Considerations on the Status of Chromatic Adjective Blue

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Abstract

This article represents a comprehensive approach to chromatic adjective blue that denotes one of seven primary colors of the Romanian language. The paper focuses on the analysis, description, comparison and statistical aspects on various specific aspects of the lexeme in debate. The purpose of article is to highlight the fundamental role that chromatical adjectives inherited from Latin language play in the Romanian language vocabulary. For this study we used analysis of lexical-semantic classification of lexical units, the statistical method. In the analysis and interpretation of linguistic material we started from the current state of the themes and from data provided by the work of researchers who discussed the topic on the color. We started with the definition given by DEX to the adjective blue, framed the word into morphological classes, into phraseological units, into structures resulting from compounding, derivation or conversion, into proverbs and lexical family. This paper is intended to be a study that presents all aspects of etymology, semantics, semiotics, lexicology, phraseology, birthday, toponymy. Language issues are addressed in a diachronic perspective. The adjective blue has been analyzed lexical, morphology, spelling, style. The large number of elements that form lexical-semantic field of the adjective blue and presence of phraseological units formed with this adjective is an undisputed evidence of both durability of inheritance from the Latin language of the term and specificity of Romanian culture. The contribution of this study relates to the role and position in Romanian chromatic terms, actually supported by the existence of a large number of lexical families. This study attempted to demonstrate that chromatic adjectives were a generous source of lexical material that contributed to the ongoing proliferation of new terms of the lexical inventory, this reality pleading for Latinity of Romanian language.

Keywords: chromatic adjective; blue; vocabulary; semantics; phraseology; semiotics.
Introduction

The linguistic action relative to color is not simply a matter of language, but a new approach to the way of thinking in time and space, in various languages and cultures. Talking about color is to enter into an atmosphere that emanates interest, mystery, fascination. This research brings together information from dictionaries that we studied which allowed us a detailed overview of several areas of the chromatic adjective blue: the notion of color, the symbols and the influence of color on man, the definition of the adjective, etymology, symbology (total number of symbols referring to this adjective), formation of numbers (derivation, compounding, phraseological units: collocations, idioms and phrases), semantic aspects, the place of the adjective within the family of seven primary colors of the Romanian language.

1. Color

Color is an impression that light causes to the eye, its perception is a complex biological phenomenon. Colors have a special place in everyday life, color environment having a great influence on the intellect and foremost on our psyche by generating states, emotions and feelings. The impact with a vivid color brings to the soul the optimism needed for healing, as one color that is too long watched at induces boredom, monotony, apathy. Colors that impress us at first contact with a landscape, a painting or a person provide lasting memories of these images. Color emphasizes memory power by states that awakens in each individual. By color are stimulated attention, memory, creativity and imagination, the act of learning or knowledge becoming more efficient and the individual experiences gaining new meanings that lead to the refinement of sensory reactions. So, the interaction between man and color gives the size of color’s influence on the psyche, memory power or health status. Without colors and light people would be poorer, more restless and they would lose the power to understand and to keep under control some natural phenomena. Thus, chromatic harmony is responsible for the daily comfort of man both on social work and private life by providing aesthetic and emotional balance. Based on a beneficial influence of the color on the psychic, they can be used in medical practice in the identification and treatment of diseases of mental or somatic dysfunction.

2. Symbology of the colors

Symbology of the colors remains one of the characteristics of chromatic universe, being an area aimed at universal human elements and characteristics that differentiates them. Equally, any color is characterized by specific notes and cultural-religious connotations circumscribed to a rich palette of symbols.

Colors "are always around us, they cheer us, they make us sad, they dress us, they get us drunk and make us dream. For some people color represents a way of life, for others it means a way to earn a living, while for others colors are just a choice related to fashion or mood" (http://designerlambrino.ro). Color can be considered substance, light, concept, perception, and above all an idea. Figure seven fall steadily in symbolic expressions, seven colors of the rainbow, seven musical notes, seven planets, seven wonders, seven days of the week. Throughout history, people have associated to objects chromatic attributes that ended up being perceived as true symbols. The symbology study of a color is facilitated by consulting specialized dictionaries. (Chevalier, 1969 and Hans Biedermann, 1998). Light has the ability to produce the impression on the eye that is known as generic name color, color reception being a highly complex biological phenomenon. Chromatic includes perception of color, its origin in various materials, color theory in art and physical aspects of color in the electromagnetic spectrum.

3. The definition of the adjective

The definition of the adjective blue given by the dictionaries that we studied (explanatory and encyclopedic) knows a double approach: a scientific one: "base color of the solar spectrum placed between green and indigo, whose wavelength ranges from 450-500 millimicrons" (Popescu, 1995, DA, 19) and usual one: "color of sky blue"; by restriction "blue"; metaphorical "melancholic, sad, gloomy." (Dima, 2007, 44-45). Analyzing the usual definition and semantics of metaphorical meaning may observe the semantic opposition clear / sad, gloomy. The 1998 and
2009 editions of Explanatory Dictionary provides a similar definition: metaphorical albăstru, -ă, albastră, -stre, adj., neutral noun 1, adj. that has got the color of the clear sky; metaphorical melancholic, sad, gloomy; 2, neutral noun - one of the fundamental colors of the light spectrum placed between green and indigo; the above described color. These definitions distinguish between adjective blue and noun morphological value of the same word. In Jean Chevalier vision, the definition of blue includes elements that emphasize the power of seduction, fascination: "blue is the deepest color: sight penetrates in it without any obstacle and wanders in infinity, as though the color would always try to escape. Blue is the most immaterial of colors and nature depicting it generally only comprised of transparency. Blue is the coldest of colors and in its absolute value is the purest, excluding the total emptiness of the neutral white. Lacking of materiality itself, blue dematerializes everything that enters into it. Blue is an infinite path of the imaginary in which the real becomes imaginary" (Chevalier, Gheerbrand, 1995, p. 79)

4. Etymological

Etymological, the word blue in Romanian language is inherited from Latin language*albaster<albus (Pușcariu, 56; MDA, 44; DEXI, 45) being also present in Aromanian language with the meaning of cenușiu, fumuriu / gray, smoky, so of a light color, idea that has generated the phrase de culoarea cerului senin /color of the blue sky. (Ciorănescu, 2002, 31)

5. Symbology of the adjective blue

Symbology of the adjective blue is complex. In time and space this color was and is the attribute of a philosophy of life and an expression of symbolic thinking. Chromatic symbolism refers to the social space, religious, psychological, artistic. Here are some of the characteristics of this color: blue is a very cold color, soothing, which urges calm reverie and nostalgia inducing inner peace, meditation, concentration, seriousness; blue signifies spiritual purity, delicacy, cold, faith being symbolically associated with infidelity; blue is the color of intellect and the symbol of a secret love. It is characterized by deep emotions, feelings and stimulating intuition; blue symbolizes peace, authority, freedom and confidence (uniforms, attire for a job interview); blue foster the development processes of inhibition and slowdown of mental activity; blue gives a feeling of distance, of infinite and, in excess, sometimes leads to depression; blue lowers blood pressure, muscle tone.

Being one of the most popular colors, blue has accumulated over time a rich and diverse range of symbolic connotations: in Romance languages, blue was called by terms borrowed from German language (blau) or Arabic language (lazurd=azu / blue); in Ancient China, flowers, eyes, ribbons and blue stripes were considered ugly bringing the evil; In Chinese tradition, the blue symbolizes permanence, development, improvement; in Ancient Egypt, blue was associated with the God of the Sky, Ammon; Jesus is represented in blue attires; blue veil of the Holy Virgin prones to meditation, color becoming the symbol of divinity by association with Heaven; Voroneț and Moldova Monasteries are known in the country and abroad due albastru de Voroneț / blue Voroneț, color used in wall paintings; from ancient times, in all religions blue symbolized divine wisdom (Osiris, Krishna, Buddha, Jupiter, Zeus appreciated this color calm and deep); Royal houses used blue for emblems and coat of arms; in the thirteenth century, in France, albastrul-regal / royal blue, was the color of royalty; Blue amulets have the power to destroy evil look; for the ancient world, blue stones brought luck and divine protection; literature uses the blue flower theme (at Eminescu and Novalis - symbol of purity, of youth ); the blue rose theme or the blue lily theme symbolizes impossible, absolute; in political symbology, blue was associated to national-liberals; in Popular Central European symbology blue is considered a symbol of loyalty, of mysterious things (Fairy tale: Lumina albastră / Blue light), of uncertainty. Semantic aspects and symbology of this word were the object of study for both Annie Mollard-Desfour (Molard, 1998), and Michel Pastoureau (Pastoureau, 2006) who have hardly studied these in their work. Blue is found in nature in different nuances: usual blue, light blue (signifies the need for rest, thirst for knowledge), dark blue (dissatisfaction), electric blue (complacency, dynamism, it is beneficial to speakers), spray blue (appropriate for an artist, for a dreamer). Following correspondence between personality type and color that enhances its profile, blue is the color that characterizes the passive, sensitive, perceptive type.
6. Derivation

Derivation - adjective blue is the main word based in the noun derivation, adjective derivation and verbal derivation, the new words enriching Romanian vocabulary.

a. Noun derivatives: formed from the adjective blue are: corn flower f.n (albăstră, albăstrică, albăstrită)- common names of plants with blue flowers; blueness / albăstrâlă, f.n - 1. "blue color"; 2. "Indigo blue substance used in household and industry to enhance the white linen of some objects". The meaning of blueness/albăstrâlă "blue / albastru de rufe " (according to fr. bleu anglais) does not appear in any lexicon, although it is a very common word and the only one that explains the meaning of albăstrâlă / blueness=boierime / squire", meaning" people with starched shirt, "albăstrîmă / blueness f.n.-1." characteristic to blue"; 2. "blue area"; "blue space"; 3. (old, pejorative.) "People with starched shirt; nobility"; 4. (in the interwar period in Romania) "Conservative Party"; albăstrire, f.n. - 1."blue dye"; 2."rinse of the washed laundry in water mixed with blueness"; 3."chemical treatment in which the steel parts are coated with a blue coating of iron oxide to protect them against corrosion."

b. Adjectival derivatives – albăstrui,-ie / "turning blue "; albăstriu,-i / bluish adj. "albăstru, -ie, albăstrior, -toară kind of blue; albăstrit, -a: 1."colored in blue"; 2."Dressed in town clothes"; 3.(metaphorical) "which is rinsed in water and blueness"; (old) albăstrân, -ă " dressed in town' garments" (MDA, 2001, 44).

c. Verbal derivative a (se) albăstrui/to dye blue: 1. a (se) colora în albastru, a da unui obiect o culoare albastră "/ to turn blue, to give an object a blue"; 2. "Rinse after washing in water mixed with blueness"; 3. "To have /to get a blue glow"; 4. "To bruise"; 5. (old, pejorative) "dressing in townsman clothes. "The adjective blue is the main word in the derivation process of some anthroponyms: Albăstrălă, Albăstrica, Albăstrilă, Albăstrou, Albăstroneu, Albăstrescu, Albăstrin. Some derivatives of the adjective blue have synonyms: albăstrea=albăstrică, albăstrită, vinețea, vinețică, (reg.) ghioc, zglovac (Olt.); albăstrâlă= (reg.) vinețeală, mierială (Trans.), (pop.) sineală; albăstrâme=claritate/clarity, limepize/ clearness, seninăitate/serenity; a se albăstrâ = (reg.) to turn blue, a sini/a sinili (Mold.), a (se) mierii, a vâlcezi (Trans.), (pop.) a vineți. (Seche, 1997, 16)

7. Composition

a. Compound words contain adjective blue associated with another adjective indicating nuance: dark blue, light blue, cold blue, cold blue, royal blue, navy blue, celestial blue, Mediterranean blue, ultramarine blue, Hungarian blue. The neological term bleu has the same status: blue - ashen, blue - gray, pale blue, bleu-foncé. The composition is made with another chromatic adjective, too: silver blue, grey blue, sky blue, turquoise blue, blue -green, blue -violet, blue indigo, white - blue, red - blue, blue-green, blue-gray.

b. The adjective blue can form compound words and with a noun that includes the concept of blue: blue-blueberry, slate blue, blue ink, blue bell, blue denim, blue-lavender, blue forget-me-not, petrol blue, blue topaz, blue-hyacinth. (Starmer, 2009, p. 158-187), which presents color combinations and shades. The situation is identical to the neologism bleu: blue-bébé, bleu-ciel/sky blue, cobalt blue, blue lavander, pastel blue, petrol blue, blue sapphire. In both cases, the second term of the compound belongs to vegetal and mineral kingdom.

8. The semantic field

The semantic field of the adjective blue covers the following units: blue helmets (f.n. pluralia tantum - Metaphorical name for soldiers serving in UN sent to peacekeeping mission in the world), Blue Book (white, black, et cetera) = Official publication of a government containing documents relating to a political problem, blue card (document proving the qualification of workers in European countries), blue Planet (name of Earth), blue disease (cyanosis), blue area ( area where standing / parking is limited). In the compound proper names, blue has little presence: Blue Nile (river in Ethiopia and Sudan), Blue River (China), Blue Mountains (Australia), Blue Lake (Romania), Blue Gully (anthropogenic lake in Vaslui county), fact occasional found in: the Villa of Blue Stag, Great Blue Gascony (dog breed). The phrases that have as core the adjective blue contain terms that refer to: *metals, precious stones blue: cobalt blue, Berlin blue, blue manganese, blue lapis lazuli; *Chemicals: Methylene blue, blue enamel; *ethonyms: Chinese blue, Cypriot blue, Egyptian blue, Indian blue; *placenames: Alexandria blue, Anvers blue, German blue, blue Bremen, Flanders blue, blue of France, Germany blue, Prussian blue, Russian Blue,
Blue Saxe, Blue Venice, Vienna Blue, blue Voronet. Expressions can be semantically equated by synonyms, other phrases or compound words: Alexandria blue=Egyptian blue, Vienna blue=cobalt blue, Flandra blue=enamel blue, Prussian blue=iron ferrocyanide, blue Bremen=copper arsenate, cobalt blue=blue celestial, manganese blue=barium manganate, blue lapis lazuli=ultramarine blue. In everyday language, there are phrases from the most unexpected associations with the term chromatic: blue agate, quartz blue, diamond blue, baby blue "cyanotic", blue butterfly, fly-blue, blue titmouse, blue stork, raven blue, blue shark, mackerel blue, blue crab, mellow blue, blue algae, mullein blue, blue rose, lily blue, Bluebeard m.n invar., Bluebeard proper m.n. The chromatic adjective blue is part of the structure of some expressions and phrases with spiritual connotations: blue heart "sad soul", by extension, "sadness, grief, sorrow, fury, anger," blue heart songs "melancholy songs"; it's a little blue "situation is (about) difficult" (metaphorical expression); blue year "difficult, hard"; blue gold "whale"; Steaua (team members of Steaua); expression c’est sang bleu characterize the nobles. Adjectival phrase of / with blue blood defines a noble, choiced. In addition to the status of physical and natural phenomenon, the color has a social status, too. Blue is the color of national and international institutions, European Union’s flag and it is present on the national flag of many countries on all continents. It is the insignia of the Gendarmerie, Police, Navy, Aviation, of awards (Pitiriciu, 2010, p. 142), blue color being a positive color. Negative connotations of the adjective are quite rare: in Informatics, the blue screen (an error in the Windows operating system) and the expressions: to sing of blue heart (sing sad songs/melancholy), blue-eyed boy (ironic.) (a worker in the Security services), blue pill (Viagra), two blue eyes (plum brandy), Doamne fereastră și o bucat’ de ușă albastră / God forbid and a piece of blue door (teenagers, joke.), God forbid! (Voceanov, 2007). Chromatic adjective blue appears in the title of works in various fields of art: screenings- Blue Bird (Cukor, George), Trilogy Three Colors: Blue, White, Red (Kieslowski, Krzysztof); Music-Blue Danube (Fuchs, Theodore), Blue Rhapsody (Gershwin, George) The boy in blue (Gainsborough, Thomas), Bluebeard (Offenbach, Jacques); Ballet-Bluebeard (Lecoq Alexandre Charles), painting-The man with blue skullcap (Jan van Eyck), Tatar woman in blue (Iser, Iosif) Blue Mountain (Kandinsky, Wassily), Women in blue (Léger, Fernand), Girl in blue (Modigliani, Amedeo), poetry-Blue cat (Hagiwara, Sakaturō), Blue Flower (Eminescu, Mihai), Red, Yellow and Blue (Minulescu Ion), Prose-Blue and green (Kazakov, Yuri Pavlovich), Yellow, blue, white (Larbaud Valéry-Nicolas). The influence of French language on the Romanian language lexis is proving the availability to enrich its inventory by loan translation. Examples are found in everyday language, speech or media specialist languages: blue helmets, blue / cobalt, Prussian, blue blood, green light, green line / phone, green energy, blank check, blank verse, white / red blood corpuscles, red torch, red card / yellow card, red carpet, see in pink / in black, black market /gray, black labor, black box, black hole, black humor.

9. Conclusions

Romanian language proves its Latin origin by keeping its etymology. Derived noun, adjective and verbal support large derivative capacity of the adjective (note the large number of suffixes). The composition is less productive than derivation and is made exclusively by parataxis. The second term of compound words belongs to vegetal and mineral kingdom. The adjective or the noun joined to the chromatic term give to the compound terms shades more or less pronounced of the main color. The symbology of adjective is complex, blue combining hope with melancholy, the sacred with the profane, the ideal with reality, being the expression of a thinking and a philosophy of life.

References

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