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

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**Abstract**

The study is about the impact of color symbolism on using color idioms in English and Kurdish languages. It aims to discover the relation 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 asks these questions: do the meaning 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 qualitative approach for analyzing the meaning of color idioms. The sources of data are dictionary of idioms and English novels (The Glass Castle & Life After Life).The results of the study shows that a vast number of color idioms are affected by color symbolism. The color idioms of English and Kurdish languages are giving meanings that are close to each other as the color symbolism for both cultures is very similar. It can be concluded that not only color idioms are affected by color symbolism but the color symbolism is also affected by color idioms.

***Key Words*:** 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.

* 1. **Objectives and the Problem**

This paper 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.

* 1. **Research Questions**

The paper asks these questions:

1. Do the meanings of colors used in idiomatic expressions match with what colors symbolize?
2. Are there any differences between the meanings of color idioms in the two languages?
	1. **Methodology**

This paper adopts qualitative method to analyze the idiomatic expressions that are taken from English and Kurdish dictionaries of idioms. At the same time it analyses the color idioms in two English novels, and compares the results of the analysis to find out the concluding points about color idioms.

* 1. **The Scope**

This paper uses English and Kurdish dictionary of Idioms and two English novels; the first one is *The Glass Castle* written by an American author and journalist Jeannette Walls who was born in 1960. She is widely known for her book ***The Glass Castle*** which is based on a memoir of the nomadic family, who were her neighbors during her childhood in America, published in 2005 (Brown, 2022). The second one *Life After Life* written by Kate Atkinson who was born in Britain in 1951. She studied English literature at Dundee University. She later taught at Dundee and began writing short stories in 1981. *Life After Life* won the Costa Novel Award in 2013 and 2015 (Clark, 2001).

**2. Theoretical Background**

**2.1. Definition and Word origin**

The term idiom had been taken from the Greek word *idioma* which means peculiarity. From its meaning, one can find out that there are no rules to follow when it comes to idioms. 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, p.128).

Aboulalaei in his book called *330 Essential Idioms* (2015) 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.”

According to Rana (2016, P.107) 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. 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, P.268) confirms that there is no consensus agreement among idiom scholars about the meaning of idioms either arbitrary or not.

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 (Duvnjak, 2015, Ps.128-129).

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 něrbû yan mě?* 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.

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.

According to the definition of most idiom scholars, 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.

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, p.12).

**Institutionalization**: Elshamy (2017, p12) idioms are conventionalized expressions. Institutionalization happens when a multi-word expression becomes accepted and recognized as a ‘known lexical item’ and used by native speakers. The expression must be well-established and conventionally fixed in order to qualify as an idiom. The fixity of words within an expression relates to the degree of variation possible in the aspects of lexical variation. This is exemplified in the flexible phrase *catching a bus/train/cold* or the fixed unit *spill the beans* (Program, 2013, p.13).

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, p.13).

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.

* 1. **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 a 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, p.65).

Black symbolizes death and mourning, when people see black they remember *black death* and the unseen or mysterious world. In most cultures, people black used 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. In Kurdish culture, brides wear a red belt to show virginity. 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) (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.

* 1. **Color Idioms**

 Duvnjak (2015, P.130) 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, P.39) 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.

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, Ps. 2-3).

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, Ps.3-4).

**3. Methodology**

**3*.*1*.* Data Collection**

The data has been collected through searching in English and Kurdish dictionaries of idioms and finding all the idioms related to colors. Then, finding the color idioms in the two English novels ‘*The Glass Castle’* and *‘Life after Life’.* So, there are two sources of data collection (dictionaries and novels) that help in achieving the necessary results.

**3.2. Data Analysis**

The collected data has been categorized and analyzed qualitatively. Every color idiom has its explanation and example under the columns, on the other hand, the color idioms that are found in the two novels analyzed in this paper. 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.

Table 1: Black Color Idioms in English Language

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.**  | **Color Idioms** | **Meaning** | **Sentence Examples** |
| 1. | Be in someone’s black books | When you are unwanted or disfavored by someone. | The man has always been in **my black books**. |
| 2. | Beyond the black stump | Being away from people and civilization. | Many people in Africa are living **beyond the black stump**. |
| 3. | Black and blue | Bruising after being punched or beaten by someone or something. | His face was in **black and blue.** |
| 4. | Black box | Something hidden or mysterious | Every government has a **black box** that people will never understand. |
| 5. | The black dog | It represents melancholy or depression | Modern world humans are unable to control the **black dogs** inside them. |
| 6. | Black hat | In every situation there are people who act badly. | Nancy is seen as the **black hat** in the class. |
| 7. | A black mark against someone | An action disapproved by other people. | The man is a **black mark against** the new project. |
| 8. | A black sheep | 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 | A notorious place with high crime rate. | Every country has a **black spot**. |
| 10. | In the black | Not owning any money. | After losing my job, I am **in the black.** |
| 11. | In black and white | In writing or in print | Your speech should be **in black and white** to gain support. |
| 12. | Not as black as you are painted | 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 | 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 | 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 | Unfortunate day. | Losing my father was **a black day** for my family. |
| 16. | Fly the black flag | 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 | Unhappy or sad | Don’t speak to Mum; she is **in her black mood**. |
| 18. | To look as black as thunder | Very furious and hostile | The woman **looked as black as thunder** when her husband deceived her. |
| 19. | To blackball | To exclude someone from a social group or club. | He fought with many people, and they **blackballed** him. |
| 20.  | To blacklist | 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. |

Table 2: White Color Idioms in English Language

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.**  | **Color Idioms** | **Meaning** | **Sentence Examples** |
| 1. | Big white chief | Someone important or successful | I want my son to be a **big white chief.** |
| 2. | Bleed someone white | 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 | 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 | 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 | Appear cowardly. | After hours of fighting, **he showed the white feather.** |
| 6. | A white elephant | 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 | A hero in a movie or a good person. | Every story has a **white hat**. |
| 8. | White hope | 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 | One who saves another person from harm or difficult situations? | She wants to marry **a white knight.** |
| 10. | The white man’s burden | 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 | A hypocrite | Modern world humans are **whited sepulchers** of all ages. |
| 12. | Whiter than white | Extremely white, morally beyond reproach. | Our grandparents were **whiter than white**. |
| 13. | White as a sheet | 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 | A Christmas when it snows. | **A white Christmas** is the dream of every child. |
| 15. | The white flag | To surrender. | After a long debate they were forced to show **the white flag**. |
| 16. | A white lie | 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**.  |

Table 3: Blue Color Idioms in English Language

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.**  | **Color Idioms** | **Meaning** | **Sentence Examples** |
| 1. | Between the devil and the deep blue sea | 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 | 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 | 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 | Reliable and giving it back. | Try to work with **blue chip** companies as they are more secure. |
| 5. | Boys in blue | Police men | Be careful **boys in blue** will arrive soon. |
| 6. | Clear blue water | 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 | 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 | Very rarely | My son left me last year; I can see him **once in a blue moon**. |
| 9. | Out of the blue | Without warning; very unexpectedly. | My friend Elsa got cancer **out of the blue.** |
| 10. | Scream blue murder | Make an extravagant and noisy protest. | You can see people who **scream blue murder** on the streets everywhere. |
| 11. | Talk a blue streak | Speak continuously and at great length. | The students couldn’t understand the lesson; the teacher was **talking a blue streak.** |
| 12. | True blue | Genuine | My watch is a **true blue** Rolex. I gave a high price for it. |
| 13. | The wide blue yonder | The sky or sea. | We went on a yacht; **the wide blue yonder** was amazing. |
| 14. | Like a blue-arsed fly | In an extremely hectic or frantic way. | My brother behaves like a **blue-arsed fly.** |
| 15. | A blue eyed boy | The favorite of someone in authority. | People are always flattering **blue eyed boys**. |
| 16. | Like a bolt from the blue | Totally unexpectedly. | Anna’s boyfriend asked her to marry him **like a bolt from the blue.** |
| 17. | The blue Ribbon | High quality. | There are many hotels that provide **blue ribbon** service. |

Table 4: Yellow and Green Color Idioms in English Language

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.**  | **Color Idioms** | **Meaning** | **Sentence Examples** |
| 1. | A yellow streak | 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 | Looking or feeling ill  | Do you have any pain? You are **green about the gills.** |
| 3. | Green light | Permission  | I am waiting for your **green light** to start the project. |
| 4. | Green with envy | Vey 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 | Jealousy | Humans have **green-eyed monsters** that need to be controlled. |
| 6. | Green shoots | 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 | 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 | Grieve for the loss of a loved one. | After the death of her husband, she **wears the green willow.** |
| 9. | Wigs on the green | 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 | 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.** |

Table 5: Red Color Idioms in English Language

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.**  | **Color Idioms** | **Meaning** | **Sentence Examples** |
| 1. | In the red | 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 | Go out and enjoy yourself flamboyantly. | After graduating from college, I will **paint the town red**. |
| 3. | Red as a beetroot | 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 | Welcoming very special people. | My parents will visit us; we need to put the **red carpet** for them. |
| 5. | A red herring | Something which is or is intended to be misleading or distracting. | **Red herring** is a literary device. |
| 6. | Red in tooth and claw | Savage in a conflict or a competition. | The boxer was **red in tooth and claw;** he smashed his opponent.  |
| 7. | A red letter day | A pleasantly memorable and happy day. | Marriage is the **red letter day** for everyone. |
| 8. | A red rag to a bull | 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 | Become very angry suddenly. | Fred **saw red** when Sara talked to her ex-boyfriend. |
| 10 | Red- light district | 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 Idioms** | **Meaning** | **Sentence Examples** |
| 1. | Be tickled pink | Be extremely amused or pleased. | Send a birthday card for your mom; she will **be tickled pink**. |
| 2. | In the pink | In extremely good health  | Kids are always **in the pink**. |
| 3. | a pink fit | To be very angry. | If your mother catches you smoking, she’ll have **a pink fit**. |
| 4. | pink elephants | Hallucinate because of being intoxicated by alcohol. | Stop drinking! Otherwise, you will see **pink elephants**. |

Table 7: Gold Color Idioms in English Language

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.**  | **Color Idioms** | **Meaning** | **Sentence Examples** |
| 1. | All that glitters/glisters is not gold | 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 | Very profitable business. | Working as a doctor nowadays is **a gold mine.** |
| 3. | As good as gold | 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 | 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 | To be very useful or valuable. | A reliable friend is **worth its weight in gold.** |
| 6. | Like gold dust | 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 | 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 | 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 | 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 | A successful person in his/ her field. | There are many **golden boys** in my country. |
| 11. | A golden handshake | 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 | 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 | 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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.**  | **Color Idioms** | **Meaning** | **Sentence Examples** |
| 1. | A grey area | 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 | Brain cells (as symbolic of high intelligence or mental acuity). | Elon musk is very successful because he has **little grey cells**. |

Table 9: Color Idioms in Kurdish Language

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Color Idioms** | **Meaning** | **Sentence Examples** |
| 1. | ئاوە رەشی هێناوەBrought the black water | Spreads bad news | زۆربەی هەواڵە تەلەڤزیۆنیەکان **ئاوە رەش دەهێنن**. |
| 2. | پشت حەوت کێوی رەش کەوێتBe after seven black mountains | An unwanted person by someone | ئەو رۆیشت بەمن چی پشت **حەوت کێوی رەش کەوێت.** |
| 3. | پێشەی رەشی نەگرتووەHis bone is not black yet | Still young | پیاوەکە کۆچی دوایی کرد کە **هێشتا پێشەی رەشی نەگرتبوو.** |
| 4. | روو رەشBlack face | Full of sins and notorious among people | ئەوانەی ئازاری خەڵ ئەدەن **روو رەش دەبن** لە دونیادا. |
| 5. | چاوی رەشی کاڵ کردەوەHis/ her black eyes became pale | Disappointed after waiting for a long time. | کوڕەکە لە ژوانەکەدا **چاوی رەشی کاڵکردەوە** بەڵام کچەکە هەر نەهات. |
| 6. | دەروونی رەشەBlack psyche  | Bad  | زۆر یارمەتی هاوڕێکەم دا بەڵام کەڵکی نەبوو چونکە **دەروونی رەش بوو**. |
| 7. | لە رەش رەشتر نیەThere no black blacker than black | There is no word more than *worst* to express badness. | من چیت پێ بڵێم لە **رەش رەشتر نیە**. |
| 8. | دەستی رەشەBlack hand | Destroying whatever touching. | کارەکانت بەو مەسپێرە **دەستی رەشە**. |
| 9. | دڵی رەش بووەHis/ her heart became black | Became a bad person. | هاوڕێکەم کەسێکی دڵ نەرم بوو بەڵام ئێستا **دڵی رەش بووە**. |
| 10. | رەشایی داهاتBlackness came | Can’t see clearly  | ئاهەنگێکی خۆشبوو بەڵام لە **ناکاو رەشایی داهات**. |
| 11. | رەش و رووتBlack and naked  | Poor  | یارماتیدانی **رەش و رووت** کارێکی چاکە. |
| 12. | رەش هەر رەشەBlack is black | Bad is bad. | هەوڵی چاکبوونی مەدە **رەش هەر رەشە**. |
| 13. | تاریکی بە چاوی داهاتDarkness came to his/ her eyes | Became blind. | لە پاش روداوەکە منداڵەکەم **تاریکی بەچاودا هات**. |
| 14. | بەرچاوی تاریک بووCan’t see what’s in front of him/her because of darkness | Infuriated | باسی پارەی بۆ مەکەن **بەرچاوی تاریک دەبێت**. |
| 15. | تاریکی مانگ سەر لە ئێوارە دیارەThe darkness of moon is apparent in the afternoon | A bad decision is seen very early | دەستت لەم کارە تێکەڵ مەکە **تاریکی مانگ سەر لە ئێوارە دیارە**. |
| 16. | دەست و پێ سپییەGot white hands and feet | Knowing nothing. | کابرا پارەی زۆری هەیە بەڵام **دەست و پێ سپییە**. |
| 17. | چاوی سپی بێتHis/ her eyes become white | Will die soon. | نەخۆشەکە **چاوی سپی بووە**، وابزانم مردووە. |
| 18. | رووت سپی بێتHave a white face | A successful and well behaved person. | سەیران کچێکی چاکە، **رووی سپی بێت**. |
| 19. | پرجێ سپی بۆ دەهۆنیتەوەBraiding white hair for him | A very loyal person, especially girls in relations. | خۆشەویستەکەی ژنی هینا دوای ئەوەی کە کچەکە **پرچی سپی بۆ هۆنیەوە.** |
| 20. | سەری لەبەر هەتاو سپی کردووەGetting white hair under the sun | An old person learned nothing from life. | ژنەکە **سەری لەبەر هەتاو سپیکردووە** هیچ شارەزایی نیە. |
| 21. | بۆرە پیاوGrey man | A normal man who is not famous or not known by people. | **بۆرە پیاوێک** کە خۆشیبوێیت باشترە لە پاشایەک. |
| 22. | بۆرە خزمGrey relatives | A relative that you hardly know. | ئەوەندەی کردم بیرم نەکەوتەوە کە **ئەو بۆرە خزمێکی** باوکم بوو. |
| 23. | بۆرەGrey  | Not good | **بۆرەکان** کاری چاک ناکەن. |
| 24. | چاوی سوور بووەHis/ her eyes are red | Angry and stubborn  | هیچ هەوڵی لەگەڵ مەدە چونکە **چاوی سوور بووە**. |
| 25. | بۆتە کەوڵ سووری بەر لەشکرBecome the red skin of an army | Someone who is always in the front lines and ready. | خۆت مەکە بە **کەوڵ سووری بەر لەشکر** با شتێکت بەسەر نەیێ |
| 26. | خەتە سورێ لەخۆم دوورێThe red line is away from me | To protect yourself from problems | تۆ شەڕت کردووە من دەڕۆمەوە بۆ ماڵەوە، **خەتە سوورێ لە خۆم دوورێ**. |
| 27. | کڵاو سووری بەر لەشکرەRed hat of an army | A courageous person. | براکەم **کڵاوە سوورەی بەر لەشکرە** لە هەموو بارودۆخێکدا. |
| 28. | روو سوورRed face | Doing something that makes you proud. | شەهیدانی کوردستان هەر بە **روو سووری** دەمێننەوە. |
| 29. | دەستی سەوز دەبێتHaving green hands | Getting a very high status. | پێشمەرگەکانی نیشتمان هەمیشە **دەستیان سەوزە**. |
| 30. | کەسکە کوندەGreen person | Someone who is jealous about others. | ئەوەندەی خەم لە خەڵک بخوات **بۆتە کەسکە کوندە**. |
| 31. | سەوز خڕAll green | Selling without profit. | بەرهەمی گەنمی ئەم ساڵی گوندەکەمان **سەوز خڕ** دەرچوو. |
| 32. | دەڵێی زەعفەرانی زەردەLike yellow saffron | Sick person. | منداڵەکە دەڵێی **زەعفەرانی زەردە** بۆ نایبەی بۆ دکتۆر؟ |
| 33. | روو زەردYellow face | Sinful and regretful. | دەسەڵاتدارە خراپەکان هەمیشە **روو زەردەن** بەرامبەر بە گەل. |
| 34. | زەرد و زۆڵەYellow and pale | Unripen | شوتیەکان لێمەکەرەوە **زەرد و زۆڵن**. |
| 35. | زمانی زەردوویەتیHis/her tongue has Jaundice | Frightened and can’t talk. | لێی گەڕێ با قسە نەکا زمانی **زەردوویەتی**. |
| 36. | بازنی زێڕی لە دەستدایەWears golden bracelet | A very talented person. | کچەکەی قومری **بازنی زێڕی لە دەستدایە**، بیکە بە بوکی خۆت. |
| 37.  | دەڵێی زێڕیYou are like gold | You are talented and honorable. | کچەکەی من **دەڵێی زێرە**. |

**The Glass Castle**

1. “Lori had suggested that Dad go to work in the mines, but he said the mines were controlled by the unions, and the unions were controlled by the mob and the mob had **blackballed** him for investigating corruption in the electricians' union back in Phoenix.” (P.91)
2. “Brian and I played hide­ and­ seek among the clicking slot machines, checking the trays for overlooked quarters, while Dad was winning money at **the blackjack table**.” (P.19)
3. “A few days later, Mom and Dad went off to **the blackjack table** and then almost immediately came looking for us.” (P.20)
4. “It was **pitch black** and the air smelled stale and dusty. We were sitting-on the ribbed wooden floor, on frayed, stained blankets used to wrap furniture, feeling for one another with our hands.” (P.30)
5. “In the **pitch­black night,** there was nothing to look at but the road ahead, lit by the car's headlights.” (P.58)
6. “Erma was always going on about "the niggers." Her and Grandpa's house was on Court Street, on the edge of the **black neighborhood**.” (P.89)
7. “A few miners lived along the-street, but most of the grown­ups didn't work at all. Some of the moms had no husbands, and some of the dads **had black lung**.” (P.100)
8. “Ginnie Sue Pastor was thirty-­three years old and had eight daughters and one son. Their names all ended with Y. Her husband, Clarence Pastor, **had black-lung**and sat on the front porch of their huge sagging house all day long, but he never smiled or waved at passersby.” (P.101)

All the idioms that use the black color have negative connotations in the novel (The Glass Castle). As the colors are related to culture, color idioms are related to culture as well. The black color in English cultures has negative meanings that are related to it. *Blackball* means rejection, and being rejected gives negative feelings. *Blackjack* is a card game that people play for money; this game is related to negativity as it is played in bars. *Pitch black* means completely dark; darkness always triggers negative feelings. *Black neighborhood* is also related to unsafe paces. *Black lung* is referred to as a kind of disease and diseases are negative.

1. “Dad would get a job as an electrician or engineer in a gypsum or copper mine. Mom liked to say that Dad could **talk a blue streak**, spinning tales of jobs he'd never had and college degrees he'd never earned.” (P.12)
2. “It was his responsibility, he'd say, to handle the family finances. And he needed money to fund his **gold­-leaching** research.” (P.47)
3. “Dad called out in the desert night."Come out and show your butt-ugly face, you **yellow­bellied** monster!"” (P.23)
4. “People were always offering him jobs, he'd explain, but he wasn't interested in work for hire, in saluting and sucking up and **brown nosing** and taking orders.” (P.107)

Other color idioms like, *Talk a blue streak*means talking very fast which upsets the listener and regarded as a negative behavior. *Gold leaching* refers to something very precious which gives positive feelings. *Yellow bellied* means someone coward and not courageous. It gives negative feelings. You can *brown nose* a person in a higher position to do something for you. It is violating the rules and brings negativity.

**Life after Life**

1. “It reminded Ursula of her grandmother, Adelaide, who spent her days **swathed in black**, sipping Madeira.” (P.31)
2. “There was no parapet to buffer her descent, nothing at all to stop her being propelled into **the black wings of night**. A kind of rush, a thrill almost, as she was launched into the bottomless air and then nothing.” (P.44)
3. “I’m not much of a drinker,’ even though the previous evening she had **blacked out** on the floor of her bedroom in Bays water, courtesy of a bottle of gin she had stolen from Izzie’s house.” (P.136)
4. “It was as if she were lying at the bottom of a deep well. Through a hazy veil of dust, like fog, she could make out a patch of **black sky** and a pared fingernail of moon that she remembered noticing earlier in the evening when she had looked out of the window.” (P.166)
5. “Ursula looked out of the window. No sign of any raiders yet although a searchlight was already sweeping **the black sky**. A beautiful new moon had stamped a crescent of light out of the blackness.” (P.195)
6. “Sylvie’s egg production seemed to be at the heart of some kind of **rural black market.** No one in the village was particularly short of anything.” (P.244)
7. “It was a beautiful evening. A crescent moon and her bevy of stars had pierced **the black backcloth of night**.” (P.261)
8. “She was clutching her handbag, **a large black affair**, as if it were keeping her afloat in the sea of timber.” (P.264)
9. “She took another very long drag on her cigarette and then exhaled slowly and with extraordinary pleasure. ‘You got any more of those little pills?’ she asked. ‘Good **black market price** for them, I bet.’” (P.265)
10. “He was on trial for some kind of **black market fraud**, which came as no surprise.” (P.288)
11. “His **black market** ‘escapades’ had turned her against him in the end. None of the wardens that Ursula had known from her post were still there by.” (P.288)
12. “She had arrived in time for Roland’s funeral, in stylish **black mourning**, and wept, ‘My boy, my boy,’ over Roland’s small coffin.” (P.301)

Again all what have black color in it is considered bad because black is black. *Swathed in black* means wrapping your body with black and it has negative connotations. Mostly people with distress and mental problems are swathed in black.*The black wings of night*it was used by men in war who had sex with dead bodies. Black is related to evilness and death. *Blacked out*means being temporarily unconscious or faint suddenly.*The black sky* means without hope and completely dark*. The black backcloth of night* is used to refer to evilness of night. *Black affair* means very formal situations where you need to wear tie and suits. *Black market* is an illegal market that is very crowded and not controlled by government. *Black mourning* means a kind of clothes used in funeral by people to show their sadness.

1. “‘Ah,’ said one of Sylvie’s London friends, stretching out her legs and revealing graceful **white stockinged ankles**. ‘A long, hot summer. Isn’t it delicious?’” (P.32)
2. “He showed her a photograph, not one taken in uniform, just a snapshot really, of a boy **in cricket whites**, standing proudly behind his bat.” (P.101)
3. “But here was the snow again – **white and welcoming**, the light like a sharp sword piercing through the heavy curtains, and she was being lifted up, cradled in soft arms.” (P.294)
4. “A little fleet of white-sailed yachts skimmed the horizon, a race of some kind, Mr. Winton presumed. He smudged some **Chinese white** on his own painted horizon and stood back to admire the results.” (P.299)
5. “There was one thing that puzzled her. The photograph of Guy, lost at Arras in his **cricketing whites** was missing from the side table.” (P.305)

The above lines show the use of white color idioms in context; *White stockinged ankles* means the anklets that women wear; it is a kind of jewelry and jewelries are related to beauty. *Cricket whites* used when something or someone you love is coming back to your life. *White and welcoming* used to refer to a friendly and warm person. *Chinese white* means purity**.** All the idioms that contain white color in them are related to positivity and purity.

1. “‘Oh, ma’am,’ Bridget cried suddenly, ‘**she’s all blue**, so she is.’” (P.13)
2. “Gilbert laughed, rather crudely for someone with **blue blood**, albeit foreign, and Sylvie clapped her hands and said, ‘Boys, how about some potted shrimps?’” (P.113)
3. “‘There are other universities if you’re so set on **being a bluestocking**,’ Sylvie said” (P.117)
4. “‘And who wants to be a boring old **bluestocking**?’ Izzie said.” (P.159)

Blue color idioms in the novel have the following connotations: *She’s all blue* means sadness. *Blue blood* is used to refer to someone from a noble family. *Blue stocking* means being educated and intellectual.

1. “This was an improvement, when she had met Ursula on the platform at Marylebone Izzie had **looked green**” (P.94)
2. “At the moment he was safe in Canada at an Empire Training School, learning to fly, sending home letters about how much food there was, how great the weather was, making Ursula **green with envy**.” (P.174)
3. “She was taken off guard by the sudden memory of the **grey ghosts** in the cellar and of kneeling on the baby.” (P.270)
4. “A tiny hare dangled from the hood of the carriage, twirling around, the sun glinting off its **silver skin**.” (P.23)

Green color idioms in *“Life After Life”; Looked green* means sickness, and *green with envy* means jealous or envious. *Grey ghost* used to refer to a parking inspector who is fining the cars that illegally parked; it has a negative meaning because people are afraid of being fined.

1. “‘Look at you,’ Hugh said when they walked wearily through the garden gate. **‘Golden and kissed by the sun**. You look like real countrywomen.’” (P.37)
2. “**Golden and kissed by the sun**, she thought as she drifted comfortably off to sleep and then Shakespeare came unwontedly to mind. Golden lads and girls all must, / as chimney-sweepers, come to dust, and she felt suddenly afraid.” (P.39)
3. “**A golden shaft of light** through the ear for conception perhaps and a well-fitting hatch somewhere modest for escape nine months later.” (P.69)
4. “She sensed something inside her was torn beyond repair. Cracked. She was **a golden bowl**.”
5. “She had gone back to ‘treading the boards’ and had several disastrous relationships before **she struck gold** in the form of the scion of an oil family in tax exile.” (P.291)
6. “‘Look at you,’ Hugh smiled in greeting when they staggered home. ‘All **golden from the sun.**’” (P.302)

Gold color idioms are all related to positivity; *Golden and kissed by the sun* is used to refer to parts of a plant that grew well because of sun. *A golden shaft of light* means the light that illuminates or provides beams of light. *A golden bowl* means harmony in marriage and your soul. *Struck gold* means discovering wealth and success. *Golden from the sun* means being happy and prosperous.

***3.3. Results and Discussions***

From the tables of English and Kurdish color idioms, the English novels (The Glass Castle & Life After Life), this study reaches to the following results:

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 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 sûr bwe* means became angryand 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 *Deƚěy zěȓî* means you are an honorable and talented person. In English *Golden rule* means a very important advice.
10. **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. It can be said 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, it can be said 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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**کاریگەری سیمبۆلیزمی رەنگ لەسەر ئیدیۆمەکانی رەنگ لە زمانی کوردی و ئینگلیزی**

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**پوختە**

**توێژینەوەکە دەربارەی کاریگەری سیمبۆلیزمی رەنگە لەسەر ئیدیۆمەکانی رەنگ لە زمانی ئینگلیزی و کوردی. مەبەستی توێژینەوەکە دۆزینەوەی پەیوەندییە لە نێوان سیمبۆلیزمی رەنگ و ئیدیۆمەکانی رەنگ لە زمانی ئینگلیزی و کوردی. لە هەمان کاتدا هەوڵدەدات مانای ناهەڕەمەکی دەستەواژە ئیدیۆمیەکان بدۆزێتەوە. توێژینەوەکە ئەم پرسیارانە ئاراستە دەکات: ئایا واتای رەنگەکان کە بەکارهاتوون لە دەستەواژە ئیدیۆمیەکان یەکدەگرێتەوە لەگەڵ ئەو واتایەی رەنگەکان دەیبەخشن؟ ئایا هیچ جیاوازیەک هەیە لە نێوان ئیدیۆمەکانی رەنگ لە هەردوو زماندا؟ توێژینەوەکە رێبازی چۆنیەتی دەگرێتە بەر بۆ شیکردنەوەی واتای ئیدیۆمەکانی رەنگ. سەرچاوەی داتاکان فەرهەنگی ئیدیۆمە لە زمانی ئینگلیزی و کوردی وە رۆمانی ئینگلیزی (The Glass Castle & Life After Life). دەرەنجامەکان ئەوە نیشاندەدەن کە ژمارەیەکی زۆری ئیدیۆمەکانی رەنگ کەوتۆتە ژێر کاریگەری سیمبۆلیزمی رەنگ. ئیدیۆمەکانی رەنگ لە زمانی ئینگلیزی و کوردی مانایان لە یەک نزیکە لەبەر ئەوەی سیمبۆلیزمی رەنگ لە هەردوو کەلتوور زۆر لەیەک نزیکن. بۆیە دەتوانین توێژینەوەکە کۆتایی پێبهێنین بەوەی کە نەک تەنها ئیدیۆمەکانی رەنگ کاریگەرن بە سیمبۆلیزمی رەنگ تەنانەت سیمبۆلیزمی رەنگیش کاریگەرە بە ئیدیۆمەکانی رەنگ.**

***وشە سەرەکیەکان*: سیمبۆلیزمی رەنگ، ئیدیۆمەکانی رەنگ، کاریگەری، ئینگلیزی، کوردی.**

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 والتعابير 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؟ تتبنى الورقة نهجًا نوعيًا لتحليل معنى التعابير اللونية. مصادر البيانات هي قاموس المصطلحات والروايات الإنجليزية (القلعة الزجاجية و الحياة بعد الحياة). تظهر نتائج الدراسة أن عددًا كبيرًا من التعبيرات الاصطلاحية للألوان تتأثر بالرمزية اللونية. تعطي التعابير 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 أيضًا بالتعابير اللونية.

***الکلمات المفتاحیە****:* رمزية اللون، المصطلحات اللونية، تأثير، الإنجليزية، والكردية.