

## STRUCTURAL, SEMANTIC, PRAGMATIC AND STYLISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF COLORONYMES IN YANN MARTEL'S NOVEL "LIFE OF PI".

**Summary:** The article deals with analysis of coloronyms in Yann Martel's novel «Life of Pi». We investigate the coloronyms in literary texts that is why this novel is interesting for us because of the presence of coloronyms which we tried to classify into certain thematic groups and try to find the stylistic figures among them. Everybody knows that color is a very important category in life of humanity and every person. It has been studying from different sides and points of view, especially it is interesting to investigate them in literary texts of different writers. We can notice that authors very often use such coloronyms which are "popular" and usable in some period of time and according this we may understand which coloronyms are frequently used, which are occasional and which are rare. So we try to judge why some coloronyms use in this novel and what is their function in it.

*Key words:* novel, coloronyms, literary text, pragmatic characteristic, stylistic characteristic, semantic and structural peculiarities, thematic groups, stylistic figures.

Yann Martel is a Canadian writer, winner of the Booker Prize 2002 for his novel «Life of Pi». His first published work – «Seven Stories» – appeared in 1993. His collections of short stories and the novel «Self» (1996) got approval, but did not gain such popularity as «Life of Pi». The novel about Piscine (Pi) Patel, which brought the worldwide recognition to writer, was published in Canada by «Knopf» in 2001. «Life of Pi» has been published more than in 50 countries, and has sold more than 10 million copies worldwide. The novel spent for 61 weeks on the bestseller lists of the New York Times (2002–2003). The great success of the novel provoked a scandal around it, The New York Times published an article entitled «Tiger in a Lifeboat, Panther in a Lifeboat: A Furor Over a Novel» which states that: «In 1981, the Brazilian writer Moacyr Scliar published «Max and the Cats» a story about a Jewish boy who survived a shipwreck and shared a lifeboat with a panther. Last month, Yann Martel won the recently renamed Man Booker Prize for \$ 75,000, Britain's highest literary prize, for «Life of Pi», the story of an Indian boy who survived a shipwreck and found himself in a lifeboat with a tiger. The similarity of the plot is not a coincidence because Martel admits that he was inspired by a Brazilian book. But, nevertheless, the literary press here is suddenly saturated with outraged accusations that the 39-year-old Canadian Martel who is enjoying his first commercial and critical success, is guilty of improperly «copying» or «borrowing» from one of the most prominent Latin American novelists» [1]. It seems that this news only fueled interest to the novel and to the author. In 2012, Yann Martel's novel was successfully screened by Taiwanese director Eng Lee, the film was nominated for an Oscar in eleven nominations: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Sound, Best Sound Editing, Best Visual Effects, Best Song, Best Soundtrack, the Best work of the art director [2].

This is what critics say about the book: «The Life of Pi» led to a real cultural explosion in the world's intellectual environment. The fantastic journey of the young man and the Bengal tiger, which is described in the novel, resonates with the story «The Old Man and

the Sea» with the magical realism of Marquez and the absurdity of Beckett. The book has become not only a bestseller, but also a symbol of modern literature, the flag of a new culture. Pi's life is an alloy of black magic and reality, an exquisite multi-layered parable of faith in all its possible forms» [3].

Here, we are talking about coloronyms in Yann Martel's novel. It is well known that color extends to all spheres of human life since ancient times, it has a certain symbolism, meaning, identification with a phenomenon or object. The color component is very important in the life of each nation and it confirms the idea of colorcentrism of human perception. Through color and coloring we perceive the world around us, feel certain emotions, comprehend what is happening around. That is, we can say that color in general is a certain central element through which a person perceives and feels everything around.

Coloronyms have a significant role in the work of writers because due to these lexical units it is possible to give some specific information at the literary text, to create some mood and special atmosphere. On the other hand researchers of the writer's work can analyze the literary text to draw certain conclusions about the psychomotor state of the author and the peculiarities of his individual style. Words denoting color can be very different, often they acquire a secondary nomination in the literary text. We will think about the peculiarities of coloronyms in the novel «Life of Pi».

First of all let's define the most frequent coloronyms in the novel. However, the author uses lexical units with basic colors more often (*white, black, red, green*), words derived from them and coloronyms which indicate the intensity of color (*bright, pale, dark, light, deep*), and coloronyms which have secondary nominations are not so common. The author tries to show everything realistically, to convey the feelings and impressions of the central character, the world around him, therefore, the simple coloronyms are more common than flowery metaphorical and metonymic units. The author also avoids complex and incomprehensible coloronyms. But at the same time it is impossible to say that the text of the novel does not contain stylistic figures. There we can find such

epithets, metaphors and metonymies: *blue sea, green leaves, blue sky the black panther, a green sea turtle, of green algae, shining green trees, white teeth, white clouds, orange-yellow beak, a blue sky, blue water, pink flamingoes, orange lava, waves of black ocean, heavy blackness, leaves were brilliantly green, snow-white crest, carrot orange face, coffee-coloured complexion, flame-coloured carnivore* and others. All the colors the author uses are the colors of the main spectrum (*green, blue, black, red, yellow, white*):

1) **black** – *black swans, a streak of black and orange flowed, black belt, black leopard, black tropical cat, black-robed Kaaba, black buck, black lips, in black and white, it's black and white again, black and brown, big black spiders, great black side, it was black and cold, waves of black ocean, intensely black, eyes bright and black, abstract blackness, in black letters, black, roman capitals, a black arrow, black vertical stripes, the black rings, black circled, into pitch-black darkness, black rubberized canvas, a dancing play of black and silver, heavy blackness, the blackness, distant black curtain, the sky was black, blinding white to darkest black, the blackest of nightmares, it was pitch-black, a large black object, wings that were jet-black, the black mask, the sky was so black, pure black shadow, the punished swell returned to black, a robe of black metal, black canyon wall, of black putrefaction, everything was pitch-black, alone in the blackness, black gram, ground black pepper, its eyes are black, black surface of the water, no longer black but silver, the black panther, his foot became black, that the blackness would spread*

2) **green** – *green during the wet season, the blue-green waves, bright green, pale green, green, iron bars, green prayer rug, walls a faded green, green orangutan, dark green face, green water, look for green, with something indefinably green, the predominant colour was green, green bubbles, a green sea turtle, one green sea, soft green algae, green gelatinous slugs, turning pasty and green, it was a greenish jelly, green chilli pickle, green plantains, the bark was greyish green, these leaves were brilliantly green, a green so bright and emerald, as sparkling green as the leaves, green is a lovely colour, it is the colour of Islam, this was green, it was chlorophyll heaven, it was decreasingly green, the bark was greyish green in colour, a great green plateau, a green forest, of green algae, blinding greenness, shining green algae and shining green trees, chlorophyll greenness, deep green walls, the sky was solidly green, the forest canopy was uniformly green, these fruit stood out black against green, the fruit were dull green, a green oyster;*

3) the intensity of color: **dark, bright, pale, deep** – *bright red plastic, dark yellow going on to brown, dark hair, dark eyes, bright colours, bright-eyed, bright green, deep blue, pale green, dark head, bright red letters, down dark corridors, pale blue in colour, her skin was pale, pale yellow ground, with dark wet eyes, dark pink gums, glowed brightly white and intensely black, delicate pale blue, eyes bright and black, its mouth was bright red, dark green face, a deep red crust, in pale golden cans, pale in colour, bright brownish*

*orange, pitch-black darkness, so the liquid was pale in colour, through the deep blue, bright gold, dark grey-blue, soft green algae, bright red blood, fresh deep red, deep blue, pure white light or pure black shadow, a green so bright and emerald, it was decreasingly green, light brown, shining green algae and shining green trees, its deep green walls, the sky was solidly green;*

4) **white** – *white ants, white walls, roundish and white, all nature was blanketed in white, white dress, white man, all non-white people, lovely white teeth, white lab coat, dressed in a white gown, in black and white, my knuckles were white, glowed brightly white, white clouds, pure white chest, long and white, the inert white, the white spines, blinding white centre, their flesh rosy white, great white clouds, blinding white, white tips, a snow-white crest, with a pure snowy white body, white splinter, like white roots, blinding white shard, the sea turned white and all colour disappeared, pure white light, a gleaming white, the centre tube was white in colour, in shades of black, grey and white, dirty white boy;*

5) with coloronym **red** – *bright red plastic, red silk cottons, a bit red in the face, bright red letters, skin goes beet red, smears of red and yellow powder, with dabs of yellow and red, red powder, red kumkum powder, fire-engine red, red in the face, their faces go red, red lights, Its mouth was bright red, a deep red crust, Its mouth was red, long red streaks, bright red blood, it was red;*

6) **yellow** – *yellow open mouth, you liked the colour yellow, with dabs of yellow and red, yellow powder, baskets of yellow turmeric nuggets, pale yellow ground, revealing yellow teeth, a yellowish light, yellowish brown shell, the yellow canine, yellow plastic, orange-yellow beak, yellow foam;*

7) **blue** – *the blue-green waves, blue and white, deep blue, and blue-skinned, pale blue in colour, a blue cloak, a blue sky, clean blue bottom, panorama of blue, blue water, through the deep blue, dark grey-blue, fresh blue, blue sharks, an indigo blue, blue sharks, deep blue, the sky was blue, blue sky, dark blue;*

8) **grey, silver** – *the silver screen, hair greying at the temples, silver diamond doves, grey herons, blanket of grey clouds, in silver-coloured plastic, a dancing play of black and silver, dark grey-blue, the bark was greyish green, blanket of grey cloud, only morning greyness, the bark was greyish green, to grey in colour, in shades of grey, silver shapes, its surface was no longer black but silver, the sky grey;*

10) **orange** – *a streak of black and orange flowed, an orange cat, orange lava, it seems orange, orange surfaces, orange life jackets, each with an orange, buoyant orange smoke signals, orange plastic buckets, orange plastic bailing cups, his carrot orange face, I saw flashes of orange, orange whistles, orange-yellow beak, an orange paw reached out, what was orange became whitish orange, shape of oranges;*

11) **pink** – *pink boy, pink flamingoes, rosy-coloured, the pink skin, they were pink, pretty in pink, dark pink gums, a pink nose, rosy pastors, a pinkish red aureole, their flesh rosy white, his chest rose;*

12) **other coloronyms** – *coffee-coloured complexion, peach-faced lovebirds, fire-engine red, the flame-coloured carnivore, it was chlorophyll heaven, naturally brown-skinned* [4].

As for the total number of coloronyms in the novel we found 365 examples. The coloronym *black* occurs 74 times, *green* – 59, *white* – 55, *red* – 31, *orange* – 30, *blue* – 27 examples, *yellow* – 26, *gray* – 16, *pink, rosy* – 13 times, other words are less frequent.

All the coloronyms in the novel can be divided into the following groups for their morphological and structural features:

1. Single adjectives (**Adj**) – ... *that is brown during the dry season and green during the wet season, blue and white, walls a faded green, blanketed in white, red in the face, in black and white, black and white again, pretty in pink, an orange cat, long and white, black circled, endless panorama of blue, look for green, something indefinably green, a dancing play of black and silver, brown in colour, turning pasty and green, an indigo blue, fired them to a gleaming white, black, as sparkling green as the leaves, black against green;*

2. Word combinations of **Adj +N** – *white ants, pink boy, the silver screen, the blue-green waves, red silk cottons, pink flamingoes, black swans, silver diamond doves, yellow mouth, the colour yellow, green bars, black belt, black leopard, big, black, tropical cat, smears of red and yellow powder, red powder, yellow powder, green prayer rug, red kumkum powder, yellow turmeric nuggets, walls pale blue in colour, white walls, white cassock, the pink skin, black buck, grey herons, grey hair, blue sky, long black hair, white teeth, black lips, little brown Methuselah, white gown, clean blue bottom, little brown girl, big black spiders, yellow teeth, black ocean, white clouds, black spiders, red lights, green orangutan, black eyes, grey clouds, orange lava, black letters, black, roman capitals, orange surfaces, in black letters, a black arrow, orange life jackets, orange smoke signals, orange plastic buckets, orange plastic bailing cups, black ink ballpoint pens, black vertical stripes, the black rings, the yellow canine, scrawny brown rat, the inert white, green water, blue water, black rubberized canvas, the predominant colour was green, green bubbles, long red streaks, other fish that I could not identify were yellow, brown, silver, blue, red, pink, green, white; yellow plastic, a green sea turtle, soft green algae, black worms, white spines, green gelatinous slugs, white centre, their flesh rosy white, great white clouds, blanket of grey cloud, white fleecy clouds, distant black curtain, blue sharks, their backs were a rich ultramarine, their stomachs snow white, white tips, blue sharks, pitch-black darkness, snow-white crest, it was pitch-black, orange whistles, cloudless blue sky, a large black object, orange-yellow beak and the red eyes, the black mask, an orange paw, white splinter, looked like white roots, blinding white shard, a robe of black metal with white trim, black canyon wall, yellow foam, black putrefaction, black gram, green chilli pickle, green plantains, ground black pepper, brown mustard, brown butter, great green plateau, green forest, green algae, shining green algae and shining*

*green trees, shades of black, grey and white; silver shapes, black surface, a green oyster, the sky grey, dirty white boy, the black panther;*

3. Coloronyms with formants *bright-, deep-, dark-, pale-* with nouns which detail the intensity of color (**Adj+Adj+N**):

a. **bright** – *bright red plastic; bright red blood; bright red letters; its mouth was bright red; bright colours; bright-eyed otters; bright green; glowed brightly white and intensely black; eyes bright and black; bright brownish orange; bright gold, blue and green; a green so bright and emerald; brown or fresh deep red,*

b. **deep** – *deep red crust; deep blue; through the deep blue; flashes of orange and deep blue; its deep green walls;*

c. **dark** – *dark yellow; dark hair; dark eyes; dark head; dark corridors; benches were of dark wood; dark side of the moon; dark eyes; dark wet eyes; dark pink gums; dark green face; dark grey-blue; blinding white to darkest black; vanished in the dark blue; dark juices;*

d. **pale, pure, light** – *pale in colour; pale green; walls pale blue in colour; skin was pale; pale yellow ground; delicate pale blue; pale golden cans; pale in colour; the liquid was pale in colour; fresh blue; pure snowy white body; pure white light or pure black shadow; light brown to grey in colour with black or brown bands on its back.*

4. Complex-derived units of comparative nature with the second component - *coloured* or adjectival Participle with suffix *-ed* – *rosy-coloured, blue-skinned, naturally brown-skinned, coffee-coloured complexion, orange-fronted parakeets, a streak of black and orange flowed, black-robed Kaaba, blue-skinned, orange-tipped pin, great black side, silver-coloured plastic, the flame-coloured carnivore, dull-coloured;*

5. **Adjectives with suffix -ish** – *yellowish brown shell, it was a greenish jelly, yellowish light, bright brownish orange, a pinkish red aureole, a sort of greyish brown, a greenish jelly, what was orange became whitish orange, the bark was greyish green in colour;*

6. **Present Participle Simple** – *Hair greying at the temples;*

7. **Word combinations N + V+ Adj** – *look a bit red, skin goes beet red, fire-engine red, their faces go red, they were pink, my knuckles were white, it was black, its mouth was red, it seems orange, the sky was black, the sky was blue, wings that were jet-black, the sky was so black, the sea turned white, the punished swell returned to black, everything was pitch-black, it's golden brown, it was large, firm, yellow; these leaves were brilliantly green, green is a lovely colour; this was green, it was chlorophyll heaven, tube was white in colour, it was decreasingly green, it was beautiful and green, its eyes are black, its surface was no longer black but silver, the sky was solidly green, the forest canopy was uniformly green, up close the fruit were dull green, I was naturally brown-skinned, his foot became black, it was red;*

8. **Word combinations Adj + N** formed from the coloronym – *abstract blackness, heavy blackness, the blackness, only morning greyness, alone in the blackness, blinding greenness, super-chlorophyll greenness, the blackness;*

9. **N + Adj** formed by comparison with subject – *his carrot orange face;*

10. **Superlative degree** – *from the blackest of nightmares.*

**Thematic groups** of coloronymes in «Life of Pi» are:

### 1. «Person»

The components of a person's appearance:

**Eyes** – *bright dark eyes, dark eye;*

**Color of skin or hair** – *dark hair, hair greying at the temples; pleasing coffee-coloured complexion; a little brown girl; my skin goes beet red; he sits facing out – rosy-coloured; the pink skin was peeled back and looked like the petals of a flower, revealing kneecaps that were fire-engine red; he has a single grey hair; her skin was pale; their faces go red; smiling and blue-skinned; long black hair woven in a tress; I was naturally brown-skinned and not a very dirty white boy;*

**Other** – *my urine was a deep, dark yellow going on to brown; and lovely white teeth; my knuckles were white; revealing yellow teeth and dark pink gums; his pure white chest; his carrot orange face had a broad bridge and a pink nose; bright red blood shot out;*

**Clothes** – *and the priest was dressed in a white cassock; pretty in pink; she was wearing a white dress and a blue cloak.*

### 2. «Environment»

**Objects of inanimate nature and natural phenomena** – *the blue-green waves; under a blue sky; green water is shallower than blue water; the sky was invaded by great white clouds; the sky was black; the sky might go from fresh blue to blinding white to darkest black; No rain. Only morning greyness; by noon, everything was pitch-black; the sky was solidly green; the sea was heavy, the sky grey;*

**Furniture, interior items, buildings** – *bright red plastic dishes filled with water; featureless walls pale blue in colour; the vestibule had clean, white walls; the table and benches were of dark wood; their stucco walls a faded green;*

**Household items, food, drinks** – *the liquid was pale in colour;*

**Wildlife objects (animals, plants)** – *an algae that is brown during the dry season and green during the wet season; shiny frogs glazed bright, bright green, or yellow and deep blue, or brown and pale green; female black leopard; all nature was blanketed in white; the zebra's thick, strong, black lips; a cow with dark wet eyes; she's holding an orange cat in her arms; four pounds of big black spiders; other fish that I could not identify were yellow, brown, silver, blue, red, pink, green, white; a flying fish. Slim and dark grey-blue; a green sea turtle; the blue sharks were smaller; their backs were a rich ultramarine and their stomachs snow white, colours that vanished to grey or black when they were at any depth; it was a large bird with a pure snowy white body and wings that were jet-black at their tips;*

*these leaves were brilliantly green, a green so bright and emerald that, next to it, vegetation during the monsoons was drab olive;*

**Abstract concepts** – *abstract blackness; my surroundings disappeared into pitch-black darkness; an endless panorama of blue; despair was a heavy blackness that let no light in or out; everything glowed strangely in shades of black, grey and white.*

**Complex lexical units can be divided into some groups:**

1) Complex-derived units with the first component – adjective and the word with suffix– ed – *bright-eyed otters, peach-faced lovebirds, orange-fronted parakeets, black-robed Kaaba, blue-skinned, brown-skinned;*

2) Complex-derived units with the component of comparative type and second component – *coloured – coffee-coloured complexion, rosy-coloured, in silver-coloured plastic, the flame-coloured carnivore, dull-coloured;*

3) Complex comparative units with the second component – adjective, which describes the color of object by similarity with other object – *fire-engine red, carrot orange face, into pitch-black darkness, their stomachs snow white, snow-white crest, it was pitch-black, chlorophyll heaven, pure snowy white body, wings that were jet-black, everything was pitch-black;*

4) Complex adjectives like *red-brown, scarlet-red, blue-grey, the blue-green waves, grey-blue, orange-yellow beak, was drab olive;*

5) Attributive structures with second component – adjective and the word which characterize this adjective mainly about the intensity of color (*pale pink*), or metaphoric unit – *bright red plastic dishes, dark yellow, bright colours, bright green, deep blue, pale green, a bit red, bright red letters, walls pale blue in colour, pale yellow ground, and dark pink gums, brightly white and intensely black, delicate pale blue, its mouth was bright red, dark green face, a deep red crust, in pale golden cans, pale in colour, of dark chocolate, bright brownish orange, the inert white, the liquid was pale in colour, deep blue, bright gold, blue and green, dark grey-blue, bright red blood, heavy blackness, deep red, fresh blue to blinding white to darkest black, a dull colour, deep blue, so black, gleaming white, a green so bright, brilliantly green, sparkling green, decreasingly green, shining green, deep green walls, the sky was solidly green, uniformly green, dull green.*

**Types of stylistic figures in novel «Life of Pi»:**

1. Metaphors – *Can't be older than forty. Pleasing coffee-coloured complexion (p. 5);*

*His carrot orange face had a broad bridge and a pink nose, and it was made up with brazen flair (p. 66);*

*Their backs were a rich ultramarine and their stomachs snow white, colours that vanished to grey or black when they were at any depth, but which close to the surface sparkled with surprising brilliance (p.95);*

*It was a large bird with a pure snowy white body and wings that were jet-black at their tips and rear edges. Its big, bulbous head had a very pointed orange-yellow beak and the red eyes behind the black mask*

*made it look like a thief who had had a very long night (p.100);*

*These leaves were brilliantly green, a green so bright and emerald that, next to it, vegetation during the monsoons was drab olive (p.112);*

2. metonymies – *Consider the case of the female black leopard that escaped from the Zurich Zoo in the winter of 1933 (p.20);*

*Their faces go red, their chests heave mightily, they sputter angry words (p.33); Leaning against the sofa in the living room, looking up at me bashfully, is a little brown girl, pretty in pink, very much at home. She's holding an orange cat in her arms (p.43);*

*Only rain, marauding waves of black ocean and the flotsam of tragedy (p.48);*

*The sea turned white and all colour disappeared (p.101);*

3. epithets – *when he felt that I had progressed sufficiently, we turned our backs on the laughing and the shouting, the running and the splashing, the blue-green waves and the bubbly surf, and headed for the proper rectangularity and the formal flatness (and the paying admission) of the ashram swimming pool (p. 6);*

*They were like those time-exposure photographs you see of cities at night, with the long red streaks made by the tail lights of cars. The dorados – there must have been over fifty patrolling beneath the raft—showed off their bright gold, blue and green as they whisked by. Other fish that I could not identify were yellow, brown, silver, blue, red, pink, green, white, in all kinds of combinations, solid, streaked and speckled (p.77);*

*A flying fish. Slim and dark grey-blue, with dry, featherless wings and round, unblinking, yellowish eyes (p. 79);*

*I recall flying fish as being quite tasty, their flesh rosy white and tender (p.92)*

4. simile – *Rather, they stood in what appeared to be a dense mass of vegetation, as sparkling green as the leaves (p.113).*

The analysis of literary text showed that there are many coloronyms in this novel, the most frequent coloronym is *black*, it used mainly to describe the objects of nature around the main character, coloronyms *green, white* and the words which show the intensity of color (*bright, dark, pale, deep*) are also used to describe nature, animals and different natural phenomena.

The dominance of the thematic group – the largest group of coloronyms are those describe the environment, the objects of living and inanimate

nature. This feature is due to the theme, genre and content of the novel «Life of Pi» where we can see a plenty of text with description of nature, sea, animals, plants. The general quantity of coloronyms is 365 examples, and we notice that common coloronyms and simple word combinations with coloronyms are more frequent. We also can see some complex lexical units there are nouns with adjectives, complex-derived units with adjectives. Speaking about some specificity of coloronyms we certainly can find interesting metaphors, metonymies and simile in Yann Martel's creation and it allows us to see the picture brighter, we see “rich” and “fresh” coloronyms which author uses very frequently. This is author's ability and wish to show the atmosphere and nature by eyes of main character Piscine and immerse the reader into this magic world.

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