

**COLOR-NAMES AND
THEIR CONGENERS. A
SEMASIOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649455324

Color-Names and Their Congeners. A Semasiological Investigation by Francis A. Wood

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FRANCIS A. WOOD.

**HALLE A. S.
MAX NIEMEYER
1902.**

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PREFACE.

In writing this monograph I have referred to the following publications:

- AJP. = The American Journal of Philology, edited by B. L. Gildersleeve. Baltimore.
- Berneker, Die preuss. Spr. Strassburg 1896.
- Brugm. Grd. = Brugmann, Grundriss der vergleichenden Grammatik der idg. Sprachen.
- , Griech. Gr. = Griechische Grammatik, in J. Müller's Handbuch der klass. Altertumswissenschaft, Bd. 2, 3. Auflage. 1900.
- Fick, Wb.⁴ = Vergleichendes Wörterbuch der idg. Sprachen, etc.
- Hirt, Idg. Abl. = Der idg. Ablaut. Strassburg 1900.
- Horn, Npers. Et. = Grundriss der neupers. Etymologie. Strassburg 1893.
- IF. = Indogermanische Forschungen. Zeitschrift für idg. Sprach- und Altertumskunde.
- JGPh. = The Journal of Gormanic Philology, edited by Gustaf E. Karsten. Bloomington, Ind.
- Kluge, Et. Wb.⁵ = Etymologisches Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache. 5. Aufl. Strassburg 1894.
- Kluge and Lutz, Eng. Et. = English Etymology, Boston 1898.
- Lidén, Ein Balt.-Slav. Anlautgesetz. Göteborg 1899.
- Mod. Lang. Notes, edited by A. M. Elliott, Baltimore.
- Noreen, Urg. Lautl. = Abriss der urgerm. Lautlehre. Strassburg 1894.
- PBB. = Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache und Literatur, unter Mitwirkung von Hermann Paul und Wilhelm Braune herausgegeben von E. Sievers, Halle.

- Persson, Wz. = Studien zur Lehre von der Wurzelweiterung und Wurzelvariation. Upsala 1891.
- Pub. M.L.A. = Publications of the Modern Language Association of America, edited by James W. Bright. Baltimore.
- Prellw. Et. Wb. = Etymologisches Wörterbuch der griech. Sprache von Dr. Walther Prellwitz. Göttingen 1892.
- Schade, Wb. = Altddeutsches Wörterbuch. Halle 1872—82.
- Skeat, Et. Dict. = A Concise Etymological Dictionary of the English Language. New-York 1898.
- Tamm, Et. Ordb. = Etymologisk Svensk Ordbok av Fredr. Tamm (A—Gnabbæ). Upsala 1890—96.
- Uhl. Ai. Wb. = Kurzgefasstes etymologisches Wörterbuch der altindischen Sprache. Amsterdam 1898—99.
- Uhl. Et. Wb. = Kurzgefasstes etymologisches Wörterbuch der gotischen Sprache von Dr. C. C. Uhlenbeck. 2. Aufl. Amsterdam 1900.
- Zupitza, Germ. Gutt. = Die germanischen Gutturale. Berlin 1896.

Aside from the above I have drawn material from texts and grammars of the various Germ. dialects, and especially from the dictionaries of the various IE. languages. Without these the etymological dictionaries would not have sufficed to trace the primary meaning. For it is a common fault of etymological dictionaries that, in order to secure brevity, they frequently omit the very meaning that is necessary to enable us to judge of the word in all its bearings. For example, our judgment of *φορός* 'weiss, weissgrau' (cf. I, 33) would naturally be quite different from *φορόν· λευκόν, πολίον, ῥυσόν* (cf. VII, 16a).

In referring to the etymological dictionaries I have not intended to give them as the original source of the etymology quoted, but as the readiest way of indicating a sponsor for it. In some cases I have made such reference where additions have been made, as it seemed hardly worth while to claim credit for every slight addition. In some old established etymologies no reference is given at all. Such omission will not be misunderstood.

No doubt some of the etymologies given as my own have been discovered by others. It is impossible to look through all the periodicals even if they had been at my disposal. In any case the overlooking of another's work is a failure that most etymologists occasionally make.

In working over the material I have formed my own judgment, not simply collected the opinions of others. I have adopted or rejected an etymology regardless of its age or authority. My own etymologies have not been treated with more consideration in this respect than those of others. Mistakes there are no doubt in this work. But fear of making errors has not deterred me from giving any etymology. In any case it is better to suggest a possibility than nothing at all. But whatever errors there may be in individual etymologies, I am certain that the general principles assumed are correct. And if they are correct, then the etymological work that has been done hitherto is a mere beginning compared to what is still to be done.

Mt. Vernon, Iowa, July 15, 1901.

FRANCIS A. WOOD.

INTRODUCTION.

"Das verwandte lat. *flāvus* 'blond, gelb' hat wie viele Farbennamen die Bedeutung geändert gegen das germ. Wort", says Kluge, Et. Wb. s. v. *blau*. Similar remarks are often met with, indicating that this is the generally received opinion. There is no doubt as to the fact that color-names vary in their signification. The word 'white' in one language may stand for 'red', 'yellow' or 'green' in others; or 'black' and 'white' may be associated in related words. But what is the explanation? Has usage in the several languages changed the original application of color-terms? Or were these terms used loosely, so that according to the application they might mean 'red' or 'yellow' or 'white'?

In part the latter is true. A word signifying primarily 'light, bright' might denote any bright color from 'white' to 'red'. But this does not explain the association of 'red' and 'green' or of 'black' and 'white'. There must be a reason beyond the loose use of such terms as 'bright' or 'dark' to explain the great variation found. This reason must lie in the origin of the words.

We must then search for the original ideas from which the color-names came. For we know nothing new about a word until we have got beyond its present meaning. Most words are now token-coins passing current for certain ideas more or less fixed. This adds to the exactness of speech and is therefore an advantage. Still we feel the need of expressing ourselves picturesquely and hence often use terms that are descriptive of the object or the act. It is safe to say that most words were originally picture-words. It is