

STRUCTURAL-SEMANTIC FEATURES AND TRANSLATION SPECIFICS OF GERMAN PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH A COLORATIVE COMPONENT

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The proposed study deals with structural and semantic features, as well as translation specifics of German phraseological units with a colorative component. The relevance of the topic is determined by the fact that the presence of color notation in the composition of phraseological units with a colorative component make such units difficult to translate. At the same time, in Ukrainian translation studies there is a lack of systematic knowledge and comprehensive research on the peculiarities of the translation of German phraseological units with a colorative component. Phraseological units that use the names of colors are accompanied by evaluative connotations and correlated with a holistic picture of the world of a particular national culture. Therefore, it is not surprising that in recent years, phraseological units with a colorative component have often attracted the attention of researchers.

Phraseological units accompany a person throughout his life. They give a description of the world, human activities, and the person himself. At the same time, each object of our reality is characterized by a certain color, even if it is barely noticeable and indistinct. A person perceives color not only as an objective characteristic, but also as a moral and aesthetic category. This category expresses attitude, assessment, norm. Having obtained deep symbolic semantics in the process of the development of the German language, the colors reflect the linguistic view of the world through the prism of which native speakers perceive reality.

The structural and semantic difficulties of translating German phraseological units with a colorative component are due to the fact that in addition to the complex structure of such phraseological units and their figurative meaning, the difficulties of translating German phraseological units with a colorative component also include culturally specific information. Correct interpretation and translation of such phraseological units requires from the translator background knowledge, skill in mastering the techniques and means of translation.

Key words: *phraseological system of the German language, phraseological unit, structure and semantics, colorative component, translation.*

Introduction

Each object of our reality is characterized by a certain color. The importance of colors determines their reflection in the language, including in the phraseology of the national languages of the world. Formed in language, phraseological units reflect the phenomena and objects that are around us; and we, in turn, give them certain characteristics, including signs of color. Therefore, it is natural that in some phraseological units that emotionally color the

images in the language, color is an integral part of the semantics and figurative component. Color helps to create vivid visual images for ordinary abstract concepts, which gives speech emotional richness and brightness.

It should be noted that names of colors in the composition of phrases in some cases may lose their original meaning and acquire completely different semantic nuances. The integral meaning of a phrase is determined by the interaction of its components. In different types of phraseological units the semantics of their components are revealed to different degrees. Man perceives color not only as an objective characteristic, but also as a moral and aesthetic category. In recent years, phraseological units containing the names of colors have often attracted the attention of researchers. (O. Zubach, L. Kovbasyuk, T. Kozak,

I. Humeniuk, L. Donetskykh, V. Dyatchuk, L. Pustovit, T. Semashko, etc.). According to linguists, phraseological units with a colorative component belong to the part of the nominative structure of the language, which is characterized by a pronounced cultural and national identity (Kovbasiuk, 2005: 268).

The nature of phraseological units as semantically and structurally indivisible units, which have figurative meaning and national-cultural connotation, as well as the presence of color naming in the composition of phraseological units with a colorative component make such units difficult to translate. At the same time, in Ukrainian translation studies there is a lack of systematic knowledge and comprehensive research on the peculiarities of the translation of German phraseological units with a colorative component. This determines **the relevance of this study**.

The aim of the research is structural and semantic features, as well as the specifics of the translation of German phraseological units with a colorative component.

The study of phraseological units containing the names of colors is carried out on the **material** of the phraseological system of the German language, comparing the semantics of colors in German and Ukrainian pictures of the world. The following **research methods** were used in the course of work: comparative method, linguistic-pragmatic analysis, contextual-interpretive analysis. In the course of studying the structural and semantic features of phraseological units with a colorative component, the method of selection and processing of lexical material and the method of component analysis were applied. Functional and translation analysis was used in the work on the translation of phraseological units of the German language with a colorative component.

The phenomenon of color has been interesting to mankind since ancient times. Everyone tried to understand this phenomenon and identify its effects on the brain and psyche. Attempts to develop a theory of color began in the days of Plato. One of the first to describe color as a physical phenomenon was I. Newton. Phrase units reflect facts and objects that surround us. In some of them, which emotionally color and express the images in the language, color is an integral part of the semantics and figurative component.

Results of the research

Considering the features of phraseological units and their place in the language system, it should be noted that language is a universal means of expressing human thought, in its semantic structure it has the ability to reflect reality for each individual or nation. Phraseological units, due to their bright national color, which characterizes a certain attitude to people's way of life, value system, have long been the subject of debate among linguists. Today there are a large number of scientists, scholars who have studied the concept of "phraseological unit", its features, nature, semantics, scope and more. V. V. Vinogradov and his followers V. L. Arkhangelsky, O. M. Babkin,

M. M. Shansky, L. I. Roizenzon, V. P. Zhukov, R. N. Popov, I. I. Chernyshov studied such cardinal problems as the volume and subject of phraseology, signs of phraseological units, features of phraseological meaning, methods of their research.

The term "phraseological unit" was first approved by V. V. Vinogradov and is used to denote those compounds that are formed not during the language process, but reproduced in accordance with tradition. Reproducibility, according to the scientist, is the main feature of

phraseology (Vinogradov V. S., 2001: 59-62). In linguistics, there are more than 20 definitions of the term “phraseological unit”, but today none of them is accepted as the only correct one. Phraseological unit consists of more than one word and is a combination of words that are not connected with each other during the speech, and have long been known in the language (Burger, 2007: 11). Different linguists use different terms to denote it: “idiom”, “phraseological unit”, “phraseological inversion”, “phraseme”, “stable phrase” and so on.

Phraseological units of the German language are variously and multifacetedly classified. Classifications are created depending on the purpose of the study, individual layers or criteria (structural, morphological-syntactic or semantic) under consideration. However, there is still no consensus among linguists on the typology and composition of phraseological units. One of the most well-known and widespread classifications of phraseological units is the classification proposed by V. V. Vinogradov, which includes phraseological merging, phraseological unities, phraseological combinations.

V. V. Vinogradov's classification was one of the first classifications of phraseological units, in which the researcher divided them into semantic groups, putting forward as one of the main criteria for such a division the concept of motivation / idiomaticity. Since a phraseological unit is a single semantic whole, not all of them are identical in terms of the connection of components and the correlation of the meaning of the whole expression with the semantics of its individual components. The first type of phraseological units according to V. V. Vinogradov is phraseological merging (in German: *starre phraseologische Verbindungen*). Such a phraseological unit is a completely indivisible, indecomposable stable phrase, the integral meaning of which is not motivated, ie not derived from the values of its constituent components, for example: *jemanden / etwas im Stich lassen; jemandem urch die Lappen*, etc. The second type is phraseological unities (in German: *phraseologische Einheiten*) are semantically indivisible, integral in content stable phrases, for example: *Öl ins Feuer gießen; Stroh im Kopf haben; wie ein Buch reden*. In phraseological units of this type, the general meaning may be motivated by the semantics of the component words: it is to some extent related to the meaning of the words that are part of them. Compared to phraseological merging, phraseological unities are broader and more diverse in structure and may allow the insertion of other words in the language between their parts. Unlike idioms, they are characterized by imagery and emotionally expressive coloring. The third type is phraseological combinations (in German: *einfache phraseologische Verbindungen*) – stable motivated inversions, ie their integral meaning follows from the meanings of the components of their individual words, for example: *Abschied nehmen; Erfolg, Interesse, Aussichten haben; zum Ausdruck bringen*. This is a “type of phrases created by the realization of non-free meanings of words”, which are not “unconditional semantic units” (Vinogradov V. V., 1986: 159), because they are characterized by a certain independence of the components. In such inflections, one word is semantically conditioned and cannot be replaced, while others allow for mutual substitution or substitution and can be combined with other words.

In different types of phraseological units the semantics of their components is revealed to different degrees. Such phraseological units should be classified according to the type of reinterpretation, as the deactualization of a word in a phrase is directly related to the reinterpretation of the meaning of the expression itself. A. V. Kunin classifies them into phraseological units-comparisons, phraseological units-metaphors and phraseological units-metonymies (Porozhniuk, 2000: 81).

According to T. M. Gaidukova, lexemes to indicate color can be classified into basic and non-basic. The basic ones are:

- 1) color names denoting achromatic colors: *schwarz, grau, weiß*;
- 2) color names, which are called chromatic colors: *rot, grün, gelb, blau, braun*.

Non-basic color names include all others derived from the main colors (Gaidukova, 2000: 12).

In phraseological units with a color component, **white** color (*weiß*) occupies a prominent place (Busel, 2001: 51). In German philology, the semantics of this color is associated with purity, innocence, salvation, openness, innocence, simplicity, truth, for

example: *weiße Weste haben* (to be innocent) (Havrys, Prorochenko, 1981: 583); *ein weißer Fleck auf der Landkarte* (бути білим, нерозгаданим місцем на карті) (Leping et al., 2002: 583).

The complete opposite of white is **black** (schwarz) – the color of soot, coal, the darkest color (Udovychenko, 1984a: 1381). It symbolizes sadness, death (Maslova, 2001: 105). Therefore, phraseological units with a black component have the connotation of negativity, pessimism or feeling, grief, failure: *etw. schwarz (an)sehen/malen* (to see something in a gloomy light); *schwarz sehen* (to be pessimistic). In addition, black as a component of a stable expression can denote humiliation, destruction, evil: *j-n schwarz ärgern* (to bring someone to the brink); *schwarz abgeschrieben sein bei j-m* (to have a bad reputation with someone). Sometimes there are phraseological units without coloration (giving objects a clear color), only a shade that indicates whether the object, fact, etc. is light or dark.

Like their bright counterparts, the color name **dark** (dunkel) has the connotation of negative, illegal, hidden: *etw. Vor j-m dunkel halten* (to hide something from someone)

(Havrys, Prorochenko, 1981: 136); and **light** (hell) means purity, clarity, authenticity, genuineness: *hell und klar sein* (to be quite obvious, clear).

Gray (grau) – the color between white and black; ash color

(Udovychenko, 1984b: 1130). In addition, this color is dim, signifies monotony, spiritual and moral meanness, the emptiness of life: *als graue Elend kriegen* (to despair); *grau in grau* or *alles in grau sehen* (in gray tones, indistinctly) (Havrys, Prorochenko, 1981: 279).

Red (rot) – which has the color of one of the main colors of the spectrum preceding orange; blood color and its close shades (Udovychenko, 1984a: 1384). The symbolism of red is the widest. This color has been of interest since ancient times. The main meaning of the adjective *rot* in Old German was “red”. The noun *rota* meant “blush”, “redness”. Now in German culture, red symbolizes passion, victory, celebration, revolution, freedom, love, life. This color in many nations, including the Slavs, signifies beauty and the highest degree of fact or feeling (Maslova, 2001: 105). In the phraseological fund of the German language we find this coloronym in both negative and positive meanings. Phraseological units with a red component may have the connotation of a special, long-awaited event, holiday: *einen Tag im Kalender rot anstreichen* (especially to celebrate a day). When we feel certain emotions, such as resentment, anger, rage or shame, our face turns red. This is what contributed to the appearance of some phraseological inversions with a red component: *rot anlaufen (werden)* (to blush); *j-n rot machen* (to make someone blush); *rot sehen* (to get angry). In addition, red may be associated with money or poverty. This interpretation of this color is covered in the following phraseological units: *keinen (or nicht einen) roten Heller besitzen* (not to have a penny).

In the phraseological structure of the German language, the names of colors formed by color similarity, which convey different shades of red, include **pink** (rosa) – light red. This color means something secret, hidden, that came from the ancient Romans, for whom the rose was the emblem of the mystery: *etw. sub rosa sagen* (to say something under a big secret).

Blue (blau) – which has a shade of blue. Less common, but semantically rich, is blue. The color symbolizes a cloudless sky, unrealizable dreams, infinity, purity, nobility: *die blaue Blume* (blue flower, embodiment of unrealizable dreams), *blaues Blut* (blue blood, noble origin), *die blaue Ferne* (foggy distance, vagueness, uncertainty).

The **green** color (grün) is also ambiguous – one of the main colors of the spectrum – the middle between yellow and blue; which has the color of grass, leaves, green. On the one hand, the color green is associated with nature, spring, youth, health, life, peace, joy: *noch zu grün sein für* (to be too young, inexperienced) (Osovetska, Silvestrova, 1964: 249); *ein grüner Junge* (yellow-faced boy, milk-sucker); on the other hand, it is the color of jealousy, anger, inconsistency: *j-n grün und blau schlagen* (to beat someone almost to death); *sich grün und gelb ärgern* (to merge, to rage). It is worth noting that in the German phraseological

composition, the color green also has the connotation of arrogance, excessive self-love: *sich grün machen* (to be too high opinion of oneself).

Yellow (gelb) – which has the color of one of the main colors of the spectrum – the middle between orange and green. The phraseology of the German language records the most negative meaning of this adjective. Yellow often symbolizes such human qualities as insincerity, envy, resentment: *Gelb und grün werden* (to turn green with envy, anger); *der gelbe Neid* (black envy); *sich gelb und grün ärgern* (to turn green with anger). This color is also associated with pale complexion, malaise, illness: *es wurde ihm gelb und grün vor den Augen* (his eyes darkened, his circles went before his eyes).

Genetically related to gelb is the **golden** color (golden) – which resembles gold in color; brilliant yellow, orange. Constant expressions with a gold component are mostly positive. In the phraseological structure of the German language, this color can have both direct and figurative meaning. It is known that gold is associated with gold, money, profit, wealth: *die goldene Kalb* (symbol of wealth – the golden calf). On the contrary, its figurative meaning symbolizes something sublime, significant, honorable, intangible, spiritual values: *die goldene Hochzeit* (golden wedding); *das goldene Buch* (honor book); *die goldene Mitte* (golden mean); *goldene Worte* (parting words, wishes).

Brown color (braun) – the color of cinnamon or roasted coffee; brown. This adjective is rare in use in folk traditions, images, fairy tales and folklore (Kozak, 2002: 13). The following examples confirm the limited symbolic meaning of the analyzed color name and determine that this color is used mainly in the literal sense: *braunes Haar* (brown hair); *braune Augen* (brown eyes); *braune Haut* (tanned skin). However, in addition to direct, brown is sometimes figurative. This color is associated with fascism and the Nazis: *braune Vergangenheit* (Nazi past).

As shown by the study of phraseological units with different types of color names, they also have different structure and are formed according to different schemes. This necessitates the study of word-forming characteristics of German phraseological units with color components. Color names are adjectives and in the composition of phraseological units they are combined with other parts of speech, forming a permanent expression. We can distinguish several word-forming models, which form German phraseological units with colorative components. In particular, their word-formation derivation can be formed according to the following basic models: Adj + S, Adj + Adj, Adj + V

(Nikolaieva, 2018: 13). The study of word-forming models of phraseological units with color names showed that the following models are most actively used: Adj + S, Präp + Adj + S, Adj + S + V. Among the color names that are part of phraseological units of the German language, there are primary-nominative and secondary-nominative, as well as implicit and explicit lexemes.

From the point of view of translation adequacy, phraseological units are distinguished, which completely coincide with phraseological units of the language of translation in terms of content and form; phraseological units that coincide in meaning but do not coincide in the image that underlies them; phraseological units that do not have equivalents in the language of translation.

Accordingly, the methods of translation of phraseological units are divided into equivalent and non-equivalent. Equivalent translation methods include the full or partial equivalent. Non-equivalent translation methods, on the other hand, include descriptive translation and tracing. Examples of descriptive translation into Ukrainian of phraseological units of the German language, which express the key values of the German mentality, are observed in the following cases: *die goldene Kalb* – “symbol of wealth – the golden calf”; *eine weiße Hemdbrust* (to have an unblemished reputation). Often with the help of tracing are translated inconspicuous phraseological units, for example: *graue Vorzeit* (or *Zeit*) – “gray antiquity”. Since in German the color name grau can be translated as “gray” and as “white-haired”, in this case, tracing is used, or literal translation.

Also in the translation of German phraseological units with a colorative component such translation transformations as addition or reduction, permutation and grammatical

replacement, as well as lexical-semantic transformations of generalization, concretization, logical synonymy, modulation are used.

The structural and semantic difficulties of translating German phraseological units with a colorative component are that the translator cannot always convey the colorative component when translating, while its omission creates the inferiority of the translated unit. In addition to the complex structure of phraseological units with a colorative component and their figurative meaning, which often makes the translation of such units difficult, the difficulties of their translation also include culturally specific information. Correct interpretation and translation of such a phraseological unit requires from the translator background knowledge, skill in mastering the techniques and means of translation.

In addition, it was found that one of the problems of achieving the adequacy and equivalence of the translation of German phraseological units with a colorative component is their linguistic and cultural specificity. For example, the phrase *weiße Weste haben* is difficult to translate literally, because the phrase "blank / white sheet" in Ukrainian linguistic culture means the beginning of a new life, not innocence.

It is determined that in some cases it is important not only to reproduce the functions, the content of phraseological units, but also its national specificity, culturally marked elements and images. This is important in the context of dialogue of cultures, because when reading German-language works in translation, Ukrainians at the same time get acquainted with German culture, the basic values of the German mentality, the traditions of this people. If the translator cannot preserve the color components and national specificity of phraseological units, there is a difficulty in the reader's understanding of the cultural connotations of the idiom used, as well as the impossibility of implementing a dialogue of cultures.

Conclusions and prospects

During the study of structural, semantic features of German phraseological units with a colorative component, as well as their translation into Ukrainian, the following conclusions were made:

1. Phraseological unit is a lexical-grammatical unity of two or more differently formed components, grammatically organized according to the model of a phrase or sentence, but lexically indivisible, stable in its composition and structure, which, having an integral meaning, is reproduced in language. Their characteristic features include the presence of at least two full words, semantic integrity, metaphor, stability, reproducibility, and others.

2. Scientists classify phraseological units according to semantic, morphological, stylistic, structural, grammatical, genetic criteria. The most common classification is according to the degree of semantic indivisibility – phraseological merging (idioms), phraseological unities and phraseological combinations).

3. Analysis of the semantic features of German phraseological units with a colorative component showed that there are phraseological units with the names of chromatic and achromatic colors. Chromatic colors – red (rot), yellow (gelb), green (grün), blue (blau) and their shades: gold (golden), pink (rosa) – in the composition of phraseological units have different stylistic functions. Red can symbolize passion, victory, celebration, life, love, and anger, revenge, anger or shame. Pink has the meaning of secret, hidden. Blue is also binary: on the one hand it is interpreted as purity, unrealizable dreams, nobility, and on the other – as anger, untruth, drunkenness. The tokens green and yellow to denote color in the phraseological structure of the German language have the connotation of rage, envy and jealousy, in addition, it is associated with the physiological processes of the human body. The connotation of brown is quite narrow: in most cases, the color retains its direct meaning, but sometimes there are associations with fascism.

4. The study of word-forming models of phraseological units with color names showed that the following models are most actively used: Adj + S, Präp + Adj + S, Adj + S + V.

5. Equivalent methods of translation of phraseological units include full or partial

equivalent. Non-equivalent translation methods, on the other hand, include descriptive translation and tracing.

6. Structural and semantic difficulties in translating German phraseologies with a colorative component are due to the fact that in addition to the complex structure and figurative meaning, which often makes the translation of such units difficult, the difficulties of translating German phraseological units with color names include culturally specific information. Proper interpretation and translation requires from the translator background knowledge, skills in mastering the techniques and means of translation.

7. The difficulties of translating phraseological units and learning to translate them are explained by the complexity of their semantics and structure. When learning translation, it is important to know two languages (in this case – German and Ukrainian); accumulation of vocabulary, knowledge of phraseological units, proverbs and sayings, idioms of both German and Ukrainian; possession of the ability to determine which method of translation should be used in a given case. An important role is played by the formation of

socio-cultural competence: a set of knowledge about the country of the studied language, national and cultural features of social and linguistic behavior of native speakers and the ability to use such knowledge in communication, following customs, rules of conduct, etiquette, social conditions and stereotypes.

Prospects for further research may be the study of linguistic and cultural features of German phraseological units with a colorative component, as well as the specifics of their transmission in translation. In addition, it is advisable to compare the German and Ukrainian systems of phraseology with a colorative component.

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