative space of adjectives of color, we can distinguish the following feature. All color transitions represented by structurally complex units, such as orange-and-white, are quite artificial in nature, since they form not naturally conditioned transitions of one tone to another, but a free combination of two tones, which, as a rule, does not imply their mixing. They indicate that the object is marked with two colors at the same time. In English, there are no restrictions on the creation of such combinations of colors, which potentially makes it possible for such units to exist in any two color fields or spaces.

It becomes obvious that the qualitative and quantitative composition of the denotative space of each basic color term determines the degree of development and its possible potential in the color naming system, as well as its place in the general lexical system of the language. Based on statistical data, we can determine the status of each category of color and its nuclear adjective. Thus, the small composition of the category of basic terms of the colors purple, pink and orange makes it possible to question the validity of their basic status. Note that statistical data are not criteria for the category of the adjective black, since it represents the extreme point of the color spectrum and can only develop towards the transition to all sorts of dark shades of colors, which reflects the structure of its denotative space.

Having determined the quantitative and qualitative composition of each category of basic color terms, we can visualize the denotative space of the color category in the English language as a whole. The most developed, according to our data, is the category of the adjective yellow - it has 93 units that convey synonymous and transitional shades of yellow. It should be noted that the number of members of this category also depends on the presence of the adjective gold in it, which occupies a



leading position in the number of formed compound words in which it is included. In other words, we could sub-space the adjective gold within the denotative space of the adjective yellow. Although only this denotative space has this feature, something similar can be seen in the denotative space of the adjective pink. It is interesting to note that, in turn, the category of the adjective pink has separated from the category of red and has not yet received the full-fledged status of a basic adjective based on the quantitative composition of this category, as well as the dictionary description of this unit, the definition of the semantics of which is based on the meaning of the adjective red.

The development of the denotative space of each category of color can be carried out along the line of objectifying the meaning of mixed tones, and by recognizing the presence of two or three colors in an object at the same time. As a result, all the above denotative spaces of color tones in English contain compound units of two and three bases with the preposition -and-, which can convey transitional shades of color (iazure-and-green), as well as the presence of two unmixed color tones {green -and-hask, white-and-guilt, red-white-and-blue).

The presented diagram clearly demonstrates the share of each color category in English in the color domain, where it is clearly seen that the denotative space of the adjectives orange and purple occupies only about 3 percent of the total color space in the language. The most common adjective categories are yellow, brown, gray, red, white.

It should be noted that the presented denotative spaces of color adjectives in English are built only along the tone line. Similar denotative spaces can also be built along the lines of saturation and brightness, that is, all three parameters for measuring a color wave. In our work, we limited ourselves to only one line of development of the category of color, since a certain freedom in the formation of color designations that



convey a darker or lighter shade of color can lead to unlimited source material for constructing a denotative space. " All possible identifiers of color terms have been covered in detail in the previous chapter of the work...

Among all the perceptual features recorded by a person in the course of conceptualization and categorization of the world, the importance of color in the organization of a person's visual space is especially great - it is one of the most important characteristics of an object along with shape and size.

The understanding of color as an object of study of interdisciplinary sciences covers the border zone of general and proper linguistic structures of knowledge, as a result of which extralinguistic factors influencing the development of language are involved in the study of color designations. The study of color terms also allows you to raise questions about the ways of representing color in the human mind, which links the study of color with the processes of thinking. The language finds special forms of delimitation of knowledge structures according to the principles that characterize the conceptual system of human consciousness and which allow it to categorize the accumulated experience.

The active use of color and color designations by a person in various areas of his activity is reflected in the constant development of the category of color in the language, it expands its boundaries and areas of use. In accordance with the data of our study, in modern English the total number of units that convey various color tones or their shades varies within 500 terms represented by various word-formation models. Modern formations are, as a rule, complex color designations in their structure, and it was their quantitative advantage that was revealed in the process of comparing the obtained lists of color designations of dictionary and text data. This is due to the fact that the models for the formation of complex color designations have



practically no special semantic restrictions, nor restrictions associated with the laws of human color perception.

Quantitative data of each of the basic color categories allow us to draw conclusions about its status in the language in general and about the status of the most basic or focal color term around which this category is formed. Accordingly, the status of each basic adjectival color in the language is different, as well as its role in the organization of the color naming system. In English as a whole, the frequency of use of basic color terms is on average seven times higher than the use of secondary color terms. However, if we consider textual data in order to distribute the share ratio of each base adjective separately, then according to their frequency index, which in our study represents the average number of uses per 6226 pages of text, only the adjectives white and black have a high frequency index of use, unlike purple and orange, which are the lowest frequencies. So, for the adjectives white and black, the frequency indexes are equal to 29 and 25 uses, respectively, and purple and orange - 1 and 2 uses.

The relativity of the fullness of the status of the basic member of the color naming system in the language is also determined in accordance with its lexicographic presentation. As the analysis of the dictionaries we use has shown, in the system of color designations one can distinguish those of them whose basic status has not yet been completely determined. These are the adjectives orange, pink and purple, which are at the last stage of the hierarchy of development of color terms by B. Berlin and P. Kay, their color meanings are not primary and are determined only in relation to other basic terms.

On the other hand, a feature of the basic adjectives of color is that they have common semantic zones, where they enter either into synonymous relations and have universal



lines of development of semantic structures, or into antonymic relations and have opposite meanings. At the present stage of the development of the English language, the basic terms of color can not only indicate any quality of the object, but also replace the object itself. Metonymy is most often built on the replacement of one of the physical qualities of objects, and a new meaning is born as a result of fixing the external color characteristic of the object (e.g. brownies - fried potatoes).

The result of our study is also the selection of models for the representation of the basic terms of color. At their core, as a rule, they represent a comparison either with the color of an object chosen as a standard, or the selection of a color range on the spectrum. Also quite widely used in lexicographic practice is the model of lexicographic presentation of color terms, which is a description of one color with the help of another. This model is used to describe some meanings of the basic terms of color, it is also used to refine the color shade of color designations formed from the names of some objects. The lexicographic presentation of English color terms is a kind of a single set of features that color has, on the one hand, as a universal universal concept, and, on the other hand, as a complex physical phenomenon. Each of the models we single out captures a certain amount of human knowledge about the nature of color and its origin.

The role of color terms in the lexicon of the modern English language should also be associated with the place they occupy in the organization of the lexicographic presentation of non-color vocabulary. Summing up the results of this analysis, we can say that a low percentage of objects has a fixed color feature. For example, out of the general corpus of words in the Longman Publishing Dictionary, only 1.5% of various kinds of objects and all kinds of phenomena have a differential feature of color, which is fixed in their definitions during lexicographic presentation. However, the presence or absence of an indication of the color characteristics of the object has its own reasons. Although, when categorizing the world, the relevance of color





features is noted in a fairly narrow circle of units, in order to distinguish the generic properties of objects within the same type or category, the importance of the perceptual feature of color increases, which accordingly leads to the active use of color designations in their lexicographic description. In such cases, not only basic, but also peripheral color designations are used, since it is necessary not only to indicate the focal color, but to accurately describe it in detail.

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