



The Impact of Color Symbolism on Using Color Idioms in English and Kurdish Languages

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Abstract

This study is an attempt to examine the impact of color symbolism on using color idioms in English and Kurdish languages. It aims to discover the relationship between color symbolism and color idioms in English and Kurdish. At the same time, it attempts to find out the non-arbitrary meanings of idiomatic expressions. The paper tries to seek appropriate answers for these questions: do the meanings of colors used in idiomatic expressions match with what colors symbolize? Are there any differences between color idioms in the two languages? The paper adopts a qualitative approach for analyzing the meaning of color idioms. The sources of data are one Kurdish dictionary of idioms (Jalal, 1980) and three English dictionaries of idioms (Flavell, 1992, Spears, 2005, and Ayto, 2009). The results of the study show that a significant amount of color idioms are affected by color symbolism. Color idioms of English and Kurdish languages convey meanings that are close to each other as the color symbolism for both cultures is very similar. It is concluded that not only color idioms are affected by color symbolism but the color symbolism is also affected by color idioms.

Keywords: Color Symbolism, Color Idioms, Impact, English, Kurdish.

1. Introduction

Language artists are the ones who use figurative speech, and idiomatic expressions are one part of figurative language. Idioms are giving beauty to language; colors are giving light to language. Whenever idioms and colors combine, they give fantastic results. Idioms have been defined as combinations of words that give a meaning that differs from the meaning of each individual word. It is not easy to learn idioms in any language because one can't guess the meaning from the words that make them. When it comes to color idioms sometimes one can guess the meaning from the color that is used in the idiom. This study discusses the matching between color idioms and color symbolism in English and Kurdish color idioms.

The study aims to discover the relation between color symbolism and color idioms in English and Kurdish. The meaning of idiomatic expressions is still controversial, at the same time the color symbolism varies from one culture to another. It is not easy to know how the color idioms got their meanings when many scholars of idioms believe that the meaning of idioms is arbitrary. This paper attempts to find answers for the following questions: Do the meanings of colors used in idiomatic expressions match with what colors symbolize? Are there any differences between the meanings of color idioms in the two languages?



This paper uses English and Kurdish dictionaries of Idioms. Because of the lack of the Kurdish resources of idioms one Kurdish book about idioms will be used for data collection with three English dictionaries of idioms. This paper adopts qualitative method to analyze the idiomatic expressions that are taken from English and Kurdish dictionaries of idioms and compares the results of the analysis to find out the concluding points about color idioms.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 Origin of the Word and Definitions

The term idiom had been taken from the Greek word *idioma* which means peculiarity. Every language has plethora of idioms that are used among its speakers very frequently. English language has near 25000 idiomatic expressions which brought fun into the language (Duvnjak, 2015). Aboulalaei in his book called *330 Essential Idioms* (2015, p.6) defines idioms as “A set expression of two or more words that means something other than the literal meanings of its individual words.” Reijonen (2005, p.13) gives details to the definition “because these expressions are, in the broad sense, metaphorical, one cannot usually discover their meanings by looking up the individual words in an ordinary dictionary; because they are more or less invariable or fixed, both in wording and certain grammatical ways, they cannot be changed or varied in the way literal expressions are normally varied, whether in speech or writing.” These definitions show that idioms have figurative meanings not literal ones. One can’t expect the meanings of idioms from the literal meaning of its words.

Palmer (1978, pps.98-99) states “an idiom is semantically like a single word, but it doesn’t function like one.” He further talks about grammatical restrictions on idioms; some idioms can be changed to past while others can’t, singular nouns in idioms can’t be changed to plural and vice versa, adjectives in idioms can’t take comparative and superlative forms, and some idioms can take passive forms while others can’t. Palmer sees phrasal verbs as a very common type of idioms which is a combination of verb plus adverb. He explains that phrasal verbs are idioms because the meaning of a phrasal verb can’t be predicted from the meaning of individual words in many cases. A partial idiom is another type of idiom that Palmer talks about; one word has its usual meaning, on the other hand, the other word has an unpredictable meaning like *red hair*.

According to Rana (2016) idiomatic expressions carry arbitrary meanings. Idioms got their meanings by coincidence not by following rules. She further explains that recent research shows that many idioms are explainable and carry non-arbitrary meanings. Idioms have always been explained as having figurative meaning (Reijonen, 2005). There are no rules for non-native speakers to follow because they are seen as having arbitrary meanings. But going back to the origin of each idiom explains that the meaning of idioms is not random. Concerning Rana’s view Routledge Encyclopedia (2010) confirms that there is no consensus agreement among idiom scholars about the meaning of idioms either arbitrary or not. It is a great opportunity for linguists to do research about idiomatic expressions in order to reach to a final agreement.



Duvnjak believes that a huge number of idioms were not giving figurative meanings but they had literal meanings. Some past situations and occasions gave birth to some idioms but these special situations and occasions are replaced by new ones, while the expressions continued to be used by people as idioms that got fixed meanings that are different from literal meanings. “Therefore, idioms have often been considered “dead” or “fixed” metaphors, i.e. expressions that were once innovative but are now conventionalized and frozen in language.” For example, *Red tape* means anything that may delay or hold us up; originated from the fact that legal and official documents were tied up with red tape since the 16th century. By doing so, it was often difficult to access them (2015, Ps.128-129). The first two definitions of by Aboulalaei and Reijonen show that idioms have figurative meanings while Duvnjak shows the opposite. He believes that idioms once had literal meanings but with the passage of time they got figurative meanings.

Kurdish language shows very clear examples of the shift from literal meaning to idiomatic meaning. Some expressions were said to specific people in the past but those people died long time ago, while the expressions gained idiomatic meanings and people still use them. For example, *Rostem nêrbû yan mē?* It is used when talking to someone for a long time but the person couldn't understand. It seems that there was a man who lived in the past and named *Rostem* who had this characteristic. Another example, *Ferhad kûž* means someone who is against love and living together, *Ferhad* is the protagonist of a very famous story in the past (Jalal, 1980).

There is no clear cut agreement about the meaning of idioms, and there is no problem in saying that some idiomatic meanings are arbitrary and there might be other idiomatic expressions that got meanings following some rules. This claim is a very strong support for this paper's hypothesis that there is a relation between color symbolism and color idioms. Color idioms didn't get their meanings randomly.

2.2 Features and Functions of Idioms

Non-native speakers of any language might ask; why we should use idioms? What is the benefit of using idioms? Why not just using simple words or sentences to express ourselves? Aboulalaei (2015) answers that people use idioms to make language richer and more colorful which pleases the listeners or readers of any language. Replacing a literal meaning with an idiom shows the proficiency of the speaker or writer. Precision might be acquired with using idioms because an idiom gives more specific meanings. At the same time the terseness function of idioms is important, which means using fewer words to express your ideas and feelings. Idiomatic expressions have three main characteristics that made them special in language:

Compositeness: idioms are accepted as a type of multi-word expression. Idioms are composed of words and these words function as a single unit. Example, *Your wife is as pretty as a picture. Your wife is pretty.* These examples show the feature of compositeness of idioms. Instead of using one word, there are a number of words in the idiom but still has the same meaning of the one word adjective (Elshamy, 2017).



Institutionalization: Sabah (2016) talks about some characteristics of idioms that can be regarded as sub-features of institutionalization: An idiom has a **fixed word order**. Example, *He is going to beat the man black and blue*. But *He is going to beat the man blue and black* does not give the same meaning. The constituents of an idiom **cannot be omitted**. As opposed to it, adding constituents is not possible as well. Example, *once in a blue moon* means rarely, but *once in a moon* sounds ridiculous. One **cannot substitute any element of an idiom with another** one. Example, *The schools rules are black and white*, but *The schools rules are black and blue* is meaningless. The **grammatical structure of an idiom** is fixed. Example, *Sana blacked out during the lecture*, while *The teacher blacked Sana out* is not possible.

Semantic opacity: this feature is apparent from most of the definitions of idioms. One cannot get the meaning of an idiom from the meaning of its individual parts or constituents. They are often non-literal but figurative. Look at this example; *It is your turn to break a leg!* This idiom composed of three constituents (v. break+ artic. a+ n. leg). One will never expect the meaning (good luck) of this idiom from its parts (Elshamy, 2017). These are the standards that most idiom scholars agree that they are available in most idioms but this is not a clear cut agreement. There are idioms that miss one of the features that most idiom scholars are talking about. Dealing with idiomatic expressions is problematic because of the discrepancies that idioms have.

2.3 Color Symbolism

Color symbolism is not universal; culture has the most influential effect on colors. Colors are associated with politics, mythology, religion, and linguistics. To clarify more; choosing the flag color is a political issue. It is associated with religion because people will view colors in the same way that religious texts talk about it. Colors are also associated with language through using color idioms and expressions. They bring happiness, sadness, beauty, love, anger, and calmness to our life. Colors are necessary for communicating ideas, feelings, and emotions (Fussell, 2020). Colors have two different types of symbolism; one from its plastic content or its pure hue and the other meaning derived from the culture in which people live. The latter is shaped by the history of every nation or the world in general, and by the way humans think about colors (Arts & Parikh, 2013).

Black symbolizes death and mourning, when people see black they remember *black death* and the unseen or mysterious world. In most cultures, people use black in funerals. This is seen in UK and US, in Kurdish culture people wear black after they lose someone in their family or relatives. White symbolizes purity, innocence, virginity. Brides wear white to show purity in most of the cultures. And it is used by brides in Kurdish culture as well. Red has a universal symbolization which is blood. And blood is the sign of danger, anger, or revenge. It has other symbolizations like excitement, danger, love, and passion. Pink is a delicate and soothing color; it is related to happiness. Green symbolizes growth, new life, and nature in most of the cultures, but it gained another meaning which is jealousy when Shakespeare referred to jealousy as *Green eyed monster*. It can be said that not only language is affected by color but colors are affected by language as well. In Kurdish language, when someone is so envious people say *he/ she became green* (Girard, 2019) and (Fussell, 2020).



According to Olesen (2013) gray is a neutral color and unemotional color. It symbolizes stability because it is the color of stone. Yellow symbolizes creativity, energy, and warmth on one hand; while it represents cowardice deception and caution on the other hand. It is related to pale and it symbolizes sickness. Blue brings **calmness, authority, and peace** to most people in the world. Seeing the color blue reminds us of sky and the sea which is very relaxing. It is related to authority because police officers wear blue. Gold is the color represents success, prestige, affluence, and prosperity. May be it got this symbolization because of the expensive price of gold material. The color silver has a close meaning to gold; it depicts strength, richness, and craftsmanship. Both English and Kurdish cultures have similar symbolizations for these colors.

2.4 Color Idioms

Duvnjak (2015) mentions that our world is a colorful world, as humans, we are surrounded by colors; these colors affected our way of living and even our way of speaking. There are many idioms in every language that contain color terms. Idioms are mostly used by native speakers of every language, the meanings of these idioms are related to the way speakers feel when they see them. Color idioms are somehow related to the emotional state of the speakers. When native speakers have a very strong emotional state, they express this emotion through using a color idiom. It is not easy for non-native speakers of a language to use idioms frequently.

Putri et al.(2021) says that idioms in one language are related to the culture of the people who use the language. They do not always mean the same with the idioms in another language. More specifically color idioms are more related to culture but one shouldn't forget that the most colors symbolize the same thing in many cultures. Color symbolism is almost the same in both English and Kurdish cultures.

The color white has always been related to positive feelings like purity and peace. At the same time, there are some idioms that have negative connotations like, *white trash* and *white elephant*. So, the white color has both negative and positive symbolic meanings. Another color to be discussed is black. The concepts like dark and deep as well are related to the black color. This color means the absence of light which has a negative connotation. The black color mostly gives negative emotions but there are specific situations in which the black color symbolizes goodness. *To be in the black* means being a successful person, *marked in black ink* the black ink used in companies during making profit (Kemertelidze & Giorgadze, 2021).

What is not black and not white is grey; its symbolic meaning is dullness; it is also associated with old age *grey hair*. Grey is also associated with decoloration which means sickness. The idiom *to get/have gray hair* from indicates that someone is very worried or upset. Similarly, the idiom *to give gray hair* to means to worry, bother someone. The colors green and yellow are somehow close to each other in symbolizing. Sometimes a green color is



perceived as yellowish and vice versa. Yellow and green are associated with bitterness, envy, jealousy, cowardice and fear (ibid).

3. Methodology

3.1 Data Collection

The data has been collected through searching in three English dictionaries of idioms (Flavell, 1992, Spears, 2005, and Ayto, 2009), and a Kurdish dictionary of idioms (Jalal, 1980) to find all the idioms related to colors. So, the main sources of data collection are dictionaries of idioms in the two languages that help in achieving the necessary results.

3.2 Data Analysis

The collected data has been categorized and analyzed qualitatively. Content analysis is used as the main type of qualitative approach to analyze the color idioms and compare them in English and Kurdish languages. Every color idiom has its explanation and example under the columns. Then, the color idioms in both English and Kurdish languages are compared to find out similarities and differences in their meanings to show the matching between color symbolism and the meaning of color idioms.

There are a huge number of color idioms in English language. There are eight tables for the English color idioms; every table is about one color. The first table is about black color idioms; it shows 20 idioms, their meanings, and sentence examples. Most of the black color idioms give negative meanings, but there are very few idioms that give positive meanings.

Table 1: Black Color Idioms in English Language

No.	Color Idioms	Meaning	Sentence Examples
1.	Be in someone’s black books (Ayto, 2009, p.31)	When you are unwanted or disfavored by someone.	The man has always been in my black books .
2.	Beyond the black stump (Ayto, 2009, p.31)	Being away from people and civilization.	Many people in Africa are living beyond the black stump .
3.	Black and blue (Ayto, 2009, p.31)	Bruising after being punched or beaten by someone or something.	His face was in black and blue .
4.	Black box (Ayto, 2009, p.31)	Something hidden or mysterious	Every government has a black box that people will never understand.
5.	The black dog (Ayto, 2009, p.31)	It represents melancholy or depression	Modern world humans are unable to control the black dogs inside them.
6.	Black hat (Ayto, 2009, p.31)	In every situation there are people who act badly.	Nancy is seen as the black hat in the class.
7.	A black mark against	An action disapproved by	The man is a black mark



	someone (Ayto, 2009, p.31)	other people.	against the new project.
8.	A black sheep (Spears, 2005, p.48)	A bad person considered a failure in a family or group.	My friend lives with me because he was seen as a black sheep in his family.
9.	A black spot (Ayto, 2009, p.31)	A notorious place with high crime rate.	Every country has a black spot .
10.	In the black (Ayto, 2009, p.31)	Not owning any money.	After losing my job, I am in the black .
11.	In black and white (Ayto, 2009, p.31)	In writing or in print	Your speech should be in black and white to gain support.
12.	Not as black as you are painted (Spears, 2005, p.47)	Not as bad as you are said to be.	Our boss is not as black as she is painted ; in fact he is quite friendly.
13.	The pot calling the kettle black (Ayto, 2009, p.31)	Someone making criticism about someone else which could equally well apply to themselves.	His wife is the pot calling the kettle black but she behaves in the same way her husband does.
14.	Swear black is white (Ayto, 2009, p.31)	To testify the opposite of what is true for your own purpose.	The lawyer was swearing black is white but the judge didn't believe.
15.	A black day (Flavell, 1992, p.30)	Unfortunate day.	Losing my father was a black day for my family.
16.	Fly the black flag (Flavell, 1992, p.30)	It is used for war, when they decide to kill everyone without mercy.	Hitler flew the black flag when he decided to destroy the Jews.
17.	Be in a black humor or mood (Flavell, 1992, p.30)	Unhappy or sad	Don't speak to Mum; she is in her black mood .
18.	To look as black as thunder (Flavell, 1992, p.30)	Very furious and hostile	The woman looked as black as thunder when her husband deceived her.
19.	To blackball (Flavell, 1992, p.31)	To exclude someone from a social group or club.	He fought with many people, and they blackballed him.
20.	To blacklist (Flavell, 1992, p.31)	To list the name of someone in a bad list or a list related to wrongdoers.	All the banks blacklisted him after doing illegal things.

The second table categorizes white color idioms; it gives the idioms, their meanings, and sentence examples. Through searching in dictionary of English idioms, 16 white color idioms have been found. The meanings of the white color idioms show that white color idioms have positive and negative meanings.



Table 2: White Color Idioms in English Language

No.	Color Idioms	Meaning	Sentence Examples
1.	Big white chief (Ayto, 2009, p.380)	Someone important or successful	I want my son to be a big white chief .
2.	Bleed someone white (Ayto, 2009, p.380)	To take all the money that someone has.	I want to travel to Dubai, but it is bleeding white .
3.	Mark something with a white stone (Ayto, 2009, p.380)	Regard something as fortunate.	I got the highest degree today; I need to mark this day with a white stone .
4.	Men in white coats (Ayto, 2009, p.380)	The healthcare professionals who work at a mental health institution.	You are talking nonsense; it seems that you need men in white coats .
5.	Show the white feather (Ayto, 2009, p.380)	Appear cowardly.	After hours of fighting, he showed the white feather .
6.	A white elephant (Ayto, 2009, p.381)	A possession that is useless or troublesome, and needs money and effort to retain.	Villas are the white elephants of modern time but people still want them.
7.	White hat (Ayto, 2009, p.381)	A hero in a movie or a good person.	Every story has a white hat .
8.	White hope (Ayto, 2009, p.381)	A person expected to bring much success to a team or organization.	John is a very talented person; he is the white hope of this company.
9.	A white knight (Ayto, 2009, p.381)	One who saves another person from harm or difficult situations?	She wants to marry a white knight .
10.	The white man's burden (Ayto, 2009, p.381)	The burden that white men had to colonize black people.	White man's burden made people suffer for a long time.
11.	A whited sepulcher (Ayto, 2009, p.381)	A hypocrite	Modern world humans are whited sepulchers of all ages.
12.	Whiter than white (Ayto, 2009, p.381)	Extremely white, morally beyond reproach.	Our grandparents were whiter than white .
13.	White as a sheet (Spears, 2005, p.755)	Extremely pale in the face, because of fear, illness or shock.	She is as white as a sheet! She might be scared.
14.	A white Christmas (Spears, 2005, p.755)	A Christmas when it snows.	A white Christmas is the dream of every child.
15.	The white flag (Flavell, 1992, p.30)	To surrender.	After a long debate they were forced to show the white flag .
16.	A white lie (Flavell, 1992, p.30)	A small or harmless lie said in order not to hurt somebody.	My wife asked me if I liked her new dress and I told her



			a white lie.
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The third table presents 17 blue color idioms, their meaning, and sentence examples. Blue color idioms either represent positive meanings or negative meanings. When you look at the meanings of these idioms, you can see that they give positive meanings in some of them and negative meanings in others.

Table 3: Blue Color Idioms in English Language

No.	Color Idioms	Meaning	Sentence Examples
1.	Between the devil and the deep blue sea (Ayto, 2009, p.35)	When you are between two terrible choices.	John can't do anything because he is between the devil and the deep blue sea .
2.	Blue on blue (Ayto, 2009, p.35)	Used to denote an attack by a military force on members of its own side	All the attacks that the army was making were blue on blue ; finally, the soldiers left the army.
3.	Blues and twos (Ayto, 2009, p.36)	The siren and blue flashing lights of an emergency service vehicle.	Don't be stubborn let the blues and twos pass; may be someone is about to die.
4.	Blue-chip (Flavell, 1992, p.37)	Reliable and giving it back.	Try to work with blue chip companies as they are more secure.
5.	Boys in blue (Ayto, 2009, p.36)	Police men	Be careful boys in blue will arrive soon.
6.	Clear blue water (Ayto, 2009, p.36)	A clear difference between two people, parties, and group.	There was clear blue water in our products but they won as they bribed the judges.
7.	Do something until you are blue in the face (Ayto, 2009, p.36)	Doing whatever you can but without results.	She argued with the boss until she was blue in the face , but the boss fired her.
8.	Once in a blue moon (Spears, 2005, p.472)	Very rarely	My son left me last year; I can see him once in a blue moon .
9.	Out of the blue (Spears, 2005, p.113)	Without warning; very unexpectedly.	My friend Elsa got cancer out of the blue .
10.	Scream blue murder (Ayto, 2009, p.36)	Make an extravagant and noisy protest.	You can see people who scream blue murder on the streets everywhere.
11.	Talk a blue streak (Ayto, 2009, p.36)	Speak continuously and at great length.	The students couldn't understand the lesson; the teacher was talking a blue streak .
12.	True blue (Ayto, 2009, p.36)	Genuine	My watch is a true blue Rolex. I gave a high price for it.



13.	The wide blue yonder (Ayto, 2009, p.36)	The sky or sea.	We went on a yacht; the wide blue yonder was amazing.
14.	Like a blue-arsed fly (Ayto, 2009, p.36)	In an extremely hectic or frantic way.	My brother behaves like a blue-arsed fly .
15.	A blue eyed boy (Ayto, 2009, p.36)	The favorite of someone in authority.	People are always flattering blue eyed boys .
16.	Like a bolt from the blue (Spears, 2005, p.404)	Totally unexpectedly.	Anna's boyfriend asked her to marry him like a bolt from the blue .
17.	The blue Ribbon (Flavell, 1992, p.34)	High quality.	There are many hotels that provide blue ribbon service.

The fourth table presents 10 yellow and green color idioms. Only the first one is yellow color idiom while others are green color idioms. Yellow color idioms give negative meanings, but green color idioms give positive and negative meanings.

Table 4: Yellow and Green Color Idioms in English Language

No.	Color Idioms	Meaning	Sentence Examples
1.	A yellow belly and a yellow streak (Spears, 2005, p.287)	Cowardice, a quality of being easily frightened.	He never wanted to fight. I always knew he had a yellow streak in him.
2.	Green about the gills (Ayto, 2009, p.155)	Looking or feeling ill	Do you have any pain? You are green about the gills .
3.	Green light (Ayto, 2009, p.155)	Permission	I am waiting for your green light to start the project.
4.	Green with envy (Ayto, 2009, p.155)	Very envious or jealous.	The girls in my sister's class are green with envy because of my sister's success in the science project.
5.	The green-eyed monster (Ayto, 2009, p.155)	Jealousy	Humans have green-eyed monsters that need to be controlled.
6.	Green shoots (Ayto, 2009, p.155)	Signs of reviving activity.	They lived in very poor conditions throughout their lives, may by its time to make green shoots .
7.	Have green fingers (Ayto, 2009, p.155)	Have a natural ability to grow plants successfully.	Most of the students that apply for college of agriculture don't have green fingers .
8.	Wear the green willow (Ayto, 2009, p.155)	Grieve for the loss of a loved one.	After the death of her husband, she wears the green willow .
9.	Wigs on the green (Ayto, 2009, p.155)	The discussion might become unpleasant.	Try to be quiet and respectful with the officers, otherwise, there will be wigs on the green .



10.	The grass is always greener on the other side (Ayto, 2009, p.155)	Some people think that other people’s lives or situations always seem better than their own.	No matter what you have the grass is always greener on the other side.
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The fifth table presents 10 red color idioms in English language. The table shows the idioms, their meanings, and sentence examples. The red color idioms mostly give negative meaning as the color red is associated with blood. The sixth table presents 3 pink color idioms, their meanings, and sentence examples. Pink color idioms give positive meanings.

Table 5: Red Color Idioms in English Language

No.	Color Idioms	Meaning	Sentence Examples
1.	In the red (Ayto, 2009, p.287)	In debt	James said that he cannot afford for the ring because he was in the red , but she insisted and they broke up.
2.	Paint the town red (Ayto, 2009, p.287)	Go out and enjoy yourself flamboyantly.	After graduating from college, I will paint the town red.
3.	Red as a beetroot (Ayto, 2009, p.287)	Red- faced, typically through embarrassment.	My brother was as red as a beetroot when a girl in my class talked to him.
4.	The red carpet (Ayto, 2009, p.287)	Welcoming very special people.	My parents will visit us; we need to put the red carpet for them.
5.	A red herring (Ayto, 2009, p.287)	Something which is or is intended to be misleading or distracting.	Red herring is a literary device.
6.	Red in tooth and claw (Ayto, 2009, p.287)	Savage in a conflict or a competition.	The boxer was red in tooth and claw ; he smashed his opponent.
7.	A red letter day (Ayto, 2009, p.288)	A pleasantly memorable and happy day.	Marriage is the red letter day for everyone.
8.	A red rag to a bull (Ayto, 2009, p.288)	An object, utterance, or act which is certain to provoke or anger someone.	Putting the journalist into jail was a red rag to a bull for the protesters.
9.	See red (Ayto, 2009, p.288)	Become very angry suddenly.	Fred saw red when Sara talked to her ex-boyfriend.
10	Red- light district (Ayto, 2009, p.288)	An area of a city or town containing sex businesses.	There are many red-light districts in America.

Table 6: Pink Color Idioms in English Language

No.	Color	Meaning	Sentence Examples
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	Idioms		
1.	Be tickled pink (Spears, 2005, p.703)	Be extremely amused or pleased.	Send a birthday card for your mom; she will be tickled pink .
2.	In the pink (Spears, 2005, p.343)	In extremely good health	Kids are always in the pink .
3.	pink elephants (Spears, 2005, p.590)	Hallucinate because of being intoxicated by alcohol.	Stop drinking! Otherwise, you will see pink elephants .

The seventh and eighth tables present golden and grey color idioms, their meanings, and sentence examples. 13 golden color idioms and 2 grey color idioms; golden color idioms give positive meaning while grey color idioms give positive and negative meanings.

Table 7: Gold Color Idioms in English Language

No.	Color Idioms	Meaning	Sentence Examples
1.	All that glitters/glisters is not gold (Spears, 2005, p.11)	Things that are attractive are not always good.	My mom said that although he is popular in college but all that glitters is not gold .
2.	A gold mine (Spears, 2005, p.267)	Very profitable business.	Working as a doctor nowadays is a gold mine .
3.	As good as gold (Spears, 2005, p.84)	Very well behaved.	The children were as good as gold . They were playing nicely with each other the whole afternoon.
4.	A heart of gold (Spears, 2005, p.285)	A kind and helpful nature.	My husband gets angry in some situations but I know he has a heart of gold .
5.	To be worth one's weight in gold (Ayto, 2009, p.150)	To be very useful or valuable.	A reliable friend is worth its weight in gold .
6.	Like gold dust (Ayto, 2009, p.150)	Very rare and difficult to obtain.	Don't even think about your project; it seems like gold dust . Try something achievable.
7.	The streets are paved with gold (Duvnjak, 2015, p.134)	A place where it seems easy to make money.	Young people are heading toward European countries thinking that streets are paved with gold there.
8.	To strike gold (Duvnjak, 2015, p.134)	To find exactly what one needs.	I was so confused about what I am going to do with my research but finally I struck gold .
9.	The golden age/era (Ayto, 2009, p.151)	A very successful period	From 8th century to the 14th century were the golden eras in the history



			of Islam.
10.	A golden boy/girl (Ayto, 2009, p.151)	A successful person in his/ her field.	There are many golden boys in my country.
11.	A golden handshake (Ayto, 2009, p.151)	An amount of money given to those who are fired or leave their jobs.	People always hate being fired but there is something good in it which is the golden handshake .
12.	The golden rule (Ayto, 2009, p.151)	Some pieces of advice that is so important to remember and apply in your life.	Don't compare yourself to others. This is a golden rule .
13.	Silence is golden (Ayto, 2009, p.151)	Being silent and not speaking is better than speaking in some situations.	"Speech is silver, silence is golden ."

Table 8: Grey Color Idioms in English Language

No.	Color Idioms	Meaning	Sentence Examples
1.	A grey area (Ayto, 2009, p.155)	An ill-defined situation or field not readily conforming to an existing set of rules.	Police officers are not going toward the grey areas for protecting themselves.
2.	Little grey cells (Ayto, 2009, p.156)	Brain cells (as symbolic of high intelligence or mental acuity).	Elon musk is very successful because he has little grey cells .

The Kurdish color idioms in this paper have been taken from a book written by *Jalal Mahmud Ali* in 1980. There are 34 color idioms, their meanings, and sentence examples. The color idioms are in Kurdish language but translated into English, and the sentences are in Kurdish as well. It was not easy to find out the color idioms of Kurdish language because of the lack of resources. At the same time, it was time consuming to find color idioms in the Kurdish dictionary that was used, because the idioms were not in order; every idiom was in a different page. The researcher read the book of *Idioms in Kurdish Language* from the beginning till the end to find color idioms. The first table shows 12 black color idioms in Kurdish language. All the black color idioms in this table have negative connotations.

Table 1: Black Color Idioms in Kurdish Language

No.	Color Idioms	Meaning	Sentence Examples
1.	ئاوه رهشی هیناوه Brought the black water	Spreads bad news	زۆر بهی هه‌و‌ا‌هه تهلەڤزیۆنیه‌کان ناوه رهش ده‌هینن.
2.	پشت چهوت کێوی رهش کهوێت Be after seven black mountains	An unwanted person by someone.	ئه‌و رویشته به‌من چی پشت چهوت کێوی رهش کهوێت.
3.	پیشه‌ی رهشی نه‌گرتوه	Still young	پیاوه‌که که‌چی دوایی کرد که هینشتا



	His bone is not black yet		پیشه‌ی رهشی نه‌گرتبوو.
4.	روو رهش Black face	Full of sins and notorious among people	ئهوانه‌ی نازاری خهل ئه‌دهن روو رهش ده‌بن له دونیادا.
5.	چاوی رهشی کال کردهوه His/ her black eyes became pale	Disappointed after waiting for a long time.	کورکه له ژوانه‌که‌دا چاوی رهشی کال کردهوه به‌لام کچه‌که هه‌ر نه‌هات.
6.	ده‌روونی رهشه Black psyche	Bad	زور یارمه‌تی هاو‌ریکه‌م دا به‌لام که‌لکی نه‌بوو چونکه ده‌روونی رهش بوو.
7.	له رهش رهشتر نیه There no black blacker than black	There is no word more than worst to express badness.	من چیت پی بلنم له رهش رهشتر نیه.
8.	ده‌ستی رهشه Black hand	Destroying whatever touching.	کاره‌کانت به‌و مه‌سپیره ده‌ستی رهشه.
9.	دلی رهش بووه His/ her heart became black	Became a bad person.	هاو‌ریکه‌م که‌سێکی دل نه‌رم بوو به‌لام ئیستا دلی رهش بووه.
10.	ره‌شایی داهاات Blackness came	Can't see clearly	ئا‌هه‌نگی‌کی خوشبوو به‌لام له نا‌کاو ره‌شایی داهاات.
11.	ره‌ش و رووت Black and naked	Poor	یارمه‌تیدانی ره‌ش و رووت کاریکی چاکه.
12.	ره‌ش هه‌ر رهشه Black is black	Bad is bad.	هه‌ولی چاکبوونی مه‌ده ره‌ش هه‌ر رهشه.

The second and the third tables present 10 white and red color idioms in Kurdish language. Both white and red color idioms in Kurdish language have negative and positive connotations. The fourth table presents 7 yellow and green color idioms in Kurdish language, their meanings, and sentence examples. Yellow and green color idioms have positive and negative connotations. The last two tables show gold and grey color idioms in Kurdish language. Gold color gives positive meanings in Kurdish color idioms while grey color idioms give positive and negative meanings.

Table 2: White Color Idioms in Kurdish Language

No.	Color Idioms	Meaning	Sentence Examples
1.	ده‌ست و پی سپییه Got white hands and feet	Knowing nothing.	کابرا پاره‌ی زوری هه‌یه به‌لام ده‌ست و پی سپییه.
2.	چاوی سپی بێت His/ her eyes become white	Will die soon.	نه‌خۆشه‌که چاوی سپی بووه، و ابزانم مردوووه.
3.	رووت سپی بێت Have a white face	A successful and well behaved person.	سه‌یران کچیکی چاکه، رووی سپی بێت.
4.	پرچی سپی بو ده‌هۆنیته‌وه Braiding white hair for him	A very loyal person, especially girls in relations.	خۆشه‌ویسته‌که‌ی ژنی هینا دوا‌ی ئه‌وه‌ی که کچه‌که پرچی سپی بو هۆنیته‌وه.



5.	سه‌ری له‌بهر هه‌تاو سپی کردوه Getting white hair under the sun	An old person learned nothing from life.	ژنه‌که سه‌ری له‌بهر هه‌تاو سپیکردوه هه‌چ شاره‌زایی نیه.
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Table 3: Red Color Idioms in Kurdish Language

No.	Color Idioms	Meaning	Sentence Examples
1.	چاوی سوور بووه His/ her eyes are red	Angry and stubborn	هه‌چ هه‌ولی له‌گه‌ل مه‌ده چونه‌که چاوی سوور بووه.
2.	بۆته که‌وێ سووری به‌ر له‌شکر Become the red skin of an army	Someone who is always in the front lines and ready.	خۆت مه‌که به‌ که‌وێ سووری به‌ر له‌شکر با شتیکت به‌سه‌ر نه‌ی.
3.	خه‌ته سووێ له‌خۆم دووړی The red line is away from me	To protect yourself from problems	تو شه‌رت کردوه من ده‌رۆمه‌وه بۆ ماله‌وه، خه‌ته سووړی له‌ خۆم دووړی.
4.	کلاو سووری به‌ر له‌شکره Red hat of an army	A courageous person.	براکه‌م کلاوه سووره‌ی به‌ر له‌شکره له هه‌موو بارودۆخیکدا.
5.	روو سوور Red face	Doing something that makes you proud.	شه‌هیدانی کوردستان هه‌ر به‌ روو سووری ده‌میننه‌وه.

Table 4: Yellow and Green Color Idioms in Kurdish Language

No.	Color Idioms	Meaning	Sentence Examples
1.	ده‌ستی سه‌وز ده‌بیت Having green hands	Getting a very high status.	پنشه‌مه‌رگه‌مکانی نه‌شتمان هه‌میشه ده‌ستیان سه‌وزه.
2.	که‌سه‌که کونده Green person	Someone who is jealous about others.	ئه‌وه‌نده‌ی خه‌م له‌ خه‌لک بخوات بۆته که‌سه‌که کونده.
3.	سه‌وز خه‌ر All green	Selling without profit.	به‌ر هه‌می گه‌نمی نه‌م سالی گونده‌که‌مان سه‌وز خه‌ر ده‌رچوو.
4.	ده‌لێی زه‌عفه‌رانی زه‌رده Like yellow saffron	Sick person.	من‌داله‌که ده‌لێی زه‌عفه‌رانی زه‌رده بۆ نایه‌ی بۆ دکتۆر؟
5.	روو زه‌رد Yellow face	Sinful and regretful.	ده‌سه‌لاتداره خه‌راپه‌کان هه‌میشه روو زه‌رده‌ن به‌ر امبه‌ر به‌ گه‌ل.
6.	زه‌رد و زۆله Yellow and pale	Unripen	شوتیه‌کان لێمه‌که‌مه‌وه زه‌رد و زۆلن.
7.	زمانی زه‌ردوویه‌تی His/her tongue has Jaundice	Frightened and can't talk.	لێی گه‌رێ با قسه نه‌کا زمانی زه‌ردوویه‌تی.

Table 5: Gold Color Idioms in Kurdish Language

No.	Color Idioms	Meaning	Sentence Examples
1.	بازنی زه‌یری له‌ ده‌ستدایه Wears golden bracelet	A very talented person.	که‌چه‌که‌ی قومری بازنی زه‌یری له‌ ده‌ستدایه، بیه‌که به‌ بوکی خۆت.
2.	ده‌لێی زه‌یری You are like gold	You are talented and honorable.	که‌چه‌که‌ی من ده‌لێی زه‌یره.



Table 6: Grey Color Idioms in Kurdish Language

No.	Color Idioms	Meaning	Sentence Examples
1.	بۆره پیاو Grey man	A normal man who is not famous or not known by people.	بۆره پیاویک که خۆشیبو نیت باشتیره له پاشایهک.
2.	بۆره خزم Grey relatives	A relative that you hardly know.	ئهو مندهی کردم بیرم نه کهوتهوه که نهو بۆره خزمیکی باوکم بوو.
3.	بۆره Grey	Not good	بۆره کان کاری چاک ناکهن.

3.3 Similarities and Differences between the Two Languages

The similarities and difference between the color idioms in the two languages can be shown in the following points depending on the data in the methodology section:

1. Black color idioms are similar in both English and Kurdish languages. The idiom *black is black* represents the same thing in both English and Kurdish. The black color idioms that are found in both languages are related to sadness and ambiguous dark sides of human beings. The meanings of the black color idioms in English and Kurdish languages match with the black color symbolism (death and mourning).
2. White in both English and Kurdish cultures represents purity and positivity. Although it symbolizes positivity in the two cultures but the white color idioms don't always give positive meanings. In English *Men in white coats* has a negative meaning and *white elephant* refers to something useless and unimportant. In Kurdish there are many idioms that convey negative meanings like, *çawî spî bwe* which means sickness.
3. Grey is a neutral color or it is between black and white. Sometimes it symbolizes positivity and other times negativity. Grey color matches with the meaning of grey color idioms because there are idioms with positive meanings and idioms with negative meanings. In English *Grey areas* represents a bad situation or place while *Little grey cells* refers to an intelligent part of brain. In Kurdish *Bore pyaw* means a normal man and *Bore xzm* means a relative that you hardly know. Grey in Kurdish color idioms is used for someone between goodness and badness or not good and not bad.
4. Blue is related to authority and calmness, it symbolizes peace and nobility. *She's all blue* means sadness. Blue color idioms either represent positive meanings or negative meanings. Some English blue color idioms like, *Blue blood* is used to refer to someone from a noble family. *Blue stocking* means being educated and intellectual. The *blue Ribbon* means high quality and *True blue* means genuine. On the other hand, *she is all blue* means sadness which is another blue color idiom



that represents something negative. I couldn't find blue color idioms in Kurdish, but there is an idiom *şîn û mor bwe* or *rengî şîn bwe* means sickness like the English idiom *all blue*. It can be said that some blue color idioms match with color symbolism of blue which is authority and nobility.

5. Yellow color symbolizes creativity and energy on one side and cowardice or fearfulness on the other hand. Yellow color idioms in Kurdish and English represent sickness and cowardice. The meaning of yellow color idioms match with the yellow color symbolism.
6. Green symbolizes nature and growth, but when it comes to green color idioms, we see that most of them are related to jealousy in both English and Kurdish languages. The color green has got the symbolization of jealousy after its use in color idioms. Shakespeare added this symbolization to green; this means that colors are affected by language in the same way that language affected by colors.
7. Red symbolizes danger, anger, and love. The red color idioms in English and Kurdish languages mean the same thing. In Kurdish *çawi sîr bwe* means became angry and in English *see red* means angry.
8. Pink symbolizes happiness in English and Kurdish cultures. All pink color idioms in English are representing happiness. It is a color that loved by kids and has not got any negative meanings.
9. Gold is the color represents prestige and prosperity; all the gold color idioms are referring to valuable and prestigious people or things. In Kurdish an idiom like *Delêy zêrî* means you are an honorable and talented person. In English *Golden rule* means a very important advice.

4. Conclusions

Most of the color idioms in both English and Kurdish languages match with color symbolism in English and Kurdish cultures. But the colors white and blue have some exceptions; some of the white and blue color idioms give meanings that match with color symbolism but there are other white and blue color idioms that don't match with their color symbolism. On the other hand a color idiom like green reverses the rule of influence; color symbolism is affected by the meaning of this color idiom and at the same time green color idioms are affected by green color symbolism. We can say that color idioms in both languages are affected by color symbolism. The color symbolism in English and Kurdish cultures is very similar; so, almost all the meanings of Kurdish color idioms match with the meanings of English color idioms. There are some color idioms that if you translate them into English, they are exactly the same thing. Depending on these results, this paper draws a conclusion that color idioms have not got their meanings randomly, but they have their origins which is color symbolism in English and Kurdish cultures.



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كارىگهري سيمبوليزمى رنڭ له سهر ئيديۆمه كانى رنڭ له زمانى كوردى و ئينگليزى

به رائهت ئيسماعيل فه قن عه بدولا

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پوخته

تويژينه وه كه ده ربه رى كارىگهري سيمبوليزمى رنڭه له سهر ئيديۆمه كانى رنڭ له زمانى ئينگليزى و كورديدا. تامانجى تويژينه وه كه دۆزينه وهى په يوه ندىيه له ئيوان سيمبوليزمى رنڭ و ئيديۆمه كانى رنڭ له زمانى ئينگليزى و كوردي. له هه مان كاتدا هه ولده دات ماناى ناهه ربه مكي ده سته واژه ئيديۆميه كان بدۆزيتيه وه. تويژينه وه كه هه م پرسيارانه ئاراسته ده كات: ئايا واتاى رنڭه كان كه به كارها تون له ده سته واژه ئيديۆميه كان په كده گرئيه وه له گه ل ئه و واتايه رنڭه كان ده بيه خشن؟ ئايا هيج جياوازيه ك هه يه له ئيوان ئيديۆمه كانى رنڭ له هه ردوو زماندا؟ تويژينه وه كه ريبازى چۆنيه تى ده گرئيه بهر بۆ شيكردنه وهى واتاى ئيديۆمه كانى رنڭ. سه رچاوهى داتا كان فه ره ه نكي ئيديۆمه له زمانى ئينگليزى و كوردي. ده ره نجامه كان ئه وه نيشانده دن كه ژماره يه كى زۆرى ئيديۆمه كانى رنڭ كه وتۆته ژير كارىگهري سيمبوليزمى رنڭ. ئيديۆمه كانى رنڭ له زمانى ئينگليزى و كوردي مانا يان له يه ك نزيكه له بهر ئه وهى سيمبوليزمى رنڭ له هه ردوو كه لتوو زۆر له يه ك نزيك. بۆيه ده توانين تويژينه وه كه كۆتايى پيهيئين به وهى كه نه ك ته نها ئيديۆمه كانى رنڭ كارىگهرن به سيمبوليزمى رنڭ ته نانه ت سيمبوليزمى رنڭكيش كارىگه ره به ئيديۆمه كانى رنڭ.

وشه سه ره كيه كان: سيمبوليزمى رنڭ، ئيديۆمه كانى رنڭ، كارىگهري، ئينگليزى، كوردى.

تأثير الرموز الملونة على استخدام المصطلحات اللونية في اللغتين الإنجليزية والكردية

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ملخص

تناولت الدراسة تأثير رمزية اللون على استخدام المصطلحات اللونية في اللغتين الإنجليزية والكردية. يهدف إلى اكتشاف العلاقة بين رمزية اللون والتعبير اللونية في اللغة الإنجليزية والكردية. تحاول الدراسة معرفة المعاني غير التعسفية للتعبيرات الاصطلاحية. تطرح البحث الأسئلة التالية: هل يتطابق معنى الألوان في التعبيرات الاصطلاحية مع ما ترمز إليه الألوان؟ هل توجد اختلافات بين التعبيرات الاصطلاحية اللونية في اللغتين؟ تبنى الورقة نهجاً نوعياً لتحليل معنى التعبير اللونية. مصادر البيانات هي قاموس المصطلحات اللونية في اللغتين الانكليزيه و الكرديه. تظهر نتائج الدراسة أن عدداً كبيراً من التعبيرات الاصطلاحية للألوان تتأثر بالرمزية اللونية. تعطي التعبير اللونية للغة الإنجليزية والكردية معاني قريبة من بعضها البعض لأن رمزية اللون لكلا الثقافتين متشابهة للغاية. يمكن أن نستنتج أن التعبيرات الاصطلاحية للألوان لا تتأثر فقط برمزية اللون ولكن رمزية اللون تتأثر أيضاً بالتعبير اللونية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: رمزية اللون، المصطلحات اللونية، تأثير، الإنجليزية، والكردية.