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**ENGLISH PROVERBS WITH COMPONENTS DENOTING COLOURS**

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Every nation has its own proverbs and sayings.

A proverb is a short aphoristic saying with didactic sense in a rhythmically organized form [2, p. 339]. Proverbs can tell us a lot about the mentality of any nation.

The aim of this work is to analyze English proverbs which contain names of colours. We have to identify semantic, grammatical and lexical features of such proverbs.

The object of our study is 22 English proverbs containing components denoting colours. They include the following colours: white, black, blue, green, red, brown and grey. All the proverbs have been selected from one main source [3].

The most common colour is 'black' (11 proverbs). There are 4 proverbs where 2 different colours ('black' and 'white') are used: *A black plum is as sweet as white. // Two blacks do not make a white, two wrongs do not make a right. // The black crow thinks her own birds white. // A black hen lays a white egg.*

As for the semantic features of the selected proverbs, they are very diverse in terms of contents and cover all aspects of people's life.

It is peculiar for the mentality of any nation to distinguish between such categories as good and evil. In the selected proverbs these categories are expressed through the usage of the components 'white' and 'black'. The white colour reflects the common good and the black colour denotes evil: *Black will take no other hue. = Черного кобеля не отмоешь до бела. // Two blacks do not make a white, two wrongs do not make a right. = Зло да зло не сделают добра.*

Thus, the usage of such components as 'white' and 'black' in the selected proverbs reveals the attitude of the British people to the concepts of good and evil.

Some proverbs teach us diligence: *He who does not kill hogs will not get black puddings. = Кто не работает, тот не ест.*

Curiosity is criticized: *The old brown cow laid an egg. = Много будешь знать – скоро состаришься.*

Bad features of people's character are ridiculed: *Grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. = В чужих руках ломоть велик.*

Talents and human skills are emphasized: *True blue never stains. = Золото и в грязи блестит.*

Some proverbs give advice: *Honour without maintenance is like a blue coat without a badge. = Береги платье снову, а честь смолоду.*

From the point of view of their grammatical structure, proverbs are always sentences.

We have not found any proverbs with components denoting colours which are imperative or interrogative sentences. All the selected proverbs are declarative sentences. Declarative sentences are divided into simple and complex sentences. So, 17 selected proverbs are simple sentences: *The black crow thinks her own birds white. // The grey mare is a better horse.* 5 proverbs are complex sentences: *When candles are out, all cats are grey. // He who does not kill hogs will not get black puddings.*

Declarative sentences can be affirmative and negative. Our analysis has shown that 16 proverbs have the structure of an affirmative sentence: *Every bean has its black. // There's a black sheep in every flock.*

6 proverbs have the structure of a negative sentence: *Two blacks do not make a white, two wrongs do not make a right. // A woman's blow never gave a black eye. // True blue never stains.*

As for the expressive means used in proverbs, scientists often speak about repetitions, contrasts, rhyme and alliteration [2, p. 351].

As a result of our research, we have found the following expressive means in the proverbs with components denoting colours:

–repetitions: *Two blacks do not make a white, two wrongs do not make a right. // There may be blue and better blue.*

–contrasts: *The black crow thinks her own birds white. // A black hen lays a white egg.*

–rhyme: *Two blacks do not make a white, two wrongs do not make a right. // Each stain comes to sight on a horse that is white. // Cheese and bread make the cheeks red.*

–alliteration (alliteration is a stylistic literary device identified by the repeated sound of the first consonant in a series of multiple words [1]): *There may be blue and better blue.*

The sound [b] is repeated in this proverb.

As for the peculiarities of the translation of English proverbs into Russian, they can be divided into those having full and partial equivalents. Our analysis has shown that only 1 selected proverb has a full equivalent: *All cats are grey in the dark. = Ночью все кошки серы.*

All the other selected proverbs have only partial equivalents: *Cheese and bread make the cheeks red. = Хлеб да каша пища наша.* But some partial equivalents are rather close to full equivalents: *A black*

*hen lays a white egg. = Черна курочка, да бело яичко. // The devil is not so black as he is painted. = He так страшен черт, как его малюют.*

Components denoting colours can be found only in 5 Russian equivalents of the selected English proverbs: *A black plum is as sweet as white. = Черен мак, да бояре едят. // Black will take no other hue. = Черного кобеля не отмоешь до бела. // A black hen lays a white egg. = Черна курочка, да бело яичко. // All cats are grey in the dark. = Ночью все кошки серы. // When candles are out, all cats are grey. = Ночью все кошки серы.*

So, as our analysis has shown, English proverbs with components denoting colours have mainly the colour 'black' in their structure, which denotes the concept of evil, and they usually have partial equivalents in Russian.

### References

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