

KHAKI IN MODERN (WRITTEN) LITHUANIAN

Summary

The article addresses the issue of whether the lexeme *khaki* is unambiguous in written Lithuanian, and of how deeply it is rooted in the language. The names of the colour are dissected from a syntactic-semantic standpoint, in reliance on material from the Corpus of the Modern Lithuanian Language (CMLL) by the Centre of Computational Linguistics at Vytautas Magnus University.

Analysis of the CMLL cases and their comparison with potential synonyms has revealed that this adjective can have the meanings of '(light) (greyish) brownish green (colour)', '(light) greyish and/or greenish and/or yellowish brown (colour)', and '(light) brownish or greenish yellow (colour)'. In general and with reference to the prototype *green* resp. *brown*, we can talk about transitional *khaki* shades of *grass* and *earth*. Based on the analogy of the colour of sand, the *khaki* of earth with its broader sense is distinguished from the *khaki* of grass, which usually correlates with the colour of the military uniform.

The colour *khaki* is verbally expressed using its simple and/or complex lexeme. In modern Lithuanian, the names of this colour can be used both in variation and in opposition. This has to do with the type of the construction (attributive *vs.* predicative) and/or semantic combinability (natural objects *vs.* man-made artefacts).

Semantically, *khaki* can be vague. The complex lexeme of the colour is rather more definite and transparent.

The study has showed that the loanword *khaki* is taking its first steps towards solidifying its place in the Lithuanian language.

KEYWORDS: loanword *khaki*, semantics, construction, colour, dictionary, corpus.

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