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**THE DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES IN MEANINGS OF COLORS IN  
UZBEK AND RUSSIAN CULTURES**

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*The symbolic connotations of colors in Uzbek and Russian cultures are examined in this study, with particular attention paid to how the five fundamental hues—white, black, red, blue, and green—reflect the customs, values, and beliefs of each country. As manifestations of emotion, morality, and worldview, colors are essential to communication and cultural identity. By comparing the ways in which these colors are viewed and understood in the two countries, the study uncovers both common human ideas and unique cultural viewpoints. While color symbolizes emotion, history, and artistic expression in Russian culture, it is strongly associated with spirituality, nature, and communal values in Uzbek society. In all traditions, red is associated with vigor and beauty, black with grief, and white with purity and calm, despite cultural and theological differences. Depending on the cultural setting, blue and green can have different meanings, with some having spiritual or emotional connotations. Overall, the comparison shows that colors serve as strong symbols that convey identity, maintain legacy, and help people connect with their emotional and historical roots in addition to being visual phenomena.*

## Introduction

Symbols play an important role in human communication and culture (Maslova, V. A. 2001). They represent ideas, emotions, and values through signs, colors, objects, or images that carry deeper meanings. Every culture uses symbols to express its worldview and traditions in a unique way (Lüscher, M. 1990). Among these symbols, colors hold a special place because they can express feelings and meanings without words.

Colors are often connected with emotions, beliefs, and social customs. They appear in language, art, clothing, and national identity. For example, some colors may represent happiness or purity in one culture but sadness or danger in another. Studying color symbolism helps us understand how people from different backgrounds see and interpret the world.

This article focuses on the symbolic meanings of colors in Uzbek and Russian cultures, comparing how main colors such as white, black, red, blue, and green reflect the values, traditions, and beliefs of each nation.

### Purpose

The main purpose of this study is to compare how the main colors — white, black, red, blue, and green — are understood and interpreted in Uzbek and Russian cultures. Each of these colors carries strong emotional and symbolic meanings that reflect the history, religion, and traditions of both nations (Akhmedova, N. R. 2019).

By analyzing these colors, the study aims to show how cultural background influences the way people connect meanings to colors. For example, while white may symbolize purity and honesty in both cultures, other colors such as red or blue might have different associations depending on historical or religious factors.

This comparison will help reveal the similarities and differences between Uzbek and Russian worldviews and explain how colors continue to influence communication, art, customs, and daily expressions in both societies.

### Color Symbolism in Uzbek Culture

In Uzbek culture, colors have deep symbolic meanings that come from ancient beliefs, traditions, and everyday life (Gulyamova, D. M. 2018). They are often used in clothing, decorations, festivals, and even in language to express emotions and ideas.

The color white (oq) is one of the most respected colors in Uzbek culture. It symbolizes purity, honesty, and blessing. People use expressions like “Oq yo‘l” (have a good and lucky

way) to wish someone success. White is also connected with spiritual cleanliness and sincerity.

The color black (qora) usually represents sadness, grief, or bad luck. It is used in expressions such as “qora kunlar” (dark or difficult days). However, in some cases, black can also show power and seriousness.

The color red (qizil) is a bright and positive symbol of life, energy, and beauty. Traditionally, red is used in weddings and festive clothes to represent joy and happiness. It also reflects courage and strength.

The color blue (ko‘k) has a special place in Uzbek beliefs. It represents the sky, freedom, and divine protection. Many historical buildings in Uzbekistan, such as mosques and madrasahs, are decorated with blue tiles as a sign of peace and spirituality.

The color green (yashil) symbolizes nature, youth, and renewal. It is also connected with Islam and is considered a sacred and blessed color. Green is often associated with hope and growth, both in life and faith.

In general, Uzbek color symbolism reflects harmony, spirituality, and respect for nature and tradition. Colors are not only visual elements but also carry moral and emotional meanings deeply rooted in the national culture.

#### Color Symbolism in Russian Culture

In Russian culture, colors also have strong symbolic meanings that come from history, religion, literature, and folk traditions. Like in Uzbekistan, colors are used not only in art and clothing but also in idioms and everyday language to express feelings and ideas.

The color white (белый) in Russian culture symbolizes purity, innocence, and goodness. It is often connected with snow, which covers most of Russia during winter, giving a sense of cleanliness and peace. Common expressions include “белый как снег” (as pure as snow). White can also represent new beginnings and hope.

The color black (чёрный) usually symbolizes sadness, grief, or misfortune. It is traditionally worn at funerals and used in expressions like “чёрная полоса” (a bad or unlucky period). However, black can also mean strength or elegance, especially in modern culture.

The color red (красный) has a special and positive meaning. Historically, the word “красный” comes from the old Russian word meaning “beautiful.” Red symbolizes love, energy, courage, and celebration. It is also linked with revolution and national pride, as seen in the Red Square (Красная площадь) in Moscow.

The color blue (синий) in Russian culture is connected with calmness, loyalty, and sadness. It can express deep emotions or melancholy, as in the expression “синяя тоска” (deep sadness). Blue also represents faith and sincerity in Orthodox Christian traditions.

The color green (зелёный) symbolizes nature, youth, and spring. It represents renewal, health, and hope. Green is often associated with growth and new life, reflecting the importance of nature in Russian folk beliefs.

Overall, Russian color symbolism shows a close connection between emotions, religion, and nature. Colors express both the beauty and complexity of human feelings in Russian culture and language.

#### Comparison

Both Uzbek and Russian cultures attribute deep symbolic meanings to colors, reflecting their history, traditions, and ways of thinking. Despite differences in religion and lifestyle, the two cultures share many similar ideas about the emotional and moral value of colors.

In both cultures, white symbolizes purity, honesty, and peace, while black represents sadness, grief, and bad luck. These meanings show a shared human understanding of light and darkness as symbols of good and evil.

The color red is also highly valued in both cultures, symbolizing life, beauty, and courage. In Uzbekistan, red is often used in weddings and celebrations, while in Russia it is historically connected with beauty, love, and national pride.

The color blue carries different shades of meaning. For Uzbeks, it is a spiritual and protective color linked to the sky and freedom, while in Russian culture it expresses calmness, loyalty, and sometimes sadness.

The color green symbolizes nature, renewal, and hope in both cultures. However, in Uzbekistan, green also has a strong religious connection with Islam, while in Russia it is more associated with spring and youth.

In general, both cultures use colors to express positive values such as purity, life, and hope. The main differences appear in the emotional and religious aspects, which reflect the unique worldview and historical background of each nation.

#### Conclusion

Color symbolism in Uzbek and Russian cultures reflects the deep connection between language, tradition, and national identity. Each color carries meanings that express the values, emotions, and beliefs of the people. While both cultures share common ideas —

such as white symbolizing purity and black representing sorrow — their interpretations also reveal unique cultural experiences.

In Uzbek culture, colors are closely linked with spirituality, nature, and community traditions. In Russian culture, they are strongly connected with emotion, history, and artistic expression. These differences show how each nation uses colors to reflect its worldview and cultural heritage.

Overall, the study of color symbolism demonstrates that colors are more than visual elements — they are powerful symbols that unite people with their history, express their feelings, and preserve their cultural identity.

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