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**Comparative study of color categories in Russian and Czech. Cognitive and Cultural Approach
Summary**

The purpose of the study was to describe the contents of the selected categories of colors («Синий цвет», «Голубой цвет», «Коричневый цвет», «Серый цвет», «Розовый цвет», «Оранжевый цвет», «Фиолетовый цвет», «Modrá barva», «Hnědá barva», «Šedá barva», «Růžová barva», «Oranžová barva», «Fialová barva») using the example of their basic terms (*синий, голубой, коричневый, серый, розовый, оранжевый, фиолетовый, modrý, hnědý, šedý, růžový, oranžový, fialový*) in Russian and Czech, as well as to reveal the specifics of color vision of the world of Czech and Russian speakers by comparing the obtained data.

In this study we chose to use the cognitive and cultural approach to the language where, for example, the lexical meaning of the word is viewed as a holistic image, a realized physical and sensual experience. The nature of the study has cultural linguistic tone, because, first of all, it examines the facts of the language and helps in making linguistic conclusions, and, secondly, - the results of the study allow us to make some conclusions about the social and cultural characteristics of Russians and Czechs.

The study is based on analysis of contexts where selected color terms are used in the artistic and journalistic texts. Collocations have been collected from Russian and Czech linguistic corpora (Russian National Corpus, Czech National Corpus, particularly SYN2010, SYN2009PUB), dictionaries (explanatory, phraseological, etymological, dictionaries of synonyms and antonyms), poetry and proverbs and sayings compilations.

The main part is devoted to the description of categories of colors and their basic color terms. Each chapter examines the characteristics of the color term as a basic term, its family of words, describes the prototype and features of the color conceptualization, compatibility of color term and its connotations. The results of the study helped us to draw conclusions about the general system of categorization of colors and some particular features of this process, which are reflected in Russian and Czech languages. It also made it easier to identify the factors that influence the number and clarity of color prototypes and helped to find out, what the basis of similarities and differences in conceptualizing colors in Russian and Czech languages is. Also it allowed us to understand the factors affecting the convergence and divergence of connotations of color terms.

Following the chosen approach we paid attention to the linguistic facts: the structure of word meanings, contexts, paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations of words, as well as to extralinguistic factors. Basing upon knowledge of Christian symbolism, history, culture and realities of Russia and Czech Republic we were able to better and fuller describe the meanings of color terms and to explain the similarities and differences of their meanings in Russian and Czech, as well as the similarities and differences of the linguistic pictures of the world of Russian and Czech languages. Attention to the mechanism of association, metaphorical thinking, that is the cognitive process, allowed us to make assumptions about the prototypical reference and the formation of connotations and to discover the inner connections between phenomena. The results of this study can be useful in the practice of translation and lexicographic work. In addition, they can be used in different kinds of cultural studies, including comparative.