

### On Inari Saami idioms containing color terms

My study concerns a topic that is rather popular nowadays, namely the study of color terms. I carried out my own study of color terms in the context of Inari Saami idioms. Both the study of Saami color terms and the study of Saami phrasemes is at their beginning stages, so one of the purposes of my study is to bring attention to the need for further research in these areas.

In Inari Saami we can distinguish among 10 color terms based on the traditional definition of primary color terms: *čappad* 'black', *vielgad* 'white', *ruopsad* 'red', *ruonas* 'green', *viskad* 'yellow', *čuovjâd* 'blue', *ruškad* 'brown', *räänis* 'gray', *oor aans* 'orange', *violet* 'purple'.

In my work I examine the connection between the symbolism of the colors and the meaning of the idioms. In Anna Idström and Hans Morottaja's Inari Saami idiom dictionary only 10 of the 600 pieces of data contain color terms. Out of these, black seems to be the most salient (6 idioms) in reference to disappearance (*Te koolgah čápudiđ!* 'Get lost!'), poverty (*nuuvt nelgi et čalmeh čappânedeh* 'being so hungry that one's eyes turn black'), but also evil (*Vuoi čappâdâs!* 'Damn it!'). The second most salient color term is white, which appears in two idioms: *Oo ton vielgâdâs!* 'Oh, damn it!', *vielgisnáávdâs* 'stoat' [a small white animal]. This latter idiom, as well as *ruopsisvyesi* 'newborn calf [= red calf]' containing the color term for red cannot be regarded as traditional idioms. These are followed by gray, keeping in mind the hierarchical order of primary colors, which is exemplified by *rânis kâmineh* 'fake laugh, which is obviously insincere [= gray laugh]'.

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IVETT KELEMEN