

## **Colours as opinion markers: A case study of green**

JOANNA REDZIMSKA

*Received 4.04.2023,  
received in revised form 21.06.2023,  
accepted 25.06.2023.*

### **Abstract**

One of the primary functions of natural language is to express a diverse array of ideas, thoughts, and opinions. This article focuses on evaluative and assessing language conveyed through various modes of communication, including gestures, sounds, and visuals, with a particular emphasis on words. Consequently, depending on the communicative aim, opinionated language can manifest as either an offense or a compliment. Additionally, opinions may be articulated through single words or entire utterances. This text aims to elucidate, through qualitative analysis, the role of selected colour terminology in the expression of opinions, particularly those associated with the colour *green*. The research posits that colour terminology enhances the axiological aspects of specific language forms and, as a result, may function as an opinion marker.

### **Keywords**

opinionated language, axiology in language, colour terms

## **Kolory jako znaczniki opinii: Studium przypadku koloru zielonego**

### **Abstrakt**

Jedną z głównych funkcji języka naturalnego jest wyrażanie różnorodnych idei, myśli oraz opinii. Niniejszy artykuł koncentruje się, więc, na przekazie oceniającym i wartościującym, wyrażonym w różnych formach komunikacji, takich jak gesty, dźwięki i obrazy, z szczególnym uwzględnieniem słowa jako medium do przekazania poglądów lub przekonań. W związku z tym, w zależności od celu komunikacyjnego, język opiniotwórczy może manifestować się jako obraz lub komplement. Ponadto opinia może być przedstawiona zarówno pojedynczymi słowami, jak i całymi wypowiedziami. Celem niniejszego tekstu jest wyjaśnienie roli wybranej terminologii związanej z kolorami, szczególnie w kontekście koloru *zielonego*, w wyrażaniu ocen lub przedstawianiu punktu widzenia. Przeprowadzone badanie jakościowe potwierdza hipotezę badawczą, iż terminologia związana z kolorami wzbogaca aksjologiczne aspekty określonych form językowych, a w rezultacie może funkcjonować jako wskaźnik opinii.

### **Słowa kluczowe**

język opiniotwórczy, aksjologia w języku, nazwy barw

### **1. Introduction**

For centuries language has been a useful tool for expressing thoughts, among which opinions play a crucial part. Consequently, forming an opinion is inevitably connected with using a special kind of strategies and forms, especially these associated with valuative and assessing language. Such strategies encompass all modes of communication like gestures, sounds, visuals but most of all implied or direct meaning expressed by means of words. As follows, depending on a communicative aim, the scale of opinionated language goes from an offense to

a compliment or from one word (of a different lexical category) to the whole elaborated utterance. This text aims at presenting the role of selected colour terminology for the sake of opinions with the thesis that colour terminology enhances axiological aspects related to given language forms and as a result may be treated as an opinion marker. In order to answer the research question, the qualitative analysis of three arbitrarily selected phrases with *green* has been carried out.

## 2. Adjectives

Taking into consideration the fact that the research question for the present work focuses on the function of colours as opinion markers, providing some general understanding of the lexical category of adjectives, to which colours belong, is justified. Because of the fact that this part of speech has been thoroughly discussed from a number of perspectives, for the sake of this work Hornby's (1989) approach to the classification of adjectives will be presented in the following part.

The reason for this choice is that in his definition of adjectives, it is their function that provides the grounds for their understanding. Namely, their goal is to facilitate the representation of the naïve world by depicting the presence of reality in consciousness or organising realities in the objective world.

Consequently, adjectives are divided into (Hornby 1989):

- (1) adjectives connected with the perception by senses (visual, auditory, olfactory, taste, touch or all senses used together at one time);
- (2) adjectives connected with the perception of time;
- (3) adjectives connected with human ability;
- (4) adjectives that are connected with emotional characteristics;
- (5) adjectives connected with ethical, moral or psychological qualities of a person with reference to negative and positive evaluation;
- (6) adjectives connected with abstract signs denoting abstract concepts;

- (7) adjectives connected with the human state, the order of objects in the real world or such subject matter that demands muscle tension or the result of such tension.

As the above classification provides, the groups of adjectives to a significant extent reveal the conceptual/semantic fields equivalent to cognitive practices and pragmatic values. In addition, it is worth mentioning that prototypically from a cognitive perspective adjectives are scanned summarily (Langacker 2008) in order to link evaluation component with associative reasoning performed by language users.

One of the reasons explaining such language behaviour is that language performance aims at solving the issue of the distribution of values and anti-values within a given group, at the same time strengthening the unity of this group. Then, another point is that ethno-specific features of a language depict not only a certain view of the world, but also the means of learning it and in consequence highlighting the link between language and thought.

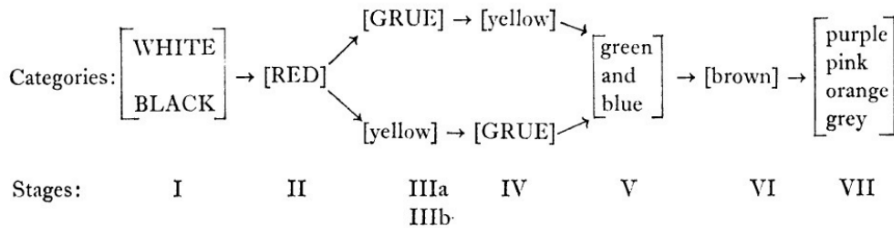
As far as the research question of the present work is concerned, it seems that adjectives representing colours to mark opinions fall under a few of these categories. Obviously they belong to the first category, since colour perception is a sensual experience. What is more, if the evaluative function of colours is concerned, then definitely axiological values are frequently attributed to them on the basis of cultural, psychological or linguistic features, so in this aspect they bear resemblance to group three, four and five of the above classification.

### **3. Colours**

Colour naming and terminology connected with colours has caused a great deal of academic discussion. Yet, for the sake of this work only some arbitrarily selected aspects are mentioned that in the opinion of the present author provide theoretical

grounds in the context of finding an answer to the research question.

Since the advent of basic colour terms by Berlin and Kay (1969), the importance of colour terminology has grown. They (Berlin and Kay 1969:4) propose a cross-cultural pattern of naming colours, with its stages of development and language progress (Figure 1).



**Figure 1**

Stages of the development of colour vocabulary  
(adapted from Berlin and Kay 1969: 4)

Among basic colour terms (such terms that can be identified by their monolexemic form, application to a broad class of objects, psychological salience, signification typical only of them, distributional potential, to name only the most important ones), Berlin and Kay (1969: 6) enumerate *green* in the fifth stage of development. This colour term, according to the above mentioned pattern, is a conceptual/ semantic derivative from the category *grue*, that was revisited by Kay (1975: 260) that apart from *green* also included *blue*. Additionally, Kay, Berlin and Merrifield (1991) in their research on composite categories prove that *yellow-green-blue-black* category is not present in any language. Another conclusion is drawn with regard to *yellow-green* category which, although being present, is difficult to find (Kay, Berlin and Merrifield 1991: 18).

Moreover, Steinvall (2002: 219) adds to the above explanation that basic colour terms are used in the function of modifiers, they take various morphological forms to mark shades or variations of colours (e.g. greenish), they are characterised by high overall frequency, as well as basic colour terms have figurative meanings (e.g. to be green meaning inexperienced), to name only a few. Additionally, as Stanulewicz, Komorowska and Pawłowski (2014) point out, the cultural elements touch upon colour symbolism which, in turn, is represented by means of fixed phrases. Also, as Szczygłowska (2003) observes, there is a mutual dependence between colours that surround us and the way we feel, express emotions and attitudes towards objects, ideas and concepts that we connect with particular hues. Thus, this mutual dependence places colours at the position of opinion markers.

However, Biggam (2012) on revising nineteen tests for basic colour terms proves that their effectiveness may vary from one language to another, the findings that support the view presented by Wierzbicka (2008: 408) who claims that the concept of colour is not universal across languages. The major differences refer to the way colours are conceptualized in different cultures (e.g. her studies of Gidjingali, an Aboriginal language spoken in Australia (Wierzbicka 1990)).

As the major focus of this work is on colour *green* (one of basic colour terms), it should be pointed out that, following Ayto (1990/2005: 252), this colour is mainly conceptually connected with plants. As far as its etymology is concerned, its origins are spotted in the ancient Germanic base \*grō- (a morphological root for the verb 'to grow'). Similar forms, based on the West and North Germanic derivative \*gronjaz, that are found in German *grün*, Dutch *groen*, Swedish *grön* or Danish *grøn* share the same semantic concept of being related to the natural world. Additionally, Wierzbicka (1990: 117) adds that a plethora of languages relate green with grass, herbs, vegetation and the connection with nature.

Another aspect connected with green are its associations with other concepts. As Mozolewska (2010: 86) demonstrates, English native speakers have various associations with *green* (Table 1).

**Table 1**  
Associations with green (Mozolewska 2010: 86)

Association	Percentage of subjects	Percentage of answers
<i>calmness/peace</i>	30	23
<i>envy/jealousy</i>	24	19
<i>nature</i>	16	13.5
<i>happiness/joy</i>	10	8
<i>sickness</i>	8	6
<i>coldness</i>	4	3
<i>freshness</i>	4	3
<i>friendliness</i>	4	3
other associations		21.5
		100

Stanulewicz (2012: 139) adds to this list the idea of luck since language users associate green with the four-leaf clover. As has been presented so far, green as one of basic colour terms has particular connotations and associations connected with nature; yet, its metaphorical meaning extensions are related to a number of human feelings and emotions. This fact, further on, is suggestive of green being associated with axiology.

#### **4. Axiology and language**

As far as axiology is concerned, it is understood as implied part of meaning that expresses emotional and subjective message (Redzimska 2022); yet, in Krzeszowski's (1997) terms it is related to evaluative language expressions or language that describes values. Thus, following Puzynina (cited in Krzeszowski 1997: 15) linguistics and axiology meet in "the domain of evaluative words and their meaning" as well as in "the ways evaluations are expressed in language and in the structure of texts". Additionally, as Krzeszowski (1997) claims, the 'positive-nega-

tive' distinction plays the most significant role for the semantic analysis with the 'true-false' distinction being reserved for the truth- conditional logic used in the transformational- generative grammar.

Thus, following Redzimska (2022:201-202), this general and universal positive-negative scale is particularly applicable in describing and analysing semantic aspects:

- (a) following Osgood, Suci & Tannenbaum (quoted in Krzeszowski 1997), the largest part of general variance (33%) in language is connected with the evaluation on the 'good-bad' scale
- (b) the categorization based on distinguishing good from bad is learnt and implemented by children in their early years of life and it precedes their language development and language comprehension (prior to evaluative concepts such as 'ugly' or 'beautiful') since it is relevant for individual words as well as their combinations.

The above polarity influences the domain of values, constructing it as a two-dimensional one (Krzeszowski 1997), in which the hierarchy of values is reflected in the vertical orientation. In consequence of this organization, the best values are located in the highest positions whereas the least desirable ones occupy the lowest positions. The model of the Great Chain of Being (Krzeszowski 1997) supports this hierarchy by grouping things, experienced by human beings, into five consecutive categories that include: God, humans, animals, plants and inorganic things, with God taking the top most position. Additionally, there is a left-right horizontal organization (Krzeszowski 1997) depicting the continuous scale of values between two extreme poles in the way that the more negative the value is, the more to the left it is placed whereas the more positive the value is, the more to the right its position is. It can be then interpreted that when examining a concept, two mentioned above axes must cooperate: the vertical dimension when looking for a corresponding category and the horizontal one when looking for its values.



Thus, the horizontal analysis constitutes the central concern of this work since it captures the axiological charge of a concept.

For the sake of this work it is assumed that this axiological charge presented by the horizontal axis is responsible for classifying a given word/ phrase/ sentence/ text as opinionated. It results from the fact that the axiological charge equals a point of reference on a positive-negative scale to which, as presented by Krzeszowski (1997), lexical items can be assigned, following the procedure of:

- (1) absolute values being generated for given lexical units,
- (2) contrasted values being generated for particular lexical units,
- (3) concrete values being generated in given contexts for particular lexical units.

One of the methods for eliciting the absolute charge is focused on sentence formation when these sentences are to present attitudes and opinions in relation to particular issues (Krzeszowski (1997) mentions this method in connection with surveys carried out for social sciences). Yet, when eliciting values of lexical units in specific contexts is taken into account, these are the contexts towards which positive and negative values are assigned, which further allows for estimating either a positive, neutral or negative axiological charge. As Krzeszowski (1997) highlights, this method lacks in objectivity and for this reason it works as a supplementary strategy only and must be supported with more independent/ objective evaluation procedures.

Because of the above mentioned issues connected with analysing the axiological charge, it is assumed in this work that this supplementary strategy can be the sentiment analysis procedure. Since the major focus of this work is on colours as opinion markers, the sentiment analysis understanding is limited to the definition presented by Taboada (2016) who claims that sentiment analysis task is to automatically evaluate the axiological charge of a text. This is also the reason why one of the research

methods used to examine the selected phrases, as far as their evaluation is concerned, is the application of the sentiment analysis software. So, this software will function as a tool to carry out the valuating process for given terms.

According to Krzeszowski (1999:26), assessments by means of language (or as assumed in the present paper- assessments that are opinions) can be divided into three categories:

- (a) the conceptual valuating (e.g. *A car is a **good** thing.*)
- (b) the class valuating (e.g. *The car that is standing here is a very **good** car.*)
- (c) the exemplary valuating (e.g. *This car is **good**; in that car the clutch does not work.*)

Analysing the examples mentioned above, Krzeszowski (1999) marks that valuative language units (e.g. good) express a value but for different carriers (language units assessed by valuative language units). Thus, in the (a) valuating process, a value carrier are cars (the whole category of cars) which basically represent the concept of a car. As Krzeszowski (1999: 26) underlines, the conceptual valuating is of an absolute character since it does not apply any comparison to other concepts and it requires only the knowledge of a plus-minus scale on which a given concept is placed. In consequence this position at the same time depicts the axiological charge. As far as the (b) valuating is concerned, it pertains to some isolated class of cars (this class is a value carrier), the representative of which is instantiated by the car standing here. Following Krzeszowski (1999: 27), the class valuating is always relative, namely it presents the degree of fulfilling criteria for ICM (an Idealised Cognitive Model) for this category (so such attributes by means of which the whole class of good cars can be defined, at the same time entailing the existence of such cars that do not comply with these criteria). The last category of valuating, the (c) valuating, definitely refers to an individual car (this individual car is a value carrier) which is compared to other members of the category. In this case, Krze-

szowski (1999: 28) points out that the exemplary valuating provides only some assessment that proves if an individual example within a certain class follows a canonical representation of this class. Thus, as Krzeszowski (1999: 28) explains:

[...] a given car can be good in terms of the class evaluation [...] but it can be bad in terms of the exemplary evaluation since it lacks wheels [...] or it has a broken steering wheel. Such an example is in its non-canonical representation.

As follows, since the research question for the present work is focused on colours and their function in opinions, it is assumed that the same steps in valuating can be followed when analysing selected examples with *green*.

## 5. Case study

As demonstrated above, axiology and valuating, which results from it, are placed on the horizontal axis and are expressed by particular vocabulary. However, the focus in this article is on revealing the function of colour modifiers, *green* in particular, in opinionated expressions that represent some evaluation. Additionally, it will be shown that selected lexical representations with *green* as a modifier make a given concept lose its prior status as far as its representation is concerned.

### 5.1. Methodology

In order to answer the research question whether colours can be used as opinion markers the following analysis of lexical representations: *a green light*, *green with envy* and *a greenhorn* has been carried out. The process has been divided into two steps:

- (1) the corpus analysis in order to support their representation in the lexicon,

- (2) the analysis by means of a sentiment analyser in order to support the assumption to what extent the phrases are opinionated.

The corpus analysis has been carried out by means of the following corpora, from which only the first twenty representation are taken into account:

- (1) British National Corpus (BNC) (available at <https://www.english-corpora.org/bnc>, accessed in November-December 2023);
- (2) BNC tagged by CLAWS (available at [available at https://app.sketchengine.eu](https://app.sketchengine.eu), accessed in November- December 2023);
- (3) Corpus of Contemporary American English (available at <https://www.english-corpora.org/coca/>, accessed in November-December 2023);
- (4) English Web 2008 (available at [available at https://app.sketchengine.eu](https://app.sketchengine.eu), accessed in November-December 2023).





































































For the sentiment analysis the following engine has been used because of its availability in an open access formula: Free Sentiment Analyzer (available at <https://danielsoper.com>, accessed in December 2023).

## 5.2. Corpus and sentiment analysis data presentation









































### 5.2.1. GREEN LIGHT

British National Corpus (BNC)

HELP	ALL FORMS (SAMPLE: 100)	FREQ
1	GREEN LIGHT	166
0.191 seconds		

1	KD7	S_conv	    (SP:PS0KP) (unclear) way round didn't I? (SP:PS0KT) I know. (pause) When the <b>green light</b> comes on again that means it's done doesn't it? (SP:PS0KP) Yep
2	KS0	S_meeting	    have is two aspects. The charter has dare I say it, got the <b>green light</b> , yes, yes alright. We shall therefore be talking to the local
3	A74	W_fict_prose	    accident. It's best if I don't go unless there's a proper <b>green light</b> thing. It's easy to have an accident, crossing the road.
4	FBG	W_fict_poetry	    day; kicked the door # out of its warped frame, stood in the <b>green light</b> # among nine years of unnatural growth # and thought back to the morning
5	H9T	W_fict_poetry	    the sparkling # sharpness of grass, whipped kerchiefs and castle battlements # edged with <b>green light</b> # and the primroses like a fall # colder than rain,
6	KIJ	W_news_script	    century with a partnership in Europe. Voice over The election is also giving a <b>green light</b> for policies about the environment. Green candidate, Bill Hugh
7	KIS	W_news_script	    Championship reaches the half way stage... practice gets underway in the morning... the <b>green light</b> for the competition runs will go on at 10 on Sunday
8	KIU	W_news_script	    the restraints, navigator says action stations, then the red light, then the <b>green light</b> and the load is dispatched. Voice over For famine hit areas of Africa
9	CH3	W_newsp_tabloid	    today another classic payday for local hero George Duffield so long as she gets the <b>green light</b> to tackle the Coalite St Leger at Doncaster. Yorkshire-bor
10	CH3	W_newsp_tabloid	    never surrendering, or even looking like surrendering the lead he built up from the <b>green light</b> . He had pride at stake, deposed champion Senna to hurt
11	CH7	W_newsp_tabloid	    CHARLES FAWCUS # FATHER and son racing team of Roger and Mark Hoad got the <b>green light</b> from the Jockey Club at an all day inquiry yesterday, write
12	A92	W_newsp_brdshst_nat_science	    are working hardest to cut pollutants. While many politicians have only recently seen their <b>green light</b> many diesel engine manufacturers have looked fi
13	A9A	W_newsp_brdshst_nat_misc	    borders Indian lands and a newly-created national park. The project is currently awaiting a <b>green light</b> from the government in Brasilia -- which, aware c
14	AAV	W_newsp_brdshst_nat_misc	    shops close forever, realise it is bog paper that we need. Race to <b>Green Light</b> wholefood shop and buy several #als of recycled. Wonder if it was newsp
15	A3U	W_newsp_brdshst_nat_report	    , not to carry it out. General Thurman still had to receive a final <b>green light</b> from the president once he had worked out a plan. By early Tuesday
16	AA5	W_newsp_brdshst_nat_report	    Society of Graphical and Allied Trades) said: The decision will give the <b>green light</b> to a small minority of cynical police officers, encouraging them to build
17	AAW	W_newsp_brdshst_nat_sports	    Peter Lever knocked him unconscious in his maiden Test match at Auckland in 1975. # <b>Green Light</b> has resurgent North on red alert for deciding match.
18	A3A	W_newsp_brdshst_nat_editorial	    of 1956, but not before Mr Pozsgay extracted the greatest concession possible: the <b>green light</b> to the multi-party system. By then the Pozsgay bulldozer
19	A15	W_newsp_brdshst_nat_commerce	    that the Monopolies & Mergers Commission report, published next week, will give the <b>green light</b> to Coats Viyella's 395m bid for Tootal Group. So as ye

## British National Corpus (BNC), tagged by CLAWS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Details	Left context	KWIC	Right context
1	  Applied science	ates with virtually any vegetable oil.If the project gets the	<b>green light</b>	, engines will be produced in Nordhausen, formerly
2	  World affairs	t wheel had not come right down because I did not get a	<b>green light</b>	on that side of the undercarriage indicator.</s><s>£
3	  Imaginative	r them.</s><s>She was surprised to see that he had the	<b>green</b>	flashing <b>lights</b> of a doctor set into the fairing at the front
4	  Applied science	The first image is a record of the pattern of reflectance of	<b>green light</b>	and images two to four record, respectively, reflecta
5	  Imaginative	eriee, underwater look, due to a uniform coating of lurid	<b>green light</b>	from a neon sign mounted on a building otherwise r
6	  Imaginative	ook upon her.</s><s>In the damp dawn mist he radiated	<b>green light</b>	, tendrils of luminescence which reached from the p
7	  Imaginative	ig the incline.</s><s>The room was warm, cosy.</s><s>	<b>Green light</b>	flowed like the liquid, coming through the stone itse
8	  Imaginative	urned, twisted and absorbed.</s><s>In the preternatural	<b>green light</b>	she watched oak and elm slide into vision, growing
9	  Imaginative	into the moss and mud.</s><s>It grew cold.</s><s>The	<b>green light</b>	became grey.</s><s>Screens of holly and ivy shelts
10	  Imaginative	xam was wound up as tight as the drivers, waiting for the	<b>green light</b>	.</s><s>She took the pills and lay down to rest with
11	  Imaginative	etting flattery creep into my tone.</s><s>Seen in the soft	<b>green light</b>	of the window, speaking with her serious calm air, Iv
12	  World affairs	m Somme Heritage Centre are expected to be given the	<b>green light</b>	at Ards Borough Council meeting tomorrow night.</
13	  World affairs	find themselves banned if a motion to Congress gets the	<b>green light</b>	.</s><s>Welcoming such a move Sean McCague, (
14	  Imaginative	launch the main assault and force their way in.</s><s>A	<b>green light</b>	would indicate that the enemy Control had been sui
15	  Arts	on the shelf, shelf position in the shop.</s><s>Tills ring,	<b>green lights</b>	flash, and buying books becomes as simple and a
16	  Unknown	iving.</s><s>Abolishing the Wages Councils would be a	<b>green light</b>	to sweatshops, a direct attack on the lowest paid.</
17	  World affairs	ate bilateral accords and was the equivalent of giving a "	<b>green light</b>	" to the United States to carry out" aggressive plans
18	  Unknown	porting the document today does not give the C E C the	<b>green light</b>	to rush into any amalgamation with the Transport ar
19	  World affairs	<s>Labour's policy means giving spendthrift councils the	<b>green light</b>	to send tax bills soaring even further with devastatir
20	  World affairs	s>It seems odd that the coal pfennig has been given the	<b>green light</b>	by Brussels when we have been continually led to t

# Corpus of Contemporary American English

HELP ⓘ ALL FORMS (SAMPLE): 100 200 500 FREQ +

1 ⓘ GREEN LIGHT 2311

0.359 seconds

Corpus of Contemporary American English			
SEARCH	FREQUENCY	CONTEXT	ACCOUNT
1 2019 SPOK NPR_Morning	🔍🔍🔍	are getting impatient. And he told me, if they do not <b>get the green light</b> to attack from Juan Gualdo or from the U.S., they might just take	
2 2019 MAG TechCrunch	🔍🔍🔍	, the Unicode Consortium, the nonprofit organization responsible for determining which emoji <b>get the green light</b> , is relaunching its website with an update	
3 2017 MOV The Outcasts	🔍🔍🔍	an operation plan to Photoshop the cheerleaders' yearbook picture. Can I <b>get the green light</b> ? I don't care, do what you want. I have been	
4 2016 NEWS Omaha World-Herald	🔍🔍🔍	But instead he immediately hugged the embryonic idea and went to Rabin to <b>get the green light</b> to continue, because he believed that the project was in its	
5 2014 MAG PopScience	🔍🔍🔍	, where they will be further processed. # TABLE # 07 DRONES <b>GET THE GREEN LIGHT</b> # THE DOMESTIC-DRONE age will officially begin by year's end. That's	
6 2014 TV Wonderland	🔍🔍🔍	me? My leave pass. The one person outside the relationship you <b>get the green light</b> to shag. Chicks always choose George Clooney. Oh. So, are	
7 2013 MAG Prevention	🔍🔍🔍	have to be your nutritional downfall, however. These five on-the-go options <b>get the green light</b> from Prevention advisor and nutritionist Ashley Koff, RD. #	
8 2012 PIC BkOne	🔍🔍🔍	" Did you hear the news? " # " What did we <b>get the green light</b> on this time? " # " Deanna killed herself. " # Godiva	
9 2012 TV The Legend of Korra	🔍🔍🔍	machine. Bolin passes All back into Zone Two, and the Ferrets <b>get the green light</b> to advance. Cheersbythecrowd. The Rabbits are just fighting to stay at	
10 2012 WEB news.discovery.com	🔍🔍🔍	the use of synthetic fuels for nearly all its aircraft and expects to <b>get the green light</b> for biofuels by the end of 2012, Undersecretary Erin Conaton said. #	
11 2012 WEB us.talentlens.com	🔍🔍🔍	of Oxford select to evaluate the final paper, a fraction of essays <b>get the green light</b> . # The California Bar Exam – A career in law is thought to	
12 2012 WEB techdirt.com	🔍🔍🔍	Youtube? # Does this make me a candidate for any website to <b>get the Green Light</b> and send all my private E*TRADE, emails, facebook accounts to stranger	
13 2012 WEB politico.com	🔍🔍🔍	get the U.S. to help strike Iran. He's not trying to <b>get the green light</b> to strike Iran on his own, that would be a very bad third	
14 2012 WEB ...les.baltimoresun.com	🔍🔍🔍	a group led by gambling giant Caesars Entertainment Corp. is expected to <b>get the green light</b> Tuesday to build a 3,750 slot-machine casino ringed with rest	
15 2012 WEB metafilter.com	🔍🔍🔍	polls have closed. It won't be until 7 p.m. that projections <b>get the green light</b> on the East Coast. " posted by Flamingo at 11:45 AM on November	
16 2012 WEB washingtonpost.com	🔍🔍🔍	when the situation is right in front of me. But we'll <b>get the green light</b> or not from someone else. At the end of the day you always	
17 2012 WEB ...ehouse.blogs.cnn.com	🔍🔍🔍	russia and others to turn their back on iran... then able to <b>get the green light</b> to strike iran through the UN # March 21, 2012 at 2:21 am	
18 2012 WEB nationalaffairs.com	🔍🔍🔍	, for the most part, check carefully to determine whether organizations that <b>get the green light</b> have what it takes to succeed. As a result, these states have	
19 2012 WEB startribune.com	🔍🔍🔍	Thursday he's not quite sure what Harvin would need to show to <b>get the green light</b> for Sunday. # " It's hard to say, " Frazier said	

# English Web 2008

	Details	Left context	KWIC	Right context
1	🔍 atimes.com	1 other forums before the government gave it the <b>green</b>	<b>light</b>	</s><s>Commerce and Industry minister Tofail Ahmed I
2	🔍 atimes.com	Propaganda Department before being given the <b>green</b>	<b>light</b>	</s><s>Beijing faces a tricky balancing act.</s><s>Nar
3	🔍 atimes.com	on November 3 of last year when Bush gave the <b>green</b>	<b>light</b>	for operatives to kill Qaed Salim Sinan al-Harethi, a susj
4	🔍 earthlink.net	n his slender body, it pallor tinged by the <b>green</b> highball	<b>light</b>	on the signal bridge in front of the trestle.</s><s>Now w
5	🔍 number10.gov.uk	ur nuclear deterrent, we were effectively giving a <b>green</b>	<b>light</b>	to other countries to pursue their own nuclear deterrents
6	🔍 roembus.org	>We will be 100% ready when Brussels gives us <b>green</b>	<b>light</b>	for the programmes ' implementation.</s><s>I would lik
7	🔍 wisc.edu	on works.</s><s>Our eyes are most sensitive to <b>green</b>	<b>light</b>	</s><s>Alexandrite reflects both green and red light.</s
8	🔍 wisc.edu	1 light.</s><s>In bright sunlight, the proportion of <b>green</b>	<b>light</b>	is greater than it is in the light from an incandescent lam
9	🔍 wisc.edu	ected by alexandrite in bright sunlight is rich in <b>green</b>	<b>light</b>	, to which our eyes are most sensitive, and we perceive
10	🔍 socialisworker...	rd when he allowed his spokesperson to give the <b>green</b>	<b>light</b>	to Sharon for what Sharon has been doing.</s><s>So th
11	🔍 projo.com	ten arrow while the cars exiting CVS also have a <b>green</b>	<b>light</b>	at the same time.</s><s>They would be merging in with
12	🔍 ubc.ca	>The monochromatic lights such as red, <b>green</b> , violet	<b>lights</b>	have different wave lengths.</s><s>How do the Newton
13	🔍 ubc.ca	<s>Red light The wavelength is 780 nm.</s><s> <b>Green</b>	<b>light</b>	The wavelength is 550 nm.</s><s>Violet Light The wav

14	spacedaily.com	panies said last month that they had received the <b>green light</b> from the US Department of Justice for their alliance, a bi
15	atimes.com	the military is essentially just waiting for Erdogan's <b>green light</b> </s><s>For all practical purposes, the Turkish military h
16	ponline.com	taff in the new year once they have been given a <b>green light</b> on their essential services.</s><s>I believe that all accr
17	atimes.com	ington had little choice but to give Musharraf the <b>green light</b> for his emergency as it desperately needs his help.</s><
18	atimes.com	ds in northern Iraq as a proxy force, it will need a <b>green light</b> from Ankara, which keeps the Kurdish population firmly
19	number10.gov.uk	sal, as outlined in the Mental Capacity Bill, was a <b>green light</b> for euthanasia, the PMS said that Lord Filkin had been t
20	exploratorium.e...	moved.</s><s>And where you see magenta, the <b>green light</b> has been destructively removed.</s><s>Glossary</s><

*A green light* is a metaphorical phrase that in the result of the metaphorical mapping means a permission to do something. In BNC (5.2.a.1) examples (the representation of the phrase is 166 example), whereas this metaphorical meaning in the first nineteen examples is illustrated in lines 1, 2, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19 (which makes 58% out of 19 most frequent examples).

In BNC tagged by CLAWS (5.2.a.2), the total representation of the phrase *a green light* amounts to 179. In the first twenty examples above, the metaphorical meaning is illustrated in lines 1, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 (which makes 45% out of 20 most frequent examples).

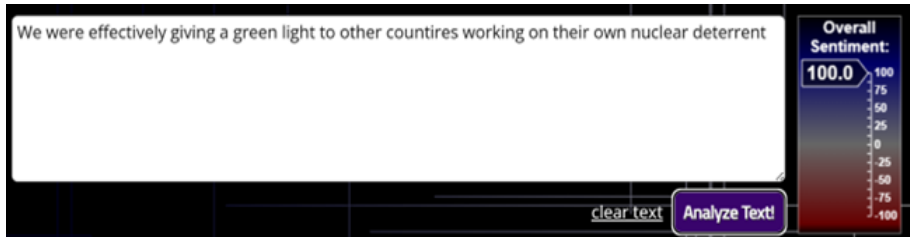
Moreover, in COCA (5.2.a.3) the total number of the phrase *a green light* is 2311. As the above examples reveal, in the first nineteen examples the metaphorical meaning is in lines 1-19, except for no 4 (which makes 95% out of 19 most frequent examples).

In the last corpus representation, in English Web 2008 (5.2.a.4), the total number of *a green light* is 7,531 examples. Similarly to the size of the previous sample, out of the twenty first illustrations, the metaphorical meaning is in lines 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 (which makes 75% out of 20 most frequent examples).

Additionally, when interpreting the meaning of *a green light*, the issue of its axiology must be taken into account. Basically, it can be paraphrased into the situation when if you wait to do something and finally you are allowed to do it, it is a positive experience. This statement is proved by the results provided by

the sentiment engine (5.2.a.5 below) that has unanimously evaluated the content of the phrase as positive.

## Free Sentiment Analyser



## 5.2.2. GREEN WITH ENVY

### British National Corpus (BNC)

HELP	① ★ ALL FORMS 12	FREQ
1	① ★ GREEN WITH ENVY	12

0.250 seconds

CLICK FOR MORE CONTEXT		SAVE	TRANSLATE	ANALYZE	HELP
1	KRL S_brdcast_discussn	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍
be impossible. And I know colleague directors in the country who are <b>green with envy</b> at some of the things that we've been able to do even in these					
2	FPX W_fict_prose	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍
magnificently rounded. Other women took one look at them, and went <b>green with envy</b> . The 55 women were no exception.' You have beautiful breasts. Wasted					
3	J15 W_fict_prose	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍
for -- to make men's heads turn and women's eyes grow <b>green with envy</b> for all that you have that they can never hope to achieve.' His					
4	AAN W_newsp_brdshst_nat_sports	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍
to examine the possibility of a bid from the city. PAGE # <b>Green with envy</b> for Norway. # By Stephen Lee # IT SEEMS the last Christmas of the					
5	BMC W_pop_lore	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍
the short of nonchalant ease that would probably make even ARgerich or Pollini <b>green with envy</b> . Only in his own pieces (all transcriptions of other composer's w					
6	FT8 W_pop_lore	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍
is crammed with quality features, some of which could make MS-DOS go <b>green with envy</b> # NORTON DESKTOP FOR DOS # (---) This includes a bag of invaluable					
7	G2V W_pop_lore	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍
the most entertaining and educational event of the year -- or risk being <b>Green with envy</b> : # tons of treats # THAT'S MAGIC! # 50 Playmobil sets #					
8	HAC W_pop_lore	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍
, and some of the tools it provides would make professional traditional animators <b>green with envy</b> . This is version one of what promises to be one of the leading					
9	CND W_non_ac_tech_engin	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍
British Telecommunications Plc, described here by Chris Rose, must leave Telekom <b>green with envy</b> . British Telecom is now exploiting its freedom as a commerci					
10	CFV W_advert	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍
CD 2.3 Turbo. It's enough to turn your fellow board directors <b>green with envy</b> . # SAAB # AIRCRAFT INSPIRED. # IBM # EMPLOYMENT TRAINING # If you					
11	B1L W_misc	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍
Resplendent in outrageous fly -- boy career that would make Del Boy Trotter <b>green with envy</b> . Henderson stuck firmly to the turf long after his career was over. h					
12	HAK W_misc	🔍	🔍	🔍	🔍
on the cost of producing a magazine lavish enough to make many editors <b>green with envy</b> , but says Shell underwrites 50 to 70 per cent of it. The rest					



## British National Corpus (BNC), tagged by CLAWS

<input type="checkbox"/> Details	Left context	KWIC	Right context
<input type="checkbox"/> Imaginative	or - to make men's heads turn and women's eyes grow	green with envy	for all that you have that they can never hope
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce & fina...	lucing a magazine lavish enough to make many editors	green with envy	, but says Shell underwrites 50 to 70 per cent
<input type="checkbox"/> Applied science	provides would make professional traditional animators	green with envy	</s><s>This is version one of what promises
<input type="checkbox"/> Applied science	s><s>Many thanks for a first class mag, even if I do go	green with envy	at some of the kit</s><s>J. D. Holden Chich
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce & fina...	f Japanese investors on terms that make other studios	green with envy	</s><s>Compaq</s><s>A star is fallen</s><
<input type="checkbox"/> Leisure	taining and educational event of the year - or risk being	Green with envy	!</s><s>tons of treats</s><s>THAT'S MAGIC
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	>And I know colleague directors in the country who are	green with envy	at some of the things that we've been able to
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce & fina...	></s><s>It's enough to turn your fellow board directors	green with envy	</s><s>SAAB</s><s>AIRCRAFT INSPIREC
<input type="checkbox"/> Imaginative	</s><s>Other women took one look at them, and went	green with envy	</s><s>The SS women were no exception.<

## Corpus of Contemporary American English

HELP	ALL FORMS (SAMPLE): 100	FREQ
1	GREEN WITH ENVY	135

0.219 seconds

Corpus of Contemporary American English			
SEARCH	FREQUENCY	CONTEXT	ACCOUNT
1 2019 SPOK NBC_Today	., HODA-KOTB) : Yeah. DAVE-ZINCZENKO) : Broccoli. Broccoli just have been green with envy. Now it has its moment in the sun. CARSON-DALY) :		
2 2019 SPOK NPR_AskMe	about going there to cheat on his wife. Now Meg Ryan is green with envy because Tom Hanks has vowed to do the same. (SOUNDBITE-OF-BELL		
3 2019 FIC Fan Fic	a squeeze on her arm. "All the other girls will be green with envy, babe. " # She raised her virid eyes to smile at him.		
4 2019 FIC Fan Fic	113267082 Green with Envy # The Romans hadn't made it this far north. The English had.		
5 2019 FIC Fan Fic	tentacles and the red substance it was spraying on the grass. # Green with envy. Angus reflected. # He'd heard some Oxford men theorize abou		
6 2019 FIC Fan Fic	To scream with a voice that chilled Angus to the core. # Green with envy, he reflected as everyone stopped shooting. Can you even feel that? #		
7 2019 MOV American Bistro	fine guests that people will be sick, like green faced, like green with envy from the delicious... Use your words... food and drink choices they will		
8 2018 FIC AntiochRev	yellow motorcycle that was as boisterous as its teenage driver, girls turned green with envy and boys blue with fear. Or perhaps it was longing:.		
9 2018 MOV Her Smell	shit for myself. Well, what do you think? I'm green with envy. So, Howard said that you guys are almost up in this one.		
10 2018 TV The Deuce	two. For real, Jackie Bisset... she's gon na be green with envy. You watch. Here ya go, Zev. All right now. Easy		
11 2017 MAG Fortune	summer's lawn today. Related # Want the neighbors to be green with envy over your grass next summer? Start putting in the work today, say t		
12 2017 MOV Silicon Cowboys	fastest model. A development that could make Big Blue, IBM, green with envy. Come on, come on, come on, come on, come on		
13 2016 FIC Bk-WilsonDeception	You should have seen Lansing when he took a gander at this. Green with envy, he was. Even though Lansing's own suite is pretty darned regal,		
14 2016 MOV Stressed to Kill	it going? If I told you the truth, you'd be green with envy and want to kill yourself. Yeah, yeah, I know, it sucks		
15 2015 TV Hulk and the Agents of S.M.A.S.H	too. By Jupiter! This jade vixen would turn Venus herself green with envy! (GROANS) Quit flirtin' and get fighting! Love and war		
16 2014 MAG Essence	beautybrands.com) # MAYBELLINE # New York Color Show Nail Lacquer in Green With Envy (S4, Walmart) # JINNSOON # Nail Polish in Dolly Pin		
17 2013 ACAD JissesNursing	. C. & Appleby, J. (2000). Measuring performance. Green with envy. Health Service Journal, 110, 22-25. # Didion, J., Kozy		
18 2012 SPOK CNN_Newsroom	my game for decades. So you will not believe and may be green with envy when I tell you about Latanna Stone. Why? Because she is only 10		
19 2012 FIC Bk-CoupDetat	, who hadn't seen the sun since last Friday, was bright green with envy. # " We are here on this historic occasion to observe the third inaugurati		

## English Web 2008

1		bubl.ac.uk	?</s><s>Not a bit of it!</s><s>He would be <b>green with envy</b> at the generally much greater accuracy of today's maps
2		bestcontractmob...	der and flaunt it among friends to turn them <b>green with envy</b> .</s><s>Twist and turn the screen of the Nokia N93 to €
3		att.net	è.</s><s>He was in awe of her.</s><s>And <b>green with envy</b> .</s><s>He chuckled a little at the memory.</s><s>We
4		usaweekend.com	red other professions that, at first, made us <b>green with envy</b> -- ice cream taster, B&B owner, personal shopper, film c
5		deuceofclubs.co...	um ____</s><s>Peter Forbes: And I Am... <b>green with envy</b> .</s><s>Green Eggs and Ham.</s><s>And I Am...</s><s>
6		pitzer.edu	è>The Spanish Inquisition would have been <b>green with envy</b> .</s><s>We now know the real truths behind governme
7		website.com	atic display that will leave water-shy nations <b>green with envy</b> .</s><s>Reconnect our kids with the fun of fiddling abo
8		kcl.ac.uk	urn students from other London universities <b>green with envy</b> !</s><s>The atmosphere at the halls of residence is als
9		freeworldgroup...	ng TV on the passenger-side visor.</s><s> <b>Green with envy</b> (but still not furious), the Lexus LS came up with autom
10		police.uk	stershire Constabulary has left other forces <b>green with envy</b> after becoming the first force in the country to achieve a
11		atimes.com	number two man at the Pentagon, must be <b>green with envy</b> .</s><s>Total lending by the bank, the world's largest si
12		globalnet.co.uk	e in the school holidays, I could only watch, <b>green with envy</b> , as they rode into the sunset.....</s><s>Hearing of an
13		fortunecity.com	I kinds of prestigious journals that make me <b>green with envy</b> !</s><s>We've been very fortunate in having, for the las
14		erasmatazz.com	·You don't get a bronze knife.</s><s>You're <b>green with envy</b> .</s><s>Then one day the master flintmaker, aware of j
15		webshots.com	ng on just one photo is not fair.</s><s>I am <b>green with envy</b> at the quality of your whole album.</s><s>Usually one €
16		websher.net	yes, like slingshots.</s><s>And even so I'm <b>green with envy</b> .</s><s>Never before or since have I envied anyone so
17		theweekly.co.uk	on in Tunisia.</s><s>It looked lovely - I was <b>green with envy</b> .</s><s>She says that it just makes it all the harder to c
18		webshots.com	is tearing into a fish - Outstanding!</s><s> <b>Green with envy</b> , Paul in Florida.</s><s>P.S. We're contemplating a cru

When analysing the meaning of the phrase *green with envy*, all of its representation in the corpora above (5.2.b.1, 5.2.b.2, 5.2.b.3, 5.2.b.4) have a metaphorical meaning which can be interpreted as wishing very much what someone else has. What is significant is the role of green as a complement to envy that is to strengthen the feeling of desiring something to a large extent.

As far as the axiology of the phrase *green with envy* is concerned, the intuition of language users would mark this phrase a unanimously negative since envy is an emotion that is prototypically (including socially and culturally) marked as negative. This intuition is supported by the data below (5.2.b.6).

## Free Sentiment Analyser

Her beautiful suntan made me green with envy

Overall Sentiment: -100.0

clear text Analyze Text!

### 5.2.3. GREENHORN

#### British National Corpus (BNC)

HELP	① ★ ALL FORMS 2	FREQ	
1	① ★ GREENHORN	2	

0.211 seconds

CLICK FOR MORE CONTEXT

SAVE TRANSLATE ANALYZE HELP

1	B7G W_mon_ac_nat_science	same time, it often seems well nigh impossible – especially for the tyro or <b>greenhorn</b> – to visit a museum and learn anything that serious educators would agree to do
2	GWK W_misc	south Wales, north London and Herts and can be contacted on (---); Carol <b>Greenhorn</b> (), formerly at Reed Consumer Books, represents Kingfisher in Scotland on a

#### British National Corpus (BNC), tagged by CLAWS

1	Imaginative	lack mark against his name,' said Penny.</s><s>'What <b>greenhorns</b> you are,' said Glenda Grower, shaking her great mass
2	Leisure	'rd to the police.</s><s>'We were totally inexperienced - <b>greenhorns</b> - as far as this sort of experience went, lost souls entrap
3	Applied science	1 seems well nigh impossible - especially for the tyro or <b>greenhorn</b> - to visit a museum and learn anything that serious educ
4	Leisure	orth London and Herts and can be contacted on : Carol <b>Greenhorn</b> (), formerly at Reed Consumer Books, represents King

#### Corpus of Contemporary American English

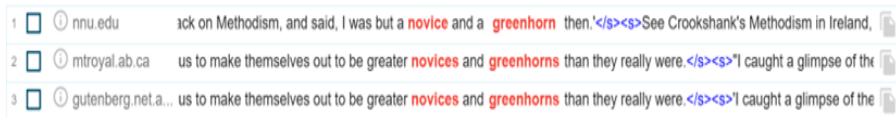
HELP	① ★ ALL FORMS (SAMPLE): 100	FREQ	
1	① ★ GREENHORN	169	

0.234 seconds

Corpus of Contemporary American English

SEARCH	FREQUENCY	CONTEXT	ACCOUNT
1 2019 FIC Crazyhorse	breath. * Don't talk in Yiddish. You want to sound like a <b>greenhorn</b> ? You want to sound like Papa? * Louis doesn't finish his sausage		
2 2017 FIC Bk:YoureOneThatIWant	and the clanging of the crab pot against the hydraulic lift, to the eighteen-year-old <b>greenhorn</b> hauling the bait from the chopper. # Greenie - sf		
3 2017 FIC Bk:YoureOneThatIWant	seven-mile line of pots. # Scotty shot a glance at Owen, the other <b>greenhorn</b> , although he'd run "opies, "opilio snow crab, with her		
4 2017 TV Bering Sea Gold	Landon will spend his leave on bonding time, facing the bering sea with his <b>greenhorn</b> dad. - Let's go, man. - Let's do this.		
5 2015 FIC Dissent	solids, to liquids again, to gas, Joseph Cohen might've been a <b>greenhorn</b> but he had a green thumb, a man who grew apples from asphalt,		
6 2014 FIC Bk:BigSkySecrets	nearly a year in Montana, Landry was still an outsider, still that dandified <b>greenhorn</b> from Chicago, still the perennial dude. Still and always the		
7 2014 FIC WorldLitToday	-- " The other uniformed man walked up and said to the first, " <b>Greenhorn</b> . " " If he's got money hidden on him, I'm hooking		
8 2014 FIC WorldLitToday	in a derogatory tone, " What did I teU you? He's a <b>greenhorn</b> . " The first uniformed man told him, " Get outta my sight.		
9 2014 MOV Wings: Sky Force Heroes	- What do you mean rookies? - Rookie? Fresh off the runway, <b>greenhorn</b> , wet behind the ears... call it what you want. You have two		
10 2013 FIC AntiochRev	On the bus from Ardara I had loaded black and white film, a raw <b>greenhorn</b> idea I had of capturing seriousness. But I had transgressed and wi		
11 2013 FIC AntiochRev	Chester Booth that was the start of the hospital. * Dr. Pelton was just a <b>greenhorn</b> out of school, working in some apothecary shop in Lampasa		
12 2013 FIC IowaRev	Our purpose was to prepare the cabin as a waypoint for the steady flow of <b>greenhorn</b> hunters from Texas and Arkansas that my father would		
13 2013 MAG MotherJones	difference. " # Warren has entered the Senate with more opportunity than the average <b>greenhorn</b> to have an impact. And she seems to realiz		
14 2013 MAG NaturalHist	is underlain by Dakota Sandstone. Farther west, the underlying rock consists of chalky <b>Greenhorn</b> Limestone beds only about six inches thick,		
15 2012 FIC Bk:ComeTable	mature folks, been at the church since the beginning. I'm just a <b>greenhorn</b> , don't even have my seminary degree yet. " " Silly. "		
16 2012 FIC Bk:BookMischieNew	, has assumed the Prince Albert coat his papa has kept in mothballs since his <b>greenhorn</b> days. A few of the older boys sport incipient beards li		
17 2012 FIC Bk:BookMischieNew	no vote. # " Your honors know best " this from Kaminsky, a <b>greenhorn</b> till his dying day " but ain't it what you call a miracle.		
18 2012 NEWS OrangeCR	, your pyrthuloxia and phainopepla, your tit and wren and wrenit. Since my <b>greenhorn</b> exemption was in place, nomenclature blur was anoth		
19 2012 ACAD AmerScholar	the East. " The parallel is clear: Levin is the immigrant, the <b>greenhorn</b> , fresh off the boat and eager to be filled with a new American identity		

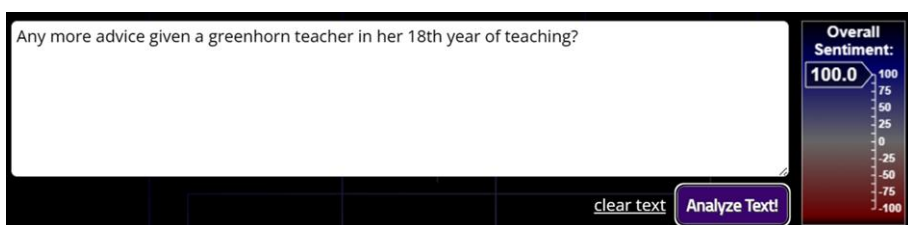
## English Web 2008



If the meaning of term greenhorn is to be analysed, it is also a metaphor that means a novice, an inexperienced person, which goes on a par with one of the associations with the colour green- not ripe, not mature, not suitable for the consumption, not ready to be used. This word has the greatest number of examples in COCA (5.2.c.3), in the rest of the analysed corpora its representation is rather scarce (5.2.c.1, 5.2.c.2, 5.2.c.4). Yet, in all of them there is no other but the metaphorical meaning.

Additionally, when the axiology of the phrase is concerned, Free Sentiment Analyser (5.2.c.5) recognizes this phrase as positive. It can be then hypothetically assumed that this phrase carries a positive evaluation (although, depending on a context, the lack of experience can be treated as a negative characteristics).

### Free Sentiment Analyzer



## 5.4. Data / results interpretation

A natural question that comes to mind is the relation between the above mentioned theories and data for the sake of the

present work. It must be then highlighted that the research question assumes that colours can be treated as opinion markers and evaluation (in other word opinion) can be expressed by these terms. So, when analysing the above results of the corpus analysis and the sentiment analysis, a number of factors must be taken into consideration. The first one concerns the quality of phrases, *a green light*, *a greenhorn*, *green with envy* since they possess the following features that have impact on their understanding:

- (a) all of the above mentioned phrases are both highly conventional and metaphorical, to the extent that they are treated as fixed phrases both in their form and meaning;
- (b) in each of them *green* has a different function:
  - in *a green light*, *green* function a modifier for a noun in a NP (art. Adj N)
  - in *a greenhorn*, *green* is part of a compound noun (Adj + N)
  - in *green with envy*, *green* is part of a VP and is complemented with a PP (Adj + PP).

For the sake of the current analysis, the present author claims that characteristics mentioned above in *a* play a more significant role than these in *b* as far as expressing opinions is concerned. The claim is based on the assumption that axiological charge that is responsible for presenting views is part of the conventional meaning connected with these phrases. The reason for this is the fact that in phrases *a green light* or *a greenhorn*, either *green* or *light* or *horn* are neutral in their axiology but when the nouns are combined with *green* their axiology changes, mostly because of associations and individual experience connected with the concept of *green*. At this point, it should be also signified that as far as these phrases are concerned it can be a matter of arbitrarily assigned meaning for a fixed phrase that is context-dependent. However, another situation is with *green* and *envy* since *envy* is already prototypically marked as negative; so, it seems plausible to claim that axiology connected with *envy* already has its strong negative

value and *green* either functions as a modifier that strengthens this value or adopts it from envy.

Additionally, bearing in mind the research question of the present work connected with the representation of opinion by means of colours, it must be highlighted that in the opinion of the present author opinionated statements are partly construed by means of valuating. In the case of the analysed phrases and following Krzeszowski (1997), valuating (and as the result opinion) is present at two levels. The first level is the conceptual valuating in which a given concept is placed on a plus-minus scale. As follows, *a green light*, *green with envy* and *greenhorn* in their metaphorical sense acquire their axiological dimension and gain their power to express opinion at the moment of a metaphorical mapping- so at the level where absolute values are generated for these phrases. Obviously, if they are used in particular contexts with reference to particular people/ objects this valuating changes to the exemplary valuating and the absolute values turn into concrete values that are required in particular contexts (e.g. when language users use these expressions towards particular people or in particular situations). However, it must be stressed that no matter which of the two levels are taken into account, the axiology of phrases is preserved and by means of this axiology a certain opinion is presented as well.

## 6. Conclusions

As discussed above, valuative and assessing language is a useful tool in forming and expressing opinions. The research question of the present work focuses on the possibility of colour terminology, in particular *green*, to present opinions. As the corpus analysis and the sentiment analysis for the selected phrases have proved, colour terminology when used in its metaphorical sense can be used in opinionated texts. Additionally, if the meaning and aim of these phrases is scrutinized, the opinion seems obvious in the case of *greenhorn* (so calling someone a greenhorn equals our opinion about this person). With *green*

*with envy* or *a green light* opinion seems a matter of the interpretation of the whole communicative situation, including the context for these expressions. Furthermore, the sentiment analysis presented above gives evidence that the above terms are not neutral. Additionally, using software for sentiment analysis is a useful method in the qualitative analysis of language to support the research of the axiological charge in opinionated language expressions.

## References

- Ayto, John (2005) [1990]. *Word Origins: The Hidden Histories of English Words from A to Z*. Second edition. London: A & C Black.
- Berlin, Brent, Paul Kay (1969). *Basic Color Terms: Their Universality and Evolution*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Biggam, Carole P. (2012). *The Semantics of Colour: A Historical Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hornby, Albert S. (1989). *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. Oxford University Press.
- Kay, Paul (1975). *Synchronic Variability and Diachronic Change in Basic Color Terms*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kay, Paul, Brent Berlin, William Merrifield (1991). "Biocultural implications of systems of color naming". *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 1: 12-25.
- Krzeszowski, Tomasz (1997). *Angels and Devils in Hell: Elements of Axiology in Semantics*. Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Energeia Race Jovanovich.
- Krzeszowski, Tomasz (1999). *Aksjologiczne aspekty semantyki językowej*. Toruń: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika.
- Langacker, Ronald W. (2008). *Cognitive Grammar: A Basic Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Mozolewska, Anna (2010). "Colour terms and emotions in English and Polish". *Beyond Philology* 7: 77-102.
- Redzimska, Joanna (2022). "Selected aspects of sentiment analysis in the context of human communication". *Beyond Philology* 19/1: 193-213.
- Stanulewicz, Danuta (2012). „Jakiego koloru jest szczęście? Wyniki badań ankietowych”. In: Ewa Komorowska, Danuta Stanulewicz

- (eds.). *Barwa w języku, literaturze i kulturze* III. Szczecin: Przedsiębiorstwo Produkcyjno-Handlowe ZAPOL, 131-143.
- Stanulewicz, Danuta, Ewa Komorowska, Adam Pawłowski (2014). "Axiological aspects of Polish colour vocabulary: A study of associations". In: Wendy Anderson, Carole P. Biggam, Carole Hough, Christian Kay (eds.). *Colour Studies: A Broad Spectrum*. Amsterdam – Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 258–272.
- Steinvall, Anders (2002). *English Colour Terms in Context*. Umeå: Umeå Universitet.
- Szczygłowska, Tatiana (2003). "A short English-Polish contrastive analysis of the relationship between the continuum of colours and the continuum of emotions". *Linguistica Silesiana* 24: 89-107.
- Taboada, Maite (2016). "Sentiment analysis: an overview from linguistics". *Annual Review of Linguistics* 2. Available at [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283954600\\_Sentiment\\_Analysis\\_An\\_Overview\\_frm\\_Linguistics](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283954600_Sentiment_Analysis_An_Overview_frm_Linguistics). Accessed 04.01.2020.
- Wierzbicka, Anna (1990). "The meaning of colour terms: semantics, culture, and cognition". *Cognitive Linguistics* 1: 103–144.
- Wierzbicka, Anna (2008). "Why there are no 'colour universals' in language and thought". *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 14: 407-425.

Joanna Redzimska  
ORCID iD: 0000-0001-7837-9397  
Uniwersytet Gdański  
Instytut Anglistyki i Amerykanistyki  
ul. Wita Stwosza 51  
80-308 Gdańsk  
Poland  
[joanna.redzimska@ug.edu.pl](mailto:joanna.redzimska@ug.edu.pl)