

**University of Pardubice  
Faculty of Arts and Philosophy**

**Colours Used in Idioms in English and Czech**

**Petra Běhouňková**

**Bachelor Paper  
2010**

Univerzita Pardubice  
Fakulta filozofická  
Katedra anglistiky a amerikanistiky  
Akademický rok: 2008/2009

## **ZADÁNÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE**

(PROJEKTU, UMĚLECKÉHO DÍLA, UMĚLECKÉHO VÝKONU)

Jméno a příjmení: **Petra BĚHOUNKOVÁ**  
Studijní program: **B7310 Filologie**  
Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk pro hospodářskou praxi**

Název tématu: **Barvy používané v idiomatických spojeních v angličtině a češtině**

### Z á s a d y p r o v y p r a c o v á n í :

Cílem této bakalářské práce je zmapovat a porovnat užití výrazů pro barvy v idiomatických spojeních v angličtině a češtině. Po prostudování relevantní literatury studentka nejprve obecně představí základní vlastnosti idiomů z hlediska formy a významu. Dále se již soustředí na funkci výrazů označujících barvy v sémantické struktuře idiomů, zejména jejich využití v metafoře, metonymii či přirovnání. Po provedení analýzy autorka data zpracuje statisticky a kvalitativně je interpretuje. Data budou získána z frazeologických a idiomatických slovníků anglického a českého jazyka.

Rozsah grafických prací:

Rozsah pracovní zprávy:

Forma zpracování bakalářské práce: **tištěná/elektronická**

Seznam odborné literatury:

Smith, Logan Pearsall Words and Idioms, London, 1943 - Upa

Seidl, J., McMordie, W. English Idioms, Oxford, 1978 - Upa

Cowie, A. P., Mackin, R. Oxford dictionary of current idiomatic English, Oxford, 1985 - Upa

Cruse, D, A. Lexical Semantics. CUP, 1986 - NK

Cruse, D, A. Meaning in Language. CUP, 2004 - Upa

Čermák, F. Idiomatika a frazeologie češtiny, Praha, UK, 1982. - NK

Filípec, J., Čermák, F. Česká lexikologie. Praha, Academia, 1985. - NK

Vedoucí bakalářské práce:

**Mgr. Zuzana Urbanová**

Katedra anglistiky a amerikanistiky

Datum zadání bakalářské práce:

**30. dubna 2008**

Termín odevzdání bakalářské práce:

**31. března 2009**



prof. PhDr. Petr Vorel, CSC.

děkan

L.S.



Mgr. Šárka Bubíková, Ph.D.

vedoucí katedry

V Pardubicích dne 30. listopadu 2008

Prohlašuji:

Tuto práci jsem vypracoval/a samostatně. Veškeré literární prameny a informace, které jsem v práci využil/a, jsou uvedeny v seznamu použité literatury.

Byl/a jsem seznámen/a s tím, že se na moji práci vztahují práva a povinnosti vyplývající ze zákona č. 121/2000 Sb., autorský zákon, zejména se skutečností, že Univerzita Pardubice má právo na uzavření licenční smlouvy o užití této práce jako školního díla podle § 60 odst. 1 autorského zákona, a s tím, že pokud dojde k užití této práce mnou nebo bude poskytnuta licence o užití jinému subjektu, je Univerzita Pardubice oprávněna ode mne požadovat přiměřený příspěvek na úhradu nákladů, které na vytvoření díla vynaložila, a to podle okolností až do jejich skutečné výše.

Souhlasím s prezenčním zpřístupněním své práce v Univerzitní knihovně Univerzity Pardubice.

V Pardubicích dne 22.3.2010

Petra Běhounková

## **Acknowledgement**

I am very thankful to Mgr. Zuzana Urbanová who supported me throughout the writing process and provided me with valuable sources. I am especially grateful for her pieces of advice which helped me to improve my work.

## **Abstract**

This paper deals with idiomatic expressions in English and Czech with a special focus on idioms containing a colour word. It covers introduction to phraseography, a discipline dealing with lexicographic description of phrasemes, and phraseology, a discipline dealing with theoretical description of these. Throughout the paper, approaches to phrasemes of various linguists are presented. Nevertheless, the paper is mostly founded on the Czech approach represented by theories of Čermák which are contrasted to theories of other foreign linguists. In the paper is explained how a phraseme is defined and what its formal and semantic properties are. The paper also deals with colour words, their semantic character and how it influences the meaning of phrasemes. Literal meaning of colour words and its use in metaphors and metonymies is described, as well as connotative meaning of five basic colour words. On the theoretical background presented in this paper is based analysis comparing English and Czech phrasemes. Its aim is to determine level of equivalency which may be useful in translations.

## **Key words**

idiom, phraseme, phraseography, phraseology, colour words, connotation

## **Název**

Barvy používané v idiomatických spojeních v angličtině a češtině

## **Souhrn**

Tato práce se zabývá idiomatickými spojeními v angličtině a češtině se speciálním zaměřením na idiomy obsahující barvu. Práce zahrnuje úvod do frazeografie, disciplíny, která se zabývá popisem frazémů ve slovnících, a frazeologie, disciplíny zabývající se popisem frazémů teoretickým. V práci jsou uvedeny přístupy k frazémům různých lingvistů. Práce je však založena zejména na českém přístupu, reprezentovaném teoriemi Čermáka, které jsou srovnávány s teoriemi zahraničních lingvistů. Je vysvětleno, jak jsou frazémy definovány a jaké jsou jejich formální a sémantické

vlastnosti. Práce se také zabývá slovy označujícími barvy, jejich sémantickým charakterem a jak tento ovlivňuje význam frazémů. Doslovný význam těchto slov a jeho využití v metafoře a metonymii je popsán, stejně tak konotativní význam pěti základních barev. Na teoretickém základě prezentovaném v práci je založena analýza srovnávající anglické a české frazémy. Jejím cílem je určit míru podobnosti, která může být užitečná v překladech.

## **Klíčová slova**

idiom, frazém, frazeologie, barvy, konotace

## Table of Contents

1	Introduction .....	1
2	Introduction to lexicography .....	3
2.1	Sources of Czech and English idioms .....	4
3	Introduction to phraseology .....	7
3.1	Scope of phraseology .....	8
3.2	Units of phraseology: idioms and phrasemes.....	9
3.3	Functions of phrasemes.....	12
3.4	Relation of phrasemes to the regular language .....	13
3.5	Use of phrasemes .....	14
3.6	Classification of phrasemes.....	14
3.6.1	Lexical phrasemes.....	16
3.6.2	Collocational phrasemes .....	16
3.6.2.1	Nominal phrasemes.....	16
3.6.2.2	Modification phrasemes .....	16
3.6.2.3	Verbal phrasemes .....	17
3.6.2.4	Similes.....	17
3.6.2.5	Binominals .....	17
3.6.3	Propositional phrasemes.....	18
3.7	Formal criteria for phrasemes .....	18
3.7.1	Institutionalization.....	18
3.7.2	Fixedness/frozenness.....	18
3.7.3	Multi-word character.....	19
3.7.4	Anomaly.....	20
3.8	Semantic criteria of phrasemes .....	21
3.8.1	Non-compositionality.....	21
3.8.1.1	Motivation/non-motivation .....	23
3.8.1.2	Transparency/opacity .....	23
3.8.1.3	Analyzability/unanalyzability .....	24
3.8.1.4	Literal/figurative meaning.....	24
4	Colour words.....	27
4.1	Colour words: literal, prototypical and figurative meaning.....	27
4.2	Colour words: connotations .....	28
4.2.1	Black .....	29
4.2.2	White.....	30
4.2.3	Red .....	31
4.2.4	Green.....	32
4.2.5	Blue.....	33
5	Colour phrasemes in English and Czech.....	34
5.1	Classes of phrasemes.....	35
5.2	Transparency and motivation of phrasemes.....	35
5.3	Comparison of English and Czech phrasemes .....	37
6	Conclusions .....	39
7	Resumé.....	41
8	Bibliography.....	45
	List of appendices .....	49

# 1 Introduction

Idioms form an important part of language and are used on a daily basis. Native speakers usually do not realise it but both English and Czech are languages loaded with units which may be characterised as nonstandard for their overall meaning is different from the literal one. One becomes aware of idioms when it comes to translation. Idioms are considered to be culturally restricted. That means that they are commonly understood by people of the same culture but people of a different culture may find them strange if translated literally. The aim of this paper is to find out whether there are semantically equivalent idiomatic expressions in English and Czech and, in case there are, to what degree they are equal. For the purpose of the comparison, a corpus of English and Czech idioms is compiled with the focus on colour idioms. Sources of the idioms are English and Czech dictionaries. In order to determine level of equivalency, a formal-structural analysis of compiled idioms is done. The paper also deals with semantic aspects of idioms. It is examined what devices are used to make a meaning of an idiom figurative and what role a colour plays in it. According to found devices, level of transparency of compiled idioms is determined.

The theoretical part of this paper is divided into the following sections: 'Introduction to lexicography', 'Introduction to phraseology', and 'Colour words', each being further divided into subsections.

First section introduces lexicography, phraseography in particular. It explains what phraseology is and what its main problems with regard to phraseological theory are. Then, English and Czech dictionaries as sources of idioms for the corpus are described and their treatment of idioms compared. It is also stated what approach to idioms in this paper is followed.

Second section, introduction to phraseology, is rather voluminous. It starts with a description of the way phraseology was recognized as a discipline on its own and an explanation what phraseology is. Then, the paper deals with a scope of phraseology, where in language idioms can be found. There, opinions of various linguists are presented and compared. The following subsection of the paper focuses on units of phraseology, their terminology and definitions. The units are called differently by

linguists; hence a number of terms is given. Czech approach is represented by the terminology of Čermák who calls the units ‘phrasemes’ and ‘idioms’, and the difference in their use is explained. Terminology of this paper is also unified in this subsection and it is stated which definition of a phraseme is adopted. The following subsection briefly explains what functions phrasemes have. Next, it is explained of what relation phrasemes may be to regular language and that is followed by the use of phrasemes in language. The following subsection deals with general properties of phrasemes, a relation between constituents of phrasemes and phrasemes as a whole, and a classification of phrasemes based on the character of their constituents. Further, formal and semantic criteria of phrasemes are presented. As phrasemes are of a complex character, no clearly defined set of criteria exists. Therefore, criteria stated in this paper are those appearing most often in literature and various opinions towards them are provided. Formal criteria of phrasemes include institutionalization, fixedness, multi-word character and anomaly. Semantic criteria include non-compositionality, non-motivation, opacity, unanalyzability and figurative meaning.

Third section of this paper deals with colour words. Five basic colours are chosen for further treatment in this paper, these are black, white, red, green and blue. The colours were chosen on the basis of frequency of their occurrence in Czech language. First subsection focuses on a literal, prototypical, and figurative meaning of colour words. The difference between the literal and prototypical meaning is explained. Then, it is on corpus examples demonstrated how the literal meaning of colours may be used in devices as metaphor and metonymy to make a meaning of a phraseme figurative. Second subsection focuses on a connotative meaning of colours. It explains what the connotation is in general and then it describes connotations of the chosen colours.

## 2 Introduction to lexicography

Lexicography is a discipline which deals mostly with dictionaries. It has two branches, practical and theoretical. The practical one focuses on arranging and describing items of vocabulary in dictionaries and other such works of references (thesauruses, synonym guides, usage guides, etc.). Practical lexicography is of two kinds according to the way items are listed: alphabetical lexicography and thematic lexicography. Alphabetical lexicography is dominant and its best-known product is the dictionary. Thematic lexicography arranges words by themes or topics, usually accompanied by an index, and these are, for example, thesauruses. (<http://www.oxfordreference.com>) The theoretical branch of lexicography deals with a dictionary research. The research may focus on history, criticism, typology, structure, use of dictionary or other.

Phraseography is a subdiscipline of lexicography dealing with description of phrasemes and idioms. It is one of the youngest areas of lexicography, as well as phraseology is of lexicology. Its separation from lexicography was based on increasing awareness of the importance of idioms in language. Phraseography, as well as phraseology, has to deal with a number of problems. The general problem is identification of phrasemes and idioms. Čermák (2007 : 149) says:

On one hand, there are linguists who seem to be content with a rather limited intuitive view, while on the other hand, other linguists keep asking uncomfortable global questions, trying to find out what idioms are really about, what is their essential nature, what kind of phenomena belong to this field and how to delimit them.

Phraseology seems to have no sharp boundaries and therefore, selection criteria for phrasemes and idioms are needed. Unfortunately, phraseologists nowadays are not able to agree on a clearly defined set of criteria. There are some, for example fixedness, that are mentioned very often but there is no unification of approaches to phrasemes and idioms and therefore, almost every phraseologist has his/her own set of criteria and definitions. There are also intense discussions about the scope of phraseology, at which levels of language phrasemes and idioms can be recognized. Phraseologists are of different opinions. They mostly recognize phrasemes and idioms at the level of word combinations but there are also those who recognize them at the level of morpheme

combinations or at sentence level. Another problem is the scarcity of idiom data in texts for the main source of phraseology is informal spoken language. Therefore, there is a problem of where and how to collect them.

## 2.1 Sources of Czech and English idioms

'Dictionary of Czech phraseology and idiomatics' was the main source of Czech idioms for this paper because of its uniqueness in Czech lexicography. It was compiled by the team of authors led by J. Hronek, J. Machač and F. Čermák, and published in three volumes and four books (1983, 1988 and 1994) covering verbal phrasemes, non-verbal phrasemes and similes. Fourth volume of the dictionary is being prepared and it focuses on propositional phrasemes. The dictionary records some 16,000 contemporary Czech idioms and it is based on excerpts and citation slips for, as Čermák (2007 : 657) explains, "the dictionary was conceived long before any linguistic corpora were available". Čermák further explains that "these [excerpts and citation slips] were obtained both from all published sources available that were found potentially useful but also from manual records of the spoken language". Therefore, it is one of the largest and rather exhaustive dictionaries of its kind but it also, in Čermák's words, "contains some other features that make it easier and more attractive to use". By these features are meant phraseological synonyms and antonyms, equivalents in four other languages (English, German, French and Russian) and also a supplementary semantic dictionary in a thesaurus form which enables one to look up idioms according to their meaning. Idioms included in the dictionary were chosen according to the following set of simple rules (Čermák, 2007 : 658):

- (1) any *collocation (combination)* of at least *two lexemes (word forms)* has been included which has been found
- (2) *stable, recurrent in use* and in which
- (3) *at least one component (lexeme, word) collocates, in the same function or sense, with the other components in a unique or severely limited manner.*

The rules are based on Čermák's theory of idioms and have been worked out in order to identify idioms for the purpose of their further lexicographic treatment. This view of the idiom stresses restriction in collocations and anomaly of its components. It is contrasting to the regular language where words collocate relatively freely with other

words (collocations are limited by the speaker's choice) and where the resulting collocations are rule-governed. Čermák (2007 : 658) says that:

Idioms do display a number of restrictions and anomalies in their textual behaviour and, also, they often seem to be marked up for some sort of semantic non-additiveness, should we compare their integral meaning with that of their components.

These criteria presented here in a simplified way were used to select Czech idioms in order to incorporate them in the dictionary.

Possible sources of English idioms were numerous. There are many books based purely on the compilation of English idioms and their explanations, for example Collins' 'Book of English idioms' (1969), 'Second book of English idioms' (1970), and 'Third book of English idioms' (1969). Idioms are usually taken from dictionaries and the purpose of these books is to compile the most frequent idioms in English language and help foreign students to learn them and use them in a right way. The advantage of such books is that the compiled idioms are usually divided into categories according to key words and so for example body idioms and colour idioms are to be found there. That was particularly useful for the purpose of my paper. Nevertheless, online monolingual dictionaries were chosen as main sources of English idioms for this paper. These were 'Cambridge Dictionaries Online' (<http://dictionary.cambridge.org>) and 'Oxford Reference Online' (<http://www.oxfordreference.com>). The online character of the dictionaries enabled quick search of idioms according to key words. Entries of these online dictionaries also contained more information than books, for example explanations of idioms' origins.

Part of 'Cambridge Dictionaries Online' is 'The Cambridge International Dictionary of Idioms' which explains over 7,000 idioms current in British, American and Australian English. The dictionary contains explanations and example sentences. Part of 'Oxford Reference Online' is 'Oxford Dictionary of English Idioms' which contains entries for over 6,000 idioms. Many entries include additional features which give more detailed background on the idiom in question.

'Dictionary of Czech phraseology and idiomatics' is remarkably voluminous in comparison with both English dictionaries. That suggests that Czech phraseology is

wider in its scope and that what is considered an idiom in English is more restricted. 'Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary' (<http://dictionary.cambridge.org>) defines an idiom as:

a group of words in a fixed order that have a particular meaning that is different from the meanings of each word understood on its own. To *have bitten off more than you can chew* is an idiom that means you have tried to do something which is too difficult for you.

'The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Linguistics' (<http://www.oxfordreference.com>) defines an idiom as:

a set expression in which two or more words are syntactically related, but with a meaning like that of a single lexical unit: e.g. *spill the beans* in 'Someone has spilled the beans about the bank raid', or *put one's foot in it* in 'Her husband can never make a speech without putting his foot in it'.

The difference in lexicographic treatment of idioms in Czech and English is obvious from the above stated definitions of an idiom. While the English lexicographic approach to idiom is based on the semantic non-additiveness of its components, the Czech approach is based on collocational restrictions and anomalies which may result in semantic non-additiveness but also may not and in that case, some components may partially add meaning to the idiom. Therefore, the expression *black market/černý trh* is classified as an idiom in Czech lexicography but not in English. In this paper, the Czech approach is followed and expressions such as *black market/černý trh* are incorporated in the corpus.

### **3 Introduction to phraseology**

Phraseology was a neglected area for a long time for it was regarded by linguists as a marginal issue in language. Pawley (2001 : 126) gave an explanation for this marginalization by saying that “most [linguists] remain bound to the centuries-old idea that knowing a language basically consists of knowing a grammar and a lexicon”. Nevertheless, this view has been gradually replaced by the notion that a good command of grammar and lexicon is insufficient and reaching the native-like proficiency level in a language requires also the knowledge of fixed units. This idea was supported by the advances in technology which made it possible to electronically search and manipulate large corporas. Researches in those corporas confirmed the omnipresence of phraseology in language. Granger and Meunier (2008 : ixx) explain the fast growing role of phraseology in a wide range of linguistic disciplines as:

a development that undoubtedly has a great deal to do with corpus linguistic research, which has both demonstrated the key role of phraseological expressions in language and also provided researchers with the automated methods of extraction and analysis they need to study them successfully, a development which has led to a major expansion of the field.

Besides corpus linguistics researches, Cowie (1998 : 18-19) sees the end of marginalization of phraseology connected with “the ending of the political and intellectual isolation of Eastern Europe in general and of Russia in particular” for it was chiefly in this region where linguists focused on theoretical and descriptive work concerning phraseology while in Britain at the time linguists were interested only in dictionary-making. Therefore, as Cowie explains, achievements of those Eastern phraseologist “have gradually, since the early 1980s, been revealed to a much wider audience” and they were worthy of serious attention. They also reached the attention of American linguists and finally, phraseology was recognized, as Cowie says, “within the heartland of linguistics – the USA itself”.

The expansion of the field has been also marked by holding a number of international conferences on phraseology where linguists meet to share ideas, results and outcomes of their studies and researches. The acknowledged importance of phraseology led to the

establishment of it as a discipline on its own. As a discipline within linguistics, phraseology is closely connected with semantics, morphology, syntax, and discourse.

For it is a relatively young discipline, phraseology has to cope with the plurality of terms, definitions and theories, sometimes overlapping, sometimes even contradictory. Therefore, this paper keeps to the terminology used by Czech linguist František Čermák.

### **3.1 Scope of phraseology**

The term, phraseology, has been defined in many ways. Čermák (2007 : 76) defines it as “the study and description of phrases and idioms at all levels (strata), with special focus – on account of their frequency – on multi-word lexemes”. As phraseology is a relatively young discipline it is not clearly settled what belongs to its scope and what is already out of it. Definitely, phraseology has undergone a numerous changes in definitions and its scope has widened since its beginnings. As Čermák (2007 : 74) says, “it only gradually comes to light where in language we may look for its units, idioms and phrasemes”. Granger and Meunier (2008 : ixx-xx) also noticed the development in the scope and they say that:

Whereas previously phraseology had encompassed the study of only the most fixed and opaque multi-word units, it now covers a much wider range of lexical units, many of which display a high degree of syntactic variability and semantic compositionality.

Therefore, Granger and Meunier see phraseology as the study of multi-word units and recognize the widening of the scope on the level of word combinations. Čermák, on the other hand, goes into different levels of language and with multi-word units he recognizes also sentence-level idioms and what is more, even morpheme combinations. He (2007 : 143) says that:

Language signs (items, units) on every level of meaning (to the exclusion of phonology of course) figure in idiomatics, provided their (anomalous) combinations belong to some type of language nomination and are part of the language system. This provision includes moving from the collocation-type idioms upwards and downwards, sentence-level idioms, perhaps also correlated communication pairs of sentences (such as some greetings and their answers), and anomalous morpheme combinations.

Phraseology, therefore, is not some special area of language which could be neglected and its knowledge considered unnecessary but as Čermák (2007 : 76) says “it is an area consisting of fixed anomalous combinations which is complementary to the area of regular language combinations of all kinds and at all relevant levels”. By regular combinations in a general syntagmatic sense are meant all combinations governed by analogous rules, both semantic (based on semantic compatibility of the combined elements and on the meaningfulness of their resultant combinations) and formal and grammatical rules (for example, syntactic ones in syntax). The stress here is on a view of phrasemes as anomalous combinations. That means combinations which cannot or should not take place according to standard rules of language. The anomaly may be of different kinds (see 3.8.4.) and prevents the proper analysis of a phraseme in terms of criteria of the regular language.

The periphery of phraseology is formed by quasiphrasemes displaying a low degree of anomaly. Quasiphrasemes are for example expressions of a terminological nature, which have an exact definition (for example *černá díra/black hole* in astronomy). It may also be expressions with a concrete referent (for example *kočičí hlava* referring to a cobble stone), for phrasemes’ referents are usually of abstract nature, or expressions with a limited collocability of components, for phrasemes are characterised with a restricted collocability of components. (Čermák, 2007 : 95):

The scope of phraseology overlaps with some non-linguistic disciplines as well, such as etymology, psychology, literary science, and history. As for the history, it is one of the main sources of phraseology. Its events, characters and heroes are to be found in many idioms. Among other great sources are ethnography and anthropology, for old customs and superstitions are preserved in the idioms.

### **3.2 Units of phraseology: idioms and phrasemes**

Idioms and phrasemes have always been recognized in language, though they were called differently. In Czech it was for example ‘rčení’ (or ‘úsloví’, ‘obrat’; ‘saying’, ‘saw’ or ‘phrase’) at the level of non-sentential word combinations, and, at the sentential level, especially ‘příslaví’, ‘pořekadlo’ or ‘pranostika’ (‘proverb’, ‘adage’,

‘maxim’). Many of phrasemes, though, have no traditional name and for these are used various terms.

This plurality of terms, caused by the lack of contact between different areas of phraseological research at the beginning, has lasted until today when phraseology is an established discipline on its own. Many linguists dealing with phraseology tried to come out with a definition which would comprehensively cover all relevant characteristics of phraseological units, but all these attempts have failed. The first problem which prevents it is that there is no unification in terminology and different authors call the same thing differently. For example Granger and Meunier (2008) call the units of phraseology *multi-word units*, Pawley (2001) calls them *conventional phrases*, Mel’čuk (1998) uses the term *set phrases*, and there are many others used throughout literature: *fixed (frozen) phrases*, *fixed expressions*, *word-combinations*, *complex units*, *phrasemes*, *phraseolexemes*, *phraseologisms*, *conventional expressions*, *idiomatic expressions*, *idioms*, etc.. Čermák calls units of phraseology ‘idioms and phrasemes’. He usually uses them interchangeably but acknowledges that there are differences between them. He (2007 : 85) calls it „difference of perspective“ and explains that when analysing formal features, the term ‘phraseme’ is used, and when analysing semantic features, the term ‘idiom’ is preferred. The same principle is preserved in terms of disciplines, phraseology and idiomatics. Čermák also gives arguments for this differentiation and explains why it is not redundant. He emphasizes that separate attention paid to the formal and semantic aspects is methodologically necessary for they are very different. He (2007 : 85) also says that:

With a decreasing degree and quantity of anomaly and with transition to the periphery of phraseology and idiomatics the semantic aspect tends to become markedly weaker, less distinct, which leaves the formal aspect dominant and in fact the only aspect to be analyzed and thus the term phraseme is logical choice.

In English the term ‘idiomatics’ is not to be found and only ‘phraseology’ is used. For simplification and better orientation, the paper from now on keeps to this terminology and the term ‘phraseology’ is used for the name of the discipline and ‘phraseme’ for its unit in general.

The second problem is that some of the definitions used are too vague and it is not clear what they cover for they can apply to a wide range of lexical units and therefore, they have descriptive rather than defining character. For that reason, many linguists call for more restricted definitions and come out with their own. For example Pawley (2001 : 122) starts his review article on Cowie's 'Phraseology: Theory, Analysis, and Applications' with the general definition of phraseology as "the study of conventional phrases, where 'phrase' means any multi-word expression up to sentence level". Later in that work (2001 : 130), he uses the term phraseme as a unit of phraseology and explains that it is "a phrase whose meaning and form cannot be constructed both unrestrictedly and by rules of grammar". He recognizes full phrasemes (idioms) and semi-phrasemes (restricted collocations). From that can be seen that linguists usually use loose general definitions for an introduction to make a reader familiar with the topic and throughout the work they specify definitions of the terms according to their observations and opinions and deny the original general definition. Also Čermák (2007 : 83) rejects one of most widespread definition seeing a phraseme "as a fixed and reproducible combination of elements (especially words) whose meaning is (partly or completely) not deducible from the meaning of the components" for this stresses semantic aspect of phrasemes and does not cover all their types. These attitudes lead to the fact that phraseology is "bedevilled by proliferation of different terms for the same category and by conflicting uses of the same terms". (Pawley, 2001 : 127)

The third problem is that linguists try to find a definition which would meet all characteristics of phrasemes which is nowadays not possible. The reason is that there is no unification among linguists what are the basic properties of a phraseme and hence no unification what a phraseme is. Therefore, all existing definitions are disprovable from some point of view.

Phrasemes are complex units of language and their properties, whether formal, semantic or collocational, cannot be compressed into one definition applying to all phrasemes. Čermák (2007 : 83) says that these features, defined negatively as anomalies, are relative for they are perceived against the background of the regularities of language. On the other hand, he admits that it is possible to sum up these features, provided that these are considered "only manifestations of the properties of the language system and

structure”. That provision allows the following formulation which is taken as fundamental definition of a phraseme in this paper:

The phraseme and idiom is such a non-model and fixed syntagma of elements of which (at least) one is with respect to the other a member of an extremely limited (both formally and, mostly, even semantically) and closed paradigm.

This definition is based on collocational restrictions and anomalies of phraseme’s elements (components) rather than on its semantic non-compositionality, preferred by other linguists, which is only one of the possible properties of a phraseme. Čermák (2007 : 84) continues to explain that by an element is meant “standard linguistic unit from whatever level (except phonological), although in actual fact it is only a certain shape, form of this unit, i.e. a particular word form, morph, etc”. For example, Czech phraseme *prašť jako uhod’* is constituted by word forms of lexemes ‘praštit’ and ‘uhodit’ realized in imperative. Any other word forms cannot be used for the meaning of the phraseme would lose its idiomacity.

It is also necessary to distinguished phrasemes from their literal homonyms. Čermák gives examples of *otevřená hlava* (‘open head’ in the sense of being subject to a surgical operation), and others, *chytat lelky* (to waste time, dawdle, literally ‘to catch fern-owls’), *zlatý důl* (‘gold mine’), *házet flintu do žita* (to give up prematurely, literally ‘to throw one’s gun into a rye field’) and stresses that literal counterparts of these are usually rarer and have a completely different distribution in text. (Čermák, 2007 : 84)

### **3.3 Functions of phrasemes**

Phrasemes and idioms have in text primarily two functions – formal and semantic. These functions follow from the need of phrasemes and idioms to denominate (denominative function) and to fulfil their role in the higher unit (structural function).

Phrasemes form a closed structure which cannot be decomposed semantically or in a syntactic-formal way for their components lost their original external character. However, phrasemes as a whole do enter into syntactic relations. There are various ways in which a phraseme is put in the context. The context in the narrow sense consists of the sum of all other naming units which share reference with the phraseme, and which form a higher structural unit with it. The external syntagmatic aspect of the

phraseme is manifested especially in its collocability and valency. The collocability of the phraseme, i.e. its ability to combine with a certain type of expressions in text, is of a semantic nature. The valency of the phraseme determines the specific way in which it will be formally integrated in the context. (Čermák, 2007 : 115)

The denominative function of the phraseme, which follows especially from its semantic nature, has two main components, designative and pragmatic. Designative function is based on the relation of a phraseme as a sign to its referent and to the notional (conceptual) element of its meaning. The pragmatic function is based on the (subjective) relation of the participants of the discourse to the phraseme. (Čermák, 2007 : 118)

Phrasemes have also other functions. Sometimes linguists talk, besides communicative function which follows from a phraseme as a naming unit, about aesthetic function, economic function, evaluative function and even metalinguistic function. Aesthetic function is mentioned in connection with images which some phrasemes express (particularly good or witty metaphors). Economic function follows from that standard phraseme is usually shorter than its literal paraphrase, if there is any. The evaluative function is demonstrated in phrasemes expressing assessment. The purpose of metalinguistic function is to follow and comment on or correct the actual line of the message. (Čermák, 2007 : 116)

### **3.4 Relation of phrasemes to the regular language**

It is possible to distinguish three cases of relation of a phraseme to the regular language. The phraseme (Čermák, 2007 : 90):

- a) is a primary and monopoly means of expression (usually also highly economical) and regular language is not used for a given meaning (for example, *vzít někoho za slovo, mít u někoho rozlitý ocet, mít máslo na hlavě, být hned na koni*); that means that a phraseme cannot be substituted by an appropriate (semantically and formally) expression from a regular language because its meaning cannot be briefly or fittingly captured by a regular language.
- b) is a parallel expression competing with the regular one (for example, *jít do sebe: zamyslet se nad sebou, mít nahnáno: bát se, dát si dvacet: zdřímnout si*); in this

case, regular language offers an equivalent but it has to be treated carefully for the offered expression may be used only in some contexts. Therefore, their character is complementary rather than competing.

- c) does not obtain for a given meaning (and referent) and there is only a regular expression (for example, *leptat*, *letovat*, *lyžovat*); this case illustrates the fact that phrasemes mostly refer to abstract rather than concrete entities.

### **3.5 Use of phrasemes**

Phrasemes are used in a wide variety of context and situations. Most often they are used in informal spoken language and in styles reflecting this language, like fiction and journalism. Nevertheless, phrasemes can appear in formal style as well. On the other hand, in technical language, phrasemes do not occur with the exception of several quasiphrasemes. The use of phraseology depends on the subject-matter, the situation (and the style chosen) and the speaker's personality. Phrasemes and idioms are favourite means of expressions for they add colour to the language, help to emphasise meaning and to make our observations, judgements, and explanations lively and interesting. They are also very useful tools for communicating a great deal of meaning in just a few words.

### **3.6 Classification of phrasemes**

In phraseology, it is necessary to make a distinction between the individual input elements and the final idiomatic wholes, combinatory outputs of these elements. According to Čermák (2007 : 84), the input forms can be analysed before they enter the idiomatic combinatory whole but the analysis of final idioms is impossible for the input components have lost their original external character and form components of the total combination only conditionally.

Phrasemes formally consist of at least two components. Component is a constitutive element, a constituent of the phraseme. It is characterized by a certain form and a certain position in the structure of the whole. Čermák (2007 : 85) recognizes as components morphemes (roots or affixes), lexemes, collocations, clauses or

propositions (sentences). His recognition of morphemes as components distinguishes him from other linguists who usually start to recognize components at the level of words. He also points out that these components typically occur only in a certain form, not as a lemma (see the example of *prašť jako uhod'* above).

Phrasemes as wholes cannot be properly analysed according to the rules of regular language for their anomalousness. Nevertheless, as Čermák (2007 : 87) suggests, structural classification is possible at the level of their components. What is meant by structure is according to him usually only the external form of the phraseme, based on the similarity between its component forms and the forms of the external, regular language. The same it is with the word-class status of the components. Therefore, the structure determined this way says very little about the nature of the given phraseme, and plays only an auxiliary role.

The complex character of phrasemes may lead to assumption that they can be classified in many ways. Nevertheless, some classifications may be found very difficult. Čermák (2007 : 97) says:

Some are almost worthless because of the vagueness of their premise (such as the previously overrated stylistic classification), excessive generality (semiotic or sign-based classification), lack of reliable sources and information (diachronic and etymological classification) or the difficulty of application and unclear criteria (semantic or onomasiological classification, which does not even exist in the lexicon).

Therefore, the formal-structural classification based on the evidence provided by the input components seems to be the most possible and most useful as it tells us how idioms behave in a text.

The following classes of phrasemes are based on Čermák's (2007 : 96-114) formal-structural classification which distinguishes lexical phrasemes, collocational phrasemes and propositional phrasemes. Collocational phrasemes are further divided according to their function and structural components into several types: nominal phrasemes, modification phrasemes, verbal phrasemes, similes and binominals.

### 3.6.1 Lexical phrasemes

Lexical phrasemes are made up of an anomalous combination of morphemes, whose principles are identical with any other type of idioms. Therefore, they belong to the level of morphology and for that reason, they are traditionally the most neglected area of phraseology. However, in Czech language they are rather numerous – the Dictionary of Standard Czech is estimated to include them in about 5 per cent of entries. (Čermák, 2007 : 114) Lexical phrasemes are to be found among derived and compound words. Some of them may be based on a monocollapsible element (that is an element whose collocation is restricted to one element only) and these are sometimes called cranberry idioms. (Čermák, 2007 : 275)

### 3.6.2 Collocational phrasemes

Collocational phrasemes are constituted of words which do not form a sentence on their own. They may be further divided according to their function and structural components into the following types:

#### 3.6.2.1 Nominal phrasemes

Nominal idioms are equivalent to nouns in text. Besides their wide nominative function, they often have a pronounced pragmatic function or evaluative function in particular. They are constituted by almost all word classes besides verbs and interjections. Nevertheless, nouns are dominant constituents. According to Čermák's (2007 : 332) observations, abstract nouns are more frequent here in contrast to most other idioms where concrete nouns predominate and they are usually followed by evaluative adjectives.

#### 3.6.2.2 Modification phrasemes

Modification phrasemes modify or rather semantically qualify various types of lexemes. They are functional equivalents of adjectives or qualifying sentence and the whole sentence. Their structural function is threefold (Čermák, 2007 : 340):

*voskově bledý obličej*<sup>1</sup> (Idiom-S)

*prosila se slzami v očích*<sup>2</sup> (V-Idiom)

---

<sup>1</sup> *waxen face* (translation made by author of the paper)

### *Jednou provždy tu záležitost uzavřel*<sup>3</sup> (Idiom-Prop)

From the viewpoint of semantics, modification idioms convey names of qualities, various relations and circumstances. They often have a pronounced pragmatic function. (Čermák, 2007 : 342)

#### **3.6.2.3 Verbal phrasemes**

Verbal phrasemes may be characterized by having verb as one of their constituents and a general predicative function. Nevertheless, not all phrasemes containing a verb belong here. For example, verbal phrasemes may be confused with modification phrasemes, similes or propositional phrasemes. Therefore, it is their function that has to be taken into account. Semantically, these phrasemes express a number of meaning types. (Čermák, 2007 : 377-378)

#### **3.6.2.4 Similes**

Similarity is a very general relation in semantics and simile is one of the system means for expressing it. The language system has a stock of stable similes but they can also be formed almost freely. Therefore, similes created on the spot which are forgotten after they fulfill their purpose have to be distinguished from stable, idiomatic, similes. In general, simile is constituted by a verb on its left side and by a noun on its right side. There are, however, many variants and extensions of this prototypical structure. (Čermák, 2007 : 410)

#### **3.6.2.5 Binominals**

Binominals are binary word combinations that may be made of nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs or others and therefore have different functions. Their core, nevertheless, is combination of two nouns. The combinations are usually based on iteration or reduplication, juxtaposition or, more generally, on iteration of the word class only. Often they have additional formal features enhancing their binominal character, such as rhyme. Their familiar nature lends itself to be widely employed in various slogans, literary or film titles. (Čermák, 2007 : 427)

---

<sup>2</sup> *she begged with eyes full of tears* (translation made by author of the paper)

<sup>3</sup> *Once and for all, he ended the matter.* (translation made by author of the paper)

### **3.6.3 Propositional phrasemes**

Propositional or sentential phrasemes are those that have both form and function of full sentence, sometimes a combination of sentences.

## **3.7 Formal criteria for phrasemes**

Nowadays, there is no clearly defined set of criteria for phrasemes and idioms which would be consistent throughout literature. There are discussions on this topic but yet linguists have not come to an agreement. Therefore, the following characteristics of idioms are those which appear most often in definitions of phrasemes and idioms. It has to be taken into consideration that phrasemes are complex units and each of the following criteria is insufficient condition for a phraseme if taken on its own.

### **3.7.1 Institutionalization**

Institutionalization refers to the degree of recognition a particular phrase meets in a speech community (Grant, Bauer, 2004 : 44). Moon (1998 : 6-7) considers institutionalization among the main characteristics of phrasemes. Nevertheless, she points out that it is not a sufficient condition for a string to be classifiable as a phraseme and two other principal factors have to be taken into consideration, these are lexicogrammatical fixedness and non-compositionality. Of similar opinion are Grant and Bauer (2004 : 44). They believe that institutionalization, frozenness/fixedness, and compositionality are closely related and argue that “something which is non-compositional cannot be produced simply as a sequence of elements (words) but must be held in memory”. That means that it becomes institutionalized and it must be memorized in order to be used again. On the other hand, compositional constructions can be created on the spot and do not require memorization. Therefore, non-compositionality depends on prior institutionalization (commitment to memory) and this involves some degree of fixedness. Thus, as a key criterion may be considered compositionality (see Section 3.8.1. Non-compositionality below).

### **3.7.2 Fixedness/frozenness**

Fixedness seems to be one of very basic attributes of the idiom on which linguists usually agree. Čermák (2007 : 88) explains that:

Fixedness of phrasemes is manifested by the fact that they enter the context as stable wholes, syntactically indivisible, but also by having fixed word order of the components, which usually hinders the acceptability of experimental variations.

Nevertheless, there are linguists who vary in regard to this criterion and allow for example some substitution of elements, or variation in form, depending on collocational restriction, syntactic structure, and semantic opacity. Moon's (1998 : 120) corpus research supports this (in Grant, Bauer, 2004 : 45):

Fixedness is a key property of all FEIs [Fixed Expressions and Idioms], yet around 40% of database FEIs have lexical variations or strongly institutionalised transformation, and around 14% have two or more variations on their canonical forms.

Therefore, on the basis of Moon's findings, fixedness of phrasemes may be characterised as limitation or even impossibility of variations of phrasemes in a context. To illustrate the basic point, Grant and Bauer contrast versions of a single construction in (1), which are typical of ordinary syntactic behaviour, to idioms in (2) where similar attempts of manipulation caused the loss of the idiomatic meaning of the phrase.

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) She saw the house.     | (2) She kicked the bucket.    |
| The house was seen by her. | The bucket was kicked by her. |
| She saw the mansion.       | She kicked the pail.          |
| She saw houses.            | She kicked buckets.           |

### **3.7.3 Multi-word character**

The criterion of multi-word character seems to be among the most recurrent in definitions of phrasemes and idioms. However, even this criterion may seem problematic for it does not cover all levels of language where idioms may be found. Therefore, as Čermák (2007 : 155-156) points out, two basic questions arise. The first question is concerned with the number of words because it is not stated whether also sentence idioms may be included or not. Nowadays, majority of linguists lean to recognize beside collocational, that is non-sentential, phrasemes also phrasemes at the sentence level which include for example proverbs. Therefore, multi-word character seems to be inappropriate term for it is not sure whether it is applicable to these phrasemes too. The second question which is worth to be concerned about is maybe more important for only very few linguists have ever ask it: are there only these two

levels (that is collocational and propositional ones) where phrasemes are to be found? To answer this question, one must consider other, below-the-word, combinations of phrasemes (that is idiomatic morpheme combinations), such as the English *backlash* (*lash + black*), *bottleneck* (*bottle + neck*), *breakfast* (*break + fast*), where the sum of the constituent meanings does not equal the integral one. All of these, and many others, seem to be perfect idiomatic combinations of morpheme forms and therefore they should be covered by the criterion as well.

### 3.7.4 Anomaly

Čermák (2007 : 84) considers anomaly in phraseology as its constitutive feature for it is omnipresent there in different degrees and shades. He says “the more anomalies a phraseme displays, the more idiomatic it is and vice versa, the fewer it has, the closer it is to regular language”. He emphasizes that anomaly in phraseology have to be perceived in contrast to the background of the semantic and formal situation in regular language, a sphere of language governed by rules. He (2007 : 81) says:

Anomaly is seen as the multiaspectual exceptional, irregular nature of the paradigmatic situation or as the realization of the syntagmatic or transformational relationship (often combined) which is viewed as a nongenerable deviation from rules of various types based on analogy.

Regular combinations in language are based on semantic and formal rules permitting relatively without limits the formation of new and new combinations. On the other hand, anomalous phraseological combinations are, according to Čermák, always unique and restricted. The most obvious sign of anomaly is the impossibility of paradigmatic substitution of one component by another because the substitution of a synonym for an idiomatic part does not preserve the idiomatic meaning of the expression. Čermák demonstrates it on the example of phraseme *otevřená hlava* where neither of the components of the phraseme *otevřená hlava* (open, i.e. clever, head) can be varied and replaced with another, analogous one in the same function or meaning (to create another phraseme), which is the basic feature of members of the same paradigm in regular language, as documented by<sup>1</sup> *\*otevřená záda* (open back), *\*otevřené břicho* (open stomach), *\*otevřené oko* (open eye) or *\*zavřená/přivřená hlava* (closed/semiclosed

---

<sup>1</sup> \* indicates non-existence of an expression in phraseology

head). Similarly, whereas lexemes usually form regular sets (e.g. *pes/dog* belongs among mammals, *stůl/desk* among furniture), no such analogous sets of components exist in phraseology. The different types of anomaly include, for example, the impossibility to identify the word-class in the components *hin, duhu* (*být hin* – be exhausted/destroyed, *jít k duhu* – do sb good), the absence of meaning in these forms, noticeable even in the word forms *otevřená, hlava*, etc., which do not correspond to any of its standard lexical senses. It is therefore impossible to speak of lemmas (headword of an entry), but only of forms, or elements. Syntagmatic anomalies of different types are exemplified by expressions such as by *ležet ladem* (lie fallow/waste), *malá domů* (passing the ball to one's goalie) or *hodit něco za hlavu* (throw sth behind your head, i.e. not worry about it). (Čermák, 2007 : 82)

Since different kinds of anomaly tend to associate in different constellations and numbers with particular phrasemes, the extent of their presence may be used as an indicator of the degree of idiomatization (phraseologization) of such phrasemes. The lowest is found in peripheral quasiphrasemes and quasiidioms. If a given combination displays no anomaly, it is not a phraseme. (Čermák, 2007 : 83)

### **3.8 Semantic criteria of phrasemes**

There is an absence of relation between the meaning of the individual components and the meaning of the phraseme as a whole. It is connected with the non-compositional character of phrasemes (see non-compositionality). It means that the meaning of an idiom cannot be decomposed in the respective input meanings of the components. Therefore, the meaning of an idiom can be considered integral, holistic and indivisible.

#### **3.8.1 Non-compositionality**

In regular language, complex linguistic expressions are based on the principle of compositionality. This principle governs the way meanings combine together to form more complex meanings. According to Cruse (2004 : 65) the strongest version of this principle runs as follows:

The meaning of grammatically complex form is a compositional function of the meanings of its grammatical constituents.

This incorporates three separate claims<sup>1</sup>:

- a) The meaning of a complex expression is completely determined by the meanings of its constituents.
- b) The meaning of a complex expression is completely predictable by general rules from the meanings of its constituents.
- c) Every grammatical constituent has a meaning which contributes to the meaning of the whole.

The principle of compositionality is, nevertheless, not universally valid and there are expressions which are non-compositional. For example in a situation where someone hears a combination for the first time (i.e. one that has not been learned as a phraseme) it can be expected that he/she will attempt to process it compositionally and in case of phrasemes and idioms the principle above will not be applicable for components of these do not have additive meaning (that is, the sum of the components' meanings do not add up to the semantic total of the idioms as a whole). This feature can be demonstrated on the phraseme *white elephant* (an unnecessary thing), where *white* normally denotes colour and *elephant* animal. There is no way of decoding the meaning of *white elephant* without the knowledge of the phraseme. Another example to disprove the applicability of principle of compositionality in phrasemes can be *beyond my ken* (not in my area of knowledge) where the component *ken* nowadays completely lacks the meaning of its own and cannot therefore contribute to the meaning of the whole. The same it is with English *lurch* and Czech *holičky* which are preserved in the corresponding phrasemes *leave in the lurch* and *nechat na holičkách*. Relict words like that preserved in phrasemes are called monocollorable and do not occur anywhere else in the lexicon.

The feature of non-compositionality nevertheless may be considered more complex. Svensson proposes it can be described by four dichotomies - motivation/non-motivation, transparency/opacity, analyzability/unanalyzability, and literal/figurative meaning. These dichotomies, closely related to one another, may overlap but they are not exact equivalents. (Svensson, 2008 : 82) The notions of non-motivation, opacity,

---

<sup>1</sup> Claim b) incorporates claim a), but claim a) could be true without claim b) being true. Claim c) is presupposed by the other two, as they are formulated above.)

unanalyzability and figurative meaning are very often discussed as features of phrasemes and appear in their definitions.

### **3.8.1.1 Motivation/non-motivation**

According to Čermák (2007 : 89), meaning of phrasemes is non-motivated with relation to their components. He rejects any shift of meaning based on metaphor or metonymy and approaches attempting to explain a meaning of idioms in terms of figurativeness or transparency he calls “irrelevant” and “inappropriate”. He points out that the meaning of phrasemes would be motivated in case the motivation would be applicable analogically to all phrasemes and that is not. In his opinion, the integral meaning of an idiom is the outcome of a number of factors of a paradigmatic and syntagmatic nature. On the other hand, there are linguists who see some sort of motivation in phrasemes. Svensson (2008 : 83) explains:

Motivating an expression’ is often about finding a possible explanation for the appearance of the words in the expression and the explanation found does not necessarily have to be the one behind the original use of the expression, but can serve as a motivation.

Therefore, non-motivation can be problematic and as a feature for definition rather unstable. Svensson (2008 : 83-84) illustrates motivation on colour expressions in which a colour term is used as an attribute of an abstract noun. For there is no concrete object (hence no physical colour present), the meaning of the colour term cannot be literal. There is often a conventional use of colour expressions where the colour is associated with a particular meaning. For instance, the colour term ‘white’ is often associated with innocence or purity, ‘black’ with pessimism or illegality, and ‘green’ with plants or youth. Therefore expressions like ‘white wedding’, ‘black market’ and ‘green policy’ are motivated because there is a relation between the colour term and the meaning of the expression. In other types of colour expressions, the choice of colour seems completely arbitrary and even if there was once a logical reason for the colour term to appear in the expression, the origin has been forgotten.

### **3.8.1.2 Transparency/opacity**

Transparent expressions are those which are easy to understand from the meanings of their constituent words and no previous knowledge or understanding of the expression

is necessary. On the other hand, if the understanding of the words is insufficient for understanding of the whole, the expression is opaque. Phrasemes are usually opaque for their meaning is hard to guess without a special context or previous knowledge. Nevertheless, as Svensson (2008 : 84) points out “one group of expressions that can be transparent despite not always being motivatable are similies”. She further explains that “one characteristic is expressed and then reinforced by something that is supposedly a good example of the characteristic” and gives examples as ‘as good as gold’, ‘as easy as pie’, ‘as dry as a bone’, and ‘white as snow’.

### **3.8.1.3 Analyzability/unanalyzability**

As stated above, according to the principle of compositionality, every grammatical constituent has a meaning which contributes to the meaning of the whole. It have been already explained that in case of phrasemes this claim is not true (see 3.9.1). Also Svensson (2008 : 86), when explaining analyzability, says that phrasemes “are unanalyzable, since it is the expression as a whole that makes up the sense of the expression” and argues that “word contribute to the meaning, but not individually, since it is not possible to say which part means what”. Therefore, semantic analysis is not possible. Čermák (2007 : 86) says that “all traditional and recurrent attempts at semantic analysis (in contrast to diachronic analysis) are futile for they are bound to be incomplete and reliant on external criteria”. He demonstrates this on an example of the phraseme *leje jako z konve* (‘it rains cats and dogs’, i.e. it rains heavily) and says that it is impossible to extract from it the meaning ‘prší’ (rains) from the component *leje*. He explains that if the logic of this approach would be followed, then *jako z konve* would have to mean ‘a lot’, which it does not and the users never use this combination in this hypothetical meaning (cf. *\*snědl toho jako z konve*, he ate like from a watering can). Therefore this demonstration proves that components of a phraseme do not have additive meaning. Čermák (2007 : 86) even says that “components of a phraseme are only word-forms formally that are identical, homonymous with the forms of lexemes one knows from the dictionary, but not the lexemes themselves”.

### **3.8.1.4 Literal/figurative meaning**

Those words which denote the original meaning of the word, that is its common or dictionary definition, have literal meaning. On the other hand, words with figurative

meaning connote, they add another level of meaning to the word. These were developed by the community and do not represent the inherent qualities of the thing or concept originally signified as the meaning. One suggestion on the way how to recognize a figurative or metaphorical use of language is, according to Svensson (2008 : 86), “to identify something in an utterance that would be a logical contradiction or an absurdity if interpreted literally”. She supposes that there is a relation between literal and compositional as well as between figurative and non-compositional. She supports it by Gross’ statement that „word units that cannot be interpreted literally (from the separate words that make up the unit) do not have a compositional meaning“. (in Svensson, 2008 : 86) Phrasemes and idioms meeting this requirement of non-compositionality, therefore, have figurative meaning.

Grant and Bauer (2004 : 49-51) ask a crucial question whether figurative and idiomatic should be distinguished. They argue for the distinction and say that “figures of speech can be interpreted according to general cognitive principles, while idioms have to be learnt”. They also claim that figuratives and core idioms are distinct subtypes of non-compositional multi-word units and therefore distinguish themselves from scholars who have included a ‘metaphorical’ or ‘figurative’ category of idioms (see Appendix 6: Semantic classification of idioms). In comparing figurative language and idioms, they maintain that:

- figurative language is recognized as compositionally involving an untruth which can be reinterpreted pragmatically to understand the intended truth (He’s *a small fish in a big pond*) but idioms cannot (It’s a *red herring*).
- figurative language can be undone or ,unpicked‘ to work out the meaning (*He’s gone off the rails* = he’s no longer on the rails = he’s not moving forward in a controlled, guided way) but idioms cannot (He’s not *swinging the lead*, his GP send him here) (or at least cannot without non-linguistic, historical knowledge, cf *red herring*).

The crucial point, therefore, is that ,figuratives‘ can be made sense of while idioms cannot. Nevertheless, Grant and Bauer (2004 : 50) do realize that some figures of

speech are institutionalized and admit that once a figure of speech ceases to be interpretable in pragmatic terms it will move across into the class of core idioms.

## 4 Colour words

This paper covers five basic colours which occur most frequently in Czech language (see Appendix 1: Frequency of occurrence of basic colour terms in Czech and English). These colours are black, white, red, green, and blue. The frequency of occurrence is important for the “greater frequency means greater phraseological load and semantic wealth”. (Schmiedtová, 2002 : 2) In this paper ‘červený’ and ‘rudý’ which both refer to English ‘red’ are taken as one colour.

### 4.1 Colour words: literal, prototypical and figurative meaning

Colour words are related to figurative language for their wide range of meaning. The true literal meaning of colour represents its hue (e.g. the sun is *yellow*, the sky is *blue*). Nevertheless, as Philip (2006 : 67) points out, very often the colour term is used with a greater flexibility in the range of application, it refers to a range of different, though related, hues (for example, we are more inclined to say ‘wine is *red*’ rather than *a deep ruby colour with a purple tinge* which is the description that a wine expert might prefer). This extended literal meaning Philip calls ‘prototypical’ and demonstrates it on the colours which are used to describe race. He says that:

black and white are used to describe race, even though the colours of human skin cover a range from pink through all shades of brown, and only very rarely arrive at either extreme, and yellow or red are even less accurate indicators of skin colour, but they are used and understood nonetheless.

On a literal, or prototypical, meaning of colours may be based figurative meaning of colour phrasemes. For example, black and white are contrasting colours representing two extreme colour hues – black is the darkest of all colours due to absence or complete absorption of light and white, on the other hand, is colour of maximum lightness due to reflection of all visible rays of light. (<http://www.oxfordreference.com>) On the contrasting character between black and white are based the following metaphorical phrasemes: (*see sth in*) *black and white*/ (*vidět něco*) *černobíle*; *pretend/say that black is white*/*dělat z černého bílé* and metonymical phraseme: *in black and white*/*černé na bílém*. Black are places that cannot be reached by light, therefore it is the colour metonymically indicating depth and density as in phraseme *dark forest*/*černý les* which

is used for a forest dense and deep. White is the colour of snow and milk, hence its metonymical use in phraseme as *white Christmas/bílé vánoce* indicating a Christmas during which there is a snow on the ground, or in Czech literary phraseme *bílá smrt* referring to a tragic death in snow which is not used in English. White metonymically representing milk appears in phraseme *white coffee/bílá káva* which is coffee with milk. The absence of milk metonymically represents black as in *black coffee/černá káva*. Blue is the colour of the sky and the sea, or water in general. The reference of blue to the sky occurs in English metaphorical phrasemes based on metonymy of blue as *out of the blue/z čista jasna; a bolt from/out of the blue/blesk z čistého nebe* which are used when something unexpected happens and refer to the unlikelihood of a thunderbolt coming out of a clear blue sky. In Czech equivalents of these, blue as a metonymy for the sky does not appear. Nevertheless, blue appears in Czech *modravé dálky* as well as in English *the wide (or wild) blue yonder* in which the reference to the sky is involved. Philip (2006 : 84) explains it:

When people wander off *into the wide/wild blue yonder*, they appear to be swallowed up by the sky, although in reality the movement involved is not upwards but forward to the horizon line.

Blue in English also serves as a distinctive colour for the dress of policemen (*boys in blue*) or people doing manual work (*blue-collar workers*) as a distinct from people doing office work (*white-collar workers*). *Greenback* is in American slang used as a metonymy for paper money (a dollar bill). The colour reference here is to the original note issued during the Civil War in 1862 which was printed in black and green on the back side.

## 4.2 Colour words: connotations

Connotation, also known as ‘affective meaning’, refers to the emotive and associational aspect of a term. It is a contrasting term to denotation, also known as ‘cognitive meaning’, which refers to the direct relationship between a term and the object, idea, or action it designates. Connotation may be generally of two kinds: personal which is based on experience and therefore may vary from a person to person (for example swimming may one person associate with recreation or training for competitions, and another with fear of drowning) or common to a group which means that it is shared by

people (for example the name of a political leader may raise similar emotions in people). Denotation refers to the meaning of a word or expression in relation to everyday life and to other words and expressions: for example, colours can be described in terms either of wavelengths of reflected light or of such relationships as, in English, red with blood, white with snow, green with grass, blue with sea and sky. By virtue of their connotations, the same colours have further associations: red with anger or irritation, white with purity and innocence, green with inexperience or envy, blue with sadness and depression. (<http://dictionary.reference.com>)

Connotations are related to cultural background and therefore differ in each culture. This difference is determined by the national and historical background, traditions and habits, and the people's life experience. The following explanations of possible colour connotations refer to Czech and English language.

#### 4.2.1 Black

As in much of European tradition, black is the colour of evil, fear, death, and also symbolic of the condemnation of God. (<http://www.oxfordreference.com>) Therefore, connotations of black are primarily negative. The colour black is related to darkness and its connection to all sorts of ill deeds which happen rather at night is immediate. Black has a negative connotation of something **illegal, not permitted, dishonest, or secret** (e.g. *black market/černý trh*). The term in this particular connotation occurs more often in Czech phrasemes than in English (e.g. *na černo*, illegally; *černá stavba*, unauthorised building; *černý fond/slush fund*; *černý pasažér/stowaway*). The colour black also connotes something **bad, evil** (e.g. *paint a black picture of sth/líčit něco černě*, be black-hearted/*mít černou duši*) as well as something **pessimistic, melancholic, depressing or even angry** (e.g. *look on the black side/dívat se na něco černě*; *black thoughts/černé myšlenky*; *black mood/psí nálada*; *black look*, *zlý/nevraživý pohled*). An interesting expression in English is *black dog* which is a metaphorical representation of melancholy and depression. It is based on the combination of 'blackness' and negative connotation of 'dog', „an ever-present companion, lurking in the shadows just out of sight, growling, vaguely menacing, always on the alert; sinister and unpredictable, capable of overwhelming you at any moment“. (Foley, 2005 : 1) A dog is associated with melancholy also in Czech, for example *cítit se/mít náladu pod psa*. Black is further

associated with mourning and sorrow and the colour black is traditionally worn by mourners but this concept is not to be found in linguistic expressions. The colour black is further connected with something **unsuccessful, disastrous** (e.g. *black day/černý den; black spot, místo častých nehod; black Friday/černý pátek*). Moreover, the term is used in Czech phraseme *černá kronika* for the crime and casualties page of newspaper which does not occur in English. Another connotation of black is **disfavour, dislike, disapproval, or dishonour** (e.g. *black list/černá listina; black mark/černý puntík; black sheep/černá ovce*). Black also connotes something **unknown, unexplored, arcane or supernatural** in general (e.g. *black box/černá skříňka; black magic/černá magie*). Furthermore, black appears in phrasemes *black humour/černý humor* and *black comedy/černá komedie* in which connotes something **morbid or satiric**. Nevertheless, black does not have only negative connotations, for example chimney-sweeps are thought to bring luck and a little black dress is considered elegant and perennially stylish.

#### 4.2.2 White

Although black and white occur with comparable frequency in both English and Czech data (see Appendix 1: Frequency of occurrence of basic colour terms in Czech and English), the proportion of phrasemes and idioms involving the colour white is considerably lower, displaying a far more restricted range of connotative meanings. As black and white are opposites, one may assume that white will have complementary positive meanings to negative connotations of black but it does not. For example, black connotes something illegal as in *black market* but there is no such an expression in which white would connote legality (\**white market* does not exist). The opposing principle is preserved at the level of symbolism where black is connected to darkness and night (bad) while white to brightness and day (good). This is reflected in positive connotations for white in linguistic expressions. White usually symbolizes goodness, beauty and purity. White as **goodness** is included for example in phrasemes *white magic/bílá magie*. **Beauty** is expressed usually in similes, for example *as white as alabaster/bílý jako z alabastru* or *as white as marble/bílý jako mramor* Regarding purity, white may refer to something **physically clean or stainless** (*as white as driven snow/bílý jako sníh*) as well as to something **morally pure or honest** (*whiter than white*

or *lily-white/bílý jako lilie*). White further connotes something **beneficent, innocent and harmless** (e.g. *white lie/milosrdná lež*). White also has the extended meaning of something **fortunate or happy** (*mark sth with a white stone, označit něco jako významný den/událost*). White can also have negative associations. For example the phraseme (*show*) *the white feather* means to behave in a cowardly fashion. *White flag/bílá vlajka* is a sign of surrender, truce, or a desire to parley in wars and fightings.

### 4.2.3 Red

Red is the colour of fire and blood. He (2009 : 160) says “the red colour is the strongest one of all kinds of colours for the person’s eyes and brains”. Therefore it is used as a sign of **danger, emergency or alert**. Red is a universal colour code used in traffic lights. When it is on it means stop. Drivers are allowed to proceed when the light turns green. When red flag is flying on the beach it indicates danger and people are not allowed to enter the water. Red flag is also used as a symbol of revolution. In linguistic expression it occurs in the phraseme *red alert*, ‘nejvyšší pohotovost’ which is used for the state of being ready to deal with a dangerous situation. The colour red is mostly associated with ‘fire’ or ‘blood’ and its connotations are rather negative. Red symbolizes **cruelty, war, or revolution** (originally with reference to red as the colour of blood and hence of bloodshed and violence). Red is a synonym for a communist, a radical socialist, a revolutionary activist, or in an offensive way a North American Indian. (<http://www.oxfordreference.com>) The connotation of communism is reflected in the phraseme *better dead than red* which was used as a cold-war slogan preferring nuclear war to Communist society, and *reds under the bed* which referred to the presence and influence of Communist sympathizers in a society during the cold war. Red may also connote **sin or crime** (*red-handed*, of a person that is in the act of committing a crime; that is still bearing evidence of having just committed a crime; here red originally referred to victim’s blood with which hands of murdered were stained). The colour is further associated with strong emotions like **passion, love, embarrassment or anger**. Red is a traditional colour of love and sex. Therefore there are red hearts and red roses as romantic symbols of love on one hand and on the other there is less romantic symbolism of sex as in the phraseme *red-light district* which indicates an area of a city where sex is offered for money. On a romantic sense of red is

based Czech phraseme *červená knihovna* which is a romantic reading for women and is not to be found in English. “The expression comes from the colour of an edition of books that came out during the First Czechoslovak Republic.” (Schmiedtová, 2002 : 6) These readings were full of love and may be characterized by the common pattern where a poor girl marries a rich man in the end. Therefore, if we say that something is as if from the “red bookcase” in Czech today it means that it is in the same spirit as the books that came out then. Regarding anger, Philip (2006 : 78) explains that it “causes blood to surge to the head, making us *red in the face, go red, be red with anger/rage* and it clouds our vision to make us *see red*”. The character of red as the strongest colour for perception predetermines red as a colour of provocation (e.g. *like a red rag to a bull/jako červený hadr na býka*). Connotation of embarrassment may be demonstrated on the phraseme *(go) red as a beetroot/zčervenat jako rak*. Philip (2006 : 80) also mentions red as a colour of **authority, importance and royalty, and by extension, of bureaucracy**. This connotation may be found in phrasemes as *roll out the red carpet* which means to give a special welcome (usually to an important person) or *red-carpet treatment* which means to treat someone in a special way. Red in *red-letter* day connotes importance for it was originally used in Church calendars for distinguishing saints’ days or church festivals. Nowadays it is used for a pleasantly memorable, fortunate or happy day. The connotation of bureaucracy is to be found in the phraseme *red tape* which is a negative term for unnecessary bureaucratic procedures. The extended use of the colour red is **debt, overdraft** for the debit side of an account is conventionally written in red ink (*be in the red/být v červených číslech*). That is contrasting to the credit side of an account which is notated in black ink (therefore there is also *be in the black/být v černých číslech*).

#### 4.2.4 Green

Green is the colour of living plants and therefore it is immediately associated with **nature and environment**. Green referring to plants occurs in the phraseme *(have) green fingers/být rozený zahradník* meaning to be good at keeping plants healthy and making them grow. Green is associated with freshness and unripeness, therefore green may be called people who are **young, inexperienced or lack training**, hence *greenhorn/zelenáč*. The meaning has also extended to naive or gullible people. Green is

also often associated with a sickly complexion indicating **nausea**. Therefore *green about the gills/zelený jak sedma* is to look or feel ill or nauseous and *go/turn green/zezelenat* is to look pale and ill as if the person is going to vomit. Green is traditionally the colour of **jealousy and envy**, as can be shown in phraseme *green with envy/zelený závistí* or in phraseme *green-eyed monster* (žárlivost) where the jealousy is personified. This term for jealousy used Shakespeare in Othello, where Iago warns : ‘O! Beware my lord of jealousy / It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock / The meat it feeds on.’ (<http://www.oxfordreference.com>). Further, green is the colour connoting **permission**, allowing one to proceed. The allusion is to the green light in traffic signals. It is contrasting to red which is used to indicate ‘stop’. Green occurs in phrasemes as *give/get the green light/dát/dostat zelenou*.

#### 4.2.5 Blue

Blue is often taken as the colour of **constancy or unchangingness**, hence *true blue* meaning faithful, completely loyal. In recent times, the term has become particularly associated with loyal supporters of the British Conservative party. Its sense, nevertheless, may be also derived from the idea of someone being genuinely aristocratic, having *blue blood*. The expression *blue blood/modrá krev* probably originated in the blueness of the veins of people of fair complexion as compared with those of dark skin, and refers to blood which flows in the veins of old and aristocratic families, who have never been contaminated by other foreign admixtures. (<http://www.oxfordreference.com>) That brings us back to the connotation of constancy and unchangingness. Blue further connotes something **dismal, unpromising, depressing** as in *feeling blue* which is an informal way of expressing sadness. In informal English, blue also connotes something obscene or smutty, as in *blue joke*, *sprostý vtíp*; *blue movie*, *sprostý film*. This connotation is not used in Czech.

## 5 Colour phrasemes in English and Czech

For the purpose of this paper was created a corpus of phrasemes. The corpus contains almost two hundred English and Czech phrasemes, their explanations and in most cases examples of their use. Source of Czech phrasemes was primarily Czech monolingual dictionary of phrasemes, 'Dictionary of Czech Phraseology and Idiomatics', published in three volumes (Čermák, 1983, 1988, 1994). English phrasemes were compiled from three English online monolingual dictionaries, <http://dictionary.cambridge.org>, <http://www.oxfordreference.com>, and <http://www.thefreedictionary.com>. As there is a difference between English and Czech approach to phrasemes (see Section 2.1. Sources of Czech and English phrasemes), the corpus of English and Czech phrasemes was compiled in the following steps:

- Czech colour phrasemes were compiled
- English equivalents to the Czech colour phrasemes were found
- English colour phrasemes were compiled to complete the corpus
- Czech equivalents to the English colour phrasemes were found

Therefore, phrasemes containing a colour were incorporated in the corpus primarily and then their equivalents in the other language. Equivalents were found according to semantic equivalency and hence presence of colour word was not a condition for incorporation. The compiled phrasemes were organized in the corpus according to the level of their equivalency. It was not possible to find an appropriate equivalent for all phrasemes in the corpus for the entity either does not exist in the other culture or it is simply denoted according to the rules of regular language. In that case an explanation of what it is or a non-idiomatic equivalent is provided. For more information about the sources and what is classified as a phraseme in the corpus see Section 2.1. Sources of Czech and English phrasemes.

The analysis is divided into three parts and focuses on three areas. The first one is concerned with formal-structural classification of phrasemes and its aim is to determine which classes of phrasemes are included in the corpus and with what frequency. The second one deals with semantics or with the level of transparency of compiled

phrasemes in particular. Its aim is to find out what devices are used to make a meaning of a phraseme figurative and what role a colour plays in it. This part of analysis reveals whether phrasemes are motivated or not. The last part deals with comparison of English and Czech phrasemes. Its aim is to find out whether there are idiomatic equivalents in the other language and if there are to what degree they are corresponding.

## 5.1 Classes of phrasemes

Classes of phrasemes as determined in this paper follow from Čermák's formal-structural classification of phrasemes and typology (see Section 3.7. Classification of phrasemes). The corpus contains 192 phrasemes in total and all classes of phrasemes are represented there in the following amount (listed from the most frequent to the less): 87 phrasemes (45%) are of nominal type, 51 phrasemes (27%) of verbal type, 27 (14%) are similes, 11 phrasemes (6%) of modification type, 8 (4%) are lexical phrasemes, 7 (4%) binominals, and finally 1 phraseme (1%) is propositional. The corpus was primarily focused on compilation of collocational phrasemes, therefore numbers of lexical phrasemes and propositional phrasemes are low. Nevertheless, there are certainly plenty of them to be found in both Czech and English language. For the interpretation of these results in a tabular form see Appendix 2: Classes of phrasemes.

## 5.2 Transparency and motivation of phrasemes

The following analysis focuses on the meaning of phrasemes. It is examined how transparent phrasemes are according to devices which are used to make a meaning of a phraseme figurative. The corpus contains 4 (2%) transparent phrasemes, 27 (14%) transparent to semi-transparent phrasemes (similes), 49 (26%) semi-transparent phrasemes (based on connotation), 101 (53%) figurative phrasemes, and 11 (6%) pure idioms. For the interpretation of these results in a tabular form see Appendix 3: Transparency. Transparent phrasemes are those in which no device of figurative language was recognized and their idiomatic character is based on a restriction of their components in collocations. A Czech example is *chytil někoho při činu* where *při činu* is restricted in its use and an English example is the phrasal verb *stowaway* where the verb *stow* is restricted and does not occur with any other adverb or preposition. Similes in this paper are classified as transparent to semi-transparent for their meaning may vary

from literal to connotative depending on the context. Simile is usually primarily based on a literal meaning of a colour qualifying some object and that colour is compared to something what is distinctive for that colour hue. For example, *black as coal/černý jako uhel* is used both in English and Czech and may refer to colour of hair or eyes etc. Nevertheless, similes may be also based on a connotative meaning of colours as in *be as brown as a berry/být (černý) jako černoč* where the colour connotes ‘suntan’. Moreover, in Czech the meaning of *být (černý) jako černoč* may be extended to ‘be dirty’. Another example of a simile which has different meanings in different contexts is *lily-white/bílý jako lilie* which may either literary refer to colour or connotatively to morally pure and honest, and in English even to white people. Phrasemes based on connotations are considered semi-transparent. They cannot be understood literally for additional meaning of colours which imply some associations. For the possible associations implied by colours see Section 4.2. Colour words: connotations. Figurative phrasemes are those which are based on metaphor, metonymy, or combination of both. The corpus contains 33 (17%) metaphorical phrasemes, 27 (14%) metonymical phrasemes, and 4 (2%) phrasemes based on combination of metaphor and metonymy. Figurative phrasemes may be further influenced by colour connotations. In the corpus, colour connotation occurs in 21 (11%) metaphorical phrasemes, and 16 (8%) metonymical phrasemes. Pure idioms are classified opaque. Their meaning is no longer deducible without an additional knowledge (historical, etymological etc.). An example of such a phraseme in Czech is *jednou za uherský rok* meaning ‘very rarely’ or ‘never’ which is based on the reality of Turkish wars when soldiers were recruited for a certain period and that period was gradually made longer and longer. An English example may be *a red herring* which refers to something that takes people’s attention away from the main subject being talked or written about. The origin of the phraseme goes back to the practice of using the scent of red herring in training hounds. (<http://www.oxfordreference.com>)

Colour was found in 167 phrasemes. As it was not possible to clearly define character of colour meaning in similes and pure idioms these were excluded from the analysis. Therefore, 134 phrasemes were objects of the following analysis. Connotative meaning of colours was found in 86 phrasemes and literal (prototypical) in 48 phrasemes. Colour connotations occur with the following frequency in the corpus: 43 (50%) connotations

of black, 16 (19%) connotations of red, 15 (17%) connotations of green, and 6 (7%) connotations of white as well as blue (for the interpretation of these results in a tabular form see Appendix 5: Connotations). Therefore, it was partly confirmed, that the higher frequency of colour occurrence in language means greater semantic load. Only colour white in this corpus deviates from its normal frequency of occurrence. (see Appendix 1: Frequency of colour occurrence in Czech and English). Literal meaning of colours influences the meaning of phrasemes through its use in metaphors and metonymies: 28 (58%) metonymy, 17 (35%) metaphor, 3 (6%) combination of metaphor and metonymy. Therefore, colours used in phrasemes are not arbitrarily but they motivate the meaning of phrasemes either directly, through their connotative meanings, or indirectly through utilization of their literal (prototypical) meaning in metaphors and metonymies (see Section 4.1. Colour words: literal, prototypical and figurative meaning).

### **5.3 Comparison of English and Czech phrasemes**

The comparative part of analysis focuses on comparison of compiled Czech and English phrasemes. Counterparts for phrasemes in the other language were always chosen primarily according to their meaning and then, in a case of more synonymous possibilities, according to their formal-structural properties. Therefore, counterparts of similar formal-structural properties but of a different meaning were not incorporated in the corpus. For example, Czech phraseme *bílá paní* referring to a castle ghost in a white dress does not have a counterpart in English for it is restricted to Czech culture. Nevertheless, it is possible to find the same expression in English according to formal-structural properties but with a different meaning: *white lady* referring to a cocktail made with gin, orange liqueur, and lemon juice. (<http://www.oxfordreference.com>) The expression did not meet the semantic requirements and was not incorporated in the corpus. Therefore, in a case when an idiomatic counterpart of the same meaning was not found a non-idiomatic equivalent was provided and in a case when a phraseme was culturally restricted an explanation in the other language was given.

The corpus contains 26 (23%) fully equal phrasemes, 42 (38%) equal phrasemes, 13 (12%) corresponding phrasemes, 22 (20%) non-idiomatic equivalents, and 8 (7%) explanations for culturally restricted phrasemes. For the interpretation of these results in

a tabular form see Appendix 4: Comparison of Czech and English phrasemes). Those phrasemes which are identical semantically and formal-structurally are classified as fully equal. For example, English phraseme *a black day* is identical with Czech phrasme *černý den*. Equal phrasemes are of the same meaning and formal class but differ in their constituents. For example, English phraseme *once in a blue mood* is equal to Czech phraseme *jednou za uherský rok*. Corresponding phrasemes match semantically but not formal-structurally and therefore, in a text or utterance they have to be treated differently. For example, English phraseme *between the devil and deep blue sea* (modification phraseme) corresponds to Czech phraseme *praš jako uhod'* (simile following verb). Non-idiomatic equivalentents are provided in cases when an idiomatic counterpart was not found. For example, Czech phraseme *zelené zlato* referring to 'hops' does not have an idiomatic counterpart in English and therefore 'hops' is as a non-idiomatic equivalentent is given. Phrasemes with no equivalentents are considered those which are either culturally restricted (see *bílá paní* above) or cannot be properly substituted with a non-idiomatic equivalentent and an explanation is necessary for their understanding. In those cases an explanation is given in italics.

## 6 Conclusions

The aim of this paper was to find out whether there are semantically equivalent idiomatic expressions in English and Czech and, in case there are, to what degree they are equal. In order to determine the level of equivalency, a formal-structural analysis of compiled phrasemes was done. The compiled phrasemes were sorted into following classes: lexical phrasemes, nominal phrasemes, verbal phrasemes, modification phrasemes, binominals, similes, and propositional phrasemes. The corpus was primarily focused on collocational phrasemes. However, lexical and propositional phrasemes also occurred and therefore, the analysis showed that phrasemes are to be found at all levels of language. Class of a phraseme and its components were crucial for determining level of equivalency between English and Czech phrasemes. Majority of the compiled phrasemes had an idiomatic equivalent in the other language, which means that it is possible to translate meaning of a phraseme into the other language while keeping the original idiomatic character of an utterance. Significantly less frequent were phrasemes which had a non-idiomatic equivalent in the other language. Those are translatable but the idiomatic character of the original utterance is lost. Only few phrasemes were culturally restricted and therefore, non-translatable. Those require special explanation when translated.

The paper also dealt with semantic aspects of idioms, with transparency and motivation in particular. It was examined what devices are used to make a meaning of an idiom figurative and what role a colour plays in it. The analysis showed that not all phrasemes have figurative meaning because in the corpus were to be found also semantically transparent phrasemes. These were classified as phrasemes on the basis of collocational restrictions and anomaly of its components. Similes were classified transparent to semi-transparent for their unstable character (colour used in similes may have both literal and figurative meaning). Phrasemes based on connotations of colours were classified semi-transparent for they require cultural knowledge to be understood. Phrasemes based on metonymy, metaphor, or combination of both, were classified figurative. Phrasemes which are nowadays not understood without an additional knowledge of history, etymology, etc., were classified pure idioms. Therefore, the analysis proved that the

meaning of phrasemes is motivated through various devices of figurative language which justify the appearance of the words in a phraseme. It was also proved that colour words are not used in phrasemes arbitrarily but that they motivate meaning of phrasemes, either through their literal meaning on which are based metonymies and metaphors or through their connotative meaning.

## 7 Resumé

Idiomy jsou významnou součástí jazyka a jsou používány každodenně. Rodilí mluvčí si to většinou ani neuvědomují, ale jak angličtina tak čeština jsou jazyky, které jsou plné jazykových jednotek, které mohou být charakterizovány jako nestandardní, protože jejich význam jako celku se liší od jejich významu doslovného. Lidé si většinou uvědomí přítomnost idiomů v jazyce, když dojde na jejich překlad. Idiomy jsou fráze, kterým většinou rozumí lidé stejné kultury, ale lidé z odlišné kultury je považují za podivné a nerozumí jim, pokud jsou přeloženy doslovně. Cílem této práce je zjistit zda existují významově identické ekvivalenty pro idiomy anglické a české, a pokud ano, do jaké míry jsou si podobné formálně. Výsledky zkoumání mohou být přínosné pro překladatelskou praxi.

Práce se dělí na teoretickou a praktickou část. Teoretická část práce je rozdělena do následujících sekcí: ‚Úvod do lexikografie‘, ‚Úvod do frazeologie‘, a ‚Slova označující barvy‘, každá z těchto částí je dále dělena do podsekcí.

První sekce práce představuje lexikografii obecně, čím se zabývá, a pak zejména frazeografii. Vysvětluje, co frazeografie je a jaké jsou její hlavní problémy s ohledem na frazeologickou teorii. Poté jsou popsány anglické a české slovníky použité jako zdroje idiomů pro sestavení korpusu a také jsou porovnány jejich přístupy k idiomu. Z důvodu odlišných přístupů je stanoveno, ke kterému se práce přikloňuje a jaké idiomy jsou zahrnuty v korpusu.

Druhá sekce práce, úvod do frazeologie, je značně obsáhlá. Začíná popisem, jak byla frazeologie uznána jako samostatná disciplína, a vysvětlením, co frazeologie je, čím se zabývá. Poté se práce věnuje rozsahu frazeologie, kde všude v jazyce je možné najít idiomy. Názory různých lingvistů jsou zde představeny a porovnány se zdůrazněním českého přístupu. Následující podsekcce této práce se zaměřuje na jednotky frazeologie, jejich terminologii a definici. Tyto jednotky jsou nazývány lingvisty různě, proto je zde demonstrativně uvedeno mnoho termínů, se kterými je možné se v literatuře setkat. Český přístup k idiomu je reprezentován terminologií Čermáka, který nazývá jednotky frazeologie ‚frazémy‘ a ‚idiomy‘, a také je vysvětlen rozdíl v jejich použití. V této

podsekcí je také sjednocena terminologie této práce a je uvedeno, která definice frazému byla v této práci osvojena. Následující podsekcí stručně vysvětluje, jaké mají frazémy funkce. Dále je vysvětleno, v jakém vztahu k pravidelnému jazyku frazémy mohou být, a to je následováno užitím frazémů v jazyce. Následující podsekcí se zabývá obecnými vlastnostmi frazémů, vztahem mezi frazémem a jeho komponenty a klasifikací frazémů založené na charakteru jejich komponentů. Dále jsou představeny formální a sémantická kritéria frazémů. Pro značně složitou povahu frazémů neexistuje v současnosti žádný jasně definovaný soubor kritérií, který by mohl být v této práci uveden. Z toho důvodu jsou v této práci uvedena ta kritéria, která se nejčastěji opakují v literatuře zabývající se frazémy, a různé názory na jejich relevantnost jsou představeny. Formální kritéria frazému zahrnují institucionalizaci, ustálenost, víceslovnost a anomálie. Jako sémantická kritéria jsou uvedena nerozložitelnost, nemotivovanost, neprůhlednost, neanalyzovatelnost a přenesený význam.

Třetí, poslední teoretická, sekce práce se zabývá slovy označujícími barvy. Pět základních slov bylo vybráno k dalšímu nakládání v této práci: černý, bílý, červený, zelený a modrý. Barvy byly vybrány na základě četnosti výskytu v českém jazyce. První podsekcí se zaměřuje na doslovný, prototypický a přenesený význam slov označujících barvy. Rozdíl mezi doslovným a prototypickým významem je zde vysvětlen. Poté je na příkladech z korpusu demonstrováno, jak doslovný význam barev může být využit v prostředcích jako metafora a metonymie k vytvoření přeneseného významu frazémů. Druhá podsekcí se zaměřuje na konotativní význam slov označujících barvy. Vysvětluje, co konotace je obecně, a poté popisuje konotace jednotlivých vybraných barev.

Praktická část práce je založena na korpusu anglických a českých frazémů, které jsou shromážděny za účelem porovnání v této práci. Korpus je zaměřen na frazémy obsahující barvu. Zdrojem těchto frazémů jsou anglické a české slovníky. Aby bylo možné určit míru podobnosti, je nejdříve provedena formálně-strukturní analýza shromážděných frazémů, na které je demonstrován rozsah frazeologie. Na základě této analýzy jsou frazémy rozděleny do tříd na lexikální, kolokační a propoziční. Kolokační frazémy jsou dále děleny na nominální, verbální, modifikační, binominální a přirovnání. Třída a vlastní komponenty frazému vedou k určení míry podobnosti. Jako plně shodné jsou definovány frazémy stejné třídy a sémanticky stejných komponentů. Jako shodné

jsou definovány frazémy stejné třídy, ale odlišných komponentů. U těchto kategorií lze předpokládat, že jejich použití v anglickém i českém textu je shodné, a tedy přímo přeložitelné. Jako odpovídající jsou definovány frazémy odlišné třídy. U této kategorie je při překladu nutné vzít v úvahu jejich odlišnou třídu, tedy funkci v textu, která může vést k odlišnému způsobu použití. Korpus také obsahuje frazémy, pro které nebyl nalezen odpovídající idiomatický ekvivalent, pouze ekvivalent neidiomatický. Řídce se v korpusu vyskytují frazémy, které v druhém jazyce nemají ekvivalent vůbec a při překladu je nutné je vysvětlit, aby byly pochopeny. Další část analýzy se zabývá sémantickými aspekty frazémů, a to transparentností a motivovaností. Je zkoumáno, jaké prostředky jsou použity k vytvoření přeneseného významu idiomů a jakou úlohu v nich hraje barva. V korpusu jsou rozpoznány frazémy transparentní, které jsou klasifikovány jako frazémy na základě kolokačních omezení svých komponentů a neobsahují tedy žádný prostředek figurativního jazyka. Dále jsou rozpoznána přirovnání, která jsou klasifikována jako transparentní až semitransparentní. Semitransparentní jsou klasifikovány frazémy, které jsou založeny na konotativním významu barvy a vyžadují tedy určitou znalost kultury, na kterou jsou vázané. Další kategorií jsou frazémy s přeneseným významem, které jsou založeny na metafoře, metonymii či kombinaci těchto dvou. Jako netransparentní jsou klasifikovány frazémy, jejichž význam nelze v současnosti odvodit z jejich komponentů bez speciálních znalostí, například historických či etymologických. Tyto frazémy většinou vznikly na základě metafor, jejichž předobraz se v současné realitě nevyskytuje (například český frazém *jednou za uherský rok* vychází z reality dnes neexistujícího Rakouska-Uherska). Tyto frazémy jsou klasifikovány jako ryzí. Nalezení prostředků jako přirovnání, konotace, metafora, či metonymie ve frazémech vede k poznání, že frazémy jsou motivované a komponenty, ze kterých se skládají, ovlivňující význam frazému jako celku, i když nepřímým způsobem. Toto je dokázáno na použití barev ve frazémech, které mohou motivovat význam frazémů skrze svůj doslovný význam, který je základem pro metaforu či metonymii, nebo skrze význam konotativní, který je buď přímo podstatou přeneseného významu frazémů či je dále využit v metafoře či metonymii.

Z provedené analýzy tedy vyplývá, že frazémy v českém a anglickém jazyce ve většině případů mají svůj sémantický ekvivalent v druhém jazyce, a jsou tedy tímto

ekvivalentem přeložitelné. Zřídka je význam frazému vázaný pouze na danou kulturu, a tedy nepřeložitelný do druhého jazyka bez vysvětlení entity, kterou označuje. Analýza sekundárně také potvrdila, že frazémy je možné najít na všech úrovních jazyka, a to jak na úrovni kombinací morfémů tak na úrovni věty. V sémantické části analýzy bylo prokázáno, že netransparentnost a nemotivovanost nejsou relevantní kritéria při popisu frazémů, protože v korpusu byly nalezeny frazémy transparentní a vyjma ryzích frazémů byl objasněn vznik všech frazémů, což prokázalo jejich motivovanost.

## 8 Bibliography

- COLLINS, V. H. *A book of English idioms*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. London : Longman, 1969. 258 p.
- COLLINS, V. H. *A second book of English idioms*. London : Longman, 1970. 256 p.
- COLLINS, V. H. *A third book of English idioms*. London : Longman, 1969. 205 p.
- COWIE, A. P. *Phraseology : Theory, Analysis, and Applications*. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 1998. p. 229. ISBN 0-19-829425-5.
- CRUSE, D. A. *Meaning in Language : an introduction to semantics and pragmatics*. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2004. 441 p. Oxford textbooks in linguistics. ISBN 0-19-926306-X.
- ČERMÁK, F. A Dictionary of Czech Phraseology and Idiomatics. In ČERMÁK, F. *Frazeologie a Idiomatika česká a obecná: Czech and General Phraseology*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Praha: Karolinum, 2007, p. 655-665. ISBN 978-80-246-1371-0.
- ČERMÁK, F. Binominály. In ČERMÁK, F. *Frazeologie a Idiomatika česká a obecná: Czech and General Phraseology*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Praha: Karolinum, 2007, p. 414-429. ISBN 978-80-246-1371-0.
- ČERMÁK, F. Česká přirovnání. In ČERMÁK, F. *Frazeologie a Idiomatika česká a obecná: Czech and General Phraseology*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Praha: Karolinum, 2007, p. 384-413. ISBN 978-80-246-1371-0.
- ČERMÁK, F. České frazémy a idiomy modifikační. In ČERMÁK, F. *Frazeologie a Idiomatika česká a obecná: Czech and General Phraseology*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Praha: Karolinum, 2007, p. 334-342. ISBN 978-80-246-1371-0.
- ČERMÁK, F. České frazémy a idiomy nominální. In ČERMÁK, F. *Frazeologie a Idiomatika česká a obecná: Czech and General Phraseology*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Praha: Karolinum, 2007, p. 326-333. ISBN 978-80-246-1371-0.
- ČERMÁK, F. České frazémy a idiomy verbální. In ČERMÁK, F. *Frazeologie a Idiomatika česká a obecná: Czech and General Phraseology*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Praha: Karolinum, 2007, p. 343-383. ISBN 978-80-246-1371-0.
- ČERMÁK, F. České lexikální frazémy a idiomy. In ČERMÁK, F. *Frazeologie a Idiomatika česká a obecná: Czech and General Phraseology*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Praha: Karolinum, 2007, p. 263-276. ISBN 978-80-246-1371-0.
- ČERMÁK, F. et al. *Slovník české frazeologie a idiomatiky : Výrazy neslovesné*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Praha : Academia, 1988. 512 s.
- ČERMÁK, F. et al. *Slovník české frazeologie a idiomatiky : Výrazy slovesné A-P*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Praha : Academia, 1994. 757 s. ISBN 80-200-0347-9.

ČERMÁK, F. et al. *Slovník české idiomatiky a frazeologie : Výrazy slovesné R-Ž*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Praha : Academia, 1994. 634 s. ISBN 80-200-0428-9.

ČERMÁK, F. Foundations and Principles of Phraseology and Idiomatics. In ČERMÁK, F. *Frazeologie a Idiomatika česká a obecná: Czech and General Phraseology*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Praha: Karolinum, 2007, p. 73-128. ISBN 978-80-246-1371-0.

ČERMÁK, F. Idiomatics. In ČERMÁK, F. *Frazeologie a Idiomatika česká a obecná: Czech and General Phraseology*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Praha: Karolinum, 2007, p. 141-148. ISBN 978-80-246-1371-0.

ČERMÁK, F. Substance of Idioms : Perennial Problems, Lack of Data or Theory?. In ČERMÁK, F. *Frazeologie a Idiomatika česká a obecná: Czech and General Phraseology*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Praha: Karolinum, 2007, p. 149-166. ISBN 978-80-246-1371-0.

ČERMÁK, F., et al. *Slovník české frazeologie a idiomatiky : přirovnání*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. Praha : Academia, 1983. 496 s.

EVERAERT, M., et al. *Idioms: Structural and psychological perspectives*. New Jersey : Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc., 1995. ISBN 0-8058-1505-8.

GRANGER, S., MEUNIER, F. *Phraseology : An interdisciplinary perspective*. Amsterdam : John Benjamins Publishing Co., 2008. p. 417. ISBN 978 90 272 3246 5.

GRANT, L., BAUER, L. Criteria for re-defining idioms : Are we barking up the wrong tree?. In *Applied linguistics*. Oxford university press. March 2004, Vol. 25, No. 1, p. 38-61.

HE, G. English and Chinese Cultural Connotation of Color Words in Comparison. In *Asian Social Science*. July 2009, Vol. 5, No. 7, p. 160- 163. ISSN 1911-2025.

MEL'ČUK, I. Collocations and Lexical Functions. In COWIE, A. P. (ed.). *Phraseology : Theory, Analysis, and Applications*. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 1998. p. 23-53. ISBN 0-19-829425-5.

MOON, R. *Fixed expressions and idioms in English: A corpus-based approach*. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 1998. Oxford studies in lexicography and lexicology. ISBN 0-19-824614-X.

PAWLEY, A. Phraseology, linguistics and the dictionary. In COWIE, A. P. (ed.). *International Journal of Lexicography*. June 2001, Vol. 14, No. 2, p. 122 - 134. ISSN 0950-3846.

SVENSSON, H. M. A very complex criterion of fixedness: Non-compositionality. In GRANGER, S., MEUNIER, F. *Phraseology : An interdisciplinary perspective*. Amsterdam : John Benjamins Publishing Co., 2008. p. 81-93. ISBN 978 90 272 3246 5.

#### **ONLINE SOURCES:**

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org>

<http://www.oxfordreference.com>

<http://www.oxfordreference.com>

"black *adjective*". The Oxford Dictionary of English (revised edition). SOANES, C., STEVENSON, A. (ed.). Oxford University Press, 2005. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press. Universidad de Valencia. 16 March 2010. <<http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t140.e7630>>

"black". Oxford Dictionary of Word Origins. CRESSWELL, J. (ed.). *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press. Universidad de Valencia. 22 February 2010. <<http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t292.e575>>

"black". A Dictionary of Celtic Mythology. MCKILLOP, J. (ed.). Oxford University Press, 1998. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press. Universidad de Valencia. 15 March 2010. <<http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t70.e476>>

"blue". Oxford Dictionary of English Idioms. AYTO, J., SIEFRING, J., SPEAKE, J. (ed.). Oxford University Press Inc. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press. Universidad de Valencia. 27 February 2010. <<http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t35.e260>>

"connotation and denotation". Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language. MCARTHUR, T. (ed.). Oxford University Press, 1998. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press. Universidad de Valencia. 15 March 2010. <<http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t29.e305>>

"green". Oxford Dictionary of English Idioms. AYTO, J., SIEFRING, J., SPEAKE, J. (ed.). Oxford University Press Inc. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press. Universidad de Valencia. 27 February 2010. <<http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t35.e1111>>

"idiom". The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Linguistics. MATTHEWS, P. H. (ed.). Oxford University Press, 2007. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press. Universidad de Valencia. 27 February 2010. <<http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t36.e1546>>

"lexicography". Concise Oxford Companion to the English Language. McARTHUR, T. (ed.). Oxford University Press, 1998. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press. Universidad de Valencia. 15 March

2010. <<http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t29.e710>>

"red herring noun". The Oxford Dictionary of English (revised edition). SOANES, C., STEVENSON, A. (ed.). Oxford University Press, 2005. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press. Universidad de Valencia. 14 March 2010. <<http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t140.e64603>>

"red". Oxford Dictionary of English Idioms. AYTO, J., SIEFRING, J., SPEAKE, J. (ed.). Oxford University Press Inc. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press. Universidad de Valencia. 27 February 2010. <<http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t35.e2059>>

"White Lady noun". The Oxford Dictionary of English (revised edition). SOANES, C., STEVENSON, A. (ed.). Oxford University Press, 2005. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press. Universidad de Valencia. 15 March 2010. <<http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t140.e88207>>

"white *adjective*". The Oxford Dictionary of English (revised edition). SOANES, C., STEVENSON, A. (ed.). Oxford University Press, 2005. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press. Universidad de Valencia. 16 March 2010. <<http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t140.e88150>>

"white". *Oxford Dictionary of Word Origins*. CRESSWELL, J. (ed.). *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press. Universidad de Valencia. 22 February 2010. <<http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t292.e5461>>

"idiom". Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary. *Cambridge Dictionaries Online*. 27 February 2010. <<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/define.asp?key=38931&dict=CALD&topic=figurative-use-of-language>>

FOLEY, P. , *Black dog' as a metaphor for depression : a brief history*. 16 March 2010. <<http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/media/eventscal/index.cfm>>

PHILIP, G. *Connotative meaning in English and Italian colour-word metaphors*. 16 March 2010. <<http://www.metaphorik.de/10/philip.pdf>>

SCHMIEDTOVÁ, V., SCHMIEDTOVÁ, B. *The Color Spectrum in Language: The case of Czech based on the Czech national Corpus*. 16 March 2010. <<http://ucnk.ff.cuni.cz/stahni.php#schmiedt>>

## **List of appendices**

Appendix 1: Frequency of occurrence of basic colour terms in Czech and English

Appendix 2: Classes of phrasemes

Appendix 3: Transparency

Appendix 4: Comparison of Czech and English phrasemes

Appendix 5: Connotations

Appendix 6: Semantic classification of idioms

Appendix 7: List of idioms

## Appendix 1: Frequency of occurrence of basic colour terms in Czech and English

### 1Corpus2000<sup>1</sup>

Colour	Frequency of occurrence
černý (black)	17 698
bílý (white)	16 717
červený (red)	8 646
rudý (deep red)	2 104
zelený (green)	7 220
modrý (blue)	6 569
žlutý(yellow)	5 571
šedý, šedivý (grey)	3 779
hnědý (brown)	3 135
růžový (pink)	2 817
oranžový (orange)	922
fialový (violet)	876

### 2Bank of English<sup>2</sup>

Colour	Frequency of occurrence
White	142084
Black	132407
Red	81925
Green	62421
Brown	61029
Blue	54775
Grey/gray	28317
Yellow	22872
Pink	16687
Orange	15841
Purple	6674

<sup>1</sup> Source: SCHMIEDTOVÁ, V., SCHMIEDTOVÁ, B. *The Color Spectrum in Language: The case of Czech based on the Czech national Corpus*. 16 March 2010. <<http://ucnk.ff.cuni.cz/stahni.php#schmiedt>>

<sup>2</sup> Source: PHILIP, G. *Connotative meaning in English and Italian colour-word metaphors*. 16 March 2010. <<http://www.metaphorik.de/10/philip.pdf>>

## Appendix 2: Classes of phrasemes

	English	%	Czech	%	Total	%
Nominal	44	43%	43	48%	87	45%
Verbal	28	27%	23	26%	51	27%
Simile	12	12%	15	17%	27	14%
Modification	5	5%	6	7%	11	6%
Lexical	7	7%	1	1%	8	4%
Binominal	6	6%	1	1%	7	4%
Propositional	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%
Total	102	100%	90	100%	192	100%

## Appendix 3: Transparency

	English	%	Czech	%	Total	%
Transparent	1	25%	3	75%	4	2%
Transparent to semi-transparent						
Simile	12	44%	15	56%	27	14%
Semi-transparent						
Connotation	27	55%	22	45%	49	26%
Figurative						
Metaphor	14	42%	19	58%	33	17%
Metonymy	14	52%	13	48%	27	14%
Metaphor and metonymy	2	50%	2	50%	4	2%
Metaphor and connotation	13	62%	8	38%	21	11%
Metonymy and connotation	9	56%	7	44%	16	8%
Opaque						
Pure idiom	10	91%	1	9%	11	6%
Total	102	53%	90	47%	192	100%

## Appendix 4: Comparison of Czech and English phrasemes

	Quantity	%
Fully equal	26	23%
Equal	42	38%
Corresponding	13	12%
Non-idiomatic equivalent	22	20%
No equivalent	8	7%
Total	111	100%

## Appendix 5: Connotations

	English		Czech		Total	
<b>Black</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>50%</b>
Illegality	2		6		8	
Badness	5		4		9	
Pessimism	4		2		6	
Unsuccess	2		3		5	
Disfavour	3		4		7	
Unknown	1		1		2	
Morbidity	2		2		4	
Credit	1		1		2	
<b>White</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7%</b>
Goodness	1		1		2	
Purity	2		1		3	
Beneficence	1		0		1	
<b>Red</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19%</b>
Danger	1		0		1	
Crime	1		0		1	
Love	1		2		3	
Anger	1		1		2	
Importance	4		1		5	
Communism	2		0		2	
Debit	1		1		2	
<b>Blue</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7%</b>
Constancy	2		1		3	
Depression	1		0		1	
Obscenity	2		0		2	
<b>Green</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17%</b>
Nature	1		1		2	
Nausea	2		0		2	
Jealousy	1		1		2	
Envy	1		0		1	
Youth	2		2		4	
Permission	2		2		4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Appendix 6: Semantic classification of idioms<sup>1</sup>

Yorio (1980)	Cowie, Mackin & McCaig (1983/93)	Alexander (1987)	Cacciari and Glucksberg (1991)	Howarth (1998)	Moon (1998a)	Fernando and Flavell (1981)	Fernando (1996)
Transparent (not idioms): <i>your face looks familiar</i>	Open collocation: <i>fill the sink, a broken window, in the raw</i>	Literal phrase: <i>hit the ball</i>	Analysable transparent: <i>break the ice, spill the beans</i>	Free combination: <i>under the table</i>	Transparent metaphor: <i>alarm bells ring, behind someone's back</i>	Literal and/or transparent: <i>cut wood, break eggs, rely on, add fuel to the fire</i>	Literal idiom [sic]: <i>tall, dark and handsome, on foot, for example</i>
Semi-transparent (expressions or idioms): <i>shake hands, bumper to bumper, skyscraper</i>	Restricted collocation/Semi-idiom: <i>jog one's memory, a blind alley, catch someone red/handed</i>	Semi-idiom: <i>hit a six</i>	Non-analysable: <i>by and large</i>	Restricted collocation: <i>under attack</i>	Semi-transparent metaphor: <i>on an even keel, grasp the nettle, the pecking order</i>	Metaphor/Semi-transparent: <i>skate on thin ice, kill two birds with one stone, the boot/shoe is one the other foot</i>	Semi-literal idiom: <i>kith and kin, drop names</i> Semi-idiom: <i>catch your breath, foot the bill</i>
Figurative idiom: <i>catch fire, close ranks, beat one's breast, bleed someone white</i>	Metaphorical idiom: <i>hit the jackpot</i> Figurative idiom: <i>hit the list</i>	Quasi-metaphorical: <i>giving up the ship, count your chickens before they're hatched, carry coals to Newcastle</i>	Figurative idiom: <i>under the microscope</i>		Metaphor/Semi-opaque: <i>burn one's boats, tarred with the same brush, off the top of one's head</i>		
Opaque/True idioms: <i>by and large, take a leak, knock on wood, be on the wagon</i>	Pure idiom: <i>blow the gaff, kick the bucket, in a nutshell</i>	Opaque/Pure idiom: <i>hit the sack</i>	Analysable opaque: <i>kick the bucket</i>	Pure idiom: <i>under the weather</i>	Opaque metaphor/Pure idiom: <i>bite the bullet, over the moon, red herring, kick the bucket</i>	Full idiom/Opaque: <i>pull someone's leg, pass the buck, trip the light fantastic</i>	Pure idiom: <i>spill the beans, chin wag, red herring, take 40 winks, have cold feet</i>

<sup>1</sup> Source: GRANT, L., BAUER, L. Criteria for re-defining idioms : Are we barking up the wrong tree?. In *Applied linguistics*. Oxford university press. March 2004, Vol. 25, No. 1, p. 38-61.

## Appendix 7: List of idioms

1.	<b>a black day (for)</b> a day when something very unpleasant or sad happens <i>A bomb went off early this morning. This is a black day for the peace process.</i>	nominal connotation (unsuccessful)	<b>černý den</b> smolný, neúspěšný den	nominal connotation (unsuccessful)	fully equal
2.	<b>a black mark (against someone)</b> if you get a black mark, people think that something you have done is bad and they will remember it in future <i>This administrative error will be a black mark on his record. If I'm late for work it'll be another black mark against me.</i>	nominal metaphor connotation (disfavour) +	<b>černý puntík</b> mít u někoho černý puntík znamená, že člověk provedl někomu něco špatného a ten si to bude pamatovat	nominal metaphor connotation (disfavour) +	fully equal
3.	<b>black coffee</b> coffee without milk or cream Compare: <b>white coffee</b>	nominal metonymy	<b>černá káva</b> káva bez mléka Srovnej: <b>bílá káva</b>	nominal metonymy	fully equal
4.	<b>black comedy</b> a film, play, etc. that looks at the funny side of things we usually consider very serious, like death and illness	nominal connotation (morbid)	<b>černá komedie</b> komedie ve které vážná témata jsou zpracována ve vtipném nebo satirickém způsobu	nominal connotation (morbid)	fully equal
5.	<b>black economy</b> business activity and income which people do not record in order to avoid paying tax on it	nominal connotation (illegal)	<b>černá ekonomika</b> neformální sektor ekonomiky, kde je práce odvedena a neexistuje o tom žádný záznam a neplatí se žádné daně	nominal connotation (illegal)	fully equal
6.	<b>Black Friday</b> any Friday on which a public disaster has occurred	nominal connotation (unsuccessful)	<b>černý pátek</b> den (pátý v týdnu, popř. i jiný), ve kterém došlo k něj. zvl. výraznému neúspěchu, neštěstí, pohromě ap.	nominal connotation (unsuccessful)	fully equal
7.	<b>black hole</b> (1) [specialized] a region in space where gravity is so strong that nothing, not	nominal metaphor	<b>černá díra</b> (1) [Astronomie] objekt natolik hmotný, že jeho gravitační pole je v jisté oblasti	nominal metaphor	fully equal

	<p>even light, can escape (2) an imaginary place in which things are lost <i>The government created a bureaucratic black hole that swallows up individual initiative.</i></p>		<p>prostorochasu natolik silné, že žádný objekt včetně světla nemůže tuto oblast opustit (2) [Přen.] místo, ve kterém nenávratně mizí věci (nejčast. peníze)</p>		
8.	<p><b>black humour</b> a humorous way of looking at or treating something that is serious or sad</p>	nominal connotation (morbid)	<p><b>černý humor</b> veselost se smyslem pro komičnost a vtip drastického až cynického rázu (často se inspirující tragickými skutečnostmi)</p>	nominal connotation (morbid)	fully equal
9.	<p><b>black list</b> in intelligence; a list of persons suspected or confirmed as security risks</p>	nominal connotation (disfavour)	<p><b>černá listina</b> seznam osob, institucí proti nimž se z něj. důvodů uplatňují urč. sankce (např. seznam firem, s nimiž je zakázáno obchodovat)</p>	nominal connotation (disfavour)	fully equal
10.	<p><b>black magic</b> a type of magic that is believed to use evil spirits (= people who cannot be seen) to do harmful things Compare: <b>white magic</b></p>	nominal connotation (bad)	<p><b>černá magie</b> magie vykonávaná se špatným úmyslem Srovnej: <b>bílá magie</b></p>	nominal connotation (bad)	fully equal
11.	<p><b>black market</b> illegal trading of goods that are not allowed to be bought and sold, or that there are not enough of for everyone who wants them <i>During the war, they bought food on the black market.</i> <i>They blamed high taxes for the growth of a black market in cigarettes.</i></p>	nominal connotation (illegal)	<p><b>černý trh</b> sféra oběhu zboží, ve kterém se pokoutně, nezákonně uskutečňuje koupě a prodej nedostatkového zboží za vysoké ceny úředně nekontrolované</p>	nominal connotation (illegal)	fully equal
12.	<p><b>black box</b> a small machine that records information about an aircraft during its</p>	nominal connotation (unknown)	<p><b>černá skříňka</b> zařízení umístované zpravidla do letadel a jiných dopravních prostředků za</p>	nominal connotation (unknown)	fully equal

	flight, and which is used to discover the cause of an accident <i>President Yeltsin is to hand over to his Korean counterpart the black box, a recording of the flight information of the Korean Airlines Boeing shot down in 1983</i>		účelem zaznamenávání nejdůležitějších parametrů letu pro objasnění příčin případné havárie		
13.	<b>black/dark thoughts</b> cheerless and depressing; gloomy	nominal connotation (pessimistic)	<b>černé myšlenky</b> chmurné, pesimistické představy, úvahy, jimiž se člověk obírá v mysli, spojené zprav. s pochmurnou náladou, depresivním stavem ap.	nominal connotation (pessimistic)	fully equal
14.	<b>blue blood</b> someone who has blue blood is from a family of the highest social class <i>He has a fair bit of blue blood coursing through his veins.</i>	nominal metonymy + connotation (constancy)	<b>modrá krev</b> příslušnost k šlechtickému rodu, šlechtický původ	nominal metonymy + connotation (constancy)	fully equal
15.	<b>the black sheep (of the family)</b> someone who is thought to be a bad person by the rest of their family <i>My father was the black sheep - he ran away at 16 to become an actor and his parents never forgave him.</i>	nominal metaphor + connotation (disfavour)	<b>černá ovce</b> člověk, zprav. člen rodiny, jiného kolektivu n. společenství, který má (právem n. neprávem) v rámci tohoto kolektivu i mimo něj pověst nezdárného, špatného člověka a kterým ostatní opovrhují, odsuzují ho, popř. ho i izolují a bojkotují	nominal metaphor + connotation (disfavour)	fully equal
16.	<b>the Blue Planet</b> Earth has been referred to as the Blue Planet due to the abundant water on its surface and/or the atmospheric hue	nominal metonymy	<b>modrá planeta</b> naše Země (jevící se z kosmického prostoru modře díky rozsáhlým vodním plochám) <i>Zachránit mír pro naši modrou planetu je základním úkolem lidstva.</i>	nominal metonymy	fully equal
17.	<b>the White house</b> (1) the official Washington home of the	nominal metonymy	<b>Bílý dům</b> (1) sídlo prezidenta USA (ve	nominal metonymy	fully equal

	American President (2) the American government itself <i>The White House is set to announce health-care reforms.</i>		Washingtonu) (2) prezident USA se svými spolupracovníky a vládou jako nejvyšší představitel USA		
18.	<b>white Christmas</b> a Christmas when it snows <i>Do you think we might have a white Christmas this year?</i>	nominal metonymy	<b>bílé vánoce</b> vánoční svátky spojené s (předpokládaným n. spíše žádoucím) koloritem vytvářeným chladným zimním počasím, kdy leží všude sníh	nominal metonymy	fully equal
19.	<b>white coffee</b> coffee with milk Compare: <b>black coffee</b>	nominal metonymy	<b>bílá káva</b> nápoj z kávy nebo kávoviny a mléka Srovnej: <b>černá káva</b>	nominal metonymy	fully equal
20.	<b>white magic</b> magic which is used only to do good things Compare: <b>black magic</b>	nominal connotation (good)	<b>bílá magie</b> magie vykonávaná s dobrým úmyslem Srovnej: <b>černá magie</b>	nominal connotation (good)	fully equal
21.	<b>be like a red rag to a bull</b> if a statement or an action is like a red rag to a bull, it makes someone very angry Some people believe that bulls become very angry when they see the colour red. <i>For Claire, the suggestion of a women-only committee was like a red rag to a bull.</i>	simile	<b>jako červený hadr na býka</b> něco, co provokuje, vzbuzuje hněv, dráždí (někoho)	simile	fully equal
22.	<b>be as white as (driven) snow</b> to be very white <i>His hair and beard were as white as snow.</i>	simile	<b>(být) bílý jako (padlý) sníh</b> (věc, látka:) být nápadně a příjemně bílý a čistý; mít čistě, neposkvřněně bílou barvu (vlasy, obv. starého člověka:) mít nápadně světlešedou barvu	simile	fully equal
23.	<b>be green with envy</b> to wish very much that you had	verbal connotation	<b>být zelený závistí</b> při sžíravém pocitu nelibosti až zloby	verbal connotation	fully equal

	something that another person has <i>Sharon's going off to the south of France for three weeks and we're all green with envy.</i>	(envy)	někoho nad úspěchy, prospěchem, ziskem, popř. majetkem druhého, druhých	(envy)	
24.	<b>go/turn green</b> to look pale and ill as if you are going to vomit	verbal connotation (nausea)	<b>zezelenat</b> (v obličeji) zblednout v důsledku nevolnosti n. nemoci	verbal connotation (nausea)	fully equal
25.	<b>roll out the red carpet</b> to give an important person a special welcome <i>The red carpet was rolled out for the President's visit.</i>	verbal metonymy + connotation (importance)	<b>položít červený koberec</b> připravit speciální (slavnostní) přivítání pro významnou osobu	verbal metonymy + connotation (importance)	fully equal
26.	<b>see red</b> to become very angry <i>When he laughed in my face, I just saw red.</i>	verbal connotation (anger)	<b>vidět rudě</b> (Zvl. panovačný, sebevědomý čl. v reakci na hrubou urážku, oklamání, výsměšnou drzost aj.): mít krajní, nekontrolovatelnou zlost a chuť se divoce, krutě pomstít; krajně (často:) a tiše zuřit, běsnit	verbal connotation (anger)	fully equal
27.	<b>in black and white</b> in writing or in print, and regarded as more reliable, credible, or formal than by word of mouth <i>Would you put that down in black and white?</i>	binominal metonymy	<b>černé na bílém</b> (něco překvapivého n. vzbuzujícího pochybnosti, co je však zachyceno) v písemné n. tištěné podobě, a proto potvrzené, zaručené, nepochybné n. závazné důkaz pravdy; hmatatelný důkaz	binominal metonymy	equal
28.	<b>greenhorn [slang]</b> a person who is not experienced <i>I'm a bit of a greenhorn in the kitchen.</i>	lexical metaphor + connotation (young)	<b>zelenáč</b> člověk, který má pro své mládí dosud nedostatek zkušeností, znalostí pro to, co dělá, zamýšlí ap., je dosud nezralým začátečníkem (v oboru ap.)	lexical connotation (young)	equal
29.	<b>once in a blue moon</b> very rarely	modification pure idiom	<b>jednou za uherský rok</b> (nežádoucně) zřídka, popř. (se	modification pure idiom	equal

	<i>My sister lives in Alaska, so I only see her once in a blue moon. I don't know why I bought that CD-ROM for my computer - I only ever use it once in a blue moon.</i>		zlehčováním, zpochybňováním reálnosti něj. termínu n. s nevěrou v uskutečnění něčeho) vlastně nikdy <i>Co jsme se odstěhovali do Prahy, dostaneme se k rodičům tak jednou za uherský rok.</i> V době tureckých válek byli vojáci najímáni do služby v Uhrách na urč. dobu, avšak ta se stále prodlužovala.		
30.	<b>out of the blue</b> if something happens out of the blue, it happens suddenly and you are not expecting it <i>Then one day, completely out of the blue, I had a letter from her.</i>	modification metaphor + metonymy	<b>z čista jasna</b> znenadání, náhle, neočekávaně	modification metaphor + metonymy	equal
31.	<b>a bolt from/out of the blue</b> something that you do not expect to happen and that surprises you very much <i>The news that they had got married was a bolt from the blue. He seemed to be very happy in his job, so his resignation came as a bolt out of the blue.</i>	nominal metaphor + metonymy	<b>(jako) blesk z čistého nebe</b> znenadání, náhle, neočekávaně	nominal metaphor	equal
32.	<b>a red herring</b> something that takes people's attention away from the main subject being talked or written about <i>About halfway through the book it looked as though the butler was the murderer, but that turned out to be a red herring.</i>	nominal pure idiom	<b>falešná stopa</b> něco, co vede k odvedení pozornosti	nominal metaphor	equal
33.	<b>a white lie</b> a lie that you tell in order not to upset	nominal connotation	<b>milosrdná lež</b> vědomá nepravda zakrývající v dobrém	nominal transparent	equal

	<p>someone</p> <p><i>I don't see the harm in telling the occasional white lie if it spares someone's feelings.</i></p>	(beneficent)	<p>úmyslu před někým něco nepříjemného, neblahého. aby byl ušetřen bolesti zklamání ap.</p> <p><i>Někdy je lepší zlá pravda než milosrdná lež.</i></p>		
34.	<p><b>big white chief</b> [humorous]</p> <p>a person in authority</p> <p>This expression supposedly represents Native American speech, and also occurs as great white chief.</p> <p><i>You'd think he was the bloody big white chief instead of an OB technician.</i></p>	nominal metaphor	<p><b>velké zvíře</b></p> <p>člověk mající (relativně) významné, důležité (společenské) postavení (v poměru k mluvčímu. k jiným)</p>	nominal metaphor	equal
35.	<p><b>black death</b></p> <p>a disease that killed an extremely large number of people in Europe and Asia in the 14th century</p>	nominal metonymy	<p><b>černá smrt</b></p> <p>morová epidemie; mor</p>	nominal metonymy	equal
36.	<p><b>black mood</b></p> <p>a very unhappy feeling</p> <p><i>She was in one of her black moods today.</i></p>	nominal connotation (pessimistic)	<p><b>psí nálada</b></p> <p>velmi neutěšený, nepříjemný stav mysli (zprav. urč. jedince) obyčejně spojený s pesimistickým, popř. zlobným citovým rozpoložením</p> <p><i>V takové psí náladě jsem ho ještě neviděl, byl nevrlý až zlý.</i></p>	nominal metaphor	equal
37.	<p><b>dark forest</b></p> <p>a forest so dense that it lacks daylight</p>	nominal metonymy	<p><b>černý les</b></p> <p>hustý a hluboký les</p> <p><i>Jeníček a Mařenka bloudili černým lesem</i></p>	nominal metonymy	equal
38.	<p><b>not a red cent</b> [American, informal]</p> <p>no money at all</p> <p>A cent is the smallest coin in value in American money and is worth very little.</p> <p><i>I did all that work for them and they</i></p>	nominal metaphor	<p><b>(nestát za/nedostat) ani zlámanou grešli</b></p> <p>nic</p> <p>Grešle – mince v podstatě mizivé hodnoty</p>	nominal metaphor	equal

	<i>didn't pay me a red cent!</i> <i>It turns out his paintings aren't worth a red cent.</i>				
39.	<b>red tape</b> official rules which do not seem necessary and make things happen very slowly <i>My passport application has been held up by red tape.</i>	nominal metonymy + connotation (importance)	<b>úřední šiml</b> byrokracie	nominal metaphor	equal
40.	<b>slush fund</b> a reserve of money used for illicit purposes, especially political bribery - ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: originally nautical slang denoting money collected to buy luxuries, from the sale of watery food known as <i>slush</i> . <i>He used his party's slush fund to buy votes in the election.</i>	nominal pure idiom	<b>černý fond</b> (v soukromém prostředí n. i v instituci) částka peněz utajeně, popř. nelegálně opatřená, shromážděná a určená na tajné, popř. nelegální výdaje	nominal connotation (illegal)	equal
41.	<b>the red-light district</b> the part of a city where many people offer sex for money <i>A prostitute was found murdered in the city's red-light district last night.</i>	nominal metonymy + connotation (love)	<b>čtvrť červených luceren</b> část města, která se vyznačuje prostitucí	nominal metonymy + connotation (love)	equal
42.	<b>white trash</b> [American, very informal] an offensive way of describing poor white people who are not educated <i>These are the poor white trash that the middle class don't want to know about.</i>	nominal metaphor	<i>hanlivý výraz pro chudé bělochy žijící na venkově USA</i>		no equivalent
43.	<b>white wedding</b> a traditional Christian marriage in a church, at which the woman who is getting married wears a white dress <i>She wants a proper white wedding.</i>	nominal metonymy + connotation (pure)	<b>svatba v bílém</b> svatba v kostele, kdy je nevěsta oblečena do bílých šatů	nominal metonymy + connotation (pure)	equal

44.	<p><b><i>(run/rush around) like a blue-arsed fly</i></b> [BrE informal]</p> <p>to move around quickly trying to finish your work when you are very busy</p> <p><i>I've been running around like a blue-arsed fly trying to get everything organized before I go on holiday.</i></p>	simile	<p><b><i>lítat jako hadr na holi</i></b></p> <p>(Čl. při plnění nadměrného množství povinností, zařizování řady různorodých záležitostí, někdy zároveň při určitých překážkách:) rychle chodit, pobíhat z místa na místo a vše obstarávat; uchvátaně, popř. zoufale běhat od jedné věci k druhé, snažit se vše stačit, zařídit, zkoordinovat</p>	simile	equal
45.	<p><b><i>be as brown as a berry</i></b> [BrE]</p> <p>(1) if someone is as brown as a berry their skin has become much darker because of the effects of the sun</p> <p><i>She's as brown as a berry after a month in Greece.</i></p> <p>(2) -</p>	simile	<p><b><i>být jako černoč</i></b></p> <p>(1) být neobvykle tmavě opálený</p> <p>(2) být velmi umazaný, špinavý, zvl. v obličeji</p>	simile	equal
46.	<p><b><i>go as red as a beetroot</i></b> [BrE]; <b><i>go as red as a beet</i></b> [AmE]</p> <p>to become very red in the face, usually because you are embarrassed</p> <p><i>Whenever the kids asked him about his girlfriend he'd go beetroot.</i></p>	simile	<p><b><i>(zčervenat/zrudnout/být) červený jako rak</i></b></p> <p>(člověk ze studu, v trapné situaci, při odhalení lži, podvodu, v erotickém studu n. z horka, popř. horečky:) být v obličeji nápadně červený; silně se začervenat, zardět</p>	simile	equal
47.	<p><b><i>white as a lily/lily-white</i></b></p> <p>(1) completely white in colour</p> <p><i>He marvelled at her lily-white hands.</i></p> <p>(2) [AmE] completely honest [often negative]</p> <p><i>He's not exactly lily-white himself, so he has some nerve calling her a cheat!</i></p> <p>(3) [AmE slang] having only white people near, often because of a wish to keep black people away</p>	simile	<p><b><i>bílý jako lilie</i></b></p> <p>(1) (žena pletí aj.:) být krásně, skvostně bílý, popř. bledý</p> <p>(2) (morálně) bez poskvrný; čestný, poctivý</p> <p>(3) -</p>	simile	equal

	<i>The black family found it difficult to feel comfortable in this lily-white, prosperous suburb.</i>				
48.	<b><i>be as white as a sheet</i></b> to be very pale, usually because you are frightened or ill <i>She was trembling all over and as white as a sheet.</i>	simile	<b><i>být bílý jako stěna/zed'/křída</i></b> takový (člověk, lidská tvář), kt. velmi nápadně jeví ztrátu přirozené barvy v obličeji, zprav. jako důsledek nemoci, strachu, leknutí	simile	equal
49.	<b><i>black as a sweep</i></b> completely dark or black	simile	<b><i>být (černý) jako kominík</i></b> (Dospělý i dítě, obv. po špinavé práci n. lezení dovnitř znečištěného prostoru:) být velmi špinavý, nápadně umazaný v obličeji i po těle. <i>Není divu, že je jako kominík, když celý den skládal uhlí.</i>	simile	equal
50.	<b><i>black as coal; coal black</i></b> completely dark or black <i>a woman with coal-black eyes</i>	simile	<b><i>být (černý) jako uhel</i></b> (Vlasy, oči, pleť člověka:) být nápadně a často i krásně černý.	simile	equal
51.	<b><i>black as night</i></b> completely dark or black <i>After playing in the mud all morning, the children were as black as night.</i>	simile	<b><i>(být) černý jako noc</i></b> (1) (Člověk vzhledem, zvl. v tváři n. jen vlasy, očima:) mít intenzivní tmavou, někdy okouzující, oslnivou barvu (2) (Řídce zločin, zlá myšlenka ap. :) být (morálně) krajně odpudivý, odporný	simile	equal
52.	<b><i>black as pitch</i></b> completely dark or black <i>The stranger's clothes were all black as pitch.</i>	simile	<b><i>(mít vlasy) černé jako smola/smůla</i></b> (Člověk, obv. jihoevropského typu:) mít lesklé a nápadně černé vlasy	simile	equal
53.	<b><i>black as soot; soot-black</i></b> completely dark or black	simile	<b><i>být (černý) jako saze</i></b> (oči, vlasy, pleť, popř. srst zvířete:) být nápadně, sytě černý	simile	equal
54.	<b><i>be black-hearted</i></b> to have a bad character	verbal connotation	<b><i>mít černou duši</i></b> (čl. v moralistickém pohledu druhého, v	verbal connotation	equal

		(bad)	důsledku svých zločinů ap.): být zlý a svědomí mít zatížené špatnostmi	(bad)	
55.	<b>be in someone's black books</b> [informal] be in disfavour with someone	verbal pure idiom	<b>být u někoho zapsán černě</b> mít s někým špatnou zkušenost	verbal metaphor connotation (disfavour)	+   equal
56.	<b>be in the black</b> if a bank account is in the black, it contains some money, and if a person or business is in the black, they have money in the bank and are not in debt <i>All the independent television companies are well in the black. A.T.V. made a profit of over £3,500,000 for the past year.</i> Compare: <b>be in the red</b>	verbal metonymy connotation (credit)	<b>být v černých číslech</b> být v plusu, mít peníze na účtu Srovnej: <b>být v červených číslech</b>	verbal metonymy connotation (credit)	+   equal
57.	<b>be in the red</b> to owe money to a bank Accountants (= people who keep records of money) often write amounts of money that are owed in red ink. <i>Many of the students were in the red at the end of their first year.</i> Compare: <b>be in the black</b>	verbal metonymy + connotation (debit)	<b>být v červených číslech</b> být ve ztrátě, prodělavat, mít dluhy, mít pasivní účet Srovnej: <b>být v černých číslech</b>	verbal metonymy connotation (debit)	+   equal
58.	<b>catch sb red-handed</b> to discover someone doing something illegal or wrong <i>I caught him red-handed trying to break into my car. [often + doing sth]</i>	verbal metonymy connotation (crime)	<b>dopadnout/chytit/přistihnout někoho při činu</b> dopadnout n. zastihnout, překvapit někoho uprostřed n. při nějaké (zakázané, nežádoucí) činnosti	verbal transparent	equal
59.	<b>feel blue</b> Fig. to feel sad <i>You look like you feel blue. What's wrong?</i>	verbal connotation (depression)	<b>být/cítit se pod psa</b> být n. cítit se velmi špatně, v neuspokojivém, popř. deprimujícím stavu	verbal metaphor	equal

60.	<b>get the green light</b> <i>As soon as we get the green light from the council we'll start building. [often + from]</i>	verbal metaphor + connotation (permission)	<b>dostat zelenou</b> dostat povolení	verbal metaphor + connotation (permission)	equal
61.	<b>give sb/sth the green light</b> to give permission for someone to do something or for something to happen <i>They've just been given the green light to build two new supermarkets in the region. [often + to do sth]</i> <i>The local prefect has given the green light to the dam at Serre de la Fare. [often + to]</i>	verbal metaphor + connotation (permission)	<b>dát (něčemu/někomu) zelenou</b> dát povolení	verbal metaphor + connotation (permission)	equal
62.	<b>have green fingers [BrE]; have a green thumb [AmE]</b> to be good at keeping plants healthy and making them grow <i>I'm afraid I don't have green fingers. I've killed every plant I've ever owned. I was just admiring your beautiful plants, Helen. You must have a green thumb.</i>	verbal metonymy + connotation (nature)	<b>být rozený zahradník</b> mít nadání, talent na pěstování rostlin	verbal metaphor	equal
63.	<b>hit the mark</b> to be correct, suitable, or successful <i>If you're looking for a word to describe Dave, 'urbane' would probably hit the mark.</i> <i>She had a good voice, but her songs never quite hit the mark.</i>	verbal metaphor	<b>trefit se do černého</b> velký (zprav. osobní) úspěch, zisk, štěstí	verbal metaphor + metonymy	equal
64.	<b>look on the black side [informal]</b> view a situation from a pessimistic angle	verbal metaphor + connotation (pessimistic)	<b>dívat se na něco černě</b> být příliš pesimistický, nepříznivý; mít nadměrně kritický pohled na svět	verbal metaphor + connotation (pessimistic)	equal

65.	<b>paint a black picture of sth/sb</b> to describe a situation or person as extremely bad	verbal metaphor connotation (bad)	+	<b>líčit něco černě/v černých barvách</b> popsat někoho/něco negativně	verbal metaphor connotation (bad)	+	equal
66.	<b>paint the town red</b> [informal] to go out and enjoy yourself in the evening, often drinking a lot of alcohol and dancing <i>Jack finished his exams today so he's gone out to paint the town red</i>	verbal pure idiom		<b>jít na tah/flám</b> (Čl. obv. do veřejného podniku, zvl. večer, s důrazem na pití většího množství alkoholu a delší dobu) jít se bavit (někdy též: a oslavovat při tom něco)	verbal transparent		equal
67.	<b>pretend/say that black is white</b> to say the opposite of what is really true <i>She'll say that black is white if she thinks it's to her advantage.</i>	verbal metaphor		<b>dělat z černého bílé</b> tvrdit opak	verbal metaphor		equal
68.	<b>promise (sb) the moon/earth</b> to promise something impossible <i>He had promised her the earth but five years later they were still living in the same small house.</i>	verbal metaphor		<b>slibovat (někomu) modré z nebe</b> (čl. vůči druhému ve snaze ho přesvědčit n. získat ap. :) slibovat někomu (nereálně, přehnaně) všechno možné, dělat někomu krajně lákavé nabídky ap.	verbal metaphor		equal
69.	<b>talk a blue streak</b> [AmE] to say a lot very fast <i>She talked a blue streak and we just had to listen.</i>	verbal metaphor		<b>mlít pantem</b> mluvit hodně a stále	verbal metaphor		equal
70.	<b>(be/beat so) black and blue</b> if a person or part of their body is black and blue, their skin is covered with bruises (black marks caused by being hit) <i>He was beaten black and blue at boarding school.</i>	binominal metonymy		<b>(být) celý modrý</b> mít modřiny (např. od bití) <i>Zbili ho, že byl celý modrý.</i>	modification metonymy		corresponding
71.	<b>(see sth in) black and white</b> if you think facts or situations are black and white, you have a simple and very	binominal metaphor		<b>(vidět/dívat se na něco) černobíle/černobílý</b> zřejmá, jasná (situace, záležitost)	modification metaphor		corresponding

	certain opinion about them, often when other people think they are really more complicated <i>The issue of nuclear weapons isn't as black and white as it used to be.</i>				
72.	<b>evergreen</b> always seeming fresh or remaining popular <i>that evergreen TV series 'The Good Life'</i>	lexical connotation (young)	<b>(být) vždy/věčně zelený</b> takový (zvl. populární písně, melodie, popř. i jiná umělecká díla, popř. jejich autoři), který si uchovává po dlouhá léta, popř. trvale obecnou oblibu, který (na rozdíl od módních, často efemérních novinek) nezastarává <i>V programu televize zazněly znovu věčně zelené melodie třicátých let.</i>	modification connotation (young)	corresponding
73.	<b>stowaway</b> a person who hides on a ship, aircraft or other vehicle	lexical transparent	<b>černý pasažér</b> osoba cestující ve veřejném prostředí hromadné dopravy bez jízdenky (a to zprav. vědomě, záměrně)	nominal connotation (illegal)	corresponding
74.	<b>white-collar</b> [always before noun] a white-collar worker is someone who works in an office, doing mental rather than physical work <i>The ratio of white-collar workers to production workers in the American manufacturing industry was declining. The earnings of women in white-collar jobs are the second highest in Britain. The 1980's saw an explosion in white-collar crime. (= crimes committed by white-collar workers, especially stealing from the organization they work for) compare : blue-collar</i>	lexical metonymy	<b>bílý límeček/límeč</b> (zvl., z hlediska lidí žijících se prací rukou) člověk, zprav. muž, pracující duševně, nejč. úředník ap. (pro které bývalo typické nošení bílých košilí, resp. kdysi škrobených límečů)	nominal metonymy	corresponding
75.	<b>between the devil and the</b>	modification	<b>prašť jako uhod'</b>	simile	corresponding

	<p><b>deep blue sea</b> if you are between the devil and the deep blue sea, you must choose between two equally unpleasant situations <i>For most people a visit to the dentist is the result of a choice between the devil and the deep blue sea - if you go you suffer, and if you don't go you suffer.</i></p>	metaphor	<p>(řešení, volba pro jednu ze dvou, popř. více stejně nevýhodných alternativ činností, postupu, jednání, ap.) tato možnost je stejně špatná jako ta druhá a proto je ti výběr nedůležitý, lhostejný; obojí je stejně nevýhodné <i>Jestli pojeděš autobusem nebo rychlíkem je prašť jako uhoď, stejně to trvá skoro půl dne.</i></p>		
76.	<p><b>into the wide/wild blue yonder</b> [literary] if you go into the wide blue yonder, you go somewhere far away that seems exciting because it is not known I have a sudden desire to escape, to head off into the wide blue yonder and never return.</p>	modification metaphor	<p><b>modravé dálky n. modravá dál</b> vzdálené rozsáhlé prostory, daleké kraje, zvl. jako vytoužený vzdálený cíl našeho směřování, touhy po poznání ap.</p>	nominal metaphor	corresponding
77.	<p><b>until you are blue in the face</b> if you say something until you are blue in the face, you keep saying the same thing again and again but no one listens to you <i>I can tell him to tidy his room until I'm blue in the face, but it's always a mess.</i></p>	modification metaphor	<p><b>říkat někomu něco horem dolem</b> přesvědčovat někoho o něčem n. vysvětlovat mu něco usilovně, mnoha způsoby, popř. opakovaně (ale marně) <i>Můžu mu to říkat horem dolem, stejně si to udělá po svém.</i></p>	verbal metaphor	corresponding
78.	<p><b>(to have) black dog (on one's back)</b> [informal] a metaphorical representation of melancholy or depression <i>I have got a black dog on my back today.</i></p>	nominal pure idiom	<p><b>mít se pod psa</b> (Čl. obv. dlouhodobě ve špatném životním n. pracovním prostředí, popř. momentálně v důsledku nemoci, neúspěchů ap.) mít se neobvykle velmi špatně, být n. cítit se ve velmi špatném n. neuspokojivém, popř. deprimujícím stavu</p>	verbal metaphor	corresponding
79.	<p><b>be green about/around the</b></p>	verbal	<p><b>(být) zelený jako sedma n. být jako</b></p>	simile	corresponding

	<p><b><i>gills</i></b> [humorous] to look ill, as if you are going to vomit <i>He was out drinking last night, was he? I thought he looked a bit green about the gills this morning.</i></p>	metaphor + connotation (nausea)	<p><b><i>zelená sedma</i></b> Verb <b><i>vypadat jako zelená sedma</i></b> (člověk v obličeji v důsledku špatné životosprávy n. momentální nevolnosti, popř. strachu:) mít nezdravě bledou barvu; být nepříjemně, nápadně bledý a (často:) unavený n. nemocný Zelená sedma je druh mariášové karty</p>		
80.	<p><b><i>bleed someone white</i></b> drain someone of all their money or resources Since the late 17th century bleeding has been a metaphor for extorting money from someone. White refers to the physiological effect of losing blood. <i>Her husband had been a wealthy man, the lady's solicitors sharp and ruthless, and her husband had been bled white to get rid of her.</i></p>	verbal metaphor	<p><b><i>oškat/obrat někoho do poslední nitky/o všechny peníze</i></b> (podvodník ap. vůči bezbrannému druhému ve hře, obchodu aj.:.) postupně někoho zcela okrást, připravit o všechnu majetek a peníze</p>	verbal metaphor	corresponding
81.	<p><b><i>scream blue murder</i></b> [BrE informal]; <b><i>scream bloody murder</i></b> [AmE informal] to shout or to complain very loudly Readers screamed blue murder when the price of their daily paper went up. Someone took the child's ice cream away and he started screaming bloody murder.</p>	verbal pure idiom	<p><b><i>křičet jako by ho na nože bral</i></b> (Čl. bolesti, strachem:) křičí divoce, popř. zčásti plačtivě; křičí přehnaně a nestatečně</p>	simile	corresponding
82.	<p><b><i>the pot calling the kettle black</i></b> something that you say which means someone should not criticize another person for a fault that they have themselves <i>Elliot accused me of being selfish. Talk</i></p>	verbal metaphor connotation (bad) +	<p><b><i>Konvice nazývá kotlík černým.</i></b> v situaci kdy jeden kritizuje druhého pro něco, co je typické i pro něj</p>	propositional metaphor connotation (bad) +	corresponding

	<i>about the pot calling the kettle black!</i>				
83.	a snowy grave; freezing to death death from drug-abuse		<b><i>bílá smrt</i></b> tragické zahynutí ve sněhu (pod lavinou, při zabloudění v zimní krajině v horách ap.) úmrť způsobené užíváním omamných drog; tyto drogy	nominal metonymy	non-idiomatic equivalent
84.	hops		<b><i>zelené zlato</i></b> chmel (jako surovina pro výrobu piva a výnosné vývozní zboží) Začala sklizeň zeleného zlata.	nominal metaphor	non-idiomatic equivalent
85.	illegally		<b><i>na černo</i></b> nelegálně, bez náležitého (úředního) povolení a zprav. tajně, pokoutně bez zakoupení jízdenky (pro použití veřejného dopravního prostředku), (neoprávněně) zdarma	modification connotation (illegal)	non-idiomatic equivalent
86.	metalwork a dirty/messy job dirty/manual jobs		<b><i>černá práce/řemeslo</i></b> manuální činnost, zaměstnání v oborech zabývajících se zpracováním kovů manuální činnost při níž se člověk, pracovník obvykle umazuje, ušpiní činnost řadového pracovníka, prostá, obvyklá, i když třeba náročná, skrytá před veřejností a zprav. zvláště neocěňovaná	nominal metonymy	non-idiomatic equivalent
87.	sugar		<b><i>bílé zlato</i></b> cukr (jako hodnotná a důležitá složka lidské výživy a zvl. jako důležité a výnosné vývozní zboží)	nominal metaphor	non-idiomatic equivalent
88.	unauthorised building		<b><i>černá stavba</i></b> stavební akce podnikaná bez (zákonného) povolení, popř. její	nominal connotation (illegal)	non-idiomatic equivalent

			výsledek		
89.	<b>blue-collar</b> a blue-collar worker is someone who does physical work, often in a factory <i>Blue collar workers in the factories and shipyards were demanding wage increases. [always before noun]</i> <i>They are hoping the new factory will create many more blue collar jobs. (= jobs for blue collar workers)</i> compare : <b>white-collar</b>	lexical metonymy	dělnický		non-idiomatic equivalent
90.	<b>greenback</b> [AmE slang] A colloquial name for a US currency note, especially a dollar bill <i>We observe him on his way to Mexico with a suitcase full of green-backs.</i>	lexical metonymy	bankovka (americký dolar)		non-idiomatic equivalent
91.	<b>true-blue</b> [AmE] if someone is true-blue, they support something or someone completely <i>Tom's true-blue - he won't let us down.</i> <i>They want control of the company to remain in true-blue American hands.</i>	lexical connotation (constancy)	věrný, skalní, pevných zásad		non-idiomatic equivalent
92.	<b>a red-letter day</b> a day that is very important or very special <i>The day our daughter was born was a real red-letter day for us.</i>	nominal metaphor connotation (importance) +	význačný/památný den		non-idiomatic equivalent
93.	<b>a white elephant</b> something that has cost a lot of money but has no useful purpose <i>The town's new leisure centre, recently completed at a cost of ten million pounds, seems likely to prove a white</i>	nominal pure idiom	zbytečná věc		non-idiomatic equivalent

	<i>elephant.</i>				
94.	<b>black look</b> when your face is full of anger and hate <i>She gave me a black look.</i>	nominal connotation (pessimistic)	temný/podmračený/nevraživý pohled		non-idiomatic equivalent
95.	<b>black spot [BrE]</b> (1) a place on a road that is considered to be dangerous because several accidents have happened there <i>This corner is an accident black spot.</i> (2) a place where something is very bad <i>an unemployment black spot</i>	nominal connotation (unsuccessful)	místo častých nehod		non-idiomatic equivalent
96.	<b>the boys in blue [BrE informal]</b> the police <i>The boys in blue were round again last night, asking questions.</i>	nominal metonymy	policisté		non-idiomatic equivalent
97.	<b>the men in white coats [humorous]</b> doctors who look after people who are mentally ill <i>The men in white coats will be coming to take me away if I stay in this job much longer.</i>	nominal metonymy	doktoři		non-idiomatic equivalent
98.	<b>the red-carpet treatment</b> a special treatment <i>She was given the red-carpet treatment in Japan where her books are extremely popular.</i>	nominal metaphor + connotation (importance)	obřadní, slavnostní zacházení		non-idiomatic equivalent
99.	<b>the green-eyed monster [humorous]</b> the feeling of being jealous <i>Bella knew that her husband sometimes succumbed to the green-eyed monster.</i>	nominal metaphor + connotation (jealousy)	žárlivost		non-idiomatic equivalent
100.	<b>be on full/red alert</b> if soldiers are on full alert, they know that a situation is dangerous and are	verbal connotation (danger)	být ve stavu nejvyšší pohotovosti		non-idiomatic equivalent

	prepared to act immediately if necessary <i>The British flagship in the area went to battle stations and remained on full alert for twenty minutes.</i>				
101.	<b>not be as black as you are/it is painted</b> if people or situations are not as black as they are painted, they are not as bad as people say they are <i>I've met him a few times. He's not as black as he's painted.</i>	verbal metaphor connotation (bad) +	nebýt tak špatný jak se říká		non-idiomatic equivalent
102.	<b>show the white feather</b> [British, dated] appear cowardly A white feather in a game bird's tail was considered to be an indication of bad breeding.	verbal pure idiom	zachovat se jako zbabělec		non-idiomatic equivalent
103.	<i>castle ghost – a lady in white dress</i>		<b>bílá paní</b> (v pověstech) duch hradu, zámecké paní, považované za tradiční ochránkyni rodu, zjevující se v bílých šatech při urč. příležitostech	nominal metonymy	no equivalent
104.	<i>romantic readings (often of low quality)</i>		<b>červená knihovna</b> podřadná, neumělecká četba, povrchně lfbivá, často sentimentální, patřící k laterálnímu braku	nominal metonymy + connotation (love)	no equivalent
105.	<i>the crime and casualties page of newspaper</i>		<b>černá kronika</b> novinová rubrika se zprávami o nehodách, úrazech, krádežích ap.	nominal connotation (unsuccessful)	no equivalent
106.	<b>better dead than red</b> the prospect of nuclear war is preferable to that of a Communist society	binominal connotation (communism)	<i>slogan používaný za studené války vyjadřující, že atomová válka je přijatelnější než komunismus</i>		no equivalent
107.	<b>reds under the bed</b> used during the cold war with reference to the feared presence and influence of	binominal metaphor connotation +	<i>fráze používaná k vyjádření obav z přítomnosti stoupců komunismu ve společnosti a jejich vlivů</i>		no equivalent

	Communist sympathizers in a society	(communism)		
108.	<i>whiter than white</i> someone who is whiter than white is completely good and honest and never does anything bad <i>I never was convinced by the whiter than white image of her portrayed in the press.</i>	binominal connotation (pure)	<i>označení pro dobrého a čestného člověka</i>	no equivalent
109.	<i>mark something with a white stone</i> regard something as especially fortunate or happy In ancient times a white stone was traditionally used as a memorial of a happy event.	verbal pure idiom	<i>považovat něco za šťastnou událost hodnou zapamatování</i>	no equivalent
110.	<i>a blue joke</i> a joke having sexual or pornographic content	nominal connotation (obscene)	<i>sprostý vtip</i>	non-idiomatic equivalent
111.	<i>a blue movie</i> a movie having sexual or pornographic content	nominal connotation (obscene)	<i>sprostý film/pornofilm</i>	non-idiomatic equivalent