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COLLOCABILITY OF COLOUR TERMS: A CORPUS-BASED STUDY

bakalářská práce

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Olomouc 2011

Prohlašuji, že jsem tuto bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně a uvedla úplný seznam citované a použité literatury.

V Olomouci dne 25. 4. 2011

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I would like to thank my supervisor, Mgr. Michaela Martinková, PhD., for her kind help, patience and valuable advice.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Similes, figures of speech which indirectly compare two things, occur in literature and in speech very often. It is not easy to distinguish them from comparisons because they are the same in structure. The use of similes contributes to the variety of language and makes the language richer and more diverse.

This bachelor thesis compares similes containing colour terms used in British English and in Czech. The aim is to find the differences between them and note down the frequencies of occurrence of each simile.

The first part of my thesis is the theoretical part. It will be based on information from linguistic literature dealing with similes, collocability and colour terms. First, this theoretical part will deal with collocability in general and then similes will be examined. This part also contains different definitions of the term “simile” and tries to capture the difference between simile and comparison.

The practical part is the research. The analysis will be based on data retrieved from the British National Corpus (BNC-XML) by Xaira and from the Czech National Corpus by Sketch Engine. Similes with colour terms will be examined. First, similes have to be differentiated from comparisons and sentences in which the construction “COLOUR TERM *as*” is neither a simile nor a comparison. The concrete examples of true similes will be presented in this research part. The difference between similes used in British English and Czech will be analyzed.

Eventually, conclusions will be made from the retrieved corpus data and their analysis.

2 SIMILES IN LINGUISTIC LITERATURE

Similes are generally discussed in sections on collocability. According to Peprník (1998, 6), “collocability means the ability of the meaning of a word to enter syntagmatic patterns, e.g. an adjective may collocate with some nouns only, not with all nouns with the same pragmatic relation.” Lipka (2002, 185) observes that “the second important form of lexical cohesion, besides the various types of reiteration, is collocation.”

“The concept of collocation, which plays an important role in British linguistics, where it originated, is neutral in several respects. The term designates the co-occurrence or syntagmatic combination of lexical items (or lexemes), independently of word class and syntactic structure” (Lipka 2002, 181).

The word collocability is a blend of two words: collocate and ability. “Collocations are thus syntagmatic lexical relations, but not necessarily semantic relations. They are therefore parallel to the lexical sets on the paradigmatic axis which are not necessarily sense-relations” (*ibid* 181-182). Collocation is very important in language.

2.1 Simile

There are several definitions of the term “simile” in linguistic literature. Nevertheless, generally a simile is considered to be a figure of speech.

“A simile is a figurative comparison that includes the word *like* (or *as*), such as *highways are like snakes*. A metaphor is a figurative comparison without the term *like*, as in *crime is a disease*. Similes imitate literal comparisons, such as *Fords are like Chryslers*” (Roncero, Kennedy and Smyth 2006, 74).

Simile is a word phrase which usually contains words “like”, “as” or “as...as” which is connection between the compared things. However, it is not necessary to use these connecting words, similes can be created in other way. A simile is a comparison of two things, people or places.

“A simile is a figure of speech in which two unlike things are compared, often in a phrase introduced by the word “like” or “as.” Its purpose is to clarify one concept (such as standards) by referring to a more familiar concept. Similes tend to be most

effective when the referent concept is drawn from a context which is commonly understood” (Kottman and Battenfield 1994, 140). Similes are more precise than metaphors, the user of a simile can use it with an accuracy and therefore a simile can be more original.

2.2 Simile and comparison

It is not easy to tell a true simile from a comparison, since a comparison has the same formal structure as a simile. On the other hand, according to Bredin (1998, 67), “the difference between a simile and an ordinary comparison,..., is that similes are predicative comparisons (in which the predicate describes the subject), and ordinary comparisons are symmetrical comparisons (in which the subject and the predicate are referentially independent). In the latter, but not in the former, the subject and the predicate can be intersubstituted without any consequential change of meaning.”

“Comparison theories, no matter what their form, thus rely on the critical assumption that metaphors and similes are essentially equivalent to one another. A metaphor can always be paraphrased as a simile. Indeed it must be capable of being expressed in simile form if it is to be understood as a comparison” (Glucksberg and Haught 2004, 361). According to Josef Filipec and František Čermák (1985, 217),

a formalized comparison is an idiom, which explicitly expresses the relation of similarity between the referent, contextually enhanced, and the model, which is a part of this idiom. Formalized comparison is based on a semantic interaction and resembles several types of binomials. There are more types of simile, resemblance can be expressed implicitly...cf. the lexical idiom “snow white” (white as snow), collocation “dovish character” (character as a dove), “periwinkle green” (green as periwinkle) and eventually loose combination “he speaks adversely” (he speaks as an enemy) etc.¹

¹ “Formalizované přirovnání je idiom, který explicitně označuje vztah podobnosti mezi referentem, kontextově doplňovaným, a modelem, který je součástí tohoto idiomu. Je tedy založeno na druhu sémantické interakce a blíží se několika typům binomiálů. Přirovnání je ovšem po stránce formální více typů, podobnost se v nich může vyjadřovat i implicitně, popř. i neustálým neustáleným způsobem, srov. lexikální idiom *shěhobílý* (tj. jako sněh), kolokaci *holubičí povaha* (jako holubice), *brčálově zelený* (jako brčál) a např. *neustálenou kombinaci mluví nepřátelsky* (jako nepřítel) apod.”

I would like to argue that a simile is much more poetic than a comparison which is used in common everyday speech. Similes emphasize the beauty of language.

Another recognition criterion for a comparison might be deixis. “Deixis is the phenomenon of using elements of the subject's situatedness – more specifically, the subject qua speaker in a speech event – to designate something in the scene” (Croft and Cruse 2004, 59). Elements in a comparison are often deictically anchored.

Nevertheless, there might be another difference between a simile and a comparison. In my opinion, similes are more universal than comparisons, it is a comparison to a thing that is generally known by people. On the other hand, a comparison is more specific where a certain person who is not famous can be compared.

2.3 Simile and metaphor

To recognize a comparison from a simile is not the only problem. Recognition of a simile from a metaphor can be tricky too. There seems to be a connection with understanding metaphors as shortened similes. This topic has been discussed many times before but conclusions are different and vague.

“There is fairly wide agreement that metaphor involves, or is, the transfer of meaning. Indeed etymologically it means “transfer”, being derived from the Greek meta (trans) + pherein (to carry)” (Ortony 1975, 45).

Simile can be changed into a metaphor and its meaning remains nearly the same, for example the simile “He is like a dragon” can transform into the metaphor “He is a dragon”. There is not a big difference between “is like a” and “is a” but a metaphor appears to me stronger than a simile. Glucksberg and Haught (2006, 360) suggest that

since Aristotle, many writers have treated metaphors and similes as equals: any metaphor can be paraphrased as a simile, and vice-versa. This property of metaphors is the basis for psycholinguistic comparison theories of metaphor comprehension. However, if metaphors cannot always be paraphrased as similes, then comparison theories must be abandoned. The different forms of a metaphor - the comparison and categorical forms - have different referents. In comparison form, the metaphor vehicle refers to the literal concept, e.g. ‘ in my lawyer is like a shark ’, the term ‘ shark ’ refers to the literal fish. In categorical form, ‘ my lawyer is a shark ’, ‘ shark ’ refers to an abstract (metaphorical) category of predatory creatures. This difference in

reference makes it possible for a metaphor and its corresponding simile to differ (a) in interpretability and (b) in meaning. Because a metaphor cannot always be understood in terms of its corresponding simile, we conclude that comparison theories of metaphor are fundamentally flawed.

This quotation contradicts the statement that metaphors are shortened similes and therefore this topic is arguable.

Croft and Cruse (2004, 211) remark that “there is a different but related distinction between true similes and what might be called **speculations**. Both may have the same form. Take the example of *He sounds like someone with a severe cold*. Said of a person at the other end of a telephone line, this could be a speculation that they indeed are suffering from a severe cold. On the other hand, if it is said of someone known by speaker and hearer to be perfectly healthy, it is a simile.” Similes do not have to tell the truth, the compared things can have only one thing in common while metaphors are closer to the reality.

“However, metaphors and similes are not treated as equivalent assertions, even though it would seem, at first glance, that a metaphor and its corresponding simile ‘mean’ the same thing” (Glucksberg and Haught 2006, 361). Ortony (1975, 45) points out that

metaphors, and their close relatives, similes and analogies, have been used as teaching devices since the earliest writings of civilized man. The dialogues of Plato are full of them; there is the simile of sails in *Parmenides* used to explain the nature of the relationship between Platonic forms and the particular objects partaking of them, or there is the cave metaphor in *The Republic* designed to illuminate various levels of knowledge. The Bible is another good source of metaphor, and, of course, metaphor is the stock-in-trade of poets and writers.

The metaphor is not an easy subject to discuss because there are many various theories about it.

2.4 Colour terminology

Taylor (1995, 8-15) deals with colour terms, which are closely connected with my bachelor thesis. He paraphrases Berlin and Kay who make an important distinction between focal colours and non-focal colours.

Various psychological experiments were carried out which proved a salience of focal colours. It depends on a process of a perception of colours and other factors. Some colours are considered to be more salient than other colours. Berlin and Kay (quoted in Taylor 1995, 12) point out that "... focal colours as a whole have greater perceptual and cognitive salience than non-focal colours, some focal colours... are more salient than others."

Berlin and Kay (quoted in Taylor 1995, 8) suggest that "Basic colour terms

- a) are not subsumed under other terms. *Crimson* and *scarlet* are not basic terms in English, since they are varieties of *red*. *Orange* is a basic term, since it is not subordinate to any other colour term;
- b) are morphologically simple. Terms like *bluish*, *bluish-green* and *chocolate-coloured*, even *golden*, are excluded;
- c) are not collocationaly restricted. *Blond*, which describes only hair, is not a basic colour term;
- d) are of frequent use. Rare words like *puce*, and technical words like *xanthic*, are excluded."

According to Berlin and Kay (quoted in Taylor 1995, 9), "ninety-eight languages in their survey appeared to select their basic colour terms from an inventory of only eleven focal colours." English has also eleven focal colours.

Cross-linguistically, there is a hierarchy among these eleven focal colours. "If a language has only two colour terms (no language, apparently, has fewer than two), these will designate focal black and focal white. If there is a third term, this will always be red. The fourth term will be either yellow or green, while the fifth will be the other member of the pair yellow and green. The sixth term will be blue, and the seventh, brown. The remaining four colours (grey, orange, purple, and pink) do not show any special ordering" (Berlin and Kay, quoted in Taylor 1995, 8).

However, there exist languages which have no individual terms for colours "blue" and "green". Berlin and Kay (quoted in Taylor 1995, 13) state that "Zulu, like

most Bantu languages, does not distinguish between green and blue, yet the language possesses a term for focal brown, *nsundu*.” They do not have two terms for these colours but they are aware of their existence.

“Zulu speakers think of blue and green as different colours, and, if necessary, distinguish them formally by means of the expressions *luhlaza njengesibhakabhaka* “grue like the sky” and *luhlaza njengotshani* “grue like the grass” (Taylor 1995, 13).

The crucial factor of the salience of focal colours is thus not only perception of a colour spectrum, but also an association of objects with colours in an extra-linguistic reality.

“Blood is, within a rather narrow range, red, milk is white, charcoal is black, lemons are yellow” (Taylor 1995, 14).

Taylor (1995, 14) observes that “...people do not encounter colours as points in mathematical space, colours come as relatively stable properties of things. It is only in comparatively recent times, and only in technologically advanced societies, that it has been possible for a vast range of diverse colours to be applied, through industrial processing, to things.” The number of different non-focal colours increased in our world because there were still new shades of colours coined. According to Taylor (1995, 15),

blue is, of course, the colour of the sky, and green is the colour of grass. Yet unlike the red of blood and the yellow of lemons, the blue of the sky and the green of grass are highly variable; furthermore, the sky is not a tangible object whose surface can be touched. Blue and green thus lack the referential stability which nature provides for other focal colours, a fact which may go some way towards explaining the somewhat special, status of these two categories.

Blue and green are problematic colours because the perception of them differs. There is a thin line between their shades and therefore they cannot be defined with an accuracy.

3 METHODS

Methodology used in this bachelor thesis is a corpus-based analysis. I searched for similes with colour terms in the BNC-XML. I did not distinguish between spoken or written texts, and I did not use any further criteria. There were several options what to write in the Phrase Query such as “as red as”, “red like” or “red as”. The pattern which I used in the Phrase Query in BNC was “red as”. “Red” was then replaced by other colour terms.

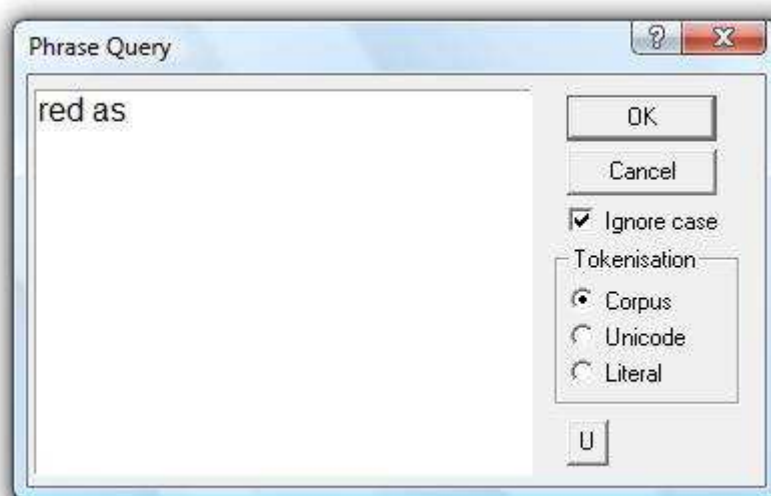


Figure 1: Phrase Query for “red as” in the BNC-XML

Then I needed to sort out the data to eliminate true comparisons, which are structurally the same as similes. This was not an easy process. Then I searched for similes from the Czech National Corpus and compared English similes with from the BNC with their Czech counterparts.

I chose corpus “syn2009pub” where are only publicistic texts selected from Czech newspapers like Mladá Fronta DNES, Deníky Bohemia, Deníky Moravia, Lidové noviny, Blesk magazín, Nedělní Blesk, Právo, Reflex, Hospodářské noviny, Týden etc. I could not use “syn2005” because there were not only Czech works but also works of English and American writers translated into Czech.

I looked up similes and tried to differentiate them from comparisons and from cases which did not fit any of these categories. What is important to mention is that

there were various forms of “red” and other colours in the Czech National Corpus unlike in the BNC because Czech has the grammatical gender and has a rich system of declensions.

In order to find tokens of adjectives in various cases I did not use the Phrase Query but CQL (Corpus Language Query). The pattern which I used was [lemma=“červený”] “jako”. The Sketch engine then found colour terms in various forms and cases such as “červená jako”, “červeného jako”, “červeným jako” etc.

The screenshot shows the 'Concordance' tab of the syn2009pub interface. The 'Corpus' dropdown is set to 'syn2009pub'. Under 'Keyword(s)', the 'CQL' field contains the query '[lemma="červený"] "jako"'. The 'Default attribute' is set to 'word'. Under 'Context', the 'Query Type' is 'All', and the 'Window Size' is set to 5 tokens for both 'Left context' and 'Right context'. A 'Make Concordance' button is at the bottom.

Figure 2: Corpus Query Language query in syn2009pub

I put aside sentences which were repeated in the same newspapers but with a different date or even with the same date. Sentences like these were identical and there was no need to count these tokens twice. Figure 3 shows examples of these identical sentences.

Deníky Moravia, 20. 11. 2004	Armáda v Dolní Lomné . Bílá - Ski Vítkovice Bílá jako jediný lyžařský areál v Beskydech míří
Deníky Moravia, 29. 11. 2004	Armáda v Dolní Lomné . Bílá - Ski Vítkovice Bílá jako jediný lyžařský areál v Beskydech míří
Deníky Bohemia, 21. 6. 2007	krémů . Zatímco v minulosti byla v módě pleť bílá jako alabastr , dnes se razí " čím hnědší ,
Deníky Bohemia, 21. 6. 2007	krémů . Zatímco v minulosti byla v módě pleť bílá jako alabastr , dnes se razí " čím hnědší ,

Figure 3: Identical sentences in syn2009pub

There were also sentences with colour terms in the BNC which did not fit either in the category of similes or comparisons (sentences **(1)-(8)**): these were put aside.

- (1)** *She saw he was bright **red as** she stared at him.* [BNC FPX 2590]
- (2)** *You may think of Simply **Red as** being more hollow at the centre than wild and crazy guys, but this shows neat exuberance and Hucknall's increasingly inspired songs.* [BNC CK4 1966]
- (3)** *Závěr trasy opět po **modré jako** u trasy 16 km. 28 km* [db070330]
- (4)** *The NEC refused to endorse Mr Brian **Green as** candidate for St Helens South in place of Mr Gerry Bermingham the sitting MP.* [BNC A8K 336]
- (5)** *Padesát tisíc korun dostala Lucie **Bílá jako** vítězka soutěže TýTý.* [b1990213]
- (6)** *galerie veltlínů by měla zvýraznit Veltlínské **zelené jako** typicky jihomoravskou odrůdu* [mf000905]
- (7)** *This can be done by slicing off the peel across the top of the orange and using this flat end of the **orange as** a base.* [BNC BN5 790]
- (8)** *Smělmír a Peregrin za hobity; a Gandalf **Šedý jako** vůdce výpravy.* [mf020221]

In these cases “as” can be replaced by “because” and “while”, or the colour term is a proper noun.

As far as comparisons were concerned, my criterion was deixis. Comparisons are for me referential. It means that they refer to something explicit such as specific objects or people. Comparisons contain deictic elements, that is, they point to the certain concrete referents present in the context. Example **(9)** shows the deictic element “her”.

- (9)** *For there in the gateway, framed in an arch of clematis **as purple as her face**, stood Miss Lodsworth.* [BNC CA0 127]

4 DATA ANALYSIS

For my research I created tables with similes from the BNC and from syn2009pub. I counted lexemes in tables. The tables show also the frequencies of each simile. The chapters are divided according to the colours used in a simile. Below each table, a random selection of comparisons and similes with an intensifying function is given.

3.1 Similes with “red”

Xaira found 76 tokens of the phrase “red as” in the BNC. There were 28 tokens of similes, 10 tokens of comparisons and 38 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

There were 50 tokens of the Czech equivalent of “red” in syn2009pub. There were 21 tokens of similes, 3 tokens of comparisons and 26 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

Table 1 presents tokens of the phrase “red as” which I consider to be true similes.

Similes with “red”	Frequency in the BNC
red as blood	6
red as holly berries	2
red as a watermelon	1
red as a baboon's bum	1
red as a tomato	1
red as a bloody rag	1
red as a radish	1
red as an autumn apple	1
red as her Tequila Sunrise	1
red as rubies	1
red as mahogany	1
red as carrots	1
red as two fire holes in her face	1
red as those beetroots	1

red as Snow White's (mouth)	1
red as the porter's uniform	1
red as the rosy dawn	1
red as the clouds	1
red as the embers	1
red as the mulberry walls	1
red as the morning sun in winter	1
red as yew berries	1

Table 1: Similes with “red” in the BNC

Examples (10)-(14) are similes found in the BNC.

- (10) *My face was as **red as a tomato** as I was shown to my seat. [BNC G3B 122]*
- (11) *He cleared his throat and tossed back the wine **red as blood** in his goblet. [BNC FP0 2176]*
- (12) *Coal-black lids, mascara sooty-thick, the lips exactly shaped and **red as holly berries**. [BNC GUM 3594]*
- (13) *Derek cracked up, but I was dumbstruck — super embarrassed — for about thirty seconds, and went as **red as a radish**. [BNC CHE 1402]*
- (14) *His face was yellow, and in contrast his eyes were as **red as rubies**. [BNC B3J 1622]*

The examples (15) and (16) are what I consider to be a comparison.

- (15) *He looked to be about ten, his hair was as **red as Gwen's**, and his face was set in a horrible scowl. [BNC H9V 1823]*
- (16) *Sean was so astonished that he almost swallowed the paten as well as the host and Paddy, his face bright **red as his hair**, hurriedly passed on to the next communicant. [BNC ATE 338]*

Table 2 presents true similes which I found in syn2009pub and translated them into English.

Similes with “red”	Frequency in syn2009pub
červený jako krev “red as blood”	7
červený jako rak “red as crab”	4
červený jako rajske jablíčko “red as tomato”	2
červený jako králík “red as rabbit”	2
červený jako růže “red as rose”	2
červený jako malina “red as raspberry”	1
červený jako zastavovací terčík “red as stopping target”	1
červený jako prasátka “red as piglets”	1
červený jako cihla “red as brick”	1

Table 2: Similes with “red” in syn2009pub

Examples (17)-(21) are similes found in syn2009pub.

- (17) *problémy jako s Norlinem , který je od pláče červený jako rak.* [ln99056]
- (18) *Nisse , který má od samého popíjení nos červený jako malinu. Švédský přihrbný trpaslík Jultombe* [bl031124]
- (19) *dopis mně udělal radost, “ řekla. Byl jsem červený jako rajske jablíčko a chtěl říct...* [mf000122]
- (20) *měla zelenou barvu přírody a čtvrtek byl červený jako krev, zdraví. Kluci a děvčata nosili* [db050519]

- (21) *Jejich kvalitní provedení z umělého kamene červeného jako cihla poskytuje dodnes uspokojení ze hry* [mf000610]

Examples (22)-(24) are comparisons.

- (22) *Kubenka , protože když něco vypije , tak je červený jako jeden ze zaměstnanců Baníku.* [md040517]
- (23) *prostředí poněkud netradičně (je ovšem stejně červený jako zdi sálu).* [ln001019]
- (24) *Byl jsem červený jako můj neexistující budík a tvářil se fakticky* [refl0004]

The red colour is frequent with vegetables, fruits, berries and blood in the BNC. There were also cases which were not clear comparisons or similes. For example “her mouth as red as Snow White’s” and “red as the porter’s uniform”. I decided for a simile in these cases because Snow White’s mouth and porter’s uniform are characterized by red colour and Snow White and porter’s uniform are universally known by people. They can be marked as border-line cases.

Similes with red colour used in English are in some cases the same as similes with “red” used in Czech. “Red as blood” and “red as a tomato” occurred in both corpora. The curious case is “red as her Tequila Sunrise” found in the BNC because possessive pronoun “her” signals that it could be a comparison. On the other hand, it is universally known by people that Tequila Sunrise is red and that is the reason why I placed this case among similes.

“Červená jako králík” (“red as rabbit”) in syn2009pub means that her eyes were red as rabbit’s because she was crying, not red as rabbit’s fur. The simile “červený jako růže” (“red as rose”) is not a prototypical case because roses can be of different colours, not only red. “Červený jako krev” (“red as blood”) is popular in the Czech newspapers and in the BNC as well.

3.2 Similes with “blue”

Xaira found 52 tokens of the phrase “blue as” in the BNC. There were 17 tokens of similes, 11 tokens of comparisons, 22 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis and 2 tokens of intensifications.

There were 47 tokens of the Czech equivalent of “blue” in syn2009pub. There were 28 tokens of similes, 2 tokens of comparisons, 15 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis and 2 tokens of intensifications.

Table 3 shows similes with “blue” which I found in the BNC.

Similes with “blue”	Frequency in the BNC
blue as the sky	6
blue as cornflowers	2
blue as a sailor’s collar	1
blue as a robin’s egg	1
blue as the top of a ballpoint pen	1
blue as periwinkle	1
blue as the patch of bright sky	1
blue as Chelsea's shirts	1
blue as lapis lazuli	1
blue as blue	1
blue as forget-me-nots	1

Table 3: Similes with “blue” in the BNC

Examples (25)-(29) are similes which I found in the BNC.

- (25) *Glossy surfers’ hair, eyes **blue as a robin’s egg** and a dreamy far-off ocean at dawn.* [BNC A0L 1732]
- (26) *And the sleeper opened her eyes, which were as **blue as periwinkle**, or the summer sky, and the little tailor, because he knew this was what he must do, bent and kissed the perfect cheek.* [BNC APR 1484]
- (27) *Dexter had allowed himself to be hypnotised and still remembered staring into those wide eyes, as **blue as the top of a ballpoint pen**, with pupils that shrank and swelled in time to the man’s words.* [BNC G1W 1802]
- (28) *Her eyes, no longer hidden behind glasses, looked large and **blue as a summer sky**.* [BNC JY6 338]
- (29) *Outside the light was dazzling, the sky as **blue as lapis lazuli**.* [BNC JY2 405]

Examples (30) and (31) are comparisons.

- (30) *Sister Martha's father was a butcher in Fecamp years ago, his overall as **blue as the habit she wears now**.* [BNC BP8 1457]
- (31) *Although one of the gowns sent by Tamar was quite deep brown in colour, the other was of a pretty shade of blue, which would set off Martha's eyes, which were the same deep **blue as her father's**.* [BNC C98 1492]

Examples (32) and (33) are intensifications.

- (32) *It was so dark a **blue as to be almost black**, with button-down cuffs and epaulettes and a broad welt that fastened around his hips with a buckle.* [BNC ACW 654]
- (33) *Her glasses were as **blue as ever** and her smile just as large.* [BNC AHK 1119]

Table 4 presents my findings of “blue” in syn2009pub.

Similes with “blue”	Frequency in syn2009pub
modrý jako nebe “blue as sky”	5
modrý jako obloha “blue as sky”	4
modrý jako voda “blue as water”	3
modrý jako hladina “blue as water level”	2
modrý jako moře “blue as sea”	2
modrý jako kedlubna “blue as kohlrabi”	1
modrý jako Severní Atlantik “blue as North Atlantic”	1
modrý jako metalíza z felicie “blue as metallic colour of felicie”	1
modrý jako zrcadlově hladké moře	1

“blue as mirror smooth sea”	
modrý jako studánky “blue as springs”	1
modrý jako kosatec “blue as iris”	1
modrý jako pomněnky “blue as forget-me-nots”	1
modrý jako safír “blue as sapphire”	1
modrý jako chrpy “blue as cornflowers”	1
modrý jako šmolka “blue as stoneblue”	1
modrý jako hortenzie umyté lijákem “blue as hydrangea washed by downpour”	1
modrý jako svítání “blue as dawn”	1

Table 4: Similes with “blue” in syn2009pub

Examples (34)-(38) belong to the similes which I found in syn2009pub.

- (34) *Já jsem **modrá jako nebe**. Kdyby nebylo modré barvy , nebylo* [db040211]
- (35) *krabička odvážně oranžová a flakón modrý . **Modrý jako kosatec**.* [hn990917]
- (36) *ta andělská tvář se smyslnými rty a očima **modrýma jako pomněnky**...*
[bl041005]
- (37) *V Africe mají například lekníny **modré jako safír** , ve Východní Indii jsou rudé a*
[db050805]
- (38) *Venku konečně září slunce a nebe je **modré jako šmolka**. Změna počasí na sebe*
zas jednou [db070324]

I placed example (39) among comparisons.

- (39) *zanechalo stopy , takže netápu. Nebe je **modré jako moje tepláky** a hory září na*
slunci. [md040525]

I found also two intensifications in syn2009pub, examples (40) and (41).

(40) *Jeho oči byly **modré jako nikdy předtím** . Pak je zavřel a zemřel* [db040612]

(41) *Diskusi uzavírám slovy : "Voda je tak **modrá jako snad nikde jinde na světě** !" [db041104]*

There were interesting examples such as “blue as blue” which demonstrates that nothing can be bluer than the blue colour. Another one was “blue as Chelsea's shirts” which I placed among similes because it is universally known that their shirts are blue. Similes with “blue” are popular with flowers. “Blue as cornflowers” and “blue as forget-me-nots” can be found in both corpora.

There is one interesting simile “blue as periwinkle” because it is joined with a different colour in Czech. I found “zelený jako brčál” (“green as periwinkle”) in syn2009pub. For the English, a periwinkle is considered to be a blue flower while for Czechs, it is water with an anabaena and a pond weed. Czechs do not imagine blue petals of a flower. Figure 4 and Figure 5 show the distinction between them.



Figure 4: Periwinkle perceived by the English



Figure 5: Periwinkle perceived by Czechs

“Blue” was very often linked with words “eyes” and “sky” in syn2009pub. I consider the example “modré jako moje tepláky” (“blue as my training suit”) to be a comparison because a training suit can have all colours, not only blue.

3.3 Similes with “green”

Xaira found 68 tokens of the phrase “green as” in the BNC. There were 21 tokens of similes, 7 tokens of comparisons and 40 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

There were 67 tokens of the Czech equivalent of “green” in syn2009pub. There were 18 tokens of similes, no token of comparisons and 49 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

Table 5 presents true similes found in the BNC.

Similes with “green”	Frequency in the BNC
green as emerald	3
green as grass	2
green as an early summer salad	1
green as the holly leaf	1
green as pond-slime	1

green as the luminous weed in the stream	1
green as the ocean depths	1
green as France	1
green as the sea	1
green as envy	1
green as the birch woods	1
green as ringstones	1
green as the meadows	1
green as the flames on ashwood	1
green as Mars	1
green as apples going bronze with autumn	1
green as the guides' unconsumed lemon squash	1
green as young leaves	1

Table 5: Similes with “green” in the BNC

Examples (42)-(46) are similes found in the BNC.

- (42) *It does sound silly at this distance of time, but then, **green as grass**, I lapped it all up.* [BNC B3F 897]
- (43) *When I get to the road, with St James's Park beyond, as fresh and **green as an early summer salad**, I stop and turn.* [BNC J17 302]
- (44) *This tree, though, was as beautiful as a miracle, for it was very tall, and bore leaves, flowers, and fruit, all at the same time; the leaves were **green as emerald**, the flowers white as snow, and the pears fine, large, and glossy, big as your two fists put together.* [BNC FUB 747]
- (45) *Mungo found himself in a small, wild garden with a rickety greenhouse whose roof was as **green as pond-slime**.* [BNC ACV 307]
- (46) *Her ma had been a lovely well-bred, dark-haired colleen then, with eyes as **green as the meadows** in which she'd played before Paddy Byrne had won her heart.* [BNC BP1 31]

Examples (47) and (48) are comparisons.

- (47) *The sunlight from an open window shone into his eyes, and she noticed that they were exactly the same shade of **green as Stephen's**, and just as opaque.* [BNC FRS 2580]
- (48) *Rose had put her finger by her nose with a look of infinite cunning, and replied, 'Nah, Sally-Anne, yer ain't as **green as that**, surely.* [BNC HGE 1569]

Table 6 presents similes which I found in syn2009pub.

Similes with “green”	Frequency in syn2009pub
zelený jako brčál “green as periwinkle”	8
zelený jako tráva “green as grass”	2
zelený jako uniforma příslušníka SNB “green as uniform of member of SNB (State national security)”	1
zelený jako palma “green as palm”	1
zelený jako hastrman “green as water-sprite”	1
zelený jako listí stromů “green as leaves of the trees”	1
zelený jako udržovaný trávník “green as maintained lawn”	1
zelený jako měděnka “green as verdigris”	1
zelený jako alpské louky “green as Alpine meadows”	1
zelený jako libyjská vlajka “green as Libyan flag”	1

Table 6: Similes with “green” in syn2009pub

Examples **(49)-(53)** belong among similes which I found in syn2009pub. There was no comparison with “green” in this corpus.

- (49)** *před několika dní byla celá plocha nádrže zelená jako tráva. Když jste na hladinu položili pětikorunu* [mf980819]
- (50)** *uvolní, nebojte, "uklidňuje ho vodník, zelený jako brčál. " Tam už se nikdo nevejde, "konstatuje* [mf000306]
- (51)** *přehradu, asi by do vody skočil, i kdyby byla zelená jako libyjská vlajka.* [md070728]
- (52)** *barvičkou nás překvapíš v neděli? Že by zelenou jako hastrman?* [bl030307]
- (53)** *lodi někdy v červenci, voda byla stejně zelená jako listí stromů. Možná ještě zelenější.* [mf031013]

I found similes with words “grass” and “leaves” in both corpora. “Green as an early summer salad” is an uncommon simile which I found in the BNC. The uniform of a member of SNB which is green is a specific Czech phenomenon which can hardly occur among the English similes. It is likewise with water-sprite which is a typical Czech fairy-tale figure.

“Zelený jako brčál” (“green as periwinkle”) can be compared with similar English similes such as “green as pond-slime” and “green as the luminous weed in the stream” in contrast to “blue as periwinkle” which is considered to be a blue flower in English.

3.4 Similes with “white”

Xaira found 155 tokens of the phrase “white as” in the BNC. There were 89 tokens of similes, 18 tokens of comparisons and 50 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

There were 165 tokens of the Czech equivalent of “white” in syn2009pub. There were 100 tokens of similes, 9 tokens of comparisons and 56 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

Table 7 shows similes found in the BNC.

Similes with “white”	Frequency in the BNC
white as a sheet	24
white as snow	22
white as paper	5
white as death	4
white as a ghost	3
white as chalk	2
white as bone	2
white as marble	2
white as silk	2
white as a clown's (face)	2
white as jellyfish	1
white as the eight o'clock pill	1
white as Cleopatra's pearls	1
white as cotton	1
white as a new polo ball	1
white as flour	1
white as fire	1
white as candlewax	1
white as any linen	1
white as milk	1
white as a flying Shelduck	1
white as a pearl	1
white as quicklime	1
white as a white rose	1
white as the flecks on fall water	1
white as bleached beechwood	1
white as a desert	1
white as windflowers	1
white as ash	1

white as ivory	1
red and white as raw beef	1

Table 7: Similes with “white” in the BNC

Examples (54)-(58) are similes found in the BNC.

- (54) *A long time later, or perhaps only a few seconds, she thought she saw her father's face **white as paper**, floating among the clouds, then it dissolved into the face of an elderly stranger bending over her. [BNC AC5 1970]*
- (55) *She was as **white as a ghost**, and her eyes were shadowed as if she hadn't slept properly for weeks. [BNC BMU 453]*
- (56) *Chrissie Stone looked out at them, and they could see that her face was as **white as a sheet**. [BNC CE5 2157]*
- (57) *In true light the old woman's skin was brown and her hair indeed was **white as cotton**, while her eyes were the boiled white of eggs. [BNC CM4 2148]*
- (58) *The big wooden table had been scrubbed as **white as a bone on the seashore**. [BNC FB9 763]*

There were comparisons with “white” such as in examples (59) and (60).

- (59) *For Lili, whose skin was nearly as **white as Adam Verne-Smith's**, was more Indian than true Indians, wore the sari, grew her curly brown Austrian hair down to her waist and took language lessons from a Bengali neighbour of theirs. [BNC CDB 49]*
- (60) *She was **white as her dress**. [BNC CEX 1165]*

Table 8 presents similes which I found in syn2009pub.

Similes with “white”	Frequency in syn2009pub
bílý jako sníh “white as snow”	28
bílý jako stěna “white as wall”	24
bílý jako křída	11

“white as chalk”	
bílý jako vápno “white as calcium”	3
bílý jako tvaroh “white as cottage cheese”	3
bílý jako sýr “white as cheese”	3
bílý jako papír “white as paper”	3
bílý jako smrt “white as death”	2
bílý jako anděl “white as angel”	2
bílý jako sněhuláci “white as snowmen”	1
bílý jako lední medvěd “white as polar bear”	1
bílý jako vlna “white as wool”	1
bílý jako plátno “white as cloth”	1
bílý jako Panna Marie “white as Virgin Mary”	1
bílý jako neviňátko “white as innocent”	1
bílý jako bílý plnovous “white as white beard”	1
bílý jako nefrit “white as jade”	1
bílý jako vločka “white as snowflake”	1
bílý jako sádra “white as gypsum”	1

bílý jako břízy “white as birch trees”	1
bílý jako pivní pěna “white as bear foam”	1
bílý jako zeď “white as wall”	1
bílý jako mléko “white as milk”	1
bílý jako rakouská nevinnost “white as Austrian innocence”	1
bílý jako sluneční zář “white as sunshine”	1
bílý jako lilie “white as lily”	1
bílý jako mramor “white as marble”	1
bílý jako den “white as day”	1
bílý jako oblaka “white as clouds”	1
bílý jako alabastr “white as alabaster”	1

Table 8: Similes with “white” in syn2009pub

Examples (61)-(65) are similes found in syn2009pub.

- (61) *Přijeli na základnu **bílí jako sněhuláci**, "dodal s úsměvem Pumprla.* [pr990723]
- (62) *zrcadle na protější stěně. Byl v té chvíli **bílý jako stěna**.* [pr981001]
- (63) *Ta bude už ne jenom šedivá, ale **bílá jako vápno**.*[pr001116]
- (64) *nespatří slunce a brány věznice opouští "**bílý jako tvaroh**", jsou mylné! Pokud se odsouzenec* [bl030726]
- (65) *červené jako růže a měl na hlavě dlouhé kadeře **bílé jako vlna**.* [db060511]

Example (66) is a comparison.

- (66) *Mléčná pochoutka by byla jemná a smetanově bílá jako prezidentova bradka a zaručovala by konzumentovi* [by040908]

There was a special example such as “red and white as raw beef” in the BNC. There was a combination of two colours and I placed this case among similes. Another one was “white as fire” which was exclusively found in the BNC. It was obvious in other examples that the colour is the same as the real colour of the object such as “white as milk” or “white as flour”.

On the other hand, there were cases such as “white as chalk” which might be a little controversial. Chalks are usually white but they can be also of different colours. However, the colour that people imagine first is white when someone say “chalk”.

There were a lot of tokens with names or “white” as a colour of a nation. Both corpora had many examples in common such as “white as snow”, “white as chalk”, “white as death”, “white as paper”, “white as marble” etc. “Bílý jako stěna” (“white as wall”) is a high-frequency simile in syn2009pub. This simile occurred not at all in the BNC. Nevertheless, a high-frequency simile “white as a ghost” found in the BNC was not found in syn2009pub.

The frequency of similes with flowers was not so high as I supposed. There were only two similes with flowers such as “white as a white rose” and “white as windflowers” in the BNC. The only simile with a flower “bílý jako lilie” (“white as lily”) occurred in syn2009pub. The corpora have no simile with a flower in common. Czechs use “bílý jako sýr” (“white as cheese”) unlike the English. I found also some creative similes such as “white as the eight o'clock pill” or “white as the flecks on fall water” in the BNC.

3.5 Similes with “black”

Xaira found 119 tokens of the phrase “black as” in the BNC. There were 67 tokens of similes, 15 tokens of comparisons, 37 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis and 1 token of intensification.

There were 129 tokens of the Czech equivalent of “black” in syn2009pub. There were 91 tokens of similes, 14 tokens of comparisons and 24 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

Table 9 shows true similes with “black” which I found in the BNC.

Similes with “black”	Frequency in the BNC
black as night	9
black as pitch	6
black as coal	6
black as thunder	4
black as a sweep	3
black as two o’clock in the morning	2
black as anthracite	2
black as midnight	2
black as velvet	2
black as hell	2
black as jet	2
black as old blood	1
black as crows	1
black as an Ethiopian’s armpit	1
black as a panther	1
black as ebony	1
black as Guinness	1
black as tea taken without milk	1
black as tar	1
black as moonshine	1
black as on a winter’s night	1
black as the ace of spades	1
black as sloes	1
black as a root	1
black as midnight ink	1
black as gun-tubes	1
black as liquorice	1
black as the sky	1
black as a raven's feather	1

black as voids	1
black as nightfall	1
black as a storm cloud	1
black as a beauty spot on an expanse of white bosom	1
black as a stone	1
black as currants	1
black as boot polish	1
black as a raven's wing	1
black as soot	1

Table 9: Similes with “black” in the BNC

Examples (67)-(71) are similes found in the BNC.

- (67) *Her hair was long and **black as a raven's feather**, untied so one wing partially covered her patch-covered missing eye. [BNC CH0 3095]*
- (68) *They tied up in a backwater under a sky **black as old blood**, and walked along a pontoon to the apron of an enormous dock. [BNC CJA 917]*
- (69) *Buildings, **black as anthracite**, were receding or telescoping down, rumbling as they moved, clearing a field for battle. [BNC CJJ 2007]*
- (70) *The tiny hole of the barrel was pointed at her chest and was as unnaturally **black as a beauty spot on an expanse of white bosom**. [BNC G15 3043]*
- (71) *Then as if the whole world had hunched over to block out the sun, the sky becomes as **black as coal**. [BNC HH0 1881]*

Examples (72) and (73) are comparisons.

- (72) *Her own hands were almost as **black as Tilda's**. [BNC H0R 2339]*
- (73) *Across the canal beyond Cadder, the sky above the Western Necropolis and St Kentigern's Cemetery was **black as the Earl o' Hell's waistcoat**. [BNC ALL 1858]*

Xaira found one intensification with “black” in the BNC, example (74).

- (74) *A small man with enormous vitality, hair as **black as ever**, and vivid blue eyes.*
[BNC HTW 384]

Table 10 presents similes which I found in syn2009pub.

Similes with “black”	Frequency in syn2009pub
černý jako uhl “black as crayon”	32
černý jako bota “black as shoe”	11
černý jako noc “black as night”	10
černý jako pinta Guinnessu “black as pint of Guinness”	7
černý jako havran “black as raven”	6
černý jako čert “black as old scratch”	5
černý jako kominík “black as chimney sweeps”	2
černý jako Cikán “black as Gypsy”	2
černý jako uhlí “black as coal”	2
černý jako Ďábel “black as Devil”	2
černý jako zombie “black as zombie”	1
černý jako Whoopi Goldbergová “black as Whoopi Goldberg”	1
černý jako kolomaz “black as axle grease”	1

černý jako horník “black as miner”	1
černý jako moje nejčernější Afrika “black as my blackest Afrika”	1
černý jako inkoust “black as ink”	1
černý jako uhlíř “black as coalman”	1
černý jako brikety “black as briquettes”	1
černý jako saze “black as soot”	1
černý jako ašant “black as Ashanti”	1
černý jako tuš “black as Indian ink”	1
černý jako eben “black as ebony”	1

Table 10: Similes with “black” in syn2009pub

Examples (75)-(79) are similes which I found in syn2009pub.

- (75) *V Hrabalově humoru , mnohdy černém jako noc , takže ho mnohé panny a čecháčekové* [hn990507]
- (76) *Jü-lan má štíhlou postavu, kudrnaté vlasy černé jako havran, tvář hladkou, bez vrásek.* [md041215]
- (77) *Colin Farrell v komedii černé jako pinta Guinnessu.*[db040607]
- (78) *A on to, prosím, zatím byl Holanďa , černý jako uhlí. Žádný realismus nemůže ničit duši* [mf980713]
- (79) *života i tmavou pletí, ne nadarmo se říká "černý jako Cikán", statečného vladyku láskyplně* [by030318]

Examples (80) and (81) comparison.

- (80) *děťátko "bílé jako sníh, červené jako krev a černé jako ten okenní rámec". Přání se jí splní* [refl0221]
- (81) *obyvateli nemám vůbec nic společného. Jsou sice černí jako já, ale vždyť si kolikrát ani nerozumíme* [mf030728]

“Black as Guinness” is an obvious case because it is generally known that this beer is black. This simile is used in the Czech Republic as well. Moreover, this simile has a higher frequency of occurrence in syn2009pub than in the BNC which is surprising. Another such case is “černý jako Whoopi Goldbergová” (“black as Whoopi Goldberg”) which occurred only in syn2009pub. I placed this case among similes because I suppose that Whoopi Goldberg is a very famous person.

Most of these similes are connected with this colour and similarity is obvious. Comparisons are deictic and I found out that Black is often used as a name in the cases which were not suitable for my analysis. “Black as ever” is a typical intensification.

“Black as coal” and “black as night” are very frequent similes in the BNC and in syn2009pub as well. “Black as ebony” can be found in both corpora. There was one unusual case “černý jako ostravské uhlí” (“black as coal from Ostrava”) in the syn2009pub which specifies the place where the coal comes from. Another frequent simile is “černý jako bota” (“black as shoe”) in syn2009pub. There was no such case in the BNC. “Black as thunder” and “black as pitch” were used very often and found only in the BNC.

A very frequent simile is also “black as night” in both corpora or “černý jako uhel” (“black as crayon”) in syn2009pub. I found one special simile “černý jako ašant” (“black as Ashanti”) in syn2009pub and I looked up that Ashanti is a tribe in Ghana and these people are black. Another uncommon simile is “black as an Ethiopian’s armpit” found in the BNC.

3.6 Similes with “yellow”

Xaira found 17 tokens of the phrase “yellow as” in the BNC. There were 5 tokens of similes, 2 tokens of comparisons and 10 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

There were 19 tokens of the Czech equivalent of “yellow” in syn2009pub. There were 9 tokens of similes, no token of comparisons and 10 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

Table 11 displays similes from the BNC.

Similes with “yellow”	Frequency in the BNC
yellow as butter	2
yellow as cheese	1
yellow as bananas	1
yellow as sulphur	1

Table 11: Similes with “yellow” in the BNC

Examples **(82)-(85)** are similes which I found in the BNC.

- (82)** *He unfolded it, and gold koban slid weightily into his hand, forty of them, **yellow as butter**, the gold so soft that it deformed if one coin fell against another.* [BNC G17 1003]
- (83)** *Now Léonie's mane stuck out crisply, the blaze of a sunflower, and her fur was **yellow as bananas**.* [BNC GUK 1036]
- (84)** *Standing on the draining board was an old, chipped saucer containing a slab of soap which was **yellow as cheese** and rock hard, its surface covered in deep cracks and giving the appearance of having been there for ever.* [BNC G1S 2664]
- (85)** *The ground is literally parched and every blade of grass is **yellow as sulphur**, but independent of this the land in the interior is less rich and the fen of the country less fertile than any country I have ever traveled [sic].* [BNC HRB 854]

Examples **(86)** and **(87)** are comparisons found in the BNC.

- (86)** *Its skin was thin and yellow, and its eyes were as **yellow as its skin**.* [BNC H8G 150]
- (87)** *they look really yellow, they look, don't look as **yellow as these lights**.* [BNC KP1 7977]

Table 12 presents similes which I found in syn2009pub.

Similes with “yellow”	Frequency in syn2009pub
žlutý jako citron “yellow as lemon”	2
žlutý jako kanárek “yellow as canary”	1
žlutý jako limonáda “yellow as lemonade”	1
žlutý jako slunce na bloze “yellow as sun in the sky”	1
žlutý jako velikonoční kraslice “yellow as Easter egg”	1
žlutý jako zářící kotouč nad hlavou “yellow as shining wheel overhead”	1
žlutý jako sluníčko “yellow as sun”	1
žlutý jako pole slunečnic “yellow as field of sunflowers”	1

Table 12: Similes with “yellow” in syn2009pub

Examples (88)-(92) are similes found in syn2009pub.

- (88) *během dne několikrát mění. Ráno jsou skály žluté jako čerstvý citron, přes den jsou oranžové* [md060429]
- (89) *hodně drahou zmrzlinu, tak určitě nebude žlutá jako kanárek nebo brčálově zelená.* [mf030815]
- (90) *Nejlepší jsou růžové jako žvýkačka nebo žluté jako limonáda. Dodají totiž vašemu oblečení* [db040110]
- (91) *skřivan a po návsi poletuje motýl s křídly žlutými jako velikonoční kraslice.* [db040410]
- (92) *foukal na louce posázené jarními kvítky, žlutými jako slunce na obloze. Za oknem je trochu šero* [db040506]

I found one comparison with “yellow”, example (93).

- (93) *"Naše škola dostane novou fasádu, bude žlutá jako ta původní. Zastupitelé investici schválili [db050129]*

Objects in these similes, which were found in the BNC, are of the yellow colour so they can be considered as the clear cases. There was no simile which have these corpora in common. Most of similes with “yellow” are connected with fruits, some food or the sun. There are frequent similes with words “lemon” and “sun” in syn2009pub. Syn2009pub was richer in similes with this colour.

3.7 Similes with “orange”

Xaira found 11 tokens of the phrase “orange as” in the BNC. There were 2 tokens of similes, no token of comparisons and 9 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

There were only 3 tokens of the Czech equivalent of “orange” in syn2009pub. There were 3 tokens of similes, but no token of comparisons.

Table 13 shows the similes found in the BNC.

Similes with “orange”	Frequency in the BNC
orange as flames	1
orange as Galway thatch	1

Table 13: Similes with “orange” in the BNC

Examples (94) and (95) are similes looked up in the BNC.

- (94) *The nasturtiums were flowering, brilliant and ragged across the soil, **orange as flames**.* [BNC HJH 1990]
- (95) *The sky was as **orange as Galway thatch**, overlaid by dark clouds, and the sea also glowed a dull orange.* [BNC ADM 401]

Table 14 presents similes found in syn2009pub.

Similes with “orange”	Frequency in syn2009pub
oranžový jako kůra mandarinky nebo pomeranče “orange as tangerine or orange peel”	1
oranžový jako pomeranč “orange as orange”	1
oranžový jako dýně “orange as pumpkins”	1

Table 14: Similes with “orange” in syn2009pub

Examples (96)-(98) are sentences with similes found in syn2009pub. There was no comparison.

- (96) *"Na začátku byla dřevomorka skutečně **oranžová jako kůra mandarinky nebo pomeranče**.* [mf001208]
- (97) *Právě on má nejnovější model značky Lotto. **Oranžové jako pomeranč**, s bílými pruhy a s natištěným* [bl040618]
- (98) *jako černá strašidla, ve čtvrtek přišly **oranžové jako dýně**, v pátek v maskách* [db061111]

“Orange” is not a very frequent colour term in similes unlike “white” or “black”. There was no simile which would occur in both the BNC and syn2009pub. Similes were connected with fruits and vegetables in syn2009pub unlike in the BNC. There was an unusual case “orange as Galway thatch” in the BNC. This is a famous old pub in Galway, “Cooke’s Thatch Bar”. Figure 6 shows this bar which is orange.



Figure 6: Cookes Thatch Bar in Galway

3.8 Similes with “brown”

Xaira found 36 tokens of the phrase “brown as” in the BNC. There were 9 tokens of similes, 3 tokens of comparisons and 24 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

There were 11 tokens of the Czech equivalent of “brown” in syn2009pub. There were 8 tokens of similes, 1 token of comparisons and 2 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

Table 15 displays similes from the BNC.

Similes with “brown”	Frequency in the BNC
brown as a berry	3
brown as amber	2
brown as old leather	1
brown as an old football	1
brown as a walnut	1
brown as the island fishermen	1

Table 15: Similes with “brown” in the BNC

Examples (99)-(103) are similes from the BNC.

- (99) *The afternoon sun on my back was gently warming and the light that it cast on Chola's and Mina's faces was as clear and richly **brown as amber**.* [BNC BNU 1788]
- (100) *Their skin was as wrinkled and **brown as an old football** and on their heads were perched steel air-raid helmets.* [BNC CAB 690]
- (101) *A man with a bald head, **brown as a walnut**, with a sweater knotted round his neck, was dancing with a fair-haired woman whose face Molly couldn't see, but whose sunburnt arms moved mechanically, like a doll's arms, in time with the music.* [BNC FB9 1822]
- (102) *He was nearly completely bald, **brown as old leather**, short and spare, a man whose age was impossible to tell: perhaps sixty, perhaps seventy; dressed in a navy-blue shirt, knee-length shorts, and a pair of salt-stained gym shoes.* [BNC G13 217]
- (103) *Years of sunlight had tanned him to the same mahogany **brown as the island fishermen**.* [BNC G13 2425]

Example (104) is a comparison.

- (104) *A great cheer went up as he started hitting the ball around, the merest tap sending it miles across a field as **brown as Raimundo's goatskin apron**.* [BNC CA0 2737]

Table 16 presents similes found in syn2009pub.

Similes with “brown”	Frequency in syn2009pub
hnědý jako čokoláda “brown as chocolate”	2
hnědý jako země “brown as ground”	2
hnědý jako negr “brown as nigger”	1
hnědý jako surový třtinový cukr “brown as cane raw sugar”	1

hnědý jako tehla “brown as brick”	1
hnědý jako průjem “brown as diarrhoea”	1

Table 16: Similes with “brown” in syn2009pub

Examples (105)-(109) are similes which I found in syn2009pub.

- (105) *devadesátých let, kdy kdo se nevrátil z dovolené **hnědý jako čokoláda**, jako by na dovolené nebyl.* [md070619]
- (106) *Ropuchy jsou velké asi jako prst, **hnědé jako surový třtinový cukr**, pocházejí z Jižní* [pr021210]
- (107) *komunisticky rudá, zelená vypadala jako špenát a **hnědá jako průjem**, švestkově modrá připomínala tepláky* [md051001]
- (108) *boty, co mám, o nich se říkalo, že jsou **hnědé jako negr**. To vám nic neříká?* [by040426]
- (109) *"Koroptvičky, povězte mně, proč jste **hnědé jako země**," byla jasná. Přece proto, aby* [db401113]

Example (110) is a comparison.

- (110) *Kapuziner: černá káva s trochou mléka – **hnědá jako kutna mnicha Franziskaner**: světlá melange* [mf040507]

An interesting example is “brown as amber” because an amber is not typically of brown colour but more of yellow colour. “Brown as berry” is not a prototypical example either, berries can have many different colours. There was an adjective “old” added inside two similes from the BNC which made them unusual. Another example with an adjective inside the simile was “*hnědá jako horká čokoláda*” (“brown as hot chocolate”) or “*žlutý jako čerstvý citron*” (“yellow as fresh lemon”) from the previous chapter.

There was no simile that have both corpora in common. I found one special example “*hnědá jako průjem*” (“brown as diarrhoea”) in syn2009pub. All the similes with “brown” represent different shades of this colour.

3.9 Similes with “pink”

Xaira found 22 tokens of the phrase “pink as” in the BNC. There were 8 tokens of similes, 6 tokens of comparisons and 9 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

There were 15 tokens of the Czech equivalent of “pink” in syn2009pub. There were 4 tokens of similes, no token of comparisons and 11 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

The table 17 presents similes with “pink” found in the BNC.

Similes with “pink”	Frequency in the BNC
pink as a lobster	1
pink as a very good ham	1
pink as a child's (skin)	1
pink as an infant's (complexion)	1
pink as a fuchsia	1
pink as the parakeet	1
pink as a boiled prawn	1
pink as a porcelain	1

Table 17: Similes with “pink” in the BNC

Examples (111)-(116) belong to similes found in the BNC.

- (111) *Thérèse was **pink as a boiled prawn**.* [BNC GUK 2457]
- (112) *When he straightened up from his arrangements, his face was as **pink as a very good ham**, and his breathing sounded a trifle odd.* [BNC H7H 2337]
- (113) *When she wasn't required for her scene in the court room of Alexandria she was fetching and carrying and dabbing calamine lotion on the shoulders of John Harbour who, earlier in the day, had been broiled **pink as a lobster** by inexpertly using a sun-lamp.* [BNC FNU 808]
- (114) *She broke off inexplicably and her face went as **pink as a fuchsia**.* [BNC AEB 2802]

- (115) *He was wearing a blue fleecy sleeping suit embroidered with ducks from which his round face seemed to have spilled over, still and **pink as a porcelain**, Painted doll, the delicate lashes brush-tipped on the plump cheeks.* [BNC C8T 311]
- (116) *His face was open and pleasant, with a skin as **pink as a child's**.* [BNC EEW 1620]

Example (117) is a comparison.

- (117) *I don't know what you said to The Times man, but when I opened the paper in bed (at mea mos est) wondering whether my letter would find a place at all-well I dived under the bed clothes and went pink all over-as **pink as you!*** [BNC EFN 268]

Table 18 shows similes from syn2009pub.

Similes with “pink”	Frequency in syn2009pub
růžový jako žvýkačka “pink as chewing-gum”	2
růžový jako sliznice “pink as mucosa”	1
růžový jako mladistvá plet’ “pink as juvenile complexion”	1

Table 18: Similes with “pink” in syn2009pub

Examples (118)-(120) are similes which I found in syn2009pub. There was no comparison.

- (118) *nejprodávanější bude bílá jako vápno, **růžová jako mladistvá plet’** a perleťové krémová.* [db061221]
- (119) *Tunika inspirovaná Orientem, veselé lodičky **růžové jako žvýkačka**, kabelka ve vojenském stylu a* [db040110]
- (120) *v trikotech a doplňcích z chlupaté látky **růžové jako sliznice** - demonstrují nejružnější podoby* [mf010427]

There was a unique case “pink as child's” which demonstrates that there is no need of noun in the simile. “Child's” shows that the skin of someone's face was pink as a skin of child's face which is demonstrated in the example (116). I did not find simile like this in syn2009pub. The corpora have no simile with “pink” in common.

3.10 Similes with “grey”

Xaira found 35 tokens of the phrase “grey as” in the BNC. There were 11 tokens of similes, 5 tokens of comparisons and 19 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

There were 11 tokens of the Czech equivalent of “grey” in syn2009pub. There were only 1 token of similes, 4 tokens of comparisons and 6 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

Table 19 presents similes which I found in the BNC.

Similes with “grey”	Frequency in the BNC
grey as a school sweater	1
grey as clouds	1
grey as a mountain rock-pool	1
grey as a used Brillo pad	1
grey as morning ashes	1
grey as the fog	1
grey as Northumberland	1
grey as the sky at dawn	1
grey as Silesia's industrial landscape	1
grey as shingle	1
grey as a rat	1

Table 19: Similes with “grey” in the BNC

Examples (121)-(125) are similes found in the BNC.

(121) *Such sky as was to be seen between them was as grey as a school sweater.* [BNC ACV 91]

- (122) *The sky became as clear and **grey as a mountain rock-pool**.* [BNC BNU 1532]
- (123) *My first attempt on these hills ended at about 1500 feet when two of us were simply blasted off, which I suppose served us right for even setting out on a morning dark and **grey as a used Brillo pad**.* [BNC CG1 349]
- (124) *Even in the dreary beginnings of a rainy dawn the newly sprouting vines dotted the hillside with a green that was almost luminous, but the olive trees were the same ghostly **grey as the fog**.* [BNC CJX 63]
- (125) *Riven was caught by her eyes, **grey as shingle**.* [BNC GWF 341]

Examples (126) and (127) are comparisons.

- (126) *‘Do you think,’ the elder man wondered, his face as **grey as his hair** with stone-dust, ‘that the generals really want to go into the war with an army of pressed men?’* [BNC A0N 2087]
- (127) *His patient, a girl whose age was uncertain — he judged her to be about fourteen or fifteen — was at the moment quiescent, her face as **grey as the linen on which she lay**, her eyes closed.* [BNC HGE 2192]

Table 20 shows the only simile with “grey” in syn2009pub.

Similes with “grey”	Frequency in syn2009pub
šedý jako cínová mísa “grey as tin bowl”	1

Table 20: Similes with “grey” in syn2009pub

Example (128) is the only simile with “grey” which I found in syn2009pub.

- (128) *Kaluž byla **šedá jako cínová mísa**. Někdo na ni prostřel studené* [hn030321]

Examples (129) and (130) are comparisons.

- (129) *Byl ocelově **šedý jako barva mého saka**, a tak téměř splýval.* [ln000420]
- (130) *hřbitova a šplíchají až ke zdem kostela, **šedého jako všechny venkovské kostely v Normandii**.* [mf040612]

An unusual simile is “grey as a used Brillo pad”. Brillo pad is a trade name. This pad which is impregnated with soap is used for cleaning dishes. Another creative simile is “grey as shingle”. I found no same simile in the BNC and in syn2009pub. There was only one Czech example of simile with “grey”. “Grey as a school sweater” is a typical English phenomenon because the students wear the school uniforms in England.

What is interesting to mention is that a word “sky” was very frequent in similes with different colour terms in both corpora because the sky changes a lot during a day or a year. Similes with “clouds” was the same case. I found “red as the clouds” and “grey as clouds” in the BNC. “Bílý jako oblaka” (“white as clouds”) occurred in syn2009pub.

3.11 Similes with “purple”

Xaira found 5 tokens of the phrase “purple as” in the BNC. There was only 1 token of similes, 1 token of comparisons and 3 tokens of cases which were not suitable for my analysis.

There were only 3 tokens of the Czech equivalent of “purple” in syn2009pub. There were 2 tokens of similes and 1 token of comparisons.

Table 21 displays the only simile “purple” found in the BNC.

Similes with “purple”	Frequency in the BNC
purple as damsons	1

Table 21: Similes with “purple” in the BNC

Example (131) is a simile which I found in the BNC.

(131) *blood, and above him, ropes, rigging, nets, a gigantic sagging cobweb of strung and re-strung hemp lines, swayed down to trap him (children crying), and wherever he looked the wide mouths of women, no other feature but the mouth, tongues thick and **purple as damsons**, teeth white as the flecks on fall water and hands, nails curled and black, clawing at him, at his clothes, at his chest, at his face (children wailing), ripping it away, tearing the skin from the skull... [BNC FP1 1389]*

Example (132) is the only comparison with “purple” in the BNC.

- (132) *For there in the gateway, framed in an arch of clematis as **purple** as her face, stood Miss Lodsworth.* [BNC CA0 127]

Table 22 presents similes which I found in syn2009pub.

Similes with “purple”	Frequency in syn2009pub
fialový jako ametyst “purple as amethyst”	1
fialový jako inkoust “purple as ink”	1

Table 22: Similes with “purple” in syn2009pub

There were only two similes in syn2009pub, examples (133) and (134).

- (133) *"To víte , že to není **fialový jako třeba ametyst**," připouští," ale když* [db040320]
 (134) *vynořili na svět, měli ústa od borůvek **fialová jako inkoust**. Šli jsme si zaplavat, my čtyři* [db060715]

Example (135) is a comparison.

- (135) *Krávy v italských Dolomitech nejsou **fialové jako** ty rakouské. Mají nádherně béžovou až* [ln030816]

“Purple” is not a frequent colour in either of the corpora. However, there is a unique example “purple as ink” because this simile occurred with the black colour as well in syn2009pub. This signals that the same nouns in the similes can be connected with the different colours. The corpora have no simile in common.

3.12 Similes with non-focal colours

I tried to find also colours which are not prototypical colour terms such as “crimson”, “scarlet”, “lavender” “turquoise”, “violet”, “golden”, “silver” or “mauve” in the BNC. I found only similes with the phrase “dark as”. Xaira found 45 similes with

“dark” in the BNC. There were 3 similes of the Czech equivalent of “dark” in syn2009pub. Table 23 presents similes with “dark” found in the BNC.

Similes with “dark”	Frequency in the BNC
dark as night	8
dark as a gypsy	3
dark as death	2
dark as pansies	2
dark as pitch	2
dark as thunder	2
dark as Druids' Runes	2
dark as a funeral scarf	1
dark as a winter night	1
dark as a black Welsh tarn	1
dark as a cinema	1
dark as a raven's wing	1
dark as a rotten egg	1
dark as a gathering twilight	1
dark as a catacomb	1
dark as midnight	1
dark as a velvet bag	1
dark as a panther	1
dark as a domino	1
dark as an otter's pelt	1
dark as a cave	1
dark as bottomless pools	1
dark as the basement	1
dark as dark	1
dark as the devil	1
dark as Erebus	1
dark as fig-fruit	1
dark as Hades	1

dark as treacle	1
dark as Turkish coffee	1
dark as varnish	1

Table 23: Similes with “dark” in the BNC

Table 24 shows similes with “dark” found in syn2009pub.

Similes with “dark”	Frequency in syn2009pub
temný jako noc “dark as night”	1
temný jako krém na boty “dark as shoe polish”	1
temný jako kafe “dark as coffee”	1

Table 24: Similes with “dark” in syn2009pub

Examples (136) and (137) are similes with “dark” found in the BNC.

(136) *Her eyes were as **dark as a rotten egg**, and a tear of blood ran down alongside her nose to the corner of her mouth like a symptom of regret.* [BNC FP7 1215]

(137) *As they went into the hotel lobby, he noticed that her make-up was a mask, crimson lips and fake tan and eyes **dark as a domino**.* [BNC FP7 1802]

Examples (138) and (139) are similes with the Czech equivalent of “dark” in syn2009pub.

(138) *optimismus definitivně vystřídal pesimismus, **temný jako krém na boty**.*
[ln98303]

(139) *úderných akordů a hlasu , který byl hluboký a **temný jako noc** , přiváděl Cash s obrovskou intenzitou* [md060209]

“Dark as night” and “dark as coffee” have both corpora in common. However, similes with non-focal colour terms occurred in a greater number in syn2009pub.

There were 3 similes with “zrzavý” (“red”) in syn2009pub. Table 25 presents similes with “zrzavý” (“red”) in syn2009pub.

Similes with “zrzavý” (“red”)	Frequency in syn2009pub
zrzavý jako liška “red as fox”	3

Table 25: Similes with “zrzavý” (“red”) in syn2009pub

There was 1 simile with “zlatý” (“gold”) in syn2009pub. Table 26 shows the only simile with “zlatý” (“gold”) in syn2009pub.

Similes with “zlatý” (“gold”)	Frequency in syn2009pub
zlatý jako slunce “gold as sun”	1

Table 26: Similes with “zlatý” (“gold”) in syn2009pub

There was 1 simile with “stříbrný” (“silver”) in syn2009pub. Table 27 presents the only simile with “stříbrný” (“silver”) in syn2009pub.

Similes with “stříbrný” (“silver”)	Frequency in syn2009pub
stříbrný jako sníh “silver as snow”	1

Table 27: Similes with “stříbrný” (“silver”) in syn2009pub

There were 22 similes with “rudý” (“red”) in syn2009pub. Table 28 displays similes with “rudý” (“red”) in syn2009pub.

Similes with “rudý” (“red”)	Frequency in syn2009pub
rudý jako rak “red as crab”	5

rudý jako krev “red as blood”	3
rudý jako pivoňka “red as peony”	3
rudý jako Indián “red as Indian”	2
rudý jako růže “red as rose”	2
rudý jako bedrník “red as pimpernel”	1
rudý jako měď “red as copper”	1
rudý jako krocan “red as turkey”	1
rudý jako západ slunce “red as sunset”	1
rudý jako albín “red as albino”	1
rudý jako zadek paviána “red as baboon's bum”	1
rudý jako pekáč od sekanice “red as pan from minced meat”	1

Table 28: Similes with “rudý” (“red”) in syn2009pub

“Zrzavý” and “rudý” can be translated as “red” in English. “Red” is a focal colour while “zrzavý” and “rudý” are non-focal colour terms because they are subordinate to “red”. I found both “červený jako rak” (“red as crab”) and “rudý jako rak” (“red as crab”) as well as “červený jako krev” (“red as blood”) and “rudý jako krev” (“red as blood”) in syn2009pub. “Red as a baboon's bum” occurred in the BNC while a non-focal colour term occurred in simile “rudý jako zadek paviána” (“red as a baboon's bum”) in syn2009pub. I found no tokens such as “karmínový jako”, “tyrkysový jako” or “violkový jako” in syn2009pub.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The corpus analysis showed the differences and similarities between English and Czech similes. These languages have some similes in common but some of them are different. Data confirmed theses stated in linguistic literature that it is not easy to tell a simile from a comparison.

Table 29 presents the total frequency of similes with colour terms which occurred in the BNC and syn2009pub. Eventually, there are also non-focal colours which I found in syn2009pub and phrase “dark as” found in the BNC.

Focal colour terms	BNC	syn2009pub	Total
“white as”/ “bílý jako”	89	100	189
“black as”/ “černý jako”	67	91	158
“red as”/ “červený jako”	28	21	49
“blue as”/ “modrý jako”	17	28	45
“green as”/ “zelený jako”	21	18	39
“brown as”/ “hnědý jako”	9	8	17
“yellow as”/ “žlutý jako”	5	9	14
“grey as”/ “šedý jako”	11	1	12
“pink as”/ “růžový jako”	8	4	12
“orange as”/ “oranžový jako”	2	3	5
“purple as”/ “fialový jako”	1	2	3
Non-focal colour terms	BNC	syn2009pub	Total
“rudý jako”	-	22	22
“zrzavý jako”	-	3	3
“zlatý jako”	-	1	1
“stříbrný jako”	-	1	1
Other phrases	BNC	syn2009pub	Total
“dark as”/ “temný jako”	45	3	48

Table 29: The frequency of similes with colour terms in the BNC and syn2009pub

“White” and “black” are the most frequent colours to occur in similes, both in English and in Czech, followed by “red”, “blue”, “green”, “brown”, “yellow”, “grey”, “pink” and “orange”. “Purple” was the least-frequently used colour term in the BNC, and “grey” was the least-frequently used colour term in syn2009pub. This sequence shows nearly the same hierarchy of focal colours which Berlin and Kay (quoted in Taylor 1995, 9) mentioned.

The red colour was frequent with vegetables, fruits, berries and blood in the BNC. Similes “red as blood” and “red as a tomato” were found in both corpora. Two border-line cases with “red” occurred in the BNC unlike in syn2009pub.

Similes with “blue” were popular with flowers. “Blue as cornflowers” and “blue as forget-me-nots” were found in both corpora. There was one interesting simile “blue as periwinkle” because of its connection with different colour in Czech. “Zelený jako brčál” (“green as periwinkle”) was found in syn2009pub. Periwinkle is considered to be a blue flower for the English while for Czechs, it is water with an anabaena and a pond weed. “Blue” was very often linked with words “eyes” and “sky” in syn2009pub.

“Zelený jako vodník” (“green as water-sprite”) is a typical Czech phenomenon which occurred in syn2009pub. “Zelený jako uniforma příslušníka SNB” (“green as uniform of member of SNB”) is a phrase from the Czech history which could hardly occur in the BNC. Similes with words “grass” and “leaves” were found in both corpora.

The corpora had many similes with “white” in common such as “white as snow”, “white as chalk”, “white as death”, “white as paper”, “white as marble” etc. “Bílý jako stěna” (“white as wall”) is a high-frequency simile in syn2009pub. However, this simile occurred not at all in the BNC. Czechs use “bílý jako sýr” (“white as cheese”) unlike the English. The frequency of similes with white flowers was not high. There were two similes with flowers such as “white as a white rose” and “white as windflowers” in the BNC. The only simile with a flower “bílý jako lilie” (“white as lily”) occurred in syn2009pub.

“Black as Guinness” had a higher frequency of occurrence in syn2009pub than in the BNC which was surprising. “Černý jako Whoopi Goldbergová” (“black as Whoopi Goldberg”) occurred only in syn2009pub. “Black as ebony” and “black as night” was found in both the BNC and syn2009pub.

“Černý jako bota” (“black as shoe”) is a very frequent Czech simile. There was no such case in the BNC. “Black as thunder” and “black as pitch” were found only in

the BNC. “Černý jako uhlí” (“black as crayon”) was the most frequent simile with “black” in syn2009pub.

There was no simile with “yellow”, “orange”, “brown”, “pink”, “grey” or “purple” which would occur in both the BNC and syn2009pub. Syn2009pub was richer in similes with “yellow”. “Orange” was not a very frequent colour term in English similes, in syn2009pub it was connected with fruits and vegetables. All the similes with “brown” represented different shades of this colour. “Sky” and “clouds” were very frequent in similes with different colour terms in both corpora because they change a lot.

While all basic colour terms occur in similes found in the BNC and in syn2009pub, similes with non-focal colour terms were not found in the BNC. Xaira only found similes with “dark”. Syn2009pub is richer in similes with the non-focal colours such as “rudý jako” (“red as”), “zrzavý jako” (“red as”), “zlatý jako” (“golden as”) and “stříbrný jako” (“silver as”).

“Red” is a focal colour while “zrzavý” and “rudý” are non-focal colour terms because they are subordinate to “red”. “Červený jako rak” (“red as crab”) and “rudý jako rak” (“red as crab”) as well as “červený jako krev” (“red as blood”) and “rudý jako krev” (“red as blood”) occurred in syn2009pub. “Red as a baboon's bum” occurred in the BNC while a non-focal colour term occurred in simile “rudý jako zadek paviána” (“red as a baboon's bum”) in syn2009pub.

Similes do not need to be linked only with colour terms. There are many possibilities how to examine the similes. In the future research, there might be chosen the different pattern in the Phrase Query such as “red like” or the different corpus. English similes with colour terms retrieved from the BNC might be compared with American similes with colour terms retrieved from the COCA.

6 CZECH SUMMARY

Bakalářská práce porovnává přirovnání obsahující termíny s barvami používané v britské angličtině a češtině. Cílem této práce je najít mezi nimi rozdíly a zaznamenat frekvence výskytu každého přirovnání.

Teoretická část je založena na informacích z lingvistické literatury, která se zabývá přirovnáními, kolokabilitou a termíny s barvami. Definovat rozdíly mezi přirovnáním, srovnáním a metaforou není jednoduché a existuje mnoho různých teorií. Termíny s barvami jsou také obsáhlé téma.

Praktická část obsahuje výzkum. Analýza je založena na datech získaných z Britského národního korpusu (BNC-XML) a Českého národního korpusu. V BNC byl výzkum prováděn pomocí Xairy a v Českém národním korpusu pomocí Sketch Engine. V českém národním korpusu byl zvolen pro analýzu syn2009pub, kde jsou pouze české publicistické texty.

Pro hledání v BNC bylo použito Phrase Query a zvolena struktura “red as” bez omezení se na “red as a” nebo “as red as”. V Českém národním korpusu byl vybrán CQL (Corpus Language Query) a použit vzor [lemma=“červený”] “jako”, díky kterému byly nalezeny všechny různé pády najednou.

Nejdřív byly všechny případy v obou korpusech rozděleny na přirovnání, srovnání a na případy, které se nehodily do mé analýzy. Byla to například jména s barvami nebo se “as” dalo nahradit slovy “zatímco” nebo “protože”.

Dále byl zkoumán počet výskytů všech přirovnání a zapsán do tabulek. Česká přirovnání byla přeložena do angličtiny. Některé věty v korpusech, zvláště v Českém národním korpusu, byly naprosto stejné, a tak byly započítány do mého výzkumu jen jednou. V tabulkách jsou počítány lexémy. Pod každou tabulkou jsou náhodně vybrané věty se srovnáními, aby byl zřejmý postup při rozdělování případů na přirovnání a srovnání. V některých případech byla nalezena i intenzifikace a zaznamenána pod tyto příklady. Na konci výzkumu je uvedena tabulka s celkovým počtem všech přirovnání rozdělených podle barev a korpusů. Obsahuje i přirovnání s barvami, které nejsou základní a byly nalezeny hlavně v Českém národním korpusu.

Korpusová analýza ukázala rozdíly a podobnosti mezi českými a anglickými přirovnáními. Nejčastější barvy v obou korpusech byly bílá a černá. Poté následovaly červená, modrá, zelená, hnědá, žlutá, šedá, růžová a oranžová. Nejméně používaná

barva v BNC byla fialová, v syn2009pub to byla šedá. Toto pořadí vykazuje podobnou hierarchii základních barev, jakou zmiňují Berlin a Kay.

Přirovnání “červený jako krev” a “červený jako rajske jablíčko” byla nalezena v obou korpusech. Červená barva byla spojována v BNC nejčastěji se zeleninou, ovocem, bobulemi a krví. Modrá barva se často objevovala s květinami. “Modrý jako chrpy” a “modrý jako pomněnky” se objevilo v obou korpusech.

Zajímavé bylo přirovnání “zelený jako brčál”, protože není v angličtině spojováno se zelenou barvou, ale s modrou. Angličané vnímají brčál jako modrou květinu. Modrá byla v Českém národním korpusu často spojována se slovy “oči” a “nebe”. V syn2009pub se objevilo přirovnání “zelený jako vodník”, které se sotva mohlo objevit v Britském národním korpusu, stejně tak jako přirovnání “zelený jako uniforma příslušníka SNB”. Zelená často spojována se slovy “tráva” a “listí”

V obou korpusech se objevila přirovnání “bílý jako sníh”, “bílý jako křída”, “bílý jako smrt”, “bílý jako papír” a “bílý jako mramor”. “Bílý jako stěna” se objevilo pouze v syn2009pub. S květinami byla v BNC nalezena přirovnání “bílý jako bílá růže” a “bílý jako sasanky” a v syn2009pub “bílý jako lilie”. “Bílý jako sýr” se objevilo jen v syn2009pub, stejně tak jako “černý jako Whoopi Goldbergová” a “černý jako bota”. Pouze v BNC bylo nalezeno “černý jako hrom” a “černý jako asfalt”. “Černý jako pinta Guinnessu” bylo nalezeno častěji v syn2009pub než v BNC. V obou korpusech bylo nalezeno “černý jako eben” a “černý jako noc”.

Žádná přirovnání, která by měly korpusy společná nebyla nalezena s barvami jako je žlutá, oranžová, hnědá, růžová, šedá nebo fialová. Přirovnání se žlutou barvou se vyskytovala v syn2009pub častěji než v BNC. Oranžová a fialová barva se nevyskytovala v korpusech často. “Obloha” a “mraky” jsou spojovány s různými barvami, protože se často mění.

Všechny základní barvy byly v korpusech nalezeny. V syn2009pub se objevilo “temný”, “rudý”, “zrzavý”, “zlatý” a “stříbrný”, zatímco v BNC se objevil pouze výraz “temný jako”. Přirovnání “červený jako zadek paviána” se objevilo v BNC se základní barvou, zatímco v syn2009pub s barvou, která základní není, a to “rudý jako zadek paviána”.

Existuje mnoho možností, jak zkoumat přirovnání. V budoucím výzkumu by bylo zajímavé porovnat přirovnání s barvami v korpusech BNC a COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English).

7 ANNOTATION

Keywords: simile, comparison, metaphor, collocability, colour terms, BNC, syn2009pub

The bachelor thesis compares similes containing colour terms used in British English and Czech language. The aim of this work is to find the differences between them and note down the frequencies of occurrence of each simile. The theoretical part is based on information from linguistic literature. The practical part is the research. The analysis is based on data retrieved from the British National Corpus (BNC-XML) and from the Czech National Corpus.

Klíčová slova: přirovnání, srovnání, metafora, kolokabilita, termíny s barvami, BNC, syn2009pub

Bakalářská práce porovnává přirovnání obsahující termíny s barvami používané v britské angličtině a češtině. Cílem této práce je najít mezi nimi rozdíly a zaznamenat frekvence výskytu každého přirovnání. Teoretická část je založena na informacích z lingvistické literatury. Praktická část je výzkum. Analýza je založena na datech získaných z Britského národního korpusu (BNC-XML) a Českého národního korpusu.

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Počet znaků: 79 774

Počet titulů použité literatury: 13

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