

TITLE: The etymological analysis of colour names and related idioms

AUTHOR: Anna Hořejší

DEPARTMENT: Department of the French language and literature

SUPERVISOR: Mgr. Jiří Jančík

ABSTRACT:

This diploma thesis concerns the etymological analyses of colour names in the French language and related idioms. In the theoretical part we present the basic linguistic terminology necessary for the accomplishment of the etymological analyses; the practical part concerns the analyses itself. The objective of the thesis is to deeply analyze the six basic colours both from the etymological and symbolic point of view.

Furthermore, the thesis concerns the etymological analyses of colours the names of which are to some extent specific and remarkable. We talk about colours like: *fox tail*, *bonbon*, *the Berlin blue*, *tea*, *khaki*, *pearl* or *snow*, divided into groups according to the word they contain (colours containing a name of an animal, food, liquid, material, the place of origin, etc.). These colours are examined not only etymologically; we are also interested in the reason for which they are called so. In the last part of the thesis we scrutinize also idioms containing a name of a colour; we talk about idioms like *white night*, *yellow danger*, *to be bad like a red donkey*, *cordon bleu* or *green tongue*. In this case, our goal is to find the origin of this idiom in the French language. The semantic analyses helps us to discover the function and symbolic of the colour in the idiom given.

KEY WORDS:

Etymology, etymon, colour, analogy, conversion, symbolic, the basic colours