

## ЯЗЫК, КУЛЬТУРА, ОБЩЕСТВО

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### Contrastive Analysis of English, Russian, and Hebrew “Black” Idioms

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**Abstract.** The work aims to collect and analyze English, Russian, and Hebrew idioms with the lexeme black/черный/שחור (hereinafter – BLIS). It is the first study implementing the collection of Hebrew idioms and the comparison of these three languages as the subject of scientific research. The article proposes a systematization of BLIS based on microsystems consisting of meaning associative chains with logically and semantically related meanings. The material under study comprises about 440 idioms (including about 180 English, 160 Russian, and 100 Hebrew idioms) collected from trilingual electronic lexical, phraseological sources, and Internet searches. The study used qualitative and quantitative contextual-functional, semantic, and cultural-linguistic analyses within the lingua culturological approach. After compiling lists of idioms, identifying their meanings, and comparing them, the author created a table with groups of equivalent and unique BLIS. The microsystem of equivalent BLIS consists of three groups of associative chains: 1. The optical color of the object. 1.1. Nature. Natural phenomena, physical objects – Resources; Flora – Fauna; Body – Skin color. 1.2. Human activity. Etalon color – Black and white image; Clothing: Official – Mourning – Military; Food, beverages; Medicine – Drugs; Board games – Competition – Sports; Hybrid war: Disinformation – Secret operations; Economy – Profit – Employment; Vote; Computers, devices; Typography; Art: Literature – Music – Morbid Humor. 1.3. Intellectual, mental, and moral problems. Clarity – intellectual activity; Unpredictable event – Exception; Prohibition versus permission; Unsuccessful, Difficult – Depression, Pessimism; Ruinous – Illegal; Magic. The proposed classification covers physical, mental characteristics, and a large number of human activity areas, and allows the inclusion of new BLIS in the future. These results can be effectively used in L2 teaching, in human and especially in automatic translation. The described equivalent metaphors prove the common features in the linguocultural picture of the world, and unique BLIS complement this picture, which is important for intercultural communication and automatic translation of idioms.

**Key words:** color linguistics; contrastive linguistics; color term; idioms; black; English; Russian; Hebrew.

## Introduction

The problem studied in the article is relevant and important for the Russian and foreign scientific community since colorful Hebrew idioms have not yet been described against the background of numerous similar studies in other languages. Thus, the English BLIS was thoroughly analyzed in the review article [Chielens 2006; Hamilton 2016; Knodel 2019] and comparative works on BLIS in different languages: Serbian, Slovenian, Croatian, and Russian [Gadžanyi 2007, Talapina 2008, Zaviyalova, 2011], German [Groß 2014], Spanish [Plaza 2015]; Chinese [He 2011]; Mari [Yakovleva et al., 2015]; Kurdish [Kareem 2019]; Kyrgyz [Samatov 2017]; English, Russian and Hebrew color idioms [Kigel, 2021a, 2021b, 2022a, 2022b, 2022c, 2022d, 2022e, 2022f, 2022g].

The novelty of the concept is due to the main research issues raised in the article; the originality of the approach lies in the study of previously undescribed phraseological idioms with the word שחור when comparing them with phraseological idioms, which include the words black, black/черный and also in a new classification of semantic field *Black Idioms*.

Some classification of semantic field *Black Idiom* already suggested in the studies about English idioms [Chielens 2006: 28; Hamilton 2016: 117; Zaviyalova 2011: 239–249] and Russian too [Talapina 2008: 16–17; Zaviyalova 2011: 289–293] but our classification distinguished by the big volume because of combining of physical and mental characteristics, a large number human activity of areas, possibility for including of new information.

The presented results have theoretical and practical significance due to the systematization of phraseological units according to the created groups (*Nature, Artificial objects and phenomena*, etc.), as well as the comparison of these phraseological units in three languages. These results can be used in research in one way or another related to the Sapir–Whorf hypothesis of linguistic relativity, which states that the structure of a person’s language affects how he perceives the world.

Black and white are the most important colors on the achromatic scale, where black is the darkest color and white is the lightest color with shades of gray in between [Achromatic 2015].

Knodel [Knodel 2019: 289] argued that “the semantic structure of phraseological units can be represented as a microsystem consisting of all elements that are in close connection and interact with each other”. The elements of a microsystem are chains of associations, or relationships between individual representations with one or more intermediate associations, based on a formal or logical-semantic feature [Nelyubin 2003]. The term microsystem is used by

many linguists [Bolotina and Shabasheva 2011: 7; Samatov 2017: 28–39]. The results of the study in the form of organizing a large amount of linguistic material into groups of associative chains or microsystems can be used in a wide range of applied and theoretical linguistic areas, such as second language studies (SLA), lexicography, lexicology, cross-cultural studies, communications and comparative studies. They are important for translation theory and translation studies, both human and automatic translation, in which the translation of phraseological units is carried out with the help of literal translation and will help L2 students.

## Materials, Method, and Procedure

Comparative analysis is based on the corpus interpretation of modern English, Russian, and Hebrew BLIS in electronic lexical sources. The work uses methods of contextual, semantic, and cultural-linguistic analysis.

The study aims to describe idioms with the color lexeme black, черный, and שחור in English, Russian, and Hebrew. The main research questions to be addressed are: What is the number of equivalents and unique BLIS in each language? How could associative chains of BLIS meanings be organized (based on logical-semantic features)? Into what microsystems could the associative chains of BLIS meanings be organized? What are the similarities and differences in BLIS in the three languages?

The following procedure was used: the creation of BLIS lists with their meanings from electronic dictionaries (explaining, phraseological dictionaries, the Internet) and a token search on the Internet, the meanings recorded in different sources were compared with each other, indefinite equivalents and unique idioms (explanatory, phraseological dictionaries, the Internet). Then, various BLIS were classified into logical semantic associative chains, microsystems, and two key groups of concepts, which made it possible to conduct quantitative analysis, discussion, and summing up.

## 2. Results

### English, Russian, and Hebrew *Black Idioms*

#### 1. Object Optical Color

##### 1.1. Nature

**Natural phenomena, Physics Objects:** a black night / черная ночь, черный как ночь, чернее ночи / לילה שחור (moonless, complete darkness without light, opposite – white night); black body/ абсолютно черное тело / גוף שחור (physics, perfectly absorbs electromagnetic radiation at all wavelengths, without reflection or transfer, ideal object); The Black Eye Galaxy / галактика Чёрный глаз / מערכת עיניים שחורות (a relatively isolated spiral galaxy with

a partially dark band of absorbing dust in front of its bright nucleus); a black hole / черная дыра / חור שחור (a region of spacetime with strong gravity that no particles, light electromagnetic radiation can escape from it); black hole flare / вспышка черной дыры / התלקחות חור שחור (black holes can give off bright flares of light).

**Flora:** black forest / чернолесье / יער שחור (deciduous forest); black frost/черный мороз, черный иней / כפור שחור (intense frost or cold that blacken vegetation and usually unaccompanied by hoarfrost).

**Fauna:** black as a raven, a raven's feather, a raven's wing, black crow / черная ворона, черный как ворон, как перо ворона, крыло ворона/ שחור כעורב (very black); black cat, a stack of black cats / черная кошка/ שחור/ חתול שחור (a sign of bad); Black Cattle, Black Angus / Чёрно-пёстрая порода коров, Черный Ангус / אנגוס שחור (black breed, require little maintenance, are good mothers, and are very feed efficient).

**Human Body:** black substance/ черная субстанция, черное вещество / השחור החומר (a base nucleus in the midbrain influences addiction, reinforcement, and movement behaviors; the ideal black substance absorbs and emits radiation with all frequencies); black-haired / черноволосый; black-eyed / черноглазый; a black eye / черные круги под глазами; / עיגולים שחורים (English, dark circles (bruising around the eyes because of lack of sleep, oversleeping, extreme fatigue)); black chimney sweep / черный трубочист (soiled, dirty).

**Skin Color:** black, black man, black race, / черныи, черная раса/ שחור (of African or Arab ancestry origin, brown to black skin vs a white person of fair skin; Russian, additionally – a person with dark hue skin; Hebrew, additionally, Ethiopian ancestry); the black population / чернокожий, чернокожее население / גזע שחור, אוכלוסייה שחורה (a racial group).

## 1.2. Human Activity

**Etalon Color:** (as) like soot, ink, pitch, coal, the devil / чёрный как сажа, смоль, уголь, черт/ שחור כחם (as); black gold / черное золото / זהב שחור (oil, petroleum); black earth/чернозем (humus-rich soil); the blackest black, Vantablack / суперчерный / שחור משחור (absorbs 99.965 percent of light).

**Black & White Image:** B&W picture, photography, film, image, TV, memories / черно-белые фильм, фотография, телевидение, воспоминания / סרט, צילום, טלוויזיה, זכרונות שחור לבן (B/W, B&W, continuous spectrum, a range of shades of gray vs colorful).

**Clothing:** Official black robe, black cloak / черная мантия / שחורי הגלימה (Judges Wear; Catholic monks/jurists); Little Black Dress/маленькое чёрное платье / שמלה שחורה קטנה (simply cut, short evening or cocktail dress, designed by Coco Chanel); black personality/ человек в черном (dignified person,

very independent, strong-willed individuals with in total self and surroundings control, high corporate executives, high-powered attorneys, entrepreneurs);

**Mourning:** in black / в черном / בשחור (sadness, sorrow clothing of the darkest visual hue vs white dress, the bride's wedding dress); Black ribbon / черная лента / סרט שחור.

**Military:** black berets / чёрные береты / כומתות שחורות (addresses of paramilitaries and armed forces around the world).

**Food, beverages:** black coffee, black chocolate / чёрный кофе, черный шоколад / קפה שחור/שוקולד (without milk; from cocoa solids and cocoa butter); black tea / черный чай / שחור (more oxidized than oolong, yellow, white and green teas); black beer/ черное пиво/ בירה שחורה (black beer, with a high alcohol content vs white beer with low alcohol); black bread / чёрный хлеб / לחם שחור (bread from rye flour, Europe, North America, Israel).

**Medicine:** Black Death, black pox / черная смерть, черный мор, черная чума, черная оспа / אבעבועו שחורותמגפה, מוות שחור, אבעבועות מגפה שחורות (different pandemics); black and blue (hematoma in the tissues that surround the eye), Russian – синяк; Hebrew-כחול, blue); black triangle / Черный треугольник / משולש שחור (new, shot termed medicines under additional monitoring; a Nazi concentration camp badge by "asocial" inmates; lesbian or feminist pride, solidarity symbol); black box warning / предупреждение о черном ящике / שחורה אזהרת / קופסה (important instructions for certain medications with dangerous or even fatal side effects); black medicine / черная медицина / רפואה שחורה (Russian, anatomical and medical knowledge, for mutilation and murder, mandatory for the special military units of the state, police and military personnel studying; Israel, preferably illegal or borderline providing medical services).

**Drugs:** black beauties (Illegal amphetamines in the forms of pills, capsules, powder, paste); black gungi / Черный, Черняшка / שחור (black, raw opium vs לבן, white heroin).

**Board games:** blackblacks/ черные фигуры, играть черными / שחורים (the black-colored pieces in chess & draughts, checkers, etc. vs white-colored pieces).

**Competition:** a black diamond / черный алмаз / יהלום שחור (high level of difficulty); black belt / черный пояс / חגורה שחורה (Asian martial arts, high-level skills vs white belt, a beginner belt).

**Sports:** eye black / чёрный глаз (in American football, baseball, softball, and lacrosse grease or strip is applied under the eyes to reduce glare, although studies have not conclusively proven its effectiveness).

**Hybrid War, Disinformation:** black lie / черная ложь / שקר שחור (deliberate misrepresentation of

facts, deceiving vs white lie for good purpose); black slander, to black / черная клевета, очернить / להשחיר (slander); black press, propaganda, radio transmission / черная пресса, пропаганда, радиопередача / חוררה, תעמולה שחורה (falsehoods, partial truths, masquerades to discredit an opponent vs white propaganda, with open-source); blackwash / черная метка на белом заборе репутации (an attack to ruin good reputation.); a black spot / черное, темное пятно / כתם שחור (discrediting).

**Secret Operations:** a black program, a black project, black operation / чёрный проект, черный бюджет / מיזם שחור (top-secret military, defense, intelligence project that is not publicly acknowledged by government, military personnel, or contractors); Black Site/black site / אתר שחור (military, location of an unacknowledged black project).

**Economy:** Black Market / черный рынок / שוק שחור (trade by prohibited goods and services); black money / черные деньги, работать по-черному / כסף שחור (surreptitiously, illegally income, in cash, tax evasion vs white money, legal income); The Economic Black Hole / Экономическая черная дыра / החור השחור הכלכלי (a depression-like economic state, regardless of productivity growth); Black Friday / Черная пятница / בלאק פריידי (1929, the stock market crash; nowadays popular shopping day); black knight / черный рыцарь / אביר שחור (an undesirable takeover bid for a company vs the white knight, savior, buyer, saving the company from bid); black business, Black Economy / כלכלה שחורה (shadow economy; Russian, теневая экономика; entirely outside the tax and regulatory system);

**Profit:** Black Friday / Чёрная пятница / בלאק פריידי (the Friday following Thanksgiving in the United States as the start of the Christmas shopping season, a record day of consumerism in the US; Hebrew, transliteration from English).

**Employment:** black collars / черные воротнички – белые воротнички / שחור צוורון לבן (manual laborers vs white collars, professional employees); black collar crime / преступление черных воротничков / פשע צווארון שחור (robbing, a murder).

**Voting:** to blackball / положить черный шар (to vote against).

**Computers, Devices:** Black, or Blue Screen of Death, Doom/ Черный экран / מסך מוות שחור (a fatal system error of the Microsoft Windows operating system); a black hacker / черный хакер / האקר כובע שחור (illegal, malicious hacking work vs white hacker with good purpose); black box / чёрный ящик / קפסה שחור (in science, computing, engineering, a transistor, an engine, an algorithm; the human brain, an institution, government (a complex device with known inputs and outputs, but not the inner workings; an electronic recording device for the investigation of aviation accidents and incidents; mysterious), BlackBox testing

/ тестирование черного ящика / בדיקת קופסה שחורה (software tests refer only to the input and output of the system without reference to the internal structure of the component or system vs white-box tests, testing the internal structure of the system).

**Typography** black page /чёрная страница (nothing written on it vs white space, without symbols, for emphasizing the importance); blacked-out / зачернить / להשחיר (crossed out).

**Art, Literature:** The Black Book – Blacklist / Черная книга – Черный список / הרשימה השחורה (documents and testimonies about crimes against the Jewish people in the Nazi-occupied territory of the USSR and Poland during the Holocaust; distinct animals and plants since 1500; Endangered Species; Invasive Species graffiti slang, drawings, and photographs of graffiti).

**Music:** black metal / черный металл / מטאל שחור (a heavy and extreme style, musical genre).

**Morbid humor:** black humor / черный юмор / הומור שחור (making fun of sacred, untouchable topics), black comedy / черная комедия / קומדיה שחורה (morbid and serious topics).

### 1.3. Intellectual, Mental, and Moral Issues

**Clarity, Intelligibility:** black on white, in black and white, put down in black and white /черным по белому / שחור על גבי לבן (finally, without doubt, in writing, an obvious distinction, with no gradations, in writing, right or wrong, good-bad, with no grades, positive/negative, either-or, all-or-nothing); as clear as black and white (Russian – ясно как божий день); not (all) black and white, not everything is black and white / не все черное и белое / לא הכל שחור (not everything is as it seems; there is room for doubt); turn white as black, called black – white, pretend/say that black is white, swear black is white /называть черное белым / לקרוא לשחור לבן (to interpret something contrary to the obvious); the devil is not so/ as black as he is painted / не так страшен черт как его малюют (it's not as scary as people think and say).

**Intellectual activity:** black hat / чёрная шляпа / כובע שחור (critical thinking to identify obstacles, risks, dangers, problems, inconsistencies in Six Thinking Hats of Edward de Bono, a method to improve the decision-making process in groups); black and white thinking /черно-белое мышление/ השיבה בשחור-לבן (dichotomy, right-wrong, good-bad, without grades, of the utmost clarity, positive-negative, either-or, all-or-nothing).

**Unpredictable, Unexpected, Rare Event:** Black Swan / Чёрный лебедь / הברבור השחור (an unpredictable outlier event, with severe consequences. Nothing in the past suggests its possibility, after-the-fact explanations make the event appear explainable and vs White Swan, a predictable event).

**Exception, Ostracism:** black sheep of the family / черная овца в семье, в каждом стаде есть черная овца/ כבשה שחורה במשפחה (completely different person of a group, team; parallel to white crow).

**Prohibition vs Permission:** black flag /черный флаг / דגל שחור (prohibition vs white flag permission of bathing); a black list, blacklisting, blacklisted / черныи список / רשימה שחורה (out of favor, prohibited, deny-list vs white-list, allow – list, permitted, denied – accepted, undesirable, unfriendly friendly, accessing to a privilege, service, mobility, or recognition vs black list, prohibition to service; law, computing, people or entities to be shunned, banned, punished; homonym – white flag, the international surrender or truce symbol; extinct species dating back to 1600).

**Unsuccessful, Difficult:** a black day, for a day to be black, about a black day / черныи день, на/про чёрныи день / יום שחור (unfortunate event, financial, health hard problems); to blackball / положить черныи шар (to vote against).

**Depression, Pessimism, Gloomy, Dismal:** the black dog, black mood / черная (зеленая) тоска; весь черныи, чернее тучи / היה בעיניים, נעשה לי שחור (hypochondria, the despair, severe and prolonged depression); black thoughts, black doubts, black suspicions / черные мысли, черные подозрения (extreme bad thoughts); a black future / רואה שחורות, חווה שחורות, שחור משחור, סרט שחור (execution is the most pessimistic prediction; Russian – мрачныи прогноз); to paint in black colors / представлять в черном цвете (represent as evil or harmful).

**Harmful, Terrible, Evil, Wicked, Sinister:** a black look, get / give a black eye / сглазить (anger, hatred, utter contempt, Russian – дурной глаз, Hebrew – עין רעה, bad eye); black-hearted / чёрная душа (unkind person); black-green-yellow envy / чёрная зависть / קנאה שחורה (very envious of a person's talent, beauty, wealth); black betrayal / черная измена; black ingratitude / черная неблагодарность (Hebrew, כפוי תודה); a black mark beside name / черная метка (a sign of a threat, a warning of impending troubles, a massacre); Blackbeard's flag / черныи флаг / דגל שחור (anarchist, pirate flag).

**Illegal, Criminal, Malignant:** black deed / черное дело / מעשים שחורים (crimes and misdemeanors); little black book / черная книжка / ספר שחור קטן / (secret directory, a source of illicit knowledge as a weapon); black realtor / черныи риелтор (criminal fraud with the purchase of apartments; English – realtor of black skin); Black Widow / Чёрная вдова / האלמנה השחורה (killed, brought to death one or more husbands); черные копатели, чёрные археологи / חופרים שחורים (Illegal archaeologists); a black crime / черное преступление / פשע שחור (brutal heinous crime).

**Magic, Occult, Wizard, Witchcraft:** black word/ чернокнижие, чернокнижник (sorcery, a sorcerer practicing black magic); black magic, black art/ черная магия / כישוף שחור (supernatural powers for bad purposes vs white magic for good purposes); a black cat crossing your path / черная кошка перебежала дорогу/את דרכך (harbingers of a bad); черная кошка пробежала – проскочила между ними / התול שחור חוצה את דרכך (the raising mutual hostility, quarrel); black rider / черныи всадник (one of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse); Black Knight Tattoo / Тату Черныи Рыцарь/ קעקוע אביר שחור.

## 2. The Unique Trilingual BLIS

### 2.1. English

**Etalon color:** as black as Newgate's knocker, over Bill's mother's, thunder, ace of spades, hat, the minister's coat, friar.

**African-American Community:** Black Girl Magic (amazingness of black women); Black real estate agent, Black clients; Black World, Black Twitter, Black Exchange (a media site), Black studies, Black History, Black Migration, Black Family Research, Black Records, Black Psychology.

**Violence:** crime in B& W (black to white persons), black-on-black crime (black to black persons); Black Lives Matter (anti-police, anti-race discrimination movement); black don't crack (lack the aging effects);

**Clothes:** black-tie (solemnity, a black-tie event/af-fair dress code).

**B&W Image:** black wallpaper (black pixel, without any light vs the white pixel which produces light); inane black ice (difficult to see area), black areas of drought(unemployment).

**Magic:** saintly black character (film, literature, a black character magically aids white characters); two blacks do not make a white (one injury, wrongdoing does not justify another); black eye (evil eye; Russian – дурной глаз).

**Miscellaneous:** black metal / чёрныи металл / מטאל שחור (a heavy and extreme style, musical genre); in black (English, profit, no debt); blackout (a failure: blackout (of electrical power, boycott as a labor union action; lapse of memory); the black (a wildfire suppression); black side (pessimistic view of the situation, Russian – темная сторона; Hebrew – חצי כוס – האסרה); black hat (villain); code black (warning: code black (about a school – danger; military – ambush; hospital – bomb, suspicious object); beyond the black stump(uninhabited places); blackmail, to put the black on somebody (forcing to do or pay something by threatening to reveal a secret); saintly black character (film, literature, a black character magically aids to white characters); two blacks do not make a white (one injury, wrongdoing does not justify another); pot

calling the kettle black (criticizing, accusing someone else in his own guilty); once you go black, you never go back (Russian – береги честь смолоду).

## 2.2. Russian

**Unskilled, auxiliary, physically difficult, dirty:** черная работа (black work), держать в черном теле (keep in a black body, give bad attitude), чёрная пятница (black Friday, working day, cancellation of holiday); черная лестница (back stairs, for business or household needs), черный ход (back door vs front door).

**Unprocessed, partially processed:** чёрные металлы (metallurgy, black metals, alloys, based on iron); черный болт (black nut).

**Humble origin:** чёрная кость (black bone, vs white bone, noble origin), черное духовенство (Black clergy, Orthodox clergy, a monastic vow vs to the white clergy).

**Extremely Reactionary:** черные силы реакции (black reaction forces), черная сотня (Black Hundred).

**Unfortunate, difficult:** черный год, черная страница, черная полоса, черная пора, черное время (black year, page, strip, time, problematic period); черная сторона жизни (black side of life, unpleasant part of life); черный человек (black spirit, split personality).

**Illegal:** черные лесорубы (black lumberjacks, illegal logging); с черного хода (from the back door, to achieve something dishonestly); чёрное слово (black word, evil world); очернить (denigrate).

**Miscellaneous:** чернозем (rich black soil); bold: заголовок черным (typography, bold header in black as opposed to light type); черный человек (black spirit, split personality).

## 2.3. Hebrew

**Orthodox:** blacks / שחורים (Jewish orthodox long-wearing in winter and summer with a high hat); ישיבה שחורה (an ultra-Orthodox yeshiva); כיפה שחורה (kip-pah, Russian – ермолка, the ultra-Orthodox velvet small head cap vs הכיפה הסרוגה, the national Zionist crochet dome in a variety of colors and sizes).

**Protest:** מחאת דגלים שחורים (demonstrations for the Israeli government rotation in 2021–2020).

## Discussion

This study presents and analyses about 430 idioms (about 180 English, 160 Russian, and 100 Hebrew idioms). The scholars noted that English (17–23 %) and Russian BLIS (24 %) have the same ratio in the total color idioms amount [Zavvalova 2011: 308–309; Yakovleva etc., 2015: 33; Knodel 2019: 247], while we have no data on Hebrew color idioms. The equivalents and unique BLIS ratio is as follows: in English 140–40, in Russian 130–25, and in Hebrew 100–3.

In quantitative terms, Russian unique BLIS outnumber English and especially Hebrew idioms.

More than 80 % of trilingual BLIS are equivalent, a fact consistent with Kövecses [Kövecses 2010: 217] claiming that some conceptual metaphors are near or potentially universal, though not universal in an absolute sense. Cases of differences in the meanings of the same phraseological units have been noted: black medicine in Russian means anatomical and medical knowledge for inflicting mutilations and murders, and in Hebrew, it is preferred medical services on the verge of legality.

Undoubtedly, many equivalents of recent years are borrowings from English as the modern language of science, technology, and culture. Thus, the term *Black Swan* or *Extremely unlikely rare event* entered Russian and Hebrew from N. Taleb's book "The Black Swan" published in 2007.

The BLIS meanings were combined into associative chains based on logical-semantic relationships, as we see in this example: the meanings Unsuccessful, Difficult are associated with Depression, Pessimism. Then the associative chains were organized into two trilingual groups – Equivalent and Unique BLIS. Microsystem BLIS Equivalent now classified them in this way: 1. *The optical color of the object. 1.1. Nature. Natural phenomena, Physical Objects – Resources; Flora – Fauna; Body – Skin color. 1.2. Human Activity. Etalon Color – Black and White Image; Clothing: Official – Mourning – Military; Food, Beverages; Medicine – Drugs; Board Games – Competition – Sports; Hybrid War: Disinformation – Secret Operations; Economy – Profit – Employment; Vote; Computers, Devices; Typography; Art: Literature – Music – Morbid Humor. 1.3. Intellectual, mental and moral problems. Clarity is an intellectual activity; Unpredictable event – Exception; Prohibition versus permission; Unsuccessful, Difficult – Depression, Pessimism; Ruinous – Illegal; Magic.*

The significantly different Unique BLIS are systematized separately in each language in this way: English: *Etalon color – African-American community; Violence; Clothes; B&W Image; Miscellaneous. Russian: Unskilled, Auxiliary, Physically Difficult, Dirty – Unprocessed, Partially Processed; Humble Origin; Extremely Reactionary; Unfortunate; Illegal; Miscellaneous and Hebrew: Orthodox; Protest.*

This concept of a semantic field allows BLIS to include new idioms in the future as they appear. BLIS microsystems are not sealed and can be organized in different ways, for example, in our article Drugs are associated with Medicine, but they can also be associated with the meaning Illegal.

Gadányi [2007: 136] in his study of Slavic, including Russian, color adjectives noted the typicality for them of such phenomena as synonymous rows, anto-

nymic oppositions, and polysemy. This issue in English and Hebrew BLIS requires deep study, but we have already observed some interesting linguistic phenomena.

Some BLIS are polysemic, so, following the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the first meaning of a *black box* is "a generally complex electronic device whose internal mechanism is usually hidden from the user or mysterious to him in a broad sense: anything that has mysterious or unknown internal functions or mechanisms" when the second meaning is "an impact-resistant device in an aircraft for recording cockpit conversations and flight data".

In some cases, BLIS show synonym rows: not (all) black and white, not all black and white. The existence of non-color equivalents in two languages is found, for example, it is clear as black and white in Russian – as clear as daylight.

BLIS are parallel to blue, less often *green and yellow* idioms, for example, *Black/Blue Screen of Death*, *blue/green/yellow envy*. BLIS have the meaning of prohibition-permission that is linked to punishment, for example, *black-white salary* has *red-green* parallels, while *red-green* antinomy during the Covid-19 pandemic, controversially, is associated with what a recommendation.

Since black-white are colors that are at the two ends of the achromatic scale, the antonymy black-white is the most lexical and semantically polarized, which we see in such examples: black-white in games, black – white economy. The antonymy black-white with the black color in the first place is diachronically associated with strong negative or strong positive connotations in examples such as *black and white magic*, *black and white hacker*, and *black and white thinking*.

In addition, BLIS are distinguished by a rare lexical and semantic phenomenon, for example, phraseological units black sheep and white crow are both color opposites and semantic synonyms, and phraseological units *black flag* (pirate, ruthlessness) and *white flag* (surrender, truce) are quasi-antonyms [Knodel 2019: 272].

The scholars emphasized that black metaphorically refers to negative connotations, and white to the positive ones [Hamilton 2016: 130; Talapina 2008: 15] but noted a few positive black connotations: "Black is viewed positively in the phrases in the black "solvent, in profit", black-tie event "formal social gathering", little black dress a simple, elegant black dress that can be dressed up or down depending on the occasion – a must for every woman's wardrobe" [Allan 2009: 627]. It should be noted that the connotation of Hebrew BLIS featured moderation even in negative terms. We indicated the neutral connotations of BLIS in the microsystem Natural Objects Color, such as a black hole, black coffee, tea, and even such

an artifact as dark chocolate that still didn't sign by scholars.

Regarding unique BLIS that originated because of the unique living environment, religion, custom, philosophy, and many other factors, it is noticeable that there are more Russian BLIS than English ones, and there are few unique BLIS in Hebrew. English BLIS generally expand such equal associative chains as an *African-American Community*, *Clothes*, *Magic*, when Russian BLIS add the new meanings of *Unskilled*, *Auxiliary*; *Unprocessed*; *Humble origin*; *Extremely Reactionary*, and Hebrew unique BLIS focused on the metonymy of the *Orthodox Community*.

## Conclusions

The study answered key research questions about the number of equivalent, and unique BLIS in each language, the possibility of organizing BLIS associative chains and microsystems based on logical-semantic related meanings, and also the question about the similarities and differences in BLIS in the three languages.

In this innovative phraseological research related to contrastive color linguistics, numerous trilingual BLIS are presented, numbered, and analyzed when Hebrew idioms are being collected and researched for the first time. BLIS are integrated into numerous semantic associative chains based on logically connected lexemes, and then into two trilingual microsystems: equivalent idioms and unique idioms. The suggested classification combined physical objects, a large number of human activity areas, also mental, and ethical characteristics, and the possibility of including new idioms.

Among equivalent BLIS, the group of natural phenomena and objects of physics is the smallest, followed by the group of artificial objects, and the largest is the group of intellectual, mental, and moral problems. Are found cases when BLIS could be included in different associative chains due to their polysemy.

Our results prove that about 80% of trilingual BLIS are equivalent, indicating a strong base of intercultural communication and the number of equivalent BLIS are expanding due to the active borrowing of scientific, technical, and social science terms. At the same time, the unique BLIS of each of the three languages significantly enrich the language picture of the world.

The metaphorical meaning of black and white antinomy that corresponds to the position of these colors on the achromatic scale could be traced in many associative chains. The paper shows a parallel of BLIS with blue/green and, to a lesser extent, yellow idioms, as well as a parallel with a lexical-semantic pair of red-green idioms in the meaning of *Prohibition – Permission*.

Future research will focus on the antinomy of *black and white*, on the relationship of *black, white, and gray idioms*, as well as on the color metaphorical characteristics of personality. It is especially important to study the peripheral trilingual color terms (yellow, gray, brown, lilac, pink, etc.) and make a generalization for primary and secondary trilingual color metaphors.

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## Сопоставительный анализ идиом с лексемой «черный» на английском, русском языках и иврите

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**Аннотация.** Целью работы является сбор и анализ английских, русских и ивритских идиом с лексемой *black* / *черный* / שחור (далее – BLIS (black idioms)), при этом сбор ивритских идиом и сопоставление этих трех языков является предметом научного исследования впервые. В статье предлагается систематизация *черных* идиом на основе микросистем, состоящих из их ассоциативных цепочек значений с логически и семантически связанными значениями. Материалом работы послужили около 440 идиом (из них около 180 на английском языке, 160 на русском языке и 100 идиом на иврите), собранных из трехязычных электронных лексических, фразеологических источников и в результате интернет-поисков. В исследовании использовались качественный и количественный контекстуально-функциональный, семантический и культурно-лингвистический анализ в рамках лингвокультурологического подхода. После создания списков идиом, выявления их значений и сравнения разработана классификация с группами эквивалентных и уникальных БЛИС. Микросистема эквивалентных БЛИС, в свою очередь, состоит из двух групп ассоциативных цепочек: 1. Оптический цвет объекта. 1.1. Природа. Явления природы, физические объекты – Ресурсы; Флора – Фауна; Тело – Цвет кожи. 1.2. Человеческая деятельность. Эталонный цвет – Черно-белое изображение; Одежда: Официальная – Траурная – Военная; Пища, напитки; Медицина – Наркотики; Настольные игры – Соревнования – Спорт; Гибридная война: Дезинформация – Секретные операции; Экономика – Прибыль – Занятость; Голосование; Компьютеры, устройства; Типография; Искусство: Литература – Музыка – Мрачный юмор. 1.3. Интеллектуальные, психические и моральные проблемы. Ясность – интеллектуальная деятельность; Непредсказуемое событие – Исключение; Запрет в сравнении с разрешением; Неудачный, Трудный – Депрессия, Пессимизм; Губительный – Незаконный; Магия.

Предлагаемая классификация охватывает физические и психические характеристики, большое количество сфер деятельности человека и позволяет включать новые ЧИ в будущем. Эти результаты могут быть эффективно использованы в изучении второго языка, в человеческом и особенно в автоматическом переводе. Описанные эквивалентные метафоры доказывают наличие общих черт в лингвокультурной картине мира, а уникальные БЛИС дополняют эту картину, что имеет важное значение для межкультурной коммуникации и автоматического перевода идиом.

**Ключевые слова:** колоративная лингвистика; контрастивная лингвистика; цветовая метафора; идиомы; черный; английский; русский; иврит.