Lozenko V., Polianska O.

Set colorative phrases in medicine (based on Latin, English and French).

**Abstract:** The article is devoted to the study of set colorative phrases (names of colours) in common and medical Latin, English and French. The publication investigates function of coloratives, its interconnection with set expressions, comparison of the usage of set colorative phrases in common and medical Latin, English and French.

**Key words:** set colorative phrase, language of medicine, medical terms, word combination, word combination, absolute synonym, tautology.

**The aim** of the article is to examine common features and peculiarities of set colorative phrases in Latin, English and French of every life and medicine.

**The subject** of the paper involves set word combinations represented as set colorative phrases.

**The object** of the publication is Latin, English and French dictionaries.

**Topicality** of the research is determined by a large number of set colorative phrases in common and medical Latin, English and French. The study of such set phrases adopts to improve Latin, English and French language proficiency.

**Scientific novelty** implies production of other meanings and interpretation of set colorative phrases in addition to the well-known meaning.

So far set colorative phrases have been examined in the works by G. Arnaudov [1], L. Floyd [2], F. Gaffiot [3], K. Ruditis [4], S. Sadykova [5], T. Semashko [6]. Scientists emphasize importance of mastering colorative vocabulary and knowledge of set phrases in common and medical Latin, English and French. However researchers only outline the question of set colorative phrases. The present paper considers this topic in detail.

First of all it is worth focusing on word combinations which are not set phrases or expressions any more. It comes to the medical term “melancholy” (Lat. melancholia, Fr. mélancolie). This word is known to have Greek origin. The initial meaning of this word is black bile. Melancholia is an archaic name of the modern term “depression”, meaning despondency, moroseness, discouraging, spleen, the blues, etc. The ancient Greeks believed, the black bile poisoning had given rise to the mental illness. The term had been become current by Hippocrates, one of the greatest scientists of antiquity. According to Hippocrates, there are two ways of a melancholy’s interpretation. First of all, he designated melancholia as one of the four human temperaments. The organism of melancholic temperament people is filled with black bile and such people are afraid of the world, spending the time in a society; melancholics avoid meeting with people, in addition, they are complaining all the time. Secondly, melancholia is a kind of a physical disease as well: the psychical activity disorder is due to the fact that black bile, filling up the diaphragm and penetrating into the stomach, causes abdominal bloating and pain. Apprehensive and fainthearted condition for a long time indicates onset of the melancholy. Ancients, as well as our contemporaries, had liability to different types of psychical disorders, including depression. There are such typical of melancholy symptoms as despondency, hyposomnia, irritation, nervousness, food aversion etc. Pythagoras and Alcmaeon, the Hippocrates’ predecessors, supposed the reason of melancholy mood came from the brain. They said there was only one organ – brain, which controlled both human body and soul.

A feeling of pensive sadness was a widespread phenomenon among the people at all times. It is considered the ancient Egypt priests in the 4th millennium BC treated people who had observed the pathological state of melancholy. The priests of ancient India believed that the gloom, as other mental disorders, were caused by an obsession, and therefore specially trained priests engaged in the expulsion of evil spirits.

Constantine the African, a Tunisian physician, who lived in the 11th century had complied the information from Arabic and Roman sources. He defines melancholia as abnormal condition in which a person believes in the onset only adverse events. Cause of the disease is that a vapor of black bile rises to brain, beclouding consciousness. Not everyone feels an inclination towards such a condition, but only those, who have particular predisposition. Romantics love melancholy: it elevates a person above the crowd and makes the creator. This condition had been considered a disease before the Romanticism.

Robert Burton, an English scientist and philosopher describes melancholia in his treatise “The Anatomy of Melancholy” as mental disease with such causing factors as loneliness, fear, poverty, unrequited love, extreme religiousness etc. One of his most famous quotations is: “I write of melancholy, by being busy to avoid melancholy. There is no greater cause of melancholy than idleness, "no better cure than business"” [7, 36].

The word “melancholy” is not set phrase by itself meanwhile there are some set colorative expressions connected with the term “melancholy” in English and French. The colorative lexeme “blue” is represented in such set English phrases: blue devils, the blues (*Pl, melancholy*); to be in the blues or to get \ to have the blues, to have a fit of the blues (*to be in melancholy \ depression*), to look blue (to have depressive or gloomy look). The set English phrase “blue devils” with the meaning “melancholy” is known to be the absolute synonym for the set French one “les diables bleus”.

In addition one can notice tautology in some set French colorative phrases with the meaning “melancholy”: for example “la mélancolie noire” (black melancholy). The word “noire” is surely to be unnecessary because the Greek root “melan” means black. One more example of tautology in French is the set colorative phrase “la bile noire” (Engl. “black bile”). This is literal translation from Greek “melancholia”. Meanwhile the French colorative “noire” is used for denoting emotional state of a man: broyer (faire) du noir (to be in melancholy \ depression, to have depression thoughts), tourner au noir (to become depressive).

Sadykova S., a colorative set phrase researcher [5], has studied many set English colorative expressions. She presumes that the word “blue” takes origin in the evening sad songs of African slaves in North America (“blues”). It explains a large number of set phrases having negative meaning with the central component “blue” in English.

There is quite different point of view when it comes to the origin of the word “blue”. In theXVII‒XVIII centuries the disease “melancholy” was considered to have been widespread only among noble people, in other words, people with “blue blood”. It was extraordinary for a noble man to confess that he didn’t suffer from melancholy or spleen. The word “blue” by itself is known to derive from French “bleu” and has the Indo-European root “bhle-was” which means fair. Therefore everything connected with the blue colour can also have a positive and negative meaning at the same time. In order to prove it one can compare the most well-known set phrases with the concept “blue”: the blue blanket, the blue, blue rose, blue blood (positive meaning) and blue study, blue funk \ blue fear, blue devils (negative meaning).

One can find some set phrases connected with tuberculosis or phthisis (an archaic word) in English and French. First of all it is worth concentrating on the term “phthisis”. This word is almost not used in medical practice but the term “phthisis” is used for forming of other clinical terms: phthisiatria (treatment of people suffering from tuberculosis); phthisiatrician \ phthisiotherapist \ phthisiologist (a tuberculosis specialist). The word “tuberculosis” \ “phthisis” corresponds to set colorative expressions “white scourge” (English) or le mal blanc (French). This disease has been called white plague due to pale or white colour of people’s face suffering from tuberculosis. The names “white scourge”, “white punishment” or “white death” referring to tuberculosis appeared many centuries ago when tuberculosis was the reason for death of many people, especially in the Middle Ages.

There are a large number of set colorative phrases which represent term names of medicine preparations. For example, methylene blue (Lat. Methylenum coeruleum, Fr. méthylène bleu). It is a medical chemical compound prescribed for treatment of urinary disease, cyanide poisoning; gingivitis and stomatitis (dentistry). Names of this compound are similar to each other in English, Latin and French. Such correspondence is found in the name of another medicine preparation, white clay used in toothpaste, cosmetics, facial masks or soap (Lat. Bolus alba, Fr. l’argile \ l’argile blanche).

One of the most used medicine preparations is potash-soap which is often called green soap (Lat. sapo viridis, Fr. le savon mou). Green soap is a kind of concentrated liquid solution of potassium salts. Potash-soap was made of green olive oil therefore this preparation gained the name “green soap”. Nowadays green is not characteristic colour for potash-soap because it has been made of different oils (for instance, linen oil) for many years so that one can see potash-soap of various colours. Potash-soap is used for lubrication of the staggered area of the skin. In French the word “green” (Fr. vert) is not almost used when it comes to green soap. The colorative component “green” was replaced by the word “mou” (soft). Hence “le savon mou” loses its main meaning of colour (green) upon base extra-information about this preparation.

**Conclusions.** The research has shown that set colorative phrases in medicine can be divided into two types: nominative items of different kind of set phrases, so called specific set term names which have the same or almost the same spelling and interpretation in Latin, English and French (Lat. Methylenum coeruleum, Engl. methylene blue, Fr. méthylène bleu). The second type is set phrases with emotive meaning. They are associated with some event or process (white scourge, blue devils).

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