

COLOR IDIOMS IN MODERN ENGLISH

У.А. Ермакович, М.М. Касьян, 3 курс

Научный руководитель – Л.А. Изотова, преподаватель

Полесский государственный университет

In our modern world learning English as an international language has become a vital part of our life. English is used in almost each sphere of human's activity. A competent, interesting and diverse speech helps to captivate and win over a companion and to achieve business objectives. What is more, English is changeable and a person should constantly improve knowledge of it to keep pace with the times. When studying it or reading a fiction in the original, we often come across phraseological idioms or idioms which can be difficult to understand, despite the fact that we know the translation of each word. In the English language there are more than 15,000 idioms which are generally used in informal speech and are of value to study. The problematic issue of our study is the so-called color idioms.

Color affects the mood, emotions and even the physical well-being of people. A person is characterized by a constant desire to name objects and phenomena surrounding him, acquiring individual, historical and cultural experience. The color picture of the world is no exception. Therefore, the topic of color idioms is one of the most popular and actual lexical groups for research.

While analyzing various sources, dictionaries and scientific articles on this issue we've found out some groups of idioms responding the color. Commonly each color expresses its own sense, but in the researched idioms we faced features of color usage in informal English.

The most popular color in the studied idioms turned out to be black (e.g., *“black and white”*, *“black as night”*, *“black and blue”*, etc.). So, for instance, the idiom *“black and white”* means considering things in a way that is too simple and as if things are either completely good or completely bad [2]. (*“Our boss always thinks that everything is straightforward, but he doesn't realize that this whole situation is not as black and white as he thinks!”*).

The second group includes idioms where blue color is used (e.g., *“blue pencil”*, *“a bolt from the blue”*, *“to feel blue”*, etc.). For example, the idiom *“a bolt from the blue”* means something important or unusual that happens suddenly or unexpectedly [1]. (*“It was a complete bolt from the blue for us; we had no idea that they were having problems, let alone getting divorced!”*).

Idioms where green color is used are also widely spread in informal English (e.g., *“to be green”*, *“grass is always greener on the other side”*, *“green thumb/green finger”*, etc.). For instance, the idiom *“to be green”* is used to describe someone who is immature, or inexperienced [1]. (*“He can be rather green sometimes. I don't think he's ready to be promoted to a higher position yet.”*).

The group of “red” idioms is represented by such idioms as *“red hot”*, *“red-eye”*, *“to see red”*, etc. For example, the idiom *“red hot”* means something extremely new, exciting [1]. (*“The new video game is red-hot. Some fans have been waiting outside stores for days, to get a hold of them!”*). The idiom *“red-eye”* is a flight in a plane at night, on which you cannot expect to get enough sleep [3]. (*“We had to catch the red-eye flight last night, and I'm completely exhausted now.”*).

“Gold” idioms are widely used as well, e.g., *“a golden opportunity”*, *“a golden handshake”*, *“a golden boy”*, etc. For instance, the idiom *“a golden boy”* means a man who is very successful and is much admired, although often only temporarily [1]. (*“By many of his fans, Wayne Rooney is seen as the golden boy of his football team!”*).

Less popular, but not more interesting are so-called “pink” idioms (e.g., *“tickled pink”*, *“to see pink elephants”*, *“pink slip”*, etc.). For example, the idiom *“to see pink elephants”* is used when someone sees things that are not really there, because they are in their imagination [2]. (*“Anyone who hears his story thinks he sees pink elephants. It's just such a far-fetched story, and very hard to believe.”*).

Besides the group of “silver” idioms can be found among color idioms (e.g., *“the silver screen”*, *“to be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth”*, *“to be given something on a silver plate/platter”*, etc.). For instance, the idiom *“to be given something on a silver plate/platter”* means to make no effort to get something [2]. (*“I offered my heart to him on a silver platter, and he turned it down.”*).

Therefore, during our research work we've found out that accustomed colors can be used in unusual situations when we use idioms. Using expressions like this with a whole rainbow of rich English vocabulary makes you sound more natural and enriches your speech. Some of the idioms have equivalents in other languages, others are unique and original. It causes some problems with the translation and understanding them, but such attributes make the differences between languages and cultures of various countries and territories. Thus, English is an extremely colorful language where we can find many ways of expressing same ideas and thoughts using a wide range of unique idioms.

СПИСОК ИСПОЛЬЗОВАННЫХ ИСТОЧНИКОВ

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