Summary

The PhD thesis was aimed at conducting lexical collocability analysis based on the example of basic color terms in Polish and English language. The thesis is divided into two main parts. The theoretical part starts with the explanation of lexical differences between two Polish terms i.e. *kolor* and *barwa* that have only one English equivalent: color/colour (spelling varies due to British and American version of English language). The second chapter deals with the theory of colors from the perspective of different sciences such as medicine, physics, history of art and finally from the perspective of Polish and English linguistics. The third chapter is concentrated around the theory of categorization which is treated as a basis for structuring the world as such and the world of colors in particular. The starting point is the classical theory of categorization created by Aristotle and then there is introduced a key term in the theory of categorization i.e. a prototype, which constitutes a basis for the first phase of the analysis. The theoretical part is closed by the chapter about the theory of lexical description. This chapter involves information about the key elements of lexical description and the classification of language dictionaries. The second part of the analysis, i.e. the practical one, is opened by explanation of the methodology of the lexical collocability analysis. It involves a detailed description of analysis’ phases together with guidelines constituting the basis for the analysis. The last chapter is the lexical collocability analysis conducted on the bases of all eleven basic color terms, i.e. *biały/white, brązowy/brown, czarny/black, czerwony/red, fioletowy/purple, niebieski/blue, pomarańczowy/orange, różowy/pink, szary/gray, zielony/green* and *żółty/yellow*.

The results of the lexical analysis show that although the division on eleven basic color terms is equal in both languages, the internal structure of all semantic categories and categorization of lexemes denoting colors are different for English and Polish. The first phase of the analysis revealed that the color prototypes selected by lexicographers in dictionaries’ definitions vary depending on the language. The second phase of the analysis dealt with lexical collocations of color terms. These collocations have been divided into semantic categories such as humans (clothes, body), animals, nature (plants, physical and atmospheric phenomena, topography), artefacts (dishes, objects, substance and materials) and construction. The results of this phase showed that the amount of Polish lexical collocations quoted in dictionaries is much higher than in English language. Moreover the scope of these collocations is different for English and Polish. The last phase of analysis dealt with fixed expressions. It revealed that there are more idioms related to color terms in English than in Polish.
All the differences related to color terms, demonstrated within English and Polish language, come down to the linguistic image of the world. Due to this concept linguistic phenomena depend on culture and history of a particular society. The scope of colors exists in every language in the world. But despite its empirical dimension it is strongly culturally and historically conditioned. That is why a contrastive analysis indicated differences in ways of categorizing semantic categories of colors existing in particular languages what stems from the above mentioned linguistic image of the world and results in differences within exemplification of typical lexical collocations for every basic color term in dictionary definitions.