

## **ENGLISH IDIOMS WITH THE COLOUR ATTRIBUTE “BLACK”: LINGUAL AND EDUCATIONAL APPROACH**

The study of Phraseology is a necessary part of foreign languages learning, because understanding of the native speaker mentality will improve the quality of the translation, as well as the prestige of the translator.

One of the most common ways to convey the properties of objects and phenomena has always been colour. In every single language psychological interpretation of colours differs, and it should be considered when translating set expressions. Environmental perception of different nations varies and it affects the amount of phrasemes with the same colour. Studies show that the most numerous in English are phraseological units with the colour attribute “black”. We analyzed the semantics of phraseological units with the above-mentioned component according to English-Ukrainian Phrase-Book by Barantsev K. (2005).

According to our research, in phraseological units word “black” can take such meanings:

- 1) ‘black’ – as black as a crow’s wing, as black as a raven, as black as ink;
- 2) ‘dark, black’ – as black as hell, as black as my hat, as black as pitch;
- 3) ‘shady, dark, gloomy’ (about a person) – as black as a thunder cloud/thunder;
- 4) ‘terrifying, bad’ – devil is not so black as he is painted, to paint smth. black;
- 5) ‘unlucky, hard’ – a black year, a black day;
- 7) ‘disgrace, disfavour’ – the black book, black books (‘disgrace’), to be in one’s black books, black list and black mark (‘to be in a black list’);
- 8) ‘dishonesty’, e.g.: black conscience, black market.
- 9) ‘melancholy’ – “the black dog” and “the black dog is on one’s back”.

Our research shows that English idioms with the colour attribute “black” are mainly used to indicate the negative-shaded expressive meanings, and only several phraseological units have neutral meanings. This is quiet concurrent with the similar peculiarities of phraseological units of the Ukrainian language.