

The Results of Free Associative Experiment Among Sinhalese and Russian Speakers on Colors

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In modern practice of Russian psycholinguistics widely use the Free Associative Experiment for understanding linguistic image of world. In this research we use this free associative experiment in Sri Lanka (with Sinhala native speakers) to understand how Sinhalese linguistic image of the world and how it is similarity/difference with Russian linguistic image of the world on colors. Data collected from university and school students. There were 812 participants (age group 17-25) and for this experiment we took only 500 (250 men, 250 women). Here we collected response for 4 colors (black, green, red and white), then we compared the obtained data with the data of the Slavic associative dictionary. When analyzing the resulting associative fields, we saw that there is some similarity between the Russian and the Sri Lankan culture, especially in reactions to the stimulus red. So, among the main reactions in both linguistic-cultures there were blood, color, rose, beautiful, flag, blue, flowers, love, black, white, apple as main responses. It is also possible to distinguish common main responses to other colors. The similarity of the responses suggests that there are universal meanings that may be the result of cultural contacts. The main reasons for the difference in reactions are national and climatic phenomena. For example, among the responses to the stimulus, the first place in Russia is snow, and there is no snow among the reactions of Sri Lankans, because the climatic zones differ.

Keywords: free associative experiment; image of the world; psycholinguistic; Russian native speakers; sinhalese native speakers