

# A Language and Culture Comparative Study of Three Primary Colors in English and Chinese Idioms and Usual Expressions from the Perspective of Metaphorical Cognition

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## ABSTRACT

Color terms, especially the three primary colors, bear the weight of basic meaning of color in English and Chinese idioms and usual expressions. The same color has different meanings in different languages, thus it makes Native English speakers and Native Chinese speakers who use other foreign languages puzzled. Therefore, it is necessary to make a language and culture comparative study of the meanings of three primary colors in English and Chinese idioms and usual expressions. This essay uses metaphors and cognition to make the comparative study between color idioms and usual expressions in English and Chinese. It aims at revealing the similarities and dissimilarities of metaphorical cognitive meanings of three primary colors in English and Chinese idioms and usual expressions. This essay provides a perspective for the role of cultural variation of metaphor and plays a role in overcoming the language barriers in communication.

**Keywords:** three primary colors, idioms and usual expressions, metaphorical cognition.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Color features are the perception and description of human language. It is an important part of the world language. In language, this symbol symbolizes the an understanding of color words. The words of color are generally used in people's cognition and description of the world [1].

Therefore, it is necessary to inherit the colors in human language. Everything in nature, including human language, is in a state of change. The development of language cannot be separated from the development of human language. A more developed language may affect the less developed one. At the same time, it is also conducive to the development of human language in the process of development. In the process of language learning, learners' attention is becoming more and more concentrated[1]. In non-human languages, Kay and McDaniel find an interesting phenomenon, metaphor. The metaphors of color and color terms are closely related. In exploring metaphors and its working mechanisms, the color terms are very useful.

In this essay, metaphorical cognitive meanings of three primary colors in English and Chinese idioms and usual expressions will be studied. Similarities and dissimilarities of three primary colors in English and Chinese idioms and usual expressions will also be searched from the aspect of metaphorical cognition.

This essay is divided into several parts. In the first part, a brief introduction to metaphorical cognition will be shown. In the next part, first it is about similarities of metaphorical cognitive meanings of three primary colors in English and Chinese idioms and usual expressions. Secondly, it is about dissimilarities of metaphorical cognitive meanings of three primary colors in English and Chinese idioms and usual expressions. The last is about the reasons for similarities and dissimilarities of three primary colors' metaphorical cognitive meanings in English and Chinese idioms and usual expressions. The final part is the conclusion.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Color terms are as common as linguistic phenomena in many kinds of cultures and languages. It is necessary to introduce color terms, as color terms are going to be

# Interests Culture A Comparative Study

**Lingsheng Yao**

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