

Color Idioms in English and Arabic: A Comparative Study

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Abstract—This study attempts to make a comparison between Arabic and English regarding color idioms. Thirty-six color idioms have been chosen; eighteen from English and eighteen from Arabic. Each idiom has been analyzed literally (dictionary meaning) and non-literally (figurative meaning) by following individualizing comparative method. The analysis has displayed that both languages share some common connotations and literal meanings for a number of idioms. It has shown some differences as well. The conclusion that can be drawn is that although these languages are aliens, descending from two various origins, they share some meanings yet. Besides, the analysis has explored that some idioms might have more than one meaning depending on the context. Finally, the meaning of these color idioms may differ according to culture, language, customs and traditions, religion, and situations.

Keywords—Color Idioms, connotation, literal meaning, a comparative study, Arabic and English idioms.

I. INTRODUCTION

Idioms play a peculiar role in every culture. It is sometimes hard to interpret them by someone not acquainted enough with the culture. Idioms are deceiving as well. The literal meaning of the idiom words might be positive but indicates a negative connotation. For example, the idiom “as white as a sheet” means “scared” although it might be interpreted as “pure” or “innocent” by someone who is a novice translator. Besides, idioms might put people in an embarrassing situation, so if someone is asked to “bear with me”, he will be confused and does not know how to manage it. Li, Z. (2011) stated that idioms are a two-edged sword depending on its users and the context. Idioms are defined differently and they are somehow problematic since they have two meanings: figurative and literal meanings. Figurative meaning is the meaning that is not grasped from the dictionary meaning of the words of the idiom. For example, the idiom “اشكال والوان” “*Ashkal w Alwan*” has nothing to do with “shapes and colors”. However, its figurative meaning means “many different kinds”. Nida (1964) defines idioms as “the most reproducible and significant mistakes made by interpreters are raised firstly from their shortage of deep knowledge of the target language” (P. 150). Salim, J.A., & Mehawesh, M. (2013:121) indicated that The other reason behind the miscomprehension of idioms is not being familiar with the culture. There are some idioms that are culture-based. For example, the idiom “in the black” means to

be profitable or successful in English since this expression refers to the situation of different kinds of work that have been making money in their last accounting cycle and have proved a fixed work development. When you brief the consumer on his account which is in black, you’re saying that the work is making good money (Alotaibi, 2020, P.103).

Therefore, Baker (1992) defines idioms in her book *In Other Words* as “sloidy expressions of language which grant a bit or no diversity in sort and almost include aspects which cannot be understood from their basic ingredients” (p. 63). The figurative meaning of idioms is sometimes totally different from their literal meaning. For example, “خلي قلبك بارد” “*Khali qalbak bared*” has a figurative meaning which is “don’t worry” while its literal meaning is “put your hand in cold water”. Some idioms, however, have a kind of equivalence of their both figurative and literal meanings. They have different forms, though. For instance, the idiom “the palmy days” means “ايام الرغد والرخاء” “*Ayam Al-Raghad w Al-Rakhaa*” (Al-Assaf, 2016, P.23). Its literal meaning includes “ايام النخيل” “*Ayam Al-Nakheel*,” but its non-literal includes “the moments of happiness and relaxation”.

Durdureanu, I.I. (2011) states that Arabic and English languages, they both belong to two diverse frameworks and various language origins. Arabic is a Semitic language whereas English is Indo-European. They are culturally unrelated. Besides, non-linguistic factors as religion,

geographical locations, and different ideologies harden the process of understanding and translating idiomatic pairs from English into Arabic and vice-versa (Oualif, 2017, P.23).

This paper aims at investigating the differences and similarities regarding color idioms in Arabic and English. It tends to show how culture, setting, and addresses affect the interpretation of color idioms. Sometimes one color may include more than one aspect depending on the previous mentioned elements.

A. Significance of the Study

Idioms are multi-word expressions that are ever-present, institutionalized and semantically non-compositional. They are “syntactically heterogeneous” and “display different layers of lexical fixity” (Mulhall, 2014, p. 907). Sometimes idioms have more than one meaning and sometimes they are really ambiguous. As a result, this study tends to comprehend how the interpretation of idioms is serving the context once all other factors affecting their interpretation are taken into consideration. This study tackles only idiomatic color expressions in both languages Arabic and English. It will be valuable for language learners because it helps learning the language in context.

B. Statement of the Problem

Comprehending idioms represents a real challenge to most of the educated people, particularly color idioms when they appear in two different languages such as Arabic and English. Since it is not easy to figure out color-based idioms or to find a synonymous one to that of the source language, this study aims at exploring the effect of the context to fill the gap and understand the color-based idioms in the languages mentioned beforehand. Besides this study tends to make a kind of comparison and contrast between color idioms in Arabic and English.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Understanding the relationship between English and Arabic color idioms entails reviewing some related opinions. There is a rich variety of color idioms in both languages. Some languages have common idioms but there are some difficult ones to understand as well.

Seidl, J., & McMordie, W. (1998) state that knowing the color terms for the bilingual speakers are necessary in both languages. The vocabularies of color in any language are only to talk about a color, but also they are rooted in the culture of each society and it may have a special meaning for each nation (Rauf, 2021).

We use idioms everyday unconsciously and it may cause misunderstanding among the interlocutors, especially in a trans-lingual situation. As Liu (2012) considers idioms as part of culture-specific elements, hence as Itō (1993) said “idioms constantly cause communication breakdowns.” In this way, the idioms’ meanings are the reason of misunderstanding with non-native speakers.

Colors are natural things used to describe things or talk about words’ meaning and they can intensify the languages’

impact in communication. The colors can be considered literally or metaphorically. Different associative meanings can be found in different languages. According to Phillips (2006), “metonymy has a great impact on the color metaphors, because most of the connotative meanings assigned to colors are interrelated to reality”. Also, this is the conventional linguistic expressions which are made around folk beliefs about color meaning that create the colors value.

The cultural meaning of colors in general and their meanings in particular has been the subject of many researches. Btoosh (2014) did a research on the white and black color connotations in Antara’s poetry, a pre-Islamic poet and hero, and believed that much of the message of color in Antara’s work goes beyond the expected meaning. According to his research, despite the fact that Antara uses the color black to lessen the negative effects associated with “blackness” by associating it with positive values like immortality, elegance, eternity, and strength, he diminishes the value of some well-known social values associated with “whiteness” by using them in situations where blackness predominates. Al-Adaileh (2012) found a lot of idiomatic expressions regarding some colors such as black, white, yellow, red, green, and blue. He also checked their relation to their connotative meanings as well. He asserts that all these colors have euphemistic and dysphemistic connotations in Jordanian Arabic but in other cases black has more negative impact in comparison to white. According to this study most colors have euphemistic and dysphemistic connotations. Mondria, J.A., & Wit-DeBoer, M. (1991) shows that the colors black, yellow, red, and blue are mainly dysphemistic and often have negative connotations. The color white is used euphemistically and has positive connotations more than negative ones. Green, on the other hand, has both euphemistic and dysphemistic connotations. Accordingly, Rabab’ah & Al-Saidat (2014) studied the conceptual and connotative meanings of black and white idiomatically.

Based on these studies, connotative meaning is referred more in comparison to the lexical meaning. We cannot separate the linguistic and cultural meanings of color idioms, because we need to be familiar the native speakers’ culture if we want to acquire their language. All the societies have colors but with different associative meaning. So translating the color idioms from one language to another is troublesome. In conclusion, there is no accurate translation of colors as they are culture laden and it is possible to do to some extent.

III. METHODOLOGY

In this research, an individualizing comparison model is used. Individualizing methods means choosing two cases or variables and describing the main features to provide a better insight into both of them and to show the similar characteristics. This method was one of four ways of conducting a comparative study presented by Tilly (1984, p. 82). Thirty-six color idioms have been chosen from Arabic and English. These idioms are categorized according to the color they share. The origin of some idioms is tackled if it is

found. Then the meaning of each idiom is analyzed literally and non-literally (figuratively) to identify the similarities in the interpretation and connotation of the idioms in both languages.

A. Data Collection

The color idioms in this research are chosen from many online resources. They are common idioms in both languages and they are about different colors. The data are chosen from standard and colloquial English and Arabic. The total number of idioms is thirty-six, eighteen from English and eighteen from Arabic. The chosen Arabic and English idioms are shown in (tables I and II) Tilly (1984). Big structures, large processes, huge comparisons. Russell Sage Foundation.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

A. Black

Meaning in English: darkness, serious, sophistication, unambiguous, authority, power, definite, elegance, formal, unknown, and mystery.

Meaning in Arabic: Darkness, sadness, death, evilness, badness, power, and danger.

As seen in both languages the meaning and the connotation of black is related to darkness and odd things as in the following idiom:

1. "My oldest sister was the **black sheep** in the family, she left school at sixteen".

The origin: The terms "black sheep" has a negative connotation referring to the undesirable color of coats such as black, grey and brown. The non-white color of wool is less valuable than white since it cannot be dyed.

- a. Literal meaning: the lexical meaning of this sentence is illogical, it means that ' my sister is a black sheep
 - b. Figurative meaning: this idiom is used when someone is an odd or bad member of the group.
2. The parents gave some rules to their kids that were **black and white**. No opening the door or answering the phone.

The origin: This idiom was used for the first time in the 19th century civil war of America. Everyone was trying to prove themselves correct which lead to the formation of the idiom (black and white)

- a. Literal meaning: There are rules and their color are black and white
- b. Figurative meaning: The rules given to the children are quite clear.

1 هذا الولد حظه اسود - 1 (hatha alwalad hatha aswad)

- a. Literal meaning: This boy's luck is black
- b. Figurative meaning: He has bad luck, he is not working well in any domain and he faces problems regularly.

2 هذا قلبه اسود - 2 (hatha qalba aswad)

- a. Literal meaning: His heart is black
- b. Figurative meaning: His heart is full of hatred and envy and he does not forgive anyone who has mistaken with him. And he is unforgivable for those people who misbehaved with him.

B. White

Meaning in English and Arabic: In both Languages the color white represents simplicity, cleanness, innocence, purity, certainty, peace, good reputation, blind, oldness, giving up, lightness, and power.

1. "It was a **white lie**":

The origin: The Oxford English Dictionary defines a "white lie" as one meant to protect someone's feelings and it goes back to the 14th-century that it took 500 years for a color to be attached to a lie. While "white" had meant "morally or spiritually pure" for centuries, the OED's first listing of "white" to mean "free from malignity or evil intent; beneficent, innocent, and harmless

- a. Literal meaning: The lie was white
- b. Figurative meaning: It is a lie that has been said to avoid hurting others, usually a simple one.

2. "He left as **white as a sheet** when he heard the news":

- a. Literal meaning: This boy left just like the way a white sheet is leaving
- b. Figurative meaning: He was so afraid that he left as white sheet which means as a ghost.

-1 كذب كذبة بيضاء (kathab kithba betha)

- a. Literal meaning: Same in English
- b. Figurative meaning: some people tend to say a white lie to avoid causing sadness for others and sometimes men lie to their wives to compromise things.

-2 رفع الراية البيضاء (rafaa alraya albaythaa)

- a. Literal meaning: he hoisted the white flag
- b. Figurative meaning: some people tend to give up after a lot of unsuccessful trials, some competitors might give up because of being weak and easily beaten.

C. Red

Meaning in English and Arabic: In English red represents passion, joy, love, desire, sensitivity, radiance, romance, strength, leadership, courage, stress, willpower, rage, vibrancy, anger, action, and determination. Similarly, in Arabic it refers to love, warmth, rest, fury, sharpness, stress, fury, power, determination, and hatred.

1. He got **caught red-handed** stealing chocolate bars

The origin: this idiom goes back to 15th century Scotland which literally denoted catching somebody while committing a crime with blood on their hands.

- a. Literal meaning: he was stealing chocolate bars and the color of his hands were red
- b. Figurative meaning: he got caught in the middle of doing something bad or illegal

2. My friend's face turned **beet red** when she was caught this morning singing in front of the mirror.

The origin: In the 19th century, red beet juice was used by women as a stain for lips. This led to the appearance of the idiom "red as a beet")

- a. Literal meaning: my sister's face changed to dark red color
- b. Figurative meaning: she felt very shy.

-1 اظهر له العين الحمراء (Athhara laho alaen alhamraa)

- a. Literal meaning: he showed him red eyes
- b. Figurative meaning: he got angry at him, redness implies fury and some people tend to use this to vent their anger and warning.

-2 ختمو المحل بالشمع الأحمر (khatamo almahal bilshama al-ahmer)

- a. Literal meaning: They sealed the shop with red color
- b. Figurative meaning: It means that this shop has been locked officially because of committing illegal deeds and it has a bad reputation.

D. Green

Meaning in English and Arabic: Both languages have similar connotations for the color green such as life, renewal, approval, nature, freshness, energy, growth, safety, fertility, harmony, environment change, optimism, happiness, positivity economy, improvement, aspiration, life hood, and good health

1. McClayK, R. (1987): The builders were given **the green light** to begin the tower.

The origin: "This idiom originated in the 1930s, which was right around the same time the Federal Highway Administration began regulating traffic lights. At this time, the law changed so that all traffic lights must use a red light to signal cars to stop, yellow light to mean caution, and a green to mean go. Just as the green light in traffic signals allows cars to go, a boss who gives his or her employees the *green light* gives them permission to start work on some project".

- a. Literal meaning: they will build the tower using green color
- b. Figurative Meaning: they received acceptance to start building the tower

2. I can tell by her garden that Sara has a **green thumb**

- a. Literal meaning: the color of her thumb is green
- b. Figurative meaning: she is very skillful in gardening

-1 شاب عوده أخضر (shaab audaho akhthar)

- a. Literal meaning: this young boy is green
- b. Figurative meaning: it means that he is young, strong and full of optimism and energy

-2 أعطاه المدير الضوء الأخضر (Aataho almudear althaw alakhthar)

- a. literal meaning: his boss gave him a green light
- b. Figurative meaning: he got permission or approval from his boss.

E. Blue

Meaning in English and Arabic: blue refers to trust, rareness, sudden, calm, sincerity, Peace, loyalty, integrity, responsibility: energy- thrill, calmness, confidence, strength, depression, sadness, negativity, weakness, and aloofness

TABLE I

ENGLISH IDIOMS AND THEIR FIGURATIVE MEANING

The idioms	Figurative Meaning
My oldest sister was the black sheep in the family, she left school at sixteen".	this idiom is used when someone is an odd or bad member of the group.
The parents gave some rules to their kids that were black and white . No opening the door or answering the phone	the rules given to the children are quite clear
"It was a white lie "	it is a lie that has been said to avoid hurting others, usually a simple one
He left as white as a sheet when he heard the news":	he was so afraid that he left as white sheet which means as a ghost
He got caught red-handed stealing chocolate bars	he got caught in the middle of doing something bad or illegal
my friend's face turned beet red when she was caught this morning singing in front of the mirror	she was very shy
The builders were given the green light to begin the tower.	they received acceptance to start building the tower
I can tell by her garden that Sara has a green thumb	she is very skillful in gardening
they only go out for lunch once in a blue moon .	we go out very rarely
I received a call from a long lost friend out of the blue last night.	the phone call was unexpected
Stop being such a yellow belly	stop being such a coward
She started Yellow Brick Road in a new company	she started a new job which is a way for success
Yesterday's conference was a golden opportunity for her to talk with the manager about her projects	a very good opportunity
I love your grandmother. She has a heart of gold	she is very kind and lovable
Sara is so lucky, she was born with a silver spoon in her mouth	born in a very rich family, she did not need to work
There is no silver bullet that will put an end to unemployment	a very quick solution to end this problem
Anna was tickled pink that her fiancé had made such an effort for her birthday.	she was very happy
"Anyone who hears this story thinks that he sees pink elephants "	he is imagining or hallucinating

(In this table the chosen English idioms in this study are mentioned along with their most common meaning)

1. They only go out for lunch **once in a blue moon**.

The origin: "This idea actually started in 1946, when, in his article Sky and Telescope, James Hugh Pruett misinterpreted the concept of the fourth full moon in a season being a blue moon, from the Maine Farmer's Almanac, stating instead that the second full moon of the month was called a blue moon"

- a. Literal Meaning: we go out when the moon is blue
- b. Figurative meaning: we go out very rarely

- 1- I received a call from a long lost friend out **of the blue** last night.

- a. Literal Meaning: the phone call was from the blue color
- b. Figurative meaning: the phone call was unexpected

Meaning in Arabic

-1 العفاريات الزرق بتتنطط آدم عيني (alafareet alzuruq bittnatat adam ayni)

TABLE II
ARABIC IDIOMS AND THEIR FIGURATIVE MEANING

The idiom	The figurative meaning
هذا الولد حظه اسود هذا قلبه اسود	he has bad luck, he is not working well in any domain and he faces problems regularly. his heart is full of hatred and envy and he does not forgive anyone who has mistaken with him. And he is unforgivable for those people who misbehaved with him.
كذب كذبة بيضاء	some people tend to say a white lie to avoid causing sadness for others and sometimes men lie to their wives to compromise things.
رفع الزاوية البيضاء	some people tend to give up after a lot of unsuccessful trials, some competitors might give up because of being weak and easily beaten
اظهر له العين الحمراء	he got angry at him, redness implies fury and some people tend to use this to vent their anger and warning.
ختمو المحل بالشمع الأحمر	It means that this shop has been locked officially because of committing illegal deeds and it has bad reputation.
شاب عوده أخضر أعطاه المدير الضوء الأخضر العفريت الزرق بتنتظت آدم عيني	it means that he is young, strong and full of optimism and energy he got permission or approval from his boss. he is pissed off, it is used when someone is very angry and furious to the extent that he can not see anything in front of him
يا نهار أزرق	it means what a bad news, this day is going to be a bad day and full of pessimism. It is used when someone receives bad news.
وجهه أصفر	his face pale, it is used when someone is sick or very tired or he has been frightened and threatened
ضحكة صفراء ايدته تكس ذهب هذا انسان ذهب اذا كان الحديث من فضة فالسكوت من ذهب لقد حظيت بكل ما تودين في حياتك على طبق من فضة	a smile which is claimed or fake, and is full of envy and hatred it means he is very skillful and makes a lot of money it means that he is a very good person and well praised, helpful, kind and thoughtful. it means that it is better to stay silent in some situation in order not to get in hot water it means that you have not worked very hard for anything, and you have been lucky enough to get anything easily
"هو عايش حياة وردية وجهها مورد	it means that he has a very happy, wealthy, easy and successful life. it means that her face looks healthy, young and happy

(in this table, the chosen Arabic idioms are mentioned with their common meaning)

- a. Literal Meaning: the blue elves are jumping in front of me
b. Figurative meaning: he is pissed off, it is used when someone is very angry and furious to the extent that he can not see anything in front of him
يا نهار أزرق-2 (ya nahar azraq)

- a. Literal Meaning: oh, what a blue day
b. Figurative meaning: it means what a bad news, this day is going to be a bad day and full of pessimism. It is used when someone receives bad news.

F. Yellow

Meaning in English and Arabic: in English yellow denotes Joyful, happiness, optimism, positivity, jealousy, deception, fear, and new beginnings while in Arabic it represents warmth, happiness, anger, frustration, sickness, and jealousy

- Stop being such a **yellow belly**
 - Literal Meaning: the color of his belly is yellow
 - Figurative meaning: stop being such a coward
- She started **Yellow Brick Road** in a new company
 - Literal Meaning: she started a road which is yellow
 - Figurative meaning: she started a new job which is a way for success

وجهه أصفر-1 (wajha asfar)

- a. Literal meaning: his face is yellow
b. Figurative Meaning: his face pale, it is used when someone is sick or very tired or he has been frightened and threatened.
ضحكة صفراء-2 (thahka safraa)

- a. Literal meaning: a yellow laugh
b. Figurative Meaning: a smile which is claimed or fake, and is full of envy and hatred

G. Golden

Meaning in English and Arabic: wealth, shininess, money, and a good opportunity.

- Yesterday's conference was a **golden opportunity** for her to talk with the manager about her projects
The origin: "It began as early as the 1930s when John Kidd, a New Zealand amateur breeder working in an orchard north of Wellington, crossed the flowers of one of his own apple varieties, Kidd's Orange, with that of the golden apple from the US to raise a seedling now known as Gala"
 - Literal meaning: the color of the opportunity is golden
 - Figurative Meaning: A very good opportunity
 - I love your grandmother. She has a **heart of gold**
 - Literal meaning: her heart is made of gold
 - Figurative meaning: she is very kind and lovable
- ايدته تكس ذهب-1 (eda tukuz)

- a. Literal meaning: his hand's cuts gold
- b. Figurative meaning: it means he is very skillful and makes a lot of money
هذا انسان ذهاب-2 (hatha insan thahab)
- a. Literal meaning: this man is gold
- b. Figurative meaning: it means that he is a very good person and well praised, helpful, kind and thoughtful.

H. Silver

Meaning in English and Arabic: industry, sleekness, high technology, gracefulness, glamour, oration elegance *harmony*, *smartness*, *aging*, *fear*, *wisdom and truth*, and sophistication

1. Sara is so lucky, she was born **with a silver spoon in her mouth**.

The origin: Rauf, R. (2021) states that "The phrase "born with a silver spoon in his mouth" appeared in print in English as early as 1719, in Peter Anthony Motteux's translation of the novel"

- a. Literal meaning: there was a silver spoon in her mouth
- b. Figurative Meaning: born in a very rich family, she did not need to work
2. There is no **silver bullet** that will put an end to unemployment.
The origin: "The origin of the phrase silver bullet can be found in the book called The lone ranger and the silver bullet from the 1930s. The belief that a silver bullet was the only way to kill any sort of supernatural being is shown in this story.
- a. Literal meaning: a bullet that is silver to end this problem
- b. Figurative meaning: a very quick solution to end this problem

1- "اذا كان الحديث من فضة فالسكوت من ذهب" (etha kan alhadeth min thahab falsukot min fitha)

- a. Literal Meaning: if speaking is silver, silence is gold
- b. Figurative meaning: it means that it is better to stay silent in some situation in order not to get in hot water
لقد حظيت بكل ما تودين في حياتك على طبق من فضة-2" (**laqad hatheati bikuli ma towadeen fi hayatik ala tabak min fitha**)

- a. Literal meaning: you have got everything you wished in your life on a silver plate
- b. Figurative meaning: it means that you have not worked very hard for anything, and you have been lucky enough to get anything easily

I. Pink

Meaning in English and Arabic: sensitivity, love, frank, feminine, tenderness- nurturing- safety care, mercy, hope, feminine, good health and success, and vulnerability.

1. Anna was **tickled pink** that her fiancé had made such an effort for her birthday.
 - a. Literal meaning: her face was pink
 - b. Figurative meaning: she was very happy
2. "Anyone who hears this story thinks that **he sees pink elephants**"
 - a. Literal meaning: elephants are pink
 - b. Figurative meaning: he is imagining or hallucinating

هو عايش حياة وردية" 1- (huwa ayesh hayat wardiya)

- a. Literal meaning: he is living a pink life
- b. Figurative meaning: it means that he has a very happy, wealthy, easy and successful life.
وجهها مورد-2 (wajiha muward)
- a. Literal meaning: her face is blossoming
- b. Figurative meaning: it means that her face looks healthy, young and happy

V. CONCLUSION

In this research, 36 color idioms have been chosen from English and Arabic to analyze their meanings literally and figuratively. After analyzing the data, it is concluded that the literal meaning of these idioms in both English and Arabic does not make sense. The intended meaning is partially or totally different from the meaning of the linguistic forms. The connotative meaning depends on the context and it is culture specific. These idioms have to be learnt in context in which they can be used. If they are detached from context, they will lead to misunderstanding and halted communication.

There are many similarities between English and Arabic regarding color idioms. In both languages, there is a rich usage of color idioms in different situations such as: describing people, feelings, and places. Moreover, in both languages there are similar connotations for some colors, for example, 'white' represents purity and innocence, black represents 'sadness' and 'power'. In some cases, the same idiom can be found in both languages with the same meaning and association such as: (white lie), (كذبة بيضاء), (green light), (فرصة ذهبية), (الضوء الاخضر) or 'a golden opportunity'.

However, there are some differences in the connotations of some colors between the mentioned languages. For example, in English the color 'blue' may represent something rare, unusual such as (we eat out once in a blue moon), while in Arabic this color can be associated with depression and sadness and it may have a negative connotation like (يا نهار ازرق). Similarly, in English 'yellow' (yellow belly) means being frightened easily and is used for a coward person. In contrast, yellow in Arabic may represent sickness and jealousy as in (ضحكة صفراء).

Besides the similarities and differences between the two languages, the same color may have different associations in the same language. Some of which may be positive or negative, depending on the situation. For example, black in English can have a positive connotation such as 'definite and unambiguity' (the rules are black and white) or it may carry a negative meaning as 'odd and strange' (the black sheep). Likewise, in Arabic, white in most cases has positive interpretations, yet in some cases, it may hold a negative meaning such as (الشعر الابيض) which refers to being old.

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