

THE METAPHORICAL NOMINATIONS FOR COLORS
IN MACEDONIAN AND ALBANIAN

Elizabeta Bandilovska, Ljulzim Ademi

Abstract: Subject of research: The nouns as nominations for a color or a nuance of a color presented through examples of typical adjectivization of one of the meanings in the process of secondary nomination and the composition of the lexical-semantic group with the meaning *color* in the Macedonian and Albanian language. **Methods:** Lexical-semantic analysis and comparison of the metaphorical noun nominations for colors in Macedonian and Albanian. **Results:** There are metaphorical nouns which establish new nomination, a kind of a color or a nuance of a color through a process of secondary nomination according to the element of color, which is most commonly present in the same composition of the noun itself, which denotes another notion in its basic meaning (a metal, a mineral, a plant, an animal): akvamarin (aquamarine), bordo (bordeaux), drap (beige), indigo (indigo), krem (beige), karmin (rouge), mahagoni (mahogany), rezeda (reseda), tirkiz (turquoise), ciklama (cyclamen), etc.; although most of them are internationalisms, there is unequal presence of such metaphorical nouns as nominations for colors in Macedonian and Albanian. **Conclusions:** 1. Metaphor is the main and basic lexical means through which this group expands and adds new lexical units, new nouns and adjectives, and which transforms them into lexemes with a precise nuance of all that the human eye can perceive. 2. The metaphorically motivated connection is based, more or less, on similarity with real, specific notions in our language awareness, which are related analogically or associatively through the specific, marked characteristic that represents the color; 3. The similarity between the notion and its language identifier is borderline absolute. It is very noticeable, eye-catching and too obvious, thus resulting in absolute identification and precise language nomination.

Keywords: metaphor, nomination, association, similarity, comparison, nouns

Introduction

For the lexical-semantic group with the meaning *colour*, metaphor is: the main and basic lexical means used for development and enrichment with new lexical units, especially

productive semantic model for creating secondary lexical meanings with new language value, a characteristic attribute that marks the group itself with indefiniteness in term of the number of members, constantly drawing new nouns and new adjectives, transforming them into lexemes with a precise nuance of everything that the human eye covers. The metaphorically motivated connection is based, more or less, on similarity with real, specific notions in our language awareness, which are related analogically or associatively through the specific, marked characteristic that represents the color. The similarity between the notion and its language identifier is borderline absolute, and the realization of the precise identifying value is the result of the established connection with an object that contains the specific color as an object of nomination. In this way, through the creativity of people, we can explain the constant intake of new lexemes, not with the meaning of color, but with the meaning a nuance of a color, because the spectral system of the primary colors exists in all languages, each language has its own nomenclature for naming the basic colors with the use of domestic lexemes, and the internationalisms used for naming from the type of *braon* (brown) and *oranzh* (orange) are negligible compared to the real abundance for naming nuances of colors from the type of *bakaren* (with the color of copper), *bronzen* (with the color of bronze), *bezh(ov)* (beige), *drap* (beige), *lilav* (lilac), *rezeda* (reseda), *tirkiz* (turquoise), *ciklama* (cyclamen), or syntagmas from the type *with the color of vanilla*, *with the color of sand*, *with the color of peach*, *with the color of emerald*, *with the color of champagne*, etc.

There are two cases of metaphorical associations according to the color: 1. when the element of color in the basic semantic content, present or absent as a seme from lower rank, produces a new secondary meaning with a chromatic value in lexemes, which according to the basic semantic content do not show any connection to the system of colors; and 2. when the element color from the basic semantic content of the lexeme is a dominant seme producing secondary meanings with non-chromatic value and is involved in the creation of its polysemantic structure. Further on, we are going to pay special attention to the first case, and the metaphorically created nouns, as nominations for colors or nuances of colors, will be a subject of our interest.

Research part

The nouns as nominations for colors or nuances of colors are examples for typical adjectivization of one of the meanings in the process of secondary nomination, motivated by the metaphorical development of the seme that marks the color from the basic semantic content. Further on, we are going to present nouns which include the meaning *type of color* or

a nuance of a color in their system of meanings. They are present in the everyday language practice in Macedonian and Albanian (in examples of the type: *бордо фустан* (*bordeaux dress*), *беж кошула* (*beige shirt*), *индиго чанта* (*indigo purse*), *крем чевли* (*beige shoes*), *кармин наметка* (*rouge tippet*), *резеда панталони* (*reseda trousers*), *туркиз марама* (*turquoise scarf*), *циклама здолниште* (*cyclamen skirt*), etc. They are registered both in the Interpretative Dictionary of the Macedonian language (TPMJ, 2003-2014) and the Fjalori i gjuhës së sotme shqipe (FGJSSH, 2006). At the same time, we are going to carry out a lexical-semantic analysis and a comparison of the importance and frequency of these nouns in both of the languages, having in mind the fact that we are dealing with internationalisms of Turkish origin, meaning that lexical influence and interference between the two languages is expected.

Lexical-semantic analysis

akvamarin (aquamarine) 1. A transparent semi-precious stone with the color of seawater. 2. With the color of aquamarine.

The noun **akvamarin**, has the meaning of *color* in the Albanian language, just like the Macedonian. It is called **ngjyrë gurkali**, and it is defined as *a blue-greenish colour, with the color of gurkali*. Only in one English-Albanian dictionary, this noun has the same basic meaning as in the Interpretative Dictionary of the Macedonian language: *a precious stone with a blue-greenish color which is the result of the activity of the sulfur acid on the copper*.

bakam (madder) 1. (botany) The tropical plant *Caesalpinia sappan* which gives red color when boiled. 2. With the color of madder.

bakëm (madder) 1. (botany) A strong tropical tree with red color, used for making furniture and for coloring. 2. Small pieces of this tree used for coloring, as the red color of this tree.

The noun of Turkish origin **bakam/bakëm (madder)** is found both in the Albanian and Macedonian language with the same basic and metaphorical meaning for naming the plant and the color that is produced from the plant.

bezh (beige) 1. Woolen fabric in its natural, very light yellow-brownish color, such as the color of non-whitened, clean wool. 2. With yellow-brownish color, beige color.

bezhë Of light brown-yellowish color.

The nouns **bezh/bezhë** is present in the Albanian language with similar nomination of the color as in the Macedonian language (*light brown vs. light yellow-brownish color*). What needs to be stressed is the fact that this noun in the Albanian language is a nomination that

covers two nuances of colors from the semantic area of the brown color (see Bandilovska-Ralpovska, 2016), which in the Macedonian language are denominated by two nominations: **bezh** – *oflight yellow-brownish* color and **drap** – *of light brown* color.

varzilo (brazil) 1. (botany) The Brazilian tree *Caesalpinia brasiliensis* from which red color is made. 2. The red color produced from this tree.

This noun cannot be found in the Albanian language, and it is not mentioned as a color in any dictionary. It is only found in the Macedonian-Albanian dictionary, where only the first, primary meaning of **varzilo** as *a tree from Brazil with red color* is translated.

drap (beige) 1. Woolen fabric produced from unprocessed home wool, made by spinning or weaving yarn threads from the hair cut from sheep, camels, etc. 2. Of light brown color, the color of wool.

This noun cannot be found in the Albanian language, and it is not mentioned as a color, or a word with other meaning in any dictionary. It is only found in one English-Albanian dictionary in the international form **drab** with the meaning of *brown killer color* (**ngjyrë kafe e vrrarë**).

zardechal (haridra) 1. (botany) The plant *Curcuma longa* from whose roots a powder with yellow color is produced by boiling, drying on the sun and grinding. 2. Of yellow color, the color of zardechal.

This noun also cannot be found in the Albanian language, and it is not mentioned as a color, except for the Macedonian-Albanian dictionary, in which it is translated as *a type of yellow color produced from the plant Curcuma longa*.

indigo/chivit (indigo) 1. (botany.) The tropical plant *Indigofera tinctoria*, from whose leaves, a blue pigment is produced by placing it into water and letting it to ferment with sodium hydroxide. By drying it turns into dust with dark blue color. 2. Of dark blue color, the color of indigo.

llullaq/çivit 1. Matter with dark blue color produced from the bushes from the warm areas or in a chemical way, used for coloring clothes or something else. 2. Of dark blue color, the color of this matter.

The lexeme **indigo** in the Macedonian language and the lexeme **llullaq** in the Albanian language have the same meaning system of primary and metaphorical meaning for denominating the plant and the color that is produced from this plant, as well as the same synonymic nomination, which is the Turkish noun **chivit**.

kana (henna) 1. (botany) The tropical plant *Lawsonia inermis* whose hardened leaves

give powder with orange-reddish color when dried, used for coloring. 2. Orange-reddish color produced from this plant and used as cosmetics for dyeing hair, polishing the nails, coloring the hands, etc.

këna Red color produced by processing dried leaves from a small tree (it grows in the sandy grounds of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula), usually used by women for dying hair and nail polishing.

The noun **kana/këna** in the Albanian language is only used with the meaning of *color*, which in the Macedonian language is the second, metaphorical meaning of the same noun.

krem (cream) 1. Milk fat with light yellow color, from which butter is made. 2. Oflight yellow color, the color of cream.

krem Of white-yellowish color, the color of milk.

The noun **krem/krem** both in Macedonian and Albanian is a lexeme with several meanings, whose polysemantic system also includes the adjectival meaning of *light yellow color*.

krmuz/karmin (red) 1. (zoology) A tiny insect, a parasite coming from Asia – *Dactylopius coccus*, whose eggs are used to produce intensive red color by drying and processing with acid. 2. Of strong, intensive red color.

kërmëz 1. Dark red color used by women to color the wool for socks, fiery dark red color. 2. Of dark red color, with the color of a dark red rose.

It is one of the noun nominations for a nuance of the red color in which we can notice differences both in the nomination and the meaning system of the nominal lexeme. The Turkish noun **kërmëz** used to denominate *the fiery dark red color, the color of the dark red rose* is the only nomination in the Albanian language. This lexeme, in the form **krmuz** is also found in the Macedonian language, however its use is a bit obsolete vs. the internationalism nomination **karmin**, which took over the role of a lexeme used in the standard language, on daily basis and with general use. Also, the contrast in the nomination of the nuance of the red color is noticeable: *dark red* in the Albanian language vs. *light red* in the Macedonian language (according to the Interpretative Dictionary of the Macedonian Language). By using the interpretation of A. Shkalic (1966: 420), we consider that it would be most adequate to use the lexeme **krmuz/karmin** to denominate *strong or intensive red color*.

lazur (azure) 1. A precious stone with dark blue color produced from the mineral lazurite, which was formerly also known by the name lapis lazuli. 2. Of dark blue color, the color of azure.

With the meaning *type of color*, this noun is almost unknown in the Albanian language, and cannot be found in any dictionary as a color, except for the translation, bilingual dictionaries: in the English-Albanian dictionary, it is translated as *blue color*, whereas in the Macedonian-Albanian dictionary, it is translated as a lexeme with several meanings, which includes the meaning of color, defined as *a shining fiery blue color*.

mahagoni (mahagony) 1. (botany) Red-brownish tree from the family Meliaceae, which is used to make furniture. 2. Red-brownish color, similar to the color of this tree.

This noun is found in Albanian, with the primary meaning *a tropical tree with dark red color*, but it is not mentioned in any of the dictionaries as a color. It can be found in the Italian-Albanian dictionary and the French-Albanian dictionary as **mogan**, whereas in the Macedonian-Albanian dictionary, it is translated as **mahagoni**.

oranzh (orange) 1. (botany) Subtropical evergreen fruit tree with thorny branches, leathery leaves and big round fruits *Citrus aurantium*, French nomination for orange 2. With the color of an orange; orange color.

This noun cannot be found in the Albanian language, and it is not mentioned in any of the dictionaries as a color. In all of the dictionaries, it is translated as **portokalli** – *of yellow-reddish color, with the color of a ripe orange*. In the Macedonian language, the French noun can also be found, although the adjectival form **portokalov** is used as a basic lexeme in the standard language, created on the grounds of the color of the fruit orange.

rezeda 1. (botany) Ornamental scented plant with a straight tree-trunk, spirally positioned leaves and flowers with gray-greenish color, gathered in bunches. 2. Of light grey-greenish color, the color of reseda.

This noun cannot be found in the Albanian language and it is not mentioned in any of the dictionaries as a color, nor with its primary meaning. It can only be found in the Macedonian-Albanian dictionary, in which it is translated as **rezedë** – *light green color*.

sepja (sepia) 1. (zoology) A mollusca sea animal from the family *Sepia officinalis*, with eight short and two long tentacles used for hunting prey. They have a dark brown bag filled with dark brown fluid, which they release in order to hide from the animals. 2. Of dark brown color, the color of sepia.

sepje A mollusca sea animal with egg-shaped body, like a small bag with ten tentacles around the mouth, one internal cover and one bag with black liquid, which is released in the water for protection.

This noun can be found in the Albanian language with primary meaning *mollusca sea*

animal, but it is not mentioned in any of the dictionaries as a color.

terakota (terracotta) 1. Burned clay used for making pottery objects. 2. Of brown-reddish color, the color of the terracotta.

This noun cannot be found in the Albanian language, and it is not mentioned in any dictionary as a color, except for the English-Albanian dictionary, in which **terakote, ngjyrë terakote** – terracotta, the color of terracotta can be found.

tirkiz (turquoise) 1. A semi-precious stone with specific shiny green-bluish color. 2. Of green-bluish color, the color of turquoise.

In the Albanian language the noun **bruz** is used for denominating the primary meaning, which in the Macedonian language is done by the noun **tirkiz**, whereas the adjective **bruztë**, with the meaning *of blue, dark color as the sky*, is used for denominating the second metaphorical meaning of the same Macedonian noun.

ciklama (cyclamen) 1. (botany) Decorative plant from the family of primroses Cyclamen with heart-shaped leaves, pleasant smell and flowers with strong, intensive colors. 2. Of strong, impressive pink color.

ciklamin 1. (botany) Decorative plant with heart-shaped leaves and a thick part of the root, in which there are big flowers with white and purple-reddish color. 2. Of red-purplish color, such as the color of the flowers of this plant.

The noun *ciklama/ciklamin* shows completely identical semantic development in the two languages, and the language and dictionary existence of the metaphorically acquired meaning *type of color* is noticeable.

cinober (cinnabar) 1. A mineral, natural sulphide of the mercury with strong red color. 2. Intensive, strong red color, the color of cinnabar.

This noun cannot be found in the Albanian language, and it is not mentioned as a color in any dictionary, except for the Macedonian-Albanian dictionary, in which it is translated as **cinabër**, meaning *fiery red color*.

Research results

By analyzing the nouns as nominations for a color or a nuance of a color in the frames of the lexical-semantic group with the meaning of *color* in the Macedonian language and the Albanian language, we obtained the following results:

- All metaphorically acquired nouns get the new nomination *atype of color* or *a nuance of a color* in a process of secondary nomination, according to which the element color, which is mostly present in the same composition of the noun denotes another notion in

its primary meaning (a metal, a mineral, a plant, an animal).

- The nouns in this paper are examples of typical adjectivization of one of the meanings of the noun in the process of secondary nomination and of the formation new nominative marks, with which they semantically belong to the lexical-semantic group with the meaning of *color*.
- These metaphoric nouns as nominations for colors or nuances of colors in the Macedonian and the Albanian have different language and dictionary coverage, although most of them are international nominations for colors with Romanic origin. Therefore, the nouns **varzilo**, **drap**, **zardechal**, **laur**, **mahagoni**, **oranzh**, **rezeda**, **sepija**, **terakota**, **tirkiz**, **cinober** are nominations for color in the Macedonian, but not in the Albanian language.
- As far as the abilities for lexical-semantic development and for acquiring new words with new language value are concerned, in the Macedonian language the newly acquired noun **karmin**, meaning *strong red color* creates new noun **karmin**, meaning *cosmetics used for coloring the lips red, or in any other color*. In the Albanian language, the domestic complex word **buzëkuq** is used for this meaning of **karmin**.
- The ability for derivational development and creating referential adjectives, which in their meaning system include the meaning of *a type of color* or *a nuance of a color*: **bezh** – **bezhov**, **krem** – **kremov**, **lazur** – **lazuren**, **tirkiz** – **tirkizen** (in the Macedonian language), **bezhë** – **bezh**, **krem** – **kremi**, **bruz** – **i/e bruztë**, **ciklamin** – **ciklamini** (in the Albanian language).

Conclusions

1. Metaphor is the main and basic lexical means through which the lexical-semantic group with the meaning of *color* expands and adds new lexical units, new nouns and adjectives. It transforms them into lexemes with a precise nuance of all that the human eye can perceive.

2. The metaphorically motivated connection is based, more or less, on similarity with real, specific notions in our language awareness, which are related analogically or associatively through the specific, marked characteristic that represents the color in nature.

3. The similarity between the notion and its language identifier is borderline absolute. It is very noticeable, eye-catching and too obvious, thus resulting in absolute identification and precise language nomination.

4. There is lexical influence and interference between the two languages, however we

can also notice lexical independence in the choice and the frequency of the international noun nominations in the frames of the lexical-semantic group with the meaning of *color*.

Literatura

1. Argirovski, M. (1998). *Grcizmite vo makedonskiot jazik*. Skopje: IMJ “Krstе Misirkov”.
2. Bandilovska-Ralповska, E. (2016). *Paradigmatskite odnosi kaj opisnite pridavki vo makedonskiot jazik*. Skopje: IMJ “Krstе Misirkov”.
3. Dragićević, R. (2001). Pridjevi sa značenjem ljudskih osobina u savremenom srpskom jeziku. Beograd: Institut za srpski jezik SANU.
4. Dragićević, R. (2007). *Leksikologija srpskog jezika*. Beograd: Zavod za udžbenike.
5. Fjalori i gjuhës së sotme shqipe. (2006).
6. Gortan-Premk, D. (1997). *Polisemija i organizacija leksičkog sistema u srpskome jeziku*. Beograd: Institut za srpski jezik SANU.
7. Jašar-Nasteva, O. (1984). Leksičko-semantičkiot potsistem na boi vo sovremeniot makedonski jazik. *Prilozi*, 6/2, 59-75.
8. Rečnik srpskohrvatskoga jezika. (1967-1976). Novi Sad/Zagreb: Matica srpska/Matica hrvatska.
9. Robert, P. (1989). *Le Petit Robert, Dictionnaire*. Paris.
10. Skok, P. (1971-1974). *Etimologijski rječnik hrvatskoga ili srpskoga jezika*. Zagreb: JAZU.
11. Škaljić, A. (1965). *Turcizmi u srpskohrvatskom jeziku*. Svetlost: Sarajevo.
12. Tolkoven rečnik na makedonskiot jazik, Volume I-VI. (2003–2014). Skopje: IMJ “Krstе Misirkov”.

Elizabeta Bandilovska & Ljulzim Ademi

Faculty of Pedagogy “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

Address: Blvd. Partizanski Odredi b.b.

Skopje, Macedonia

Phone: 0038975474692 // 0038975474557

E-mail: beti.bandilovska@gmail.com

ademilulzim@yahoo.com