BLUE AND ITS TINTS IN THE ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES: COMPARATIVE DICTIONARY AND CULTUROLOGICAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract: The present article focuses on the colour terms denoting blue colour in two languages: blue, azure, indigo, navy, sapphire, and turquoise and their Russian counterparts – siniy, goluboy, lazurny, lazorevy, biriuzovy, ultramarin, indigo, nebesny. We shall concentrate first and foremost on the way the colour under discussion is perceived in the English and Russian cultures. The aim and purpose of this article is to confront the two conceptual and language views of the world. It goes without saying that when it comes to the translation of a text of verbal art some difficulties may be faced since what we deal with is not a mechanic word-for-word rendering of the same idea. The translator's goal is to transfer and transpose this idea not only in another language and culture, but also in another world-view. It follows from what has just been said that it is of great importance to study in detail those elements of an artistic text which may be perceived differently in the original language and the language of the translation. Obviously, one of the major difficulties here is colour in general and colour terms in particular. The results of the dictionary analysis (based on the confrontation of English and Russian explanatory and bilingual dictionaries) presented in this article can be used by translators, culturologists and specialists in comparative stylistics.

Keywords: colour terms, blue, tints of blue, comparative analysis, dictionary analysis

I. The blue colour as a cultural phenomenon

The present article focuses on the comparative analysis of the colour terms denoting the blue colour in two languages – English and Russian – in order to reveal the differences in colour perception in these two languages and cultures. Colour in general and colour terms in particular have proved to be highly connotative; the numerous associations they acquired in course of history are among the characteristic features of any culture. Obviously, the blue colour is no exception – the colour of the sky and the sea, along the centuries it has always been one of the basic colours in human life. That is the reason why before turning to the dictionary analysis of colour terms, we thought it useful to concentrate on the blue colour as such and its perception in various periods of history[1].

In the Ancient world blue did not have any particular symbolic meaning (in contrast to the triad white – black – red), but it was viewed in connection with its closest (in terms of colour) counterpart. Thus, blue was closer in its associations to black and, therefore, seen as the colour of night sky, oblivion, darkness and death as well as witchcraft and magic. These associations were acquired by blue in quite a number of ancient cultures – for instance, Ancient India and China. In Ancient Egypt, on the contrary, it was the colour of truth as well as the sky colour, the colour of gods. In Ancient Greece and Rome it was also connected with

[1] Here we shall sum up the vast material on colour from the following sources: Ammer, Christine. (1992) *Seeing red or tickled pink: color terms in everyday language*. London: Penguin Books; Korsakov, S.V. (2009) *Etnokoloristika*. Moskva: Granitsa; Matveeva, N., Mirkovskaya, A., Ananyeva, E. (2009) *Siniy*. Moskva: KITONI.

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the main Olympic gods, being Zeus and Hera's colour (Jupiter and Juno in the Roman tradition). It denoted loyalty and purity.

At the same time, the blue colour was also associated with some less appealing concepts. The early Britons and the modern Maori both tattooed themselves in blue, which they considered to be the colour of sacrifice. The Britons went even further and used a blue paint (called *woad*) as war paint, since going to war was interpreted as sacrificing oneself. Interestingly enough, in folklore blue was regarded as a magical colour because of its association with water, which startles people with its depth.

In Christian tradition, blue has always been the colour of constancy and faith, as well as that of the heavens and the oceans. It was often used by painters as the colour of Virgin Mary's robe, which is the reason why blue is also associated with home, trust and mother's love. Blue has also been perceived as a mystic colour. Among other associations it has acquired are revelation, revival, eternity, wisdom and spiritual meditation[2].

In art, blue has always been a highly emotional colour. As far as the art of stained glass is concerned, here blue is a colour of truth, calming and pure faith, the penetration of the transcendent world into the church (as opposed to red being the colour of eternal fire). In Christian icon painting, it is a colour of sky and meditation. However, for impressionists blue was one of the colours of shade and darkness. Picasso's "blue period" was a period of melancholy, suffering, poverty and death, the main characters being the poor, prostitutes and the drunk.

In poetry, blue is widely used in the sea and sky metaphors, as well as in expressing sentiments and romantic dreams. In the XIX century romanticism it was a symbol of dreams and aspirations for unearthly ideals. Thus, Novalis made *Blaue Blume* the symbol of the whole epoch in his novel "Heinrich von Ofterdingen".

As a clothing colour, blue appeared in Europe in the XV century. However, the dye was very expensive, thus it was worn only by noblemen. It was also worn by knights as a symbol of faith and loyalty to a Lady. Its mass production began only in 1882. In Russia, however, *siniukha* was widely used in everyday clothes – trousers and sarafans.

The colour under discussion is also widely used in room decoration. Its main characteristics are cooling and calming, thus blue is widely used in hot climates and crowded areas. Moreover, there is an existing stereotype that blue is the boys' colour (whereas pink is the girls' one): the boys' rooms tend to be decorated in blue.

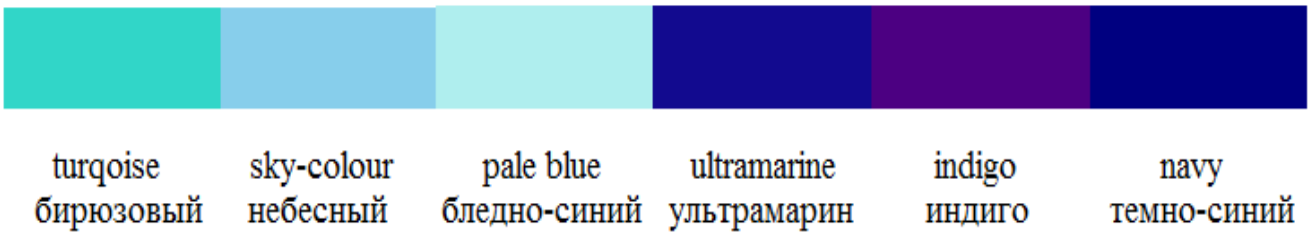
In heraldry blue is called *azure* and signifies chastity, loyalty, and fidelity. Today *azure* is principally a poetic word for blue.

Let us now look more closely at the tints of blue since they also possess their particular associations. The tints of blue we are going to discuss are expressed by such 'tint colour terms' as turquoise/biriuzovy[3], sky-colour/nebesno-goluboy, pale blue/bledno-goluboy, ultramarine/ultramarin, indigo/indigo and navy/temno-siniy.

[2] These associations appeared not only in Christianity. For example, in Islamic tradition it is also perceived as a colour of spiritual practice and wisdom. In some religions it is associated with the better world and the transition to nonexistence.

[3] The names of colour are given in two languages – English and Russian.

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Turquoise (biriuzovy) – the name of the colour term stems from the name of the stone. Its tints vary from light green to light blue. First and foremost it is associated with river flows and sea waves. Because of yellow which is present in this colour, it becomes more active and dynamic than blue. Its associations are twofold: it is the colour of individuality as well as that of arrogance and reserve.

Sky-colour (nebesno-goluboy) is the colour of clear sky, atmosphere and air. In Russian it is sometimes called лазурный (azure). This colour is produced by mixing blue with white or translucent. Sky-colour is a light colour, the colour of spiritual aspirations and inspirations, but at the same time it can be associated with light-heartedness and absent-mindedness. It symbolizes tranquillity and consent.

Pale blue (bledno-siniy) is the lightest tint of blue. It seems to be transparent and weightless. This tint is associated with dreaminess and helplessness. Pale blue is very close to white. It is a neutral and calm colour.

Ultramarine (ultramarin) can be translated as *the purest colour of the sea*. It is a rich blue colour mixed with green. Its common name in Russian is *tsvet morskoy volny*. The tints of ultramarine vary from bluish-green to bluish-black.

Indigo (indigo) is a tint of blue mixed with violet. Since the late sixteenth century, it has been the name of a blue dye obtained from a plant that also is called *indigo*. Then, in 1704, Sir Isaac Newton used the name *indigo* for one of the seven colours of the spectrum, between blue and violet. It is a dark colour, a deep violet-blue or dark grey-blue. Indigo is often called *royal blue*. This colour is deep and full of mysteries, being at the same time a symbol of power and might.

Navy (temno-siniy) is produced by mixing blue with black. It has always been perceived as the colour of meditation. Navy is often used in uniforms because it does not irritate the eye and is more delicate and mild than black.

Thus, from what has just been said we may conclude that, generally speaking, the blue colour abounds in cultural-historical associations. These are mainly positive: it is the colour of purity and wisdom. However, in some cases blue was perceived negatively (as, for example, by the early Britons). As far as the tints of blue are concerned, the lighter tints of blue (as, for example, sky-colour and pale blue) are largely associated with sky, purity and spirituality, whereas its darker tints (namely, ultramarine, indigo and navy) are associated with wisdom, power and might.

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II. The presentation of *blue* and its tints in English explanatory dictionaries

Our next step is the confrontational study of the dictionary aspect of the colour terms denoting the colours under discussion. First let us look more closely at the way *blue* is presented in the English explanatory dictionaries. In what follows (Table 1) we present the definitions and the illustrations contained in the dictionary entries of the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English[4], Longman Exams Dictionary[5], Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary[6] and Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary[7].

Table 1. *Blue* in English explanatory dictionaries

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English	Longman Exams Dictionary	Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary	Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary
Blue, adjective 1 having the colour of the sky or the sea on a fine day (navy, navy blue): ▪ the blue waters of the lake ▪ dark/light/pale/bright blue ▪ a dark blue raincoat 2 *informal* sad and without hope [= depressed]: ▪ I've been feeling kind of blue. 3 *informal* blue jokes, stories etc are about sex, in a way that might offend some people 4 **argue/talk etc till you're blue in the face** *informal* to argue, talk etc about something a lot, but without achieving what you want: ▪ You can tell them till you're blue in the face, but they'll still do what they want. 5 **blue with cold** *especially British English* someone who is blue with cold looks extremely cold 6 **go blue** *British English* if someone goes blue, their skin becomes blue because they are cold or cannot breathe properly 7 **talk a blue streak** *American English informal* to talk very quickly without stopping Blue, noun: 1 the colour of the sky or the	Blue, adjective 1 having the colour of the sky or the sea on a fine day (navy, navy blue): ▪ the blue waters of the lake ▪ dark/light/pale/bright blue ▪ a dark blue raincoat 2 *informal* sad and without hope: ▪ I've been feeling kind of blue. 3 *informal* blue jokes, stories etc are about sex, in a way that might offend some people ▪ blue movie 4 **argue/talk etc till you're blue in the face** *informal* to argue, talk etc about something a lot, but without achieving what you want: ▪ You can tell them till you're blue in the face, but they'll still do what they want. 5 **blue with cold** *especially British English* someone who is blue with cold looks extremely cold 6 **go blue** *British English* if someone goes blue, their skin becomes blue because they are cold or cannot breathe properly 7 **talk a blue streak** *American English informal* to talk very quickly without	Blue, adjective: 1 having the colour of a clear sky or the sea/ocean on a clear day: ▪ piercing blue eyes ▪ a blue shirt 2 (of a person or part of the body) looking slightly blue in colour because the person is cold or cannot breathe easily: ▪ Her hands were blue with cold. 3 (informal) sad ▪ He'd been feeling blue all week. 4 films/movies, jokes or stories that are blue are about sex: ▪ a blue movie 5 *politics* (of an area in the US) having more people who vote for the Democratic candidate than the Republican one ▪ blue states/counties **do something till you are blue in the face** *informal* to try to do something as hard and as long as you possibly can but without success: ▪ You can argue till you're blue in the face, but you won't change my mind. Blue, noun:	Blue, adjective: 1 of the colour of the sky without clouds on a bright day, or a darker or lighter type of this: ▪ a faded blue shirt ▪ pale blue eyes ▪ Her hands were blue with cold (= slightly blue because of the cold). 2 showing or mentioning sexual activity in a way that offends many people: ▪ a blue joke ▪ a blue movie/film ▪ His humour is a bit too blue for my tastes. 3 informal feeling or showing sadness: ▪ He's been a bit blue since he failed his exams. Blue, noun 1 a blue colour 2 a person who has played a sport

[4] *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English. Third edition.* (2001) Harlow: Pearson Education Limited.
[5] *Longman Exams Dictionary*. (2006) Harlow: Pearson Education Limited.
[6] *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Seventh edition.* (2005) Oxford: Oxford University Press.
[7] *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary.* (2003) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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sea on a fine day: ▪ She nearly always dresses in blue. ▪ the rich greens and blues of the tapestry 2 **blues** a slow sad style of music that came from the southern US: ▪ a blues singer 3 **the blues** *informal* feelings of sadness: ▪ A lot of women get the blues after the baby is born. 4 **out of the blue** *informal* if something happens out of the blue, it is very unexpected ▪ a bolt from/out of the blue 5 **Blue** *British English* someone who has represented Oxford or Cambridge University at a sport, or the title given to such a person 6 **the blue** *literary* the sea or the sky	stopping Blue, noun 1 the colour of the sky or the sea on a fine day: ▪ She nearly always dresses in blue. ▪ the rich greens and blues of the tapestry 2 **blues** a slow sad style of music that came from the southern US: ▪ a blues singer 3 **the blues** *informal* feelings of sadness: ▪ A lot of women get the blues after the baby is born. 4 **out of the blue** *informal* if something happens out of the blue, it is very unexpected: ▪ a bolt from/out of the blue at bolt 5 **Blue** *British English* someone who has represented Oxford or Cambridge University at a sport, or the title given to such a person 6 **the blue** *literary* the sea or the sky	1 the colour of a clear sky or the sea/ocean on a clear day: ▪ bright/dark/light/pale blue ▪ The room was decorated in vibrant blues and yellows. ▪ She was dressed in blue. 2 *British English* a person who has played a particular sport for Oxford or Cambridge University; a title given to them: ▪ He's an Oxford rugby blue. ▪ She won a blue for rowing. 3 *Australian English, New Zealand English, informal* a mistake 4 *Australian English, New Zealand English, informal* a name for a person with red hair 5 *Australian English, New Zealand English, informal* a fight	for Oxford University against Cambridge University or for Cambridge University against Oxford University, or the title given to them for this

The lexicographic picture of *blue* would not be complete unless we referred to the material of Longman Dictionary of Language and Culture[8]:

Table 2. *Blue* in Longman Dictionary of Language and Culture

Longman Dictionary of Language and Culture
Blue In the US and UK it is very common for clothes to be blue. *Navy blue* (=very dark blue) is a common colour for uniforms such as those worn by sailors and the police, and formal clothes worn for work: *a navy blue suit*. On the UK, blue is the colour of the Conservative Party. There is a joke that old ladies who support this party **have a blue rinse**, which means that they have their white or grey hair dyed a pale blue colour. The expression **blue-collar** is used to talk about social class. **A blue-collar worker** works in a factory, repairs machines etc. Blue is connected with coldness. If you say that someone is **blue with cold**, you mean that they are very cold. Pale blue is associated with baby boys, who are traditionally dressed in this colour. Today many parents avoid dressing their boys in blue because they think that it strengthens sexual stereotypes. People who belong to royal families are said to be **blue-blooded**. This suggests that they are special, and different from ordinary people, who have red blood.

As can be seen from the phrases registered in the dictionaries, the connotations associated with blue are diametrically opposite. Some of them are markedly meliorative – in those cases when *blue* is associated with the sky, beauty and purity. Quite a few others,

[8] *Longman Dictionary of Language and Culture. Third Edition.* (2005) Harlow: Pearson Education Limited.

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however, are pejorative – when *blue* is associated with things like depression, disease or dark mystery. Moreover, the wide range of connotations is further extended to include social political associations with the Conservative Party and the Royal Family. Here the origin is quite obvious: it is the regularly reproduced association of blue with the highest social circles – the *blue blood* of the English aristocracy.

Of special interest here, too, is the material of Christine Ammer's book "Seeing red or tickled pink: color terms in everyday language"[9] where the author concentrates on the phraseological aspect of *blue*. This may be used as a valuable additional material in our study:

Table 3. The phraseological aspect of *blue*.

Christine Ammer's book "Seeing red or tickled pink: color terms in everyday language"
- *blue sky* and a *blue day* (=clear weather) - *the blue* (=the sky) - *to vanish into the blue* (=a mysterious disappearance to one knows not where) - *out of blue* (=an equally mysterious arrival) - *a blue streak* (=lightning) - *to feel blue* (=to feel melancholy) - *the blues* (=depression, used in that meaning since the eighteenth century or even earlier) - *to look blue* (=to be affected with fear or dismay, used from the sixteenth century on) - *blue devils* (=a baleful demon, melancholy) - *blue-eyed* (=beauty and goodness) - *a blue-haired lady* (the practice of using blue rinses to prevent white hair from taking on an unattractive yellowish tinge became prevalent in the 1930s; a couple of decades later the practice was so closely associated with a conventional middle-class woman of a certain age that the term became a general descriptive one for this type of person) - *blue baby* (=an infant with congenital cyanosis) - *blue film* (=an indecent movie) - *blue joke* (=an obscene joke) - *blue blood* (=high or noble birth; the term has nothing to do with blood deprived of oxygen, it is rather a translation of the Spanish *sangre azul*, which was used to describe Spain's pure-blooded aristocrats, those whose ancestors had not intermarried with the Moors; consequently such persons were fairly light-skinned, and their veins showed bluer through the skin than Spaniards of mixed blood) - *blue collar* (=manual or industrial labor and those employed in it; originated in the United States shortly after World War II; the *blue* may have originally referred to blue denim, long a material for work clothes, but soon was more generally applied to any kind of job requiring special garments) - *blue laws* (=the enactment of laws to enforce church rulings on religious observance and morals dates from colonial times; originated in late-eighteenth-century America; the *blue* here means puritanical or morally strict).

[9] Ammer, Christine. (1992) *Seeing red or tickled pink: color terms in everyday language.* London: Penguin Books, pp. 46-62.

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The material adduced in Christine Ammer's book serves to support the conclusion we have already made on the basis of the dictionary material. *Blue* can be used either positively (as, for example, in *blue sky, blue-eyed, blue blood*) or negatively (*to feel blue, blue baby, the blues*).

So much then the for the colour term *blue* as such. Let us now concentrate on its tints: *azure, indigo, navy, sky-blue* and *ultramarine* as well as the indirect *turquoise*. First comes the material of the dictionary entries.

Table 4. Colour terms denoting tints of blue in English explanatory dictionaries

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary	Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English	Longman Exams Dictionary	Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary
Azure, adjective, noun: bright blue in colour like the sky ▪ The sun shone out of a clear azure sky.	Azure, adjective, noun: having a bright blue colour like the sky	Azure, adjective, noun: having a bright blue colour like the sky	Azure, adjective, noun: (having) the bright blue colour of the sky on a sunny day: ▪ The once azure skies of Athens have been ruined by atmospheric pollution.
Indigo, adjective, noun: very dark blue in colour ▪ an indigo sky	Indigo, adjective, noun: a dark purple-blue colour	Indigo, adjective, noun: a dark purple-blue colour	Indigo, adjective, noun: (having) a bluish purple colour
Navy blue, adjective: very dark blue: ▪ a navy blue sweater	Navy blue, adjective: very dark blue: ▪ a navy blue sweater	Navy blue, adjective: very dark blue in colour: ▪ a navy blue suit	Navy, adjective: dark blue: ▪ He was wearing a navy sweater.
Navy, noun: 1 the part of a country's military forces that fights at sea: ▪ the British Navy ▪ in the navy ▪ Is your brother still in the navy? ▪ He joined the navy during the war. 2 a very dark blue colour: ▪ The jacket is available in navy, green, or brown.	Navy, noun: 1 the part of a country's military forces that fights at sea: ▪ the British Navy ▪ in the navy ▪ Is your brother still in the navy? ▪ He joined the navy during the war. 2 a very dark blue colour: ▪ The jacket is available in navy, green, or brown.	Navy, noun: 1 the part of a country's armed forces that fights at sea, and the ships that it uses ▪ the British and German navies ▪ He's joined the navy/the Navy. an officer in the navy/the Navy ▪ The navy is/are considering buying six new warships. 2 navy blue	Navy, noun: 1 the part of a country's armed forces which is trained to operate at sea: ▪ My brother is an officer in the Navy. ▪ Gabriel joined the navy in 1997. ▪ a navy ship/vessel 2 dark blue
Turquoise, noun: 1 a valuable greenish-blue stone or a jewel that is made from this: ▪ turquoise earrings 2 a greenish-blue colour: ▪ The room was painted in turquoise.	Turquoise, noun: 1 a valuable greenish-blue stone or a jewel that is made from this: ▪ turquoise earrings 2 a greenish-blue colour: ▪ The room was painted in turquoise.	Turquoise, noun: 1 a blue or greenish-blue semi-precious stone: ▪ a turquoise brooch 2 a greenish-blue colour Turquoise, adjective: ▪ a turquoise dress	Turquoise, noun: a bluish green precious stone which is often used in jewellery Turquoise, adjective: bluish green in colour: ▪ the clear turquoise water of the bay

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Turquoise, adjective: ▪ a clear turquoise sea Sky-blue, adjective: bright blue in colour, like the sky on a clear day Ultramarine, noun: a bright blue colour	Turquoise, adjective: ▪ a clear turquoise sea Sky-blue, adjective: bright blue, like the colour of the sky when there are no clouds Ultramarine, noun, adjective: a very bright blue colour	Sky-blue, adjective: bright blue, like the colour of the sky when there are no clouds Ultramarine, noun, adjective: a very bright blue colour	Sky-blue, noun, adjective: bright, light blue Ultramarine, adjective, noun: (of) a bright blue colour

Table 4 shows that the tints of blue under discussion (namely, *azure*, *indigo*, *navy*, *turquoise*, *sky-blue* and *ultramarine*) do not possess pejorative connotations. They are mostly associated with the sea, the colour of which varies from brighter to darker tints of *blue*. The colour term *navy* is in a class by itself since it is widely used to describe the colour of clothing. As far as the indirect colour word *turquoise* is concerned, it stems from the names of a precious stone and, as can be seen from the dictionary entries, is usually associated with the colour of clothes and again the sea (*a turquoise dress, a turquoise sea*).

III. The presentation of blue and its tints in Russian explanatory dictionaries

Our next step here is to look closer at the Russian counterparts of the colour terms denoting blue and its tints. First we shall adduce the dictionary entries from two Russian explanatory dictionaries – S.I. Ozhegov, «Slovar' russkogo yazyka» [10] and «Slovar' Russkogo Yazyka» (The Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the Institute of the Russian Language) [11].

Table 5. Blue and its tints in Russian explanatory dictionaries.

S.I. Ozhegov, «Slovar' russkogo yazyka»	«Slovar' Russkogo Yazyka» (The Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the Institute of the Russian Language)
Siniy 1. An object of one of the basic colours of the spectrum – that between violet and green. *Blue sky. Blue cornflowers.* 2. About skin: very pale, having this tinge. *Cold blue hands. Blue face. Blue lips.* **Bluestocking** (pejorative) – about a woman immersed in books and intellectual work, lacking femininity. **Ni sin' porokha (net, ne ostalos')** (old) – nothing at all.	Siniy Being of one of the basic colours of the spectrum – that between blue and violet; of the colour of cornflower. *Blue eyes.* □ *The air is clear and fresh like a child's kiss; the sun is bright, the sky is blue.* Lermontov, Princess Mary. *The colour of the sea becomes summer-blue even when it rains. It seems that if you put your hand into water up to the elbow, your shirt will become blue.* Pavlenko, Happiness. || With the tinge of this colour (about complexion and body). *Having grasped the glass, he had a sip of wine, choked and, curving with cough, began to shake – crimson, blue, absolutely mean.* M. Gorky, Lamentations. *A naked cold-blue boy pulled a net along a low broom-shaded shore.* Kaverin, Two captains. **Bluestocking** (translation from English) — about a woman lacking femininity, totally absorbed by scientific research.
Goluboy 1. Light blue, of the colour of forget-me-not. *Blue sky. Blue eyes. Blue blood* (about aristocratic origin; old). *Blue mains* (about large rivers). *Blue fuel* (about gas). *Blue screen* (about TV-sets).	Goluboy Having the colour of one of the basic colours of the spectrum – between green and blue; the colour of clear sky; light blue, azure. *Blue eyes. Blue forget-me-nots.* □ *The sea is moving there with magnificent mantle Under the blue sky.* Pushkin, Rainy day died out; the shadow of rainy night. **Blue blood** (old, now ironical) — about someone's aristocratic origin.

[10] Ozhegov, S.I. (1989) *Slovar' russkogo yazyka.* Moskva: Russkiy yazyk.
[11] Akademia nauk SSSR, Institut Russkogo Yazyka. (1981) *Slovar' Russkogo Yazyka.* Moskva: Russkiy Yazyk.

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2. *figuratively* Idyllic (spoken, ironical). *Blue dream. Blue role* (an expressionless role of a positive character). *Blue characteristics* (exclusively positive). 3. Gay (spoken).	**Blue fox** — a species of arctic fox of a greyish-smoky colour. **Blue coal** **Blue screen** — television screen.
Lazurny Azure, light blue. *Azure sky. Azure coast* (near a worm Southern sea). *Azure dreams* (figuratively: idyllic, unreal). Lazorevy In folklore: light blue, azure. *Azure flower*.	Lazurny Light blue, of the colour of clear sky; sky-blue. *I saw around me only the immense azure sea.* Turgenev, Azure kingdom. *Immense azure space could be seen not far away, behind the trees.* Gladkov, The story about childhood. Lazorevy In folklore: azure. *Gvidon is sitting under the window And is looking silently at the sea: It is neither noisy, nor stormy, The water is hardly moving, And in azure distance Some ships appeared.* Pushkin, The fairytale about Tzar Saltan.
Biriuzovy 1. see also biriuza 2. Greenish-blue, of the colour of turquoise. *Turquoise sea.* Biriuza Mat precious stone of blue or greenish colour. II adj. biriuzovy. *Turquoise ring* (with turquoise).	Biriuzovy 1. Adjective of biriuza. *Turquoise stone.* ‖ Made of turquoise; with turquoise. *Turquoise ring. Turquoise earrings.* 2. Light-blue, of the colour of turquoise. *Turquoise sky. Turquoise sea.* Biriuza Mat mineral of blue or bluish-green colour used as a precious stone for various decorations.
Ultramarin Blight blue paint.	Ultramarinovy 1. Adjective of ultramarin. *Ultramarine workshop.* 2. Bright-blue, of the colour of ultramarine. *Still and unnoticeable, with pale face and blight ultramarine eyes, Pushkin proved to be an energetic tireless worker.* Azhaev, Far from Moscow. Ultramarin Bright blue paint.
Indigo 1. Dark-blue paint made either out of the juice of some tropical (indigo) plants or synthetically. 2. Dark-blue. *The colour of indigo.* II adj. indigovy (the 1st meaning). *Indigo colour.*	Indigo A dark-blue paint obtained chemically (in the past it used to be made out of the juice of some tropical plants). Indigovy 1. Adjective of indigo. *Indigo production. Indigo painting.* 2. Dark-blue, of the colour of indigo. *There was nothing around apart from the indigo sky, the sea, the sun and yellow grass.* Paustovsky, Restless youth.
Nebesny 1. see also nebo. 2. Beautiful and elevated (old). *Heavenly figure. Heavenly features* (about face). *Heavenly soul* (clear, pure). 3. Light-blue, of the colour of clear sky.	Nebesny 1. Adjective of nebo. *Vault of heaven. Heavenly blue.* □ *A lark is trembling in heavenly depth.* Gogol, The Fair at Sorochyntsi. ‖ Being in the interstellar and interplanetary space. *Celestial body.* 2. According to religious conceptions, coming from the sky as a place of divinity. *May you be subjected to the heavenly court, A cruel brother, a treacherous and envious person!* Lermontov, Izmail-Bey. 3. Figuratively, in folklore: beautiful, pure, unearthly. *Years passed. The restless gust of storm Shattered former dreams, And I forgot your tender voice, And your heavenly features.* Pushkin, I remember the wonderful moment. — *If I knew To sing so well as one well-known For all of us artist-grasshopper! — If I had a heavenly Voice, — how well I would sing!* Polonsky, Grasshopper-musician. ‖ Elevated, pure. *[Don Juan:] Is there no hatered in our heavenly sould, Donna Anna?* Pushkin, The Stone Guest. — *If I still value my life, I do it only because of the fact that*

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	I still hope to meet a heavenly figure that would revive me, purify me and elevate me. L. Tolstoy, War and Peace. 4. Spoken, old. Bright blue, like the sky. *He wore a blue sky-coloured hussar jacket trimmed with black laces along all the seams.* Grigorovich, Cart roads. *And telling him this, the stranger gave Nikolka a blue letter. --- Without any date, a phrase was written on a sky-blue sheet: " Dear, dear Lenochka!"* Bulgakov, White guard.

As can be seen from these dictionary entries, the colour terms *siniy* and *goluboy* possess different cultural associations and different connotations. *Siniy* is not infrequently used negatively, as, for example, *sinie ot holoda ruki* – cold blue hands, *siniy chulok* – bluestocking etc. The negative connotations of *siniy* occur when describing cold, illness and defects. As far as *goluboy* is concerned, its connotations are largely positive – it is perceived as the colour of cloudless sky, one's aspirations (*golubaya mechta* – blue dream) and a mark of aristocracy (*golubykh krovey* – blue blood), – while its negative meaning concerning a particular sexual orientation appeared much later. The same can be referred to other light tints of *siniy* – their connotations are either neutral, or positive; these tints are generally used when referring to the sky or the sea.

Of special interest here are the conclusions drawn by A.P. Vasylevich in his book "Katalog nazvaniy tsveta v russkom yazyke"[12]. The author gives us a brief description of the origins of the colour terms *siniy* and *goluboy* in the Russian language. According to the author, *siniy* originally comes from the Old Indian language where the respective word *cyamas* meant "dark, black". Initially, at the earlier stages of language development, *cherny* (black) and *siniy* (blue) were not distinguished. In the XI century literature the colour term *siniy* had very few collocations: among them there were only those connected with water and some natural phenomena. Interestingly enough, the same meaning was acquired by the words *zekry* (about the colour of eyes and stones) and *sizy* (the colour of feathering). However, in the course of time it was the word *siniy* that became universal. In the end the word *zekry* disappeared and the word *sizy* acquired a narrower meaning.

The origin of the colour term *goluboy* is not very clear: either it originated from the word *golub'* – pigeon, or the word *golub'* itself originated from *goluboy*. The word appeared rather late, and even in the XIV-XV centuries it denoted the colour of animal's coat. For some unknown reason it became widely used; now it is one of the main colour terms.

In the book "Yazykovaya kartina mira. Metody issledovania i prikladnye aspekty"[13] Vasilyevich points out that Russian is practically the only European language where the blue colour is rendered with the help of two separate colour terms. He suggests that it can be explained by some associations that used to be connected with these terms. *Siniy* was originally seen as the colour of water, inhabited by evil creatures. Interestingly, too, in the Russian language the devil was euphemistically referred to as *sinets*. The original pejorative connotation that became inherent in the word *siniy* could not but affect its use: it was somehow tabooed[14].

[12] Vasilyevich, A.P. (2002) *Katalog nazvaniy tsveta v russkom yazyke.* Moskva: Smysl, p. 12.
[13] Vasilyevich, A.P. (2003) *Yazykovaya kartina mira tsveta. Metody issledovania i prikladnye aspekty.* Thesis abstract. Moskva, pp. 53-54.
[14] The pejorative connotations of the colour term *siniy* have already been mentioned above – they can easily be found in the entries of Russian explanatory dictionaries

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This, however, refers only to the colour term *siniy*. On the contrary, a lighter tint of the colour denoted by this colour term had markedly positive associations: it was widely used in traditional festive clothing. Initially this tint was referred to as *lazorevy*, *lazurny*. But in the XV-XVI centuries the colour term *goluboy* came into use. Since the XIX century *lazorevy* has been perceived as a poetic and, therefore, a stylistically marked word; it ceased to appear in everyday speech being replaced by the colour term *goluboy*.

Vasilyevich also points out in his research that the frequency of the words denoting dark blue (*siniy*, *tausinny*) has always been lower than that of the words denoting light blue (*lazorevy*, *goluboy*). Even though at the present moment the associations *siniy* acquired are no longer present in the native speakers' minds (moreover, it has become the main colour term for this part of the spectrum) the frequency of *goluboy* is only a little lower than that of *siniy* and the use of the lighter tint of the latter remains emotionally-marked.

IV. Conclusions

The confrontational study of the colour terms denoting blue in the English and Russian languages has shown that there are some differences in colour perception in these two languages and cultures. In English colour terms denoting blue and its tints tend to be perceived both positively and negatively – they are usually associated with the sky, beauty, purity and, at the same time, with depression, disease or dark mystery. However, in the Russian language there is a clear distinction between the colour terms denoting the darker and the lighter tints of blue – *siniy* occasionally reveals its pejorative connotations (the colour of cold, illness and defects), whereas the connotations of *goluboy* and other lighter tints of blue are exclusively meliorative. These differences may create additional difficulties for translators since translation is by no means a word-for-word rendering of the original text – it is the art of transferring associations, connotations and emotions meant by the author into another language and another world-view. What has just been said is relevant first and foremost to the translation of colour terms which have already been shown to be among the most emotionally marked elements of an artistic text. That is the reason why the comparative analysis of colour terms in two languages is of great significance for translation studies.

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