

PHILOLOGY

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Metaphoric binary opposition white / black in the idiomatic worldview of the English language

It is considered the study of the symbolic component of the white / black binary opposition semantics. Researching this problem is a relevant task of modern linguistics because it provides an opportunity to retrace the complex process of evaluating the surrounding reality with the help of contrasting color terms. The work purpose is to identify metaphorical meanings of this opposition in the idiomatic worldview of the English language. The paper shows that the white / black binary opposition, containing two initially non-evaluative color terms, often acquires symbolic content and performs an axiological function in English idioms. The author describes the main metaphorical meanings of this opposition (good / evil, socially approved behavior / deviations from norms of behavior, legality / illegality, happiness / sadness etc.) and made a conclusion about its symbolic richness and significant axiological potential.

Key words: binary opposition, metaphorical meanings, color terms, axiological function, idiomatic worldview, English-speaking culture.

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