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## BA Thesis Report:

Emma Tomoriová  
“Colour Adjectives in British and American English”

This thesis investigates semantic and syntactic features of color adjectives in British and American English. With the use of corpus data, a contrastive study was conducted that showed differences in the two English varieties in terms of the frequency of analytic vs. synthetic comparative inflection. In addition, figurative and literal meanings of the color terms were compared and gradability of color adjectives was investigated. The methods are appropriate, the research questions are interesting, and the results contribute new findings to the current literature.

### **Introduction:**

The introduction covers a range of relevant literature and provides a good theoretical background for the reader. There is a slight over-reliance on Bauer, Lieber and Plag (2015) and Mondorf (2009).

### **Methods:**

p. 22: „*The analysis will be based on randomly collected data*“ what do you mean by „randomly collected“? How did you sample your data? (Ad libitum, all-occurrence sampling, etc.).

P. 23: I am not sure I agree with „*There is no need to compare the relative frequency of graded colour adjectives between registers in English varieties*“. Since you mention in your introduction (p. 13) that dialectal factors play a role in comparatives (see Mondorf 2009, Bauer et al. 2015), styles and registers should be expected to have some influence. Are the genres of comparable sizes in BNC and COCA? If not, that introduces another potential confound.

Did you control for document in the corpus? For instance, some of your color terms may stem from the same document/ writer/ speaker.

The analysis of figurative vs. literal meaning of the color terms on page 42, 43, etc. is well-done and yields interesting findings. When Mondorf conducted his study, the figurative use of „green“ may have been less common than it is nowadays. A comparison of the color terms described by Mondorf and Bauer et al. with the ones collected by your study could have shed some light on the differences in results.

Tables and graphs are nicely done and informative.

#### **Minor comments:**

##### *Language:*

The use of „we“ and „our“ (etc.) is unusual for a scientific work.

p. 11 „*We will be concerning with the semantics of adjectives to a broader depth in 2.2.*“

P. 22: „*We presume that in American English...*“ – it is better to use „expect“, „predict“, or „hypothesize“ (also no „we“)

p. 33 „*Hence, the hypothesis based on Bauer, Lieber, & Plag... than British English, is **proven**.*“ The use of „supported“ is preferred here.

##### *Formatting:*

First names are not commonly used in citations, such as p. 20: „(Christopher Kennedy and Louise McNally, 2010: 79)“

p. 30 (and others): „since very occurs with colour adjectives“ – the word „very“ should be set apart (e.g. Italics, double quotations)

##### Citations:

The references list does not show consistent formatting concerning title capitalizations and Italics. Page ranges of book chapters are missing. The „available online“ links are not necessary: use DOI or „retrieved from“ instead.

*Questions for the defence:*

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1. Briefly state your scientific motivation to study color adjectives in English. From which theory did you derive your hypotheses?
2. Please explain the corpus data collection and the randomization process step-by-step.
3. What can you say about the figurative use and inflectional morphology of “green” in Czech (or other languages you speak)?

The thesis is well- organized and -written and fulfills the requirements of a B. A. work. I suggest the thesis to be accepted with a grade of *výborně*.

Eva Maria Luef, PhD

