

Scientific Report of Short Term Scientific Mission

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Period: 10-09-2016 to 20-09-2016

Duration: 7 working days

COST Action: IS1305

STSM type: Regular (from Poland to Portugal)

STSM Title: Shared etymons, disjoint lexical outputs in Polish and Portuguese

Guest/STSM applicant: Przemysław Dębowski, Jagiellonian University of Kraków

Host: Alina Villalva, University of Lisbon, alinavillalva@campus.ul.pt

1. Purpose of the STSM

The mission's aim was to prepare a joint paper with the representative of the host institution, prof. Alina Villalva, within already existing COST project entitled *European Roots* (presented and described here: <<https://sites.google.com/a/campus.ul.pt/european-roots/>>).

During our hitherto work on this project, namely for the names of 'anger' and 'red', we had seen that there are remnants of different Indo-European roots that exist in contemporary Polish and Portuguese, but with slightly or strongly different meanings. From the point of view of their contemporary forms, they are normally quite distant. By way of example, Polish *złość* 'anger', derivative from the adjective *zły* 'bad, angry', comes from the Proto-Slavic synonymous form **zъlъ* that continues the IE root **h²el-* 'to get crooked, to deviate', also present in Latin *fallere* 'to deceive, to cheat' > Portuguese *falir* 'to fail'.

Our general purpose was to find more examples of this phenomenon, based on several colour names in Polish and Portuguese, in order to see to what extent both languages, descendants of one remote ancestor, have common past, even if they have had practically no direct contact during their own histories.

We have decided to present the results of our research in a joint paper.

2. Description of the work carried out during the STSM

Before the start of the mission, Alina Villalva suggested that we include in our project one more colleague from the University of Lisbon, Esperança Carneira, who is also a member of the COST Action. I found it advantageous for the project and agreed. Having kindly accepted our invitation, Esperança officially joined us in Lisbon and she will be co-author of our joint paper.

During our first meeting at the University of Lisbon, we have discussed the selection of the names of colours in Polish and Portuguese that we would consider in order to create the corpus of the paper. We have decided to take the names of eleven basic colour terms determined by Berlin and Kay (1969): white, black, red, green, yellow, blue, brown, grey, orange, pink and purple.

After the first superficial analysis of these names, it turned out to be necessary to choose supplementary criteria. Consequently, we have eliminated relatively recent adjectives (Pol. *niebieski* ‘blue’, Port. *cinzento* ‘grey’, *castanho* ‘brown’, *cor-de-rosa* ‘pink’) and borrowings (Pol. *brązowy* ‘brown’, *różowy* ‘pink’, *pomarańczowy* ‘orange’, *fioletowy* ‘purple’, Port. *azul* ‘blue’, *cor-de-laranja* ‘orange’) to retain only genuine vocabulary in the corpus, inherited from the proto-languages of both languages considered: Proto-Slavic for Polish and Latin for Portuguese. These adjectives are namely:

- Pol. *biały* ‘white’, *czarny* ‘black’, *czerwony* ‘red’, *zielony* ‘green’, *żółty* ‘yellow’ and *szary* ‘grey’,
- Port. *branco* ‘white’, *preto* ‘black’, *vermelho* ‘red’, *verde* ‘green’, *amarelo* ‘yellow’ and *roxo* ‘purple’.

As one can see, twelve names of colours have been finally selected, six in each of the languages studied.

During our further discussions, we have selected the bibliography that we considered obligatory to be consulted in order to collect possibly the most complete information related to the dozen of adjectives. These are mainly etymological dictionaries and other works providing reliable reconstructions of Proto-Slavic and Latin words, as well as Proto-Indo-European formations and roots (SEJP, SES, EDSIL, DCECH, DELP₁, DELP₂, HP, DELL, IEW, LIV; see References).

We have also prepared the final model of collecting the data related to the material (a basic version of this model already existed within the frame of the project *European Roots*).

We have created a table to be filled in for every name of colour that satisfied the established criteria in order to have comparable information, so that we could get to work separately.

name of colour	
1 st attestation	
etymology	
examples of derivatives & words pertaining to the same family with semantic reference to the colour	
examples of words pertaining to the same family without semantic reference to the colour or based on other variants of the same PIE root	
Polish / Portuguese words containing the same PIE root or one of its variants	
references	

We have divided the tasks as follows: Przemysław Dębowskiak – Polish material, Alina Villalva and Esperança Cardeira – theoretical introduction, Portuguese material. We worked individually on our parts of the paper, but we had regular meetings in order to comment the ongoing work, discuss our problems and doubts and, eventually, eliminate them.

Once the material has been collected, we have analysed and compared it and decided what we would present in the paper and in which way. Even if the analysis of the data has been carried on based on contemporary colour names, the presentation of the results will go in the opposite direction, starting from PIE roots. This will ensure more legibility of the material and will also help us to demonstrate better what we presumed at the beginning, namely, the common past of Polish and Portuguese.

After comparing and discussing the conclusions that each one of us had been collecting, we have established the following classification of PIE roots that we have found in our twelve adjectives of colour:

1. root present both in Polish and Portuguese with reference to the colour (Pol. *biały*, Port. *branco*);
2. root present in Polish with a reference to the colour:
 - a) with cognates in Portuguese (Pol. *zielony*, *żółty*),
 - b) without cognates in Portuguese (Pol. *czarny*, *czzerwony*, *szary*);
3. root present in Portuguese with a reference to the colour:
 - a) with cognates in Polish (Port. *preto*, *vermelho*, *roxo*),
 - b) without cognates in Polish (*verde*, *amarelo*);

A general conclusion resulting from our material is that it is interesting to see the semantic evolution of PIE roots and their presence in both languages considered. It turns out that some names of colours come from basis that denoted normally undefined hues, simply bright (Pol. *biały* and Port. *branco*, Pol. *zielony*, *żółty*) or dark ones (Pol. *czarny*, *szary*). However, other PIE roots, that have nothing to do with colours, are also present and let us discover some curious metaphors and metonymies that have occurred during their development (Port. *preto*, *verde*, *amarelo*), sometimes even parallel and independent in Polish and Portuguese (Pol. *czzerwony* and Port. *vermelho*). Comparing both languages, as far as names of colours are concerned, we can tell that Polish is more conservative, while Portuguese has more innovative, metaphorically based denominations.

In Lisbon, we have started editing the paper, but as we found it more important to spend our time on discussing its contents, we have agreed to finish the edition after the mission. Nevertheless, we would like to finish the redaction of the paper before our next meeting which will take place in Lisbon on November 3–4, 2016, on the occasion of Landlex conference (sponsored by ENeL, COST Action IS1305). We have also agreed to think about the possibilities to publish the text in a journal of linguistics of international range.

3. References

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- DCECH = Corominas Joan, Pascual José Antonio (1991–1997), *Diccionario crítico etimológico castellano e hispánico*, Madrid: Gredos.
- DELL = Ernout Alfred, Meillet Alfred (⁴2001/¹1932), *Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue latine*, Paris: Klincksieck.
- DELP₁ = Machado José Pedro (³1977/¹1952), *Dicionário etimológica da língua portuguesa*, Lisboa: Horizonte.
- DELP₂ = Cunha Antônio Geraldo da (⁴2010/¹1982), *Dicionário etimológica da língua portuguesa*, Rio de Janeiro: Lexicon.

- EDSIL = Derksen Rick (2008), *Etymological Dictionary of the Slavic Inherited Lexicon*, Leiden – Boston: Brill.
- HP = D’Andrade Ernesto (2008), *Histórias de palavras: do Indo-Europeu ao Português*, Lisboa: A. Santos.
- IEL = *Indo-European Lexicon*, on-line: <<https://lrc.la.utexas.edu/lex>>.
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