

**ZERO EQUIVALENCE OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH THE COMPONENT OF COLOR (IN ENGLISH, SPANISH, PORTUGUESE AND RUSSIAN)**

**EQUIVALÊNCIA ZERO DE UNIDADES FRASEOLÓGICAS COM O COMPONENTE DA COR (EM INGLÊS, ESPANHOL, PORTUGUÊS E RUSSO)**

***EQUIVALENCIA CERO DE UNIDADES FRASEOLÓGICAS CON EL COMPONENTE DE COLOR (EN INGLÉS, ESPAÑOL, PORTUGUÉS Y RUSO)***

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**ABSTRACT:** The relevance of the problem under study is due to the multicultural situation in the modern society, as well as the need in understanding between peoples. The object of the study is to analyze the factors that cause the development of phraseological units with the component of color in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. The methods used in the work include the descriptive-comparative methods, as well as the method of analysis. The results of the article allow to see the zero equivalence of phraseological units with this or that color component and to understand the reasons of it. The materials of the work can be useful for the further comparative, typological, linguistic-cultural and ethnic-linguistic studies of the other languages, for making of various phraseological dictionaries of color terms etc.

**KEYWORDS:** Phraseological unit. Zero equivalence. Comparative analysis. Color component.

**RESUMO:** *A relevância do problema em estudo se deve à situação multicultural da sociedade moderna, bem como à necessidade de entendimento entre os povos. O objetivo do estudo é analisar os fatores que provocam o desenvolvimento de unidades fraseológicas com o componente de cor em inglês, espanhol, português e russo. Os métodos utilizados no trabalho incluem os métodos descritivo-comparativos, bem como o método de análise. Os resultados do artigo permitem ver a equivalência zero das unidades fraseológicas com este ou aquele componente de cor e compreender as suas razões. Os materiais do trabalho podem ser úteis para os estudos comparativos, tipológicos, linguístico-culturais e étnico-linguísticos das outras línguas, para fazer vários dicionários fraseológicos de termos de cores etc.*

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** *Unidade fraseológica. Equivalência zero. Análise comparativa. Componente de cor.*

**RESUMEN:** *La relevancia del problema en estudio se debe a la situación multicultural de la sociedad moderna, así como a la necesidad de entendimiento entre los pueblos. El objeto del*

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*estudio es analizar los factores que provocan el desarrollo de unidades fraseológicas con componente de color en inglés, español, portugués y ruso. Los métodos utilizados en el trabajo incluyen los métodos descriptivo-comparativo, así como el método de análisis. Los resultados del artículo permiten ver la equivalencia cero de unidades fraseológicas con este o aquel componente de color y comprender las razones de ello. Los materiales de la obra pueden ser útiles para futuros estudios comparativos, tipológicos, lingüístico-culturales y étnico-lingüísticos de las otras lenguas, para la elaboración de varios diccionarios fraseológicos de términos de color, etc.*

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** *Unidad fraseológica. Equivalencia cero. Análisis comparativo. Componente de color.*

## Introduction

In modern linguistic studies a tendency can be noted for revealing the linguistic phenomena connected with the national peculiarities of peoples, for their comprehensive analysis. Phraseological fund of the language is the most valuable source of information about the culture and mentality of people, it is like the storage of people's ideas, their myths, traditions, rituals, habits, moral aspects, behavior, etc. (ANDREYEVA; KORNEVA; SAKHIBULLINA, 2019; PRIETO, 2006; SANCHO-CREMADES, 2019; VERESHCHAGIN; KOSTOMAROV, 2005). Phraseological units are like the mirror of the people that reflects everything that happens in the society during all its history (BARTOLOMÉ SUÁREZ, 1993; KUNIN, 2005; NACISCIONE, 2010; VASILOVA *et al.*, 2019). The elements, which are in the basis of any phraseological unit and all meanings of the words, are mainly very clear for the definite linguistic-cultural society as far as they reflect the people's understanding of the world and life, and this allows to outline language and culture character through phraseological units which reflect cultural-national specific more clearly than its vocabulary.

## Research methodology

A lot of phraseological units with the component of color are "derived" as far as they occurred due to the absence of the phenomenon, notion, etc. in the life of people, speaker of one of the languages under study. The article defines the lacunar unit as a unit that lacks in the other language, it contains the so-called lacuna, i.e., lack, zero correlative element of the laminar unit (KUNIN, 2005). Zero equivalence presupposes the presence of lacunar units in some language in comparison with the other languages. Lacunar units reveal the specific unique contrastive character of the language in relation to the other languages (TELIYA, 1996). And

zero equivalence appears exactly on the phraseological level. Lacunar phraseological units are the phraseological units that correlate with the phraseological units of the other languages under studies. Phraseological lacunar unit is defined as the phraseological correlative unit of the lacunar phraseological unit. Some researchers connect the appearance of the lacunar units with peculiarities of the linguistic segmentation of the world by every language (KOSTOMAROV, 2005).

Two kinds of factors influence the appearance of lacunar units, these are linguistic factors (peculiarity of the linguistic segmentation of the world and dissimilarity of the systems of languages) and extra-linguistic factors. Among the linguistic factors we can emphasize the following ones:

1. Incongruence in the structure of naming (spanish *ni blanco, ni negro* – neither fish, nor meat).

2. Difference of the semantic volume: sometimes the semantic volume in the phraseological units of the compared languages is not the same if both phraseological units are poly-semantic, for example: in the well-known in all languages phraseological unit which consists of the elements white (Russian *белый*, Spanish *blanco*, Portuguese *branco*) and night (Russian *ночь*, Spanish *noche*, Portuguese *noite*) in different Grammatical variants there is some difference and partial difference of meanings depending on the language, which allows to speak, in its turn, about the phenomena of equivalence, as well as of zero equivalence depending on the language: in Russian, speaking about white night (often in plural) we mean the phenomenon of nature when in summer during several days (and in the North – even longer) night in our traditional understanding as dark time of the day becomes “white” for some time – with unfading dawn (*белые ночи*); in English the phraseological unit white night, in Spanish *l noche blanca/ en blanco* and in Portuguese languages *noite (passada) em branco* the phraseological units that contain the components “white” and “night” have two meanings:

1) (fig.) ‘sleepless night’ (this meaning of the color element – ‘sleepless’ – etymologically comes from the French phrase *passer une nuit blanche* – ‘to spend the sleepless night’; thus, all phraseological units of the compared languages are the loan translation (linguistic calque) of the French expression);

2) ‘white night’ (with unfading dawn) (in the North); Spanish *pasar(se) la noche en blanco* – Portuguese *passar a noite em branco* – “not to get a wink of sleep”; *pasar algo en blanco* – a) ‘to spend (some time) without sleeping’; b) ‘doing nothing’. It is possible to make

a conclusion that the meaning “sleepless night” is connected with the already mentioned meaning of the white color as absence of something, in this case – of sleep (as far as the Spanish and Portuguese phraseological units can be translated word-for-word as “night spent ‘in vain’”).

The image of the black flag presents in phraseology of Russian, English and Spanish languages as poly-semantic phraseological unit, and some meanings are typical for only one language, thus, there is the difference of the semantic volume:

1) Russian *черный флаг* – English the Black Jack – Spanish *bandera negra* – ‘pirates’ flag’;

The English phraseological unit also has other meanings:

- 2) soldier sleeveless leather jacket;
- 3) (Amer.) a loaded stick;
- 4) card game Black Jack;
- 5) (histor.) high beer mug (made of tarred leather); jar for beer;
- 6) expression of extreme hostility, deadly struggle;
- 7) flag above a prison as a sign of executed capital punishment;
- 8) zinc ore.

Phraseological unit black hole – Russian *черная дыра* (journalistic) – has the following meanings:

1) physical poorly studied phenomenon, space object, the result of a catastrophic gravitational contraction of stars, in which – due to anti-gravity forces and the existence of anti-matter – space and time are reversed and where the bodies disappear completely (the Russian expression is the calque of the English expression black hole; the phraseological meaning developed on the basis of the fact that in the zone of this phenomenon all other space objects are merged and absorbed);

2) mysterious unknown sphere, lack of knowledge about something.

The Russian phraseological unit also has the other meanings:

3) (fig.) a person who always needs money and who spends it very quickly for unnecessary things or for something that cannot give adequate return;

4) dungeon (till 1868).

### 3. Linguistic borrowing or loan-word translation:

The image of a black widow exists in phraseology of the compared languages and it means “black widow” who is suspected in the homicide of her husband: black widow Russian черная вдова – Spanish viuda negra. In Russian language this phraseological unit is a borrowing one; the origin of this phraseological unit’s figurative meaning is connected with the representative of “the fair sex” from the South America – female spider black widow.

The well-known expression *carte-blanche* borrowed from French language (*carte blanche* (“white empty blank sheet”) – blank sheet of paper with the signature of the designated individual which authorizes or charges somebody with a task which is entrusted to write in to a person who this paper is given to. In the era of absolutism in France such *cartes blanches* given by the kings and their ministers entitled a person to arrest political undesirables whose names were written in here already afterwards; from here – the figurative meaning of the expression. The expression is presented in all compared languages, and in many cases we can see parallels. In Russian this phraseological unit is presented as transcription. This phraseological unit has a lot of meanings, but some of them present only in one language, for example:

Spanish *carta blanca* (‘white charter, decree; playing card’) – Portuguese *carta branca* (‘white card’) – Russian карт-бланш:

1) unlimited authorities, freedom of action;

the following meanings of this phraseological unit are only in Spanish and Portuguese:

2) assignment to a position (without the name of a definite person);

3) small card (from two to ten);

4) at random (with this meaning this phraseological unit is used only in Portuguese).

With the same meaning there are variants of this phraseological unit only in Spanish and Portuguese languages (among the analyzed ones):

Portuguese: *assinado em branco* (document signed in white color) – blank form with signature; *assinatura em branco* (signature in white color) – empty form with signature; *assinado em branco* (signed in white color) – approved offhand:

Spanish *firma en blanco* (print in white color) – 1) *carte-blanche*; 2) a signed empty form; *firmar algo en blanco a uno* (to sign something to someone in white color) – 1) to sign an empty form; 2) to give the freedom of actions; 3) to give the cheque without filling in the sum;

4. Euphemisation: euphemisms appear because of the wish to express an idea or to denote a thing indirectly.

Among the extra-linguistic factors that influence the occurrence of the lacunar phraseological units it is possible to list the following ones: traditions, customs of the people, realities of today, a variety of cultural traditions, socio-economic, geographical features, peoples' mentality. In many languages the lacunar units reflect the specific character of the political system of the country, historical realities. For example:

1. Historical traditions of peoples: Russian сказка/ песня про белого бычка ('fairy tale about the white bull-calf') – endless repetition of one and the same thing from the very beginning; принести на блюдечке с голубой каемочкой ('to bring on the platter with blue edge') – to give someone what he wants without any effort from his side.

2. Rites and religious peculiarities of the peoples: Russian красная горка ('red hill') – the first week after Easter.

3. Beliefs: Russian черная кошка дорогу перебежала (кому-л.) ('black cat crossed the road in front of someone') – a person started to have a lot of problems.

4. Realities of today: English white collar workers (AmE) – managers, office employees; blue-collar workers – workers of physical labor; pink-collar workers (AmE) – women who do low-paid job (in the restaurant, etc.); immigration is associated with the image of whole wheat (black) bread: Spanish comer el negro pan de la emigracion (to eat the black bread of immigration) – to live in a strange land. This phraseological unit etymology is quite clear: in a strange land, without friends and relatives it is difficult to afford something extra, you have to be satisfied with the most necessary things, and whole wheat bread helps in the most hard time.

5. Loan translation, borrowing: black box – Russian черный ящик – Spanish caja negra – object, mechanism, the structure of which is unknown (in Russian it's a loan translation of black box).

6. Literature: Blue beard – Russian Синяя борода – symbol of jealous husband, as well as a husband who kills his wives.

7. Folklore: Russian море синее ('blue sea') (poetical) – very far place.

8. Historical realities: to be born into (the) purple – to be born in the royal family.

9. National peculiarities of denotation of something: Spanish miel negra ('black honey') – molasses; miel blanca ('white honey') – apian honey of bees.

## Summary

The lacunar units are the most contrastive elements in the compared languages. The study of phraseological units with the component of colors in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian allowed to reveal the zero equivalence of the phraseological unit of one language towards the other compared languages (concerning phraseological-topical groups and special phraseological units).

1. There are lacunar phraseological units with the component of color black/ *черный*/ negro, prieto/ negro, prêto:

- in English: black foot (Scot.) – match-maker; black swan – very rare thing; black leg – card-sharper, trickster; black hat (Australia) – recently arrived immigrant;
- in Portuguese: meu negro (my black) (Brazil) (addressing to someone) – my dear;
- in Russian: *черная суббота* (‘black Saturday’) – working Saturday; *черная кость* (black bone‘’) – person of low birth;

In Spanish: *Indiano de hilo negro* (‘Indian of black thread’) – miser; *como la mano negra* (‘as a black hand’) – disastrous; *estar negro* (‘to become black’) – to be as drunk as a devil; *ver burros negros* (Chile) (‘to see black donkeys’) – to see stars (because of pain); *bolas negras* (‘black balls’) (Argentina, Uruguay) – unlucky people; *volverse negro* (‘to become black’) – to try to find way-out from difficult situation; *ponerle a uno el cuerpo negro* (‘to put a black body on someone’) – to beat back and belly; *ave negra* (‘black bird’) – 1) cheat; 2) (Columbia) hypocrite.

The following phraseological-topical groups are the lacunar ones:

In English: 1. Good economic condition (black ink), profit: in the black – in good economic situation; to be in the black – to be with profit. 2. Alcoholic drinks: black strap – cheap port wine ; black velvet – mixture of champagne with port wine. 3. Low cunning: black purpose – malign aim; black-hearted – angry. 4. Something or someone connected with coal: Black Country – Coal-Mining, Iron-Working and Metallurgical regions of England (Staffordshire and Yorkshire); black gang (marine) – group of workers unloading the coal; black lung (AmE) – lung disease of miners. 5. Realities of court proceedings: black cap – a cap that a judge puts on to pronounce (impose) a sentence (to death); to put on the black cap – to impose a sentence. 5. Strike-breaking: black leg – strike-breaker; black ship – a ship which the port workers refuse to unload (in solidarity with strikers);



In Russian: 1. Rotten deal: держать в черном теле (to hold in a black body) – to create rough conditions) 2. Reactional, contra-revolutionary: черная контрреволюция (black contra revolution) – reactional contra-revolution; черные сотни (black thousands) – reactional monarchist gangs of thugs during the revolution 1905-1907;

In Spanish: 1. Characteristics of person: hombre de capa negra (person of black raincoat) – well-bred person; gente de capa negra (crowd of black raincoats) – honorable citizens.

2. There are following lacunar phraseological units with the component of color white/ белый/ blanco/ branco:

In English: white sale (AmE) – sale of goods by low price; white wedding (AmE) – traditional wedding ceremony, the attributes of which emphasize the innocence of a bride; white goods – household appliances (fridge, washing machine, etc.);

In Portuguese: sair em branco ('to go out in white color') – to fail (the jig is up);

In Russian: дела как сажа бела ('doings are as good as carbon is white) – 1) evasive playful reply to the rhyme of the question: "How are you doing?" (in case of undesiring to answer this question); 2) things that are doing not very well;

In Spanish: ser plata blanca ('to be a white coin') – to be absolute truth; palo blanco ('white hand') (Chile) – 1) wash sale; 2) cheat.

The following phraseological-topical groups are the lacunar ones:

In English: 1. cowardice (white feather/ lily) – cowardice; show the white feather – turn yellow;

In Portuguese and Spanish: 1. underwear (Spanish ropa blanca – Portuguese roupa branca ('white linen') – 1) bedclothes; 2) underwear; 3) table clothing);

In Russian: 1. Daylight time (середь бела дня ('in the middle of white day') – in the daytime); 2. Contra-revolutionary (белый офицер ('white officer') – officer of the tsar army; белая гвардия ('White Guard') – tsar guard).

3. There are the following lacunar phraseological units with the component of color red / красный/ rojo/ vermelho:

In English: tar red with the same brush – Russian одного поля ягоды ('berries of one and the same field') – identical (with negative connotation); neither fish, nor good red herring – Russian ни рыба, ни мясо ('neither fish, nor meat'); red blooded – full of events, exciting (about a novel, etc.); brave;

In Russian: с красной строки (from the red line) – from the new line, from the very beginning;

In Spanish: sangre roja ('red blood') – arterial blood.



The following phraseological-topical groups are the lacunar ones:

In English: 1. Alcoholic drinks: red ink – cheap red wine; red eye (AmE) – strong cheap whisky. 2. Aviation: red eye (AmE) – 1) commercial flight between two far-flung places which takes off late in the evening and lands early in the morning; 2) night flight. 3. Idleness: a red cent (AmE) – chip; not to give a red cent for (AmE) – not to care at all. 4. Unfavorable economic situation: red ink – debt; unprofitability; to be in the red – barely make ends meet. 5. Complication of a situation: to be a red herring – to be the maneuver that intentionally draws the attention away; to track a red herring across the path – to give the wrong idea, lead someone up the path, draw attention away;

In Russian: 1. Childhood: красные дети (red children) – obedient children who help parents; красное детство (red childhood) – quiet childhood. 2. Leisure area: красный двор (red yard) – leisure area near house with flowerbeds in the mansion; красный уголок (red corner) – recreation room, playroom.

4. There are the following lacunar phraseological units with the component of color blue/ синий/ azul/ azul:

In English: blue-grass music – country music; blue joke – indecent joke; blue-eyed boy – favorite child; to be in the blue – 1) to go by the wrong path; 2) to fail; 3) (Australia) to be in debts; blue dahlia – rare thing; once in a blue moon – once in one hundred years; a bit of blue sky – ray of hope;

In Portuguese: ver-se azul ‘to see blue color’) – get into trouble; ouro sobre azul (the golden on the blue) – in the best way possible);

In Russian: голубой экран (blue screen) – TV-set; голубая даль (blue distance) – uncertainty);

In Spanish: piedra azul (blue stone) – miser; ¡Tudo azul! (All is blue!) – Everything is fine.

The following phraseological-topical groups are the lacunar ones:

In English: 1. Bad quality: blue ruin (AmE) – gin of bad quality; blue milk – skim/ thin milk. 2. Membership of the University: the Dark/ Oxford blues – Russian Синие (The blue) - team of students of Oxford in sport contest; the light/ Cambridge blues – Russian Голубые (‘The light blue’), team of Cambridge. 3. Positive economical theme (economic benefit): blue chip/ share/ paper (stock) – share based on the stable course; blue company – reliable company.

4. Surprise: out of a blue clear sky – Russian как гром среди ясного неба. 5. Pornography: blue film/ movie – erotic film with sexual scenes;

In Russian: 1. Energy (of wind, water, natural gas): голубой уголь (blue coal) – wind as a source of energy; голубое топливо (blue fuel) – 1) hydro energy; 2) natural gas; голубая река (blue river) – gas flow transported by tubes. 2. Agriculture: голубой корабль (blue ship) – combine harvester. 3. Water-sport theme: голубой стадион (blue stadium) – swimming pool. 4. Fishing business: голубой патруль (blue patrol) – waters and fish conservation society; голубые плантации (blue plantations) – ponds for fish farming; урожай голубых плантаций (harvest of blue plantations) – fish. 5. Embellishment (голубая характеристика (blue characteristics)) – one-sidedly positive characteristics.

5. There are the following lacunar phraseological units with the component of color green/ зеленый/ verde/ verde:

In English: green winter – mild winter without snow; to believe that the moon is made of green cheese – to believe to patent absurdity; green field site – site where nothing has been built ever before;

In Russian: зеленая трава (green grass) – young lady (of the Slavs); зеленая планета (green planet) – Earth;

In Spanish: el año verde (green year) (Argentina, Venezuela, Paraguay) – never; a buena(s) hora(s) mangas verdes (in good time – green sleeves) – a spoon is dear when lunch time is near; libro verde (green book) – a family chronicle; entre verde y seco (between the green and the wilted) (Chile) – so-so; poner los ojos verdes a uno (to put green eyes on) – make eyes at someone; temer como varas verdes (tremble as green branches) – tremble like a leaf.

The following phraseological-topical groups are the lacunar ones:

In English: 1. Time of prosperity: in the green wood – in time of prosperity; to keep the bones green – to be in good health;

In Portuguese: 1. Caution (não pisar em ramo verde (not to step on the green branch) – to be careful;

In Russian: 1. Negative emotions: скука зеленая (green boredom) – melancholy; позеленеть от злости (to become green from anger) – become very angry, irritated, etc.;

In Spanish: 1. Bad attitude: quemar con leña verde (burn with the help of green fire-woods; green fire-woods burn slowly) – yank someone around.

6. there are the following lacunar phraseological units with the component of color pink / розовый/ rosa/ rosa:

In English: pink-collar job (AmE) – low-paid job done by women (in the office, restaurant, etc.); pink slip – sheet of paper with dismissal; to get the pink slip (AmE) – to be fired.

The following phraseological-topical groups are the lacunar ones:

In English: 1. Good health: in the pink – at the height of one’s powers; the pink of health – embodiment of health (the fact that a person has pink color of skin only when he is in good health is the reason of appearing of these expressions).

7. Concerning phraseological units with the component of color yellow/ желтый/ amarillo/ amarelo there are the following lacunar phraseological units: in English: yellow back – cheap novel; in Russian: желтый уголь (‘yellow coal’) – sun rays as the source of energy; in Spanish: como el unguento amarillo (que para todo sirve y para nada aprovecha (like yellow ointment (which is used for everything but doesn’t help at all) – remedy from all diseases but it does not help at all); in Portuguese: passaro de bico amarelo (‘bird with yellow beak’) – Russian стреляный воробей (‘wise old bird’); ser (um) merlo de bico amarelo – Russian быть себе на уме (know what’s what).

The following phraseological-topical groups are the lacunar ones: in Russian: 1. inexperience, innocence (желторотый птенец (‘yellow-beaked chick’) – greenhorn; young inexperienced and naïve person); in English: 1. bribery, betrayal (yellow dog (contract) – obligation of a worker not to enter trade union, not to take part in strikes, to agree to work long hours, etc., imposed to a worker when he applies for a job); yellow-dog fund (AmE) – money used for bribery); 2. jealousy (to wear yellow hose/ stockings (obsol.) – to be jealous); in Spanish: 1. problems (including because of not enough money) (estar aprietos en amarillos (Chile) (‘be in the yellow’) – to be in difficult situation, poverty); in Portuguese: 1. Insincere emotions (sorriso amarelo - yellow smile) – Russian кислая улыбка (‘insincere smile’).

8. There are the following lacunar phraseological units with the component of color gray/ серый/ gris/ borralha, ruço:

In English: the gray mare – tyrannical woman whose husband is henpecked;

In Portuguese: doutor da mula ruça (doctor of grey cow) – charlatan; calma borralha (grey calm) – dead calm;

In Russian: серая кошка пробежала между ними (‘grey cat ran among them’) – they fell out.

The following phraseological-topical groups are the lacunar ones:

In English: 1. Depressed state of person: to look gray – to gloom, look blue; gray thoughts – glum (black) thoughts; to go to a gray gate – to be depressed. 2. To belong to religious society: gray friar – Franciscan monk; gray monk / brother – representative of religious organization (grey soutane of churchmen is the reason why these phraseological units appeared);

In Russian: 1. Low quality of material: серые нитки (grey thread) – coarse thread; серая бумага (grey paper) – paper of low quality. 2. Low-born person: серый валенок (grey felt boot) – uneducated person; серая кость (grey bone) – man of humble birth.

9. There are the following lacunar phraseological units with the component of color violeta, morado/ roxo:

In Portuguese: andar roxo por alguém (be violet to someone) (Brazil) – fall in love with someone passionately (component of color serves as an indicator of strong feelings, emotions); in Brazil people say fome roxa (violet hunger) about sharp hunger, using the color component to rise the level of hunger);

In Spanish: estar morado (be violet) – to become drunk; ojo morado (violet eye) – Russian подбитый глаз (black damaged eye); in Columbia people say verle a uno el morado (see something as violet) to characterize a person who sees through other people.

Analysis of these phraseological units shoes small combinatorial characteristics of violet color in the phraseology of the compared languages.

10. There are the following lacunar phraseological units with the component of color brown/ коричневый/ pardo/ pardo:

In English: brown goods (BrE) – electrical goods at home for entertainment (TV, PC, etc.); brown stone – 1) special stone for construction; 2) buildings with the front made of such stone in New York; to get brownie points – gain the sympathy of people; brown ware – earthenware;

In Spanish: gramatica parda (brown grammar) – the ability to establish oneself.

The following phraseological-topical groups are the lacunar ones:

In English: 1. Irregular behavior: to do smb. brown (BrE) – 1) deceive; 2) beat black-and-blue. 2. Careful approach: to do smth. up brown (AmE) – to bring to an end, to do everything correctly.

In Portuguese: 1. High title: cavaleiro pardo (brown knight) – ennobled knight. 2. Difficult times: calças pardas (brown trousers) – difficulties;

In Spanish: 1. Of humble birth: gente de capa parda (people of brown layer of the society) – roturier.

2 For TANGO, seek under the NLP instruments<sup>3</sup>.

3 Now accessible online<sup>4</sup>.

4 Utilization flame/light to login, pick equivalent words under WriteBetter of the "Composition" segment<sup>5</sup>.

## **Conclusion**

The comparative analysis allowed us to reveal the main reasons of appearance of lacunar phraseological units in the compared languages. In general, the phraseological units of zero equivalence are the most contrastive in the comparative languages. The article studied the situation of the zero equivalence of the phraseological unit of one language in comparison with the other languages. The analysis of the linguistic and extra-linguistic factors of appearance of lacunar phraseological units allowed to conclude that exactly different “ethnic perception” and “social perception” of colors by different peoples and societies is the specific factor of appearance of lacunar phraseological units with the component of color. In general, the reasons of appearance of lacunar phraseological units with the component of color are the same as for the other lacunar units: thus, concerning the linguistic factors of appearance of lacunar phraseological units the difference in semantic volume (English white night – Russian белая ночь – Spanish noche blanca – Portuguese noite em branco) and borrowings and loan translation (English black widow – Russian черная вдова – Spanish viuda negra) play special role concerning phraseological units with color lexemes. As for the extra-linguistic factors of appearance of lacunar phraseological units, historical traditions (Russian красный угол (red corner); English white feather), historical realities (Red Ensign), beliefs of different people (Russian черная кошка дорогу перебежала), customs, religious traditions (Красная горка), realities of today (white/ blue/ pink collar workers), etc. play special role concerning exactly phraseological units with color lexemes.

Different “ethnic perception” and “social perception” of colors by different peoples is the specific factor of appearance of lacunar phraseological units with the component of color.

<sup>3</sup> Available: <http://candle.cs.nthu.edu.tw>. Access: 15 June 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Available: <http://www.sinorama.com.tw/en>. Access: 15 June 2020.

<sup>5</sup> Available: <http://candle.cs.nthu.edu.tw>. Access: 15 June 2020.

With the help of phraseological units including the component of color, it is possible to study a lot of interesting facts about traditions and customs of peoples, their history.

The analyzed phraseological units with the component of color are the inseparable part of the European culture. Without knowledge of cultural-historical context it is impossible to interpret their meaningful content and use such phraseological units in the language.

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