

VILJA OJA (Tallinn)

## COMPOUND ADJECTIVES USED IN THE ESTONIAN DIALECTS TO DENOTE LIGHT AND PALE SHADES OF COLOUR

As revealed by the way colours are usually described, human perception of colours rests on three basic features: tone or the spectral position of the colour, saturation or the degree of intensity, and lightness/darkness. The last mentioned attribute actually represents the proportion of black and white perceived in the colour, i.e. figuratively, if the colour spectrum were placed between areas of black and white, the lighter colours would tend to the white side and the dark ones to the black side.

In Estonian the lightness, darkness and richness (saturation) of colours are usually expressed by a compound word or a phrase consisting of an adjectival attribute added to the base word (colour name) to follow.

The aim of the present paper is to review the names for light and pale colours current in Estonian dialects, as well as the adjectives used as attributive components in those names.

The main bulk of the material comes from the Dialect Archives of the Institute of the Estonian Language and from Eesti murrete sõnaraamat (EMS). In addition we have considered the relevant vocabulary contained in Eesti-saksa sõnaraamat by F.J. Wiedemann (Wiedemann 1973), Eesti keele mõisteline sõnaraamat by A. Saareste (Saareste 1958), Eesti kirjakeele seletussõnaraamat (EKSS) and in the literary language files kept at the Institute of the Estonian Language. Comparison with cognate languages has been done and the etymologies clarified by means of Värien nimitykset by M. Koski (Koski 1983), Estnisches etymologisches Wörterbuch by J. Mägiste (EEW), Suomen Kielen Etymologinen Sanakirja (SKES), Suomen sanojen alkuperä (SSA), and the Estonian Etymological files at the Institute of the Estonian Language. The examples of dialect usage are presented in the transcription used in EMS, in their conventional order of presentation, and provided with the traditional abbreviations to mark the dialect or subdialect of their origin.

For light colours the most widespread and the most general attributive component is the adjective *hele* 'light'. This applies both to the literary language and the dialects. The phonetic variants occurring in the dialects are as follows: R, eP, M, T *ele* (Kuu *hele*); Hls, Krk, T, V *elle*; Har, Vas *helle*; Lut *helle* ~ *jelle* ~ *jellõ*. As concerns the older usage of the Tartu and Võru dialects, however, this adjective is not used to characterize colours, but when speaking of strong light or a sonorous sound.

J. Mägiste considers the word *hele* to be an adjective derived from the Finnic onomatopoeic stem *helä-*, while *-e* (<\**eða*) is the adjectival suffix (EEW 323). In some cognate languages adjectives of the same stem are used to characterize both a resounding voice and a bright colour (SSA I 152). According to some authors (Jaunius 1972 : 286) their Baltic origin is conceivable as well.

In Estonian dialects *hele* associates with all traditional basic colours except with black. On one side the semantic fields of the words *helehall* 'light grey', *helekollane* 'light yellow', *heleroheline* 'light green' and *helesinine* 'light blue' border on white, while on the other side they reach a rather subjective middle level of the colour in question. Some dialect examples: IisR *Vaene maa, kaera oras aga nattukese ele ruheline* 'a hungry soil: the young oats are barely light green'; Jäm *rugilille ehk elesinine — keige ergem värv* 'cornflower or light blue — the brightest of the colours'; KJn *Kase lehtiga tulliliekollane* 'with birch leaves one would get a light yellow tone'; Ran *võta valge villa, pane veedike muste sekkä, siis saad ele allirõiva* 'you take white wool, then add a little black wool and you'll get a light grey cloth'.

The semantic field of *helepruun* 'light brown' appears a little different from the above cases. If the white component dominates, the literary standard as well as some dialects would employ the word *beež* 'beige', e.g. Sim *kui paned lahja vedeliku, siis saad piesi, kui rohkemb on [lepa] kuori, sis tulep pruun* 'if you make the liquid weak, you'll get beige, if there is more of the [alder] bark, the result will be brown'.

The compound words *helepunane* and *heleverev* mostly denote a bloodish red tone somewhere between pink and dark red hues. E.g. Vai *karbala karva elle punased* 'bright red like cranberries'; Kod *küll oo suur tuli. käib üle metsä ladva kõhe elepunane* 'what a big fire, bright red showing right over the treetops!'. In bilingual dictionaries the word *helepunane* has been translated both by words denoting a pale whitish red as well as by words marking bright red (v. Koski 1983 : 318).

The compound *helevalge* 'bright white' emphasizes the absence of any additional tones in the colour described, thus standing for an intensive pure white: VNg *piima astja -- ele valge kaas pääl* 'a milk churn ... with a bright white lid on it'; Trv *ihess om õige ele valge justku õbe soomuss sellan* 'the Peipsi lavaret is quite a bright white, as if having silvery scales'.

In compounds the adjective *hele* can also be associated with a mixture of two basic colours (e.g. *helebeež* 'light beige', *helelilla* 'mauve', *heleroosa* 'light pink', *heleruuge* 'light orange'), with metal names used in a colour-denoting function (e.g. *helekuldne* 'light golden', *helevask* 'bright copper'), or with some specific nouns used to mark the colour of certain animals (e.g. *helekõrb*, *heleraudjas*, *helevõik* 'light sorrel, light chestnut, light bay').

As in dialect usage the boundary between a compound word and a word combination is not too clear, *hele* may sometimes be governed by the following colour adjective in number and case. E.g. Vai *tahin este eleda rohelist* 'first I wanted light green'; Hää *eledad punased* 'light red'; Kod *eledän ruusan* 'in bright pink'.

In such a word combination the first as well as the second component may also be a moderating derivative, e.g. *helekasrohilane*: Ran *langa saeva elekäss rohilatse vai valss rohilatse* 'the yarn turned out lightish green or whitish green'; *helekollakas*: KuuK *päike läks kieva raua karva luoja, elekollakas, siis pidi ilus ilm tulema* 'the sunset was like glowing iron, light yellowish, this was believed to forecast fine weather'.

The same root underlies such adjectives as *helgas* (in dialects also: eP mainland *elgas* and R `elgas) and *helkjas* (in dialects R, eP `elkjas, `elkjas). These are polysemantic words that — when used with colours — may refer either to their lightness or bright lustre. This is why their combinations with a colour adjective cannot always be interpreted unequivocally. Our dialect files contain reports of such colour compounds as VN<sub>g</sub>, Koe `elkjassinine; VN<sub>g</sub> `elkjas `valge; Muh `elkjaspunane; Rei `elkjaspruun; Ris *elgas sinine* and *elgas roheline* which depending on the meaning of the attributive component could be classified either among light or among bright colours.

In South-East Estonia the notion of lightness has been conveyed by the form (h)ell g.(h)elli used both as a separate adjective and as a compound component, e.g. Rõu *ku edimädse villa säält värmi sisest ärä`vällä`võeti sõss`paiti sinnä`leeme`sisse vüül`villu ja`lasti saasta?*, *nyü`villa`saa õss inäp nii ilusa?*, *a`nyü sai`helli* 'when the first portion of wool had been taken out of the dyeing liquid, some more wool was dropped into it and left to soak. That wool did not turn out quite as beautiful, but it remained light'; Har *hell'siinine pruúds* 'a light blue skirt'. In dialects both *hele* and *hell* may also refer to the brightness of the colour in question.

Many adjectives denoting lightness of tone originate in the same root as *valge* 'white'. Supposedly this stem, dating back to the common Finnic-Volgaic period, entered Proto-Finnic in two variants: one with a stop (*valkV*) and the other without one (*valV*), while the following semantic development of those words in the Finnic languages has proceeded in parallel (Koski 1983 : 55). Valmen Hallap has demonstrated that in adjectives on *-eda* long stem-final syllables may attract the derivative suffixes *-k* and *-kk* (Hallap 1983) (cf. *valev*, `valge, `valkjas; *hele*, `helkjas). According to Lembit Vaba the *valge* stem underlying the Finnic names for white may be of a Baltic origin (Vaba 1989; 1992).

In Estonian dialects we find the stop-carrying variants *valge* and *valkjas*, while the stopless variant is represented in such words as *valss*, *valsjane*, *valsjass*, *valus*, *valvakas*, *valmakas*, *vaalas* and *vaalakas*.

A direct mention of the white component is made in such phrasal names as Jäm, Khk, PJg `valge hall' 'whitish grey', Jäm `valge-kollakas and Har `valgõ vahass 'whitish yellow' and Plv `valgõ hal'ass 'light green'.

In literary Estonian a whitish tone is described by the adjective *valkjas*, that may be attributively compounded to any colour adjective. In the dialects `valkjas (~ `valkjass, ~ `valkjas, ~ `valkjass) is a common word in northern Estonia (except the north-eastern coast, single reports having been noted down from the western part of the dialect area only) and in the Mulgi dialect, whereas in the Tartu and the Võru dialects the word seems to be relatively new or at least not too familiar. In dialects the word *valkjas* is used both as a separate word and as the first component of compound colour names to characterize any light-coloured object. E.g. Jäm `valkjaskõrb obu, mis sedine ergu`näuga, teine on`jälle tume-kõrb`a whitish sorrel horse, one of a light colour, another would be dark sorrel'; Vig *vesi all`või`valkjas all`; silmäkibi o`valkjas sinine`watery grey or whitish grey; bluestone is whitish blue`; Tor`valkjas punane ja sinine värü, millel`valged`võemu`rohkem`whitish red and whitish blue colours, with more of a white shade in them`; Kod mõni one`valkjas roheline nagu`erme kaun`some are whitish green like a pea pod`. If we compare the compound adjectives with *valkjas* and *hele* as their attributive components, we will see that the former is a more restricted notion, because its semantic field lies closer to that of *valge* 'white'. E.g. Käi `valkjas kollane on natogene`valkjam kut ele kollane`whitish yellow is a little more white than light yellow'; Tõs roosa oo jo värü, `valkjas punane*

'pink is a colour, of course, a whitish red'; Jür *Õunapuõis on valkjasroosa küll: nii natuke roosakas, päris valge ei ole* 'an apple-blossom is whitish-pink indeed, just a little pinkish, not pure white'; Lai *valkjas all riie on ästi ele* 'a whitish grey cloth is very light'.

In the North-Estonian Coastal dialect the word for whitish is *vaalakas* (~ *vaalagas*) which sounds like the corresponding Finnish and Ingrian words *vaalakka, vaalakas*. Analogously to the word *valkjas* discussed above, *vaalakas* can occur in combination with both basic and mixed colour names. E.g. VNG *samlega sai kohe mitme karva pruuni viel. kui panid vähä, siis oli niske vaalagas pruun* '[dyeing] with moss one could get several shades of brown. If you took just a little of it, you got a whitish brown'; *vaalakassinine taivas* 'a light blue sky'; Jõh *vaalakas all on riide ehk lõng ehk. tuhk on ka vaalakas all* 'whitish grey can be said of a cloth, or yarn or ... ashes are also whitish grey'; IisR *On nisuke mañdi karva vaalakas kollane* 'it's such whitish yellow, the colour of sweet cream'; *Vaalakas lilla* 'whitish lilac'; *Vaalakas ruosa* 'whitish pink'.

Partly the meanings of *hele* 'light' and *vaalakas* 'whitish' overlap: Lüg *kui on ele punane, sie on vaalakas punane* 'light red means whitish red'. A finer specification, however, will reveal a difference: IisR *Vaalakas roheline riide ei ole sama, mis eleroheline, tämal on vaalakas tuon* 'a whitish green cloth is not the same as light green: it has a whitish tone to it'.

In the coastal dialect we also find a *kas*-less form *vaalas* that occurs in the compound *vaalashall* meaning 'watery grey, whitish grey'. For example, Lüg *Õpetaja prouval õli pulmade ajal vaalasall kleit seljäs*; 'at the wedding the minister's wife had a whitish grey dress on'; Jõh *vaalas all* 'whitish grey'. In Finnish there is a separate adjective *vaalas*, which is also used to denote a whitish or pale colour (Koski 1983 : 55).

The adjective *valvakas* (~ *valvakas*) has been derived by providing the Finnish stem *val-* with a descriptive suffix *-va-* and the adjectival suffix *-kas* (EEW 3696). Analogous adjectives occur in cognate languages (e.g. the Finnish *valpakka, valvakka*; the Karelian Olonets dialect *valpakka, valpas*; the Lude *valpas, valpaz*) (SKES 1625). According to the Estonian Dialect Archives this adjective, denoting a whitish colour, is more widespread on the islands and in the Eastern dialect, not so much in the Western, Central and Mulgi dialects. In the function of an attributive component in colour compounds *valvakas* specifies the basic colour analogously to *valkjas* and *vaalakas*. For example, JMd *mõned moonid on valvakas-punased* 'some poppies are light (whitish) red'. In most cases, however, *valvakas* is not joined to the following colour adjective to form a stable compound, but is declined as a separate adjective. For example, Jäm *lehed valvakad allid* 'the leaves are whitish grey'; Vll *leet on valvakamm all* 'leet means a more whitish grey'; Muh *valvakad sinised õitsed* 'whitish blue blossoms'; Trm *vähä valvakam pruun* 'a little lighter brown'; Plt *natke valvakad kollased õied* 'a bit whitish yellow blossoms'; KJn *valvakad allid* 'whitish grey'. The form *valmakas* in the sense of whitish and *valmakas kõrv* denoting a light-coloured horse have been noted down from the Karja subdialect.

The adjective *valss* (~ *vals*, ~ *valss*), developed by adding the formant *-ss* to the *val*-stem (EEW 3691), is used to characterize the lightness of colour in the Tartu and the Võru dialects and in the southern part of the Mulgi dialect area. According to the Estonian-German Dictionary by F.J. Wiedemann its stem vowel is *o* (Wiedemann 1973 : 1301). The dialect files of the Institute of the Estonian Language contain two genitive forms: *valsi* (~ *valsi*) and *valsu* (~ *valsu*). For example, Puh *vana inimesele ei passi nii valsi rõiva* 'such light-coloured clothes don't suit

an old person'; Har *Ku\_langa`värmise manh jääss lang`iiba valss, tulõ`värimi manu\_panda?* 'if at dyeing the wool remains a little too light, more dye should be added'; *Tyy sõna kää pia ega värimi manu?*. *Valss tähendäss tyyd, et ta om hele, kas valssroosa vai valss-sinnine vai mia-taht*; 'this word goes with almost any colour. *Valss* means that the colour is light, light pink or light blue or whatever'. As confirmed by the above words of an informant from Hargla, *valss* combines with any colour adjective. The resulting compounds can be used to describe all kinds of objects. E.g. *Krk Lemmik* (= *lehmanimi*) *olli valsspunane* 'the cow called Lemmik was light red'; *Ote jakk`olli valss-all, ta\_ss ole tume,all* 'the jacket was light grey, not dark grey'; *Rõu valssverevä`hiusõ* 'light red hair'; *Se valss maia`näolinõ* 'light pink'; *Lut valsshitir hopõn,* `valgõlik 'a light grey horse, whitish'; *valskõrb* [hobune] *olõ`i kõvastõ pümm, valsumb kõrb sääne* 'light sorrel is not very dark, such a lighter sorrel'.

Analogously to *hele*, *valss* can also be combined with *valge* to emphasize the intensity of the white tone: *Rõu valss`valgõ rät't* 'a bright white headkerchief'.

In the case of red a slight difference, as compared to the meaning of other *hele*-compounds, can be observed. As the following examples show, *valss* denoted a whitish red or pink tone, a colour not as bright as *helepunane*: *Ran`vefkjäss punane vai valss punane, sij om nigu roosa`sorti* 'pinkish red or whitish red, it's sort of pinkish'; *Nõo t\_om serände valss verrev, temä võib val'semb olla, temä võib küd'sedämb olla* 'it's sort of light red, it can be either more whitish or brighter'; *Ote val'sverrev tyy om roosakas* 'whitish red means pinkish'; *Har sul om ta kleit`valssverrev, ta om jo pääväga vällä?* `plüikinü 'this dress of yours is whitish red - must have been bleached in the sun'; *Lut val'sverrev hoppõn; val'sverrev um ka sääne, olõ`i kõvastõ verrev, valsumb* 'a light red horse: light red is, well, not quite red, it's lighter'.

In parallel use with *valss* we find modified derivatives in *-jas* and *-kas*, based on the same root and used in the sense of 'rather light, whitish', e.g. *Nõo miu lelläl`olli`val'sjass`kimli ja`mustjass`kimli* 'my uncle had a whitish roan and a blackish one'. Like the root, those derivatives combine with various colour adjectives, e.g.: *Nõo mõnel`olli`val'sjass`kõrb obene, mõnel`olli`kiit'se`kõrb obene, mõnel`olli`mustjass`kõrb* 'some had a whitish [= light brown] sorrel, some had a full brown and some had a dark brown horse'; *Ote val'suka verrevä kõva`kartuli, vokesse kutsuti* 'hard whitish red potatoes, 'voke' they were called'; *Har`val'sjass`kõllanõ obõnõ, kel`valgõ`leht om* 'a light yellow horse with a white mane'; *val'sjass`sinine* 'whitish blue'; *sääne`val'ssjas`hall`rõivaás* 'such a whitish grey cloth'; *Plv val'sjass`punanõ* 'whitish red'; *Se val'ssjaás`verrev* 'light red [horse, cow]'.

The noun *valu* that in dialects is used in the nominal sense of 'light', has been developed by the *sal*-stem being complemented with the nominal suffix *-u*, which in combination with the adjectival suffix *-s* (< *\*-isa*) yields the adjective *valus* (EEW 3668). In Estonian dialects the word is usually associated with light and brightness. In the subdialects of Vastseliina and Setu the word also serves to denote white and other light colours: *valusat verd* 'light-skinned, blond', lit. 'of white blood' *Vas*. Compound colour names such as *vallušhall* 'light grey', *valuss`sinine* 'light blue', and *valuss`verrev* 'whitish red' have been noted down from the Setu subdialect.

There is a partly overlap between the notions of the lightness of a colour and of its lack of richness or intensity. This is why a clear-cut boundary between the respective words is hard to draw.

In some dialects light and pale colours are expressed by compounds with *hale* as the first component. E.g. *Kuu halepunane* = *oige`valkjaspunane, ruosa* 'pale

red = light whitish red, pink'; Jäm *valvakas-roosa kutsudaste ale-roosa* 'whitish pink is called pale pink'; Kei *Karikakraga sai tulikollast, kaselehtega alekollast* '[dyeing] with daisies one would get a rich yellow tone, while with birch leaves it would be light yellow'; Männaokstega *sai alerohelist* 'with pine [textiles were dyed] light green'; Tür *ale sinine ehk ele sinine* 'pale blue or light blue'.

*Hale* may also appear as a separate adjective: Lüg *tal on valged juuksed, aleda karvaga* 'she has fair hair, of a light colour'; Jäm *pisine ale lind on lina västrik* 'white wagtail is a small pale bird'; Juu *metsavärvid olid kahkjamad ja aledamad kui poevärvid* 'wild herb colours were more pale and pallid than those that were on sale in shops'. Examples of the word *hale* used in this sense have been registered from all North-Estonian dialects and from Mulgi dialect. Adjectives of the same stem and with a close meaning occur in other Finnic languages as well, e.g. the Ingrian *haalia*, the Karelian *hoalie, halie*, the Finnish *halea, haalea* etc. According to some authors the origin of those words is connected with the *halja* stem (Thomsen 1931 : 426).

If we now compare the dialectal usage of those colour compounds of which the attributive components were discussed previously, with that of analogous words in *hale-*, we can conclude that the latter emphasizes, first and foremost, the low intensity of the colour in question, although in all cases the tone described was light as well.

Recently the word *õrn* 'tender' has come to be used before the name of a light or pastel colour. The Estonian Orthological Dictionary of (ÕS) contains such compounds as *õrnroheline* 'pastel green', *õrnroosa* 'pastel pink' and *õrnsinine* 'pastel blue'. Analogous word combinations have been written down from two subdialects: Saa *õrnad roosad õied on otsas lehvkoidel*; Lai 'the stocks have got light pink blossoms'; *kreem on õrn kollakas valge* 'cream-coloured is a pastel yellowish white'; *ele lilla ei öölda, on õrn lilla ja valkjas* 'you can't say 'light lilac', it's 'tender lilac' and 'whitish'.

In the literary standard such tones that are both light and weak, are referred to as *kahvatu* and *kahkjas*, possibly complemented by the concrete colour name. The origin of the word *kahvatu* has been associated with the Finnic stem *kauh* (cf. the Finnish *kauhea*, the Karelian *kauhia* and the Olonets *kauhakko* meaning 'terrible', or the Lude *kauhed* 'chill'. The stem change of *uh* > *hv* should be regarded as being due to metathesis (Rätsep 1959 : 81–86).

The life history of the Estonian adjective *kahvatu* 'pale' may well have been as follows: the noun stem *kahva* attracted the momentary suffix *-ta*, thus yielding the verb *kahvatama*, of which the adjective *kahvatu* could have been derived by means of the adjectival suffix *-u* (EEW 654). As for *kahkjas* 'pallid', it may have originated in the same *kauh*-stem, complemented by a secondary *k* and the modifying suffix *-jas* (< *-ja+s*) (EEW 650). In dialects the words have the same meaning: Jür *Kahvatu sõna käib eriti riide kohta: kahvatu roosa, punane, sinine. Kahvatu musta ja alli ja valged põle kuuld. Ja nägu on kahvatu*; 'the word *kahvatu* applies to cloth especially: pale pink, red, blue. Haven't heard of black or grey or white being called '*kahvatu*', though. A face can be pale, of course'; Pjg *kahkjas, kui õiged värvi põle, seda mis ta piaks olema, põle täis värvi kahkjas* is used if the colour is not what it should be, isn't rich enough'. Although those two words do not seem to be especially popular in dialects, the Dialect Archives of the Institute of the Estonian Language carry records of the following compound colour names: *kahvatuhall, -kollane, -roheline, -roosa, -sinine, -verev* 'pale grey, ~ yellow, ~ green, ~ pink, ~ blue, ~ red', *kahkjassinine* 'pallid blue'. For example, IisR *Puude lehed lähvad sügise kahvatu kollasest* 'in autumn the leaves will turn pale

yellow'; Jäm *Kahkjassinine värv* 'a pallid blue colour'; Kos *pliekind riie oli kahvatu roheline* 'the faded cloth looked pale green'; *kahvatu all on ele, all* 'pale grey is light grey'; Lai *muidu kahvatu ei ole ilus aga kahvatu roosa on väga ilus* 'in general pale isn't nice, but pale pink is very nice'; *kahvatu verev* 'pale red'; Ran *kahvatu sinine om serände segäne, allikass* 'pale blue isn't a pure colour, it's greyish'. In Saaremaa the corresponding form sounds *kahtjas*, occurring both as a separate word (Khk *kahtjas pale* 'a pale face') and in a compound colour name (Kaa *kahtjasmust*, *kahtjassinine* 'pale black, pale blue').

Pale colours have also been characterized by the loanword *plass* (< Germ. *bläss*): Kuu Küll *jäi ilge plass kohe tegi riie, neh värvi oli vähäkäse* 'the blanket cloth remained such an ugly pale, there was too little of dye'; Lai *värvist oli pláss või kahvatu, ei saand õiged nägu, kui värviti* 'the colour was pale, didn't turn out right in dyeing'. Analogously to the adjective *kahvatu*, *plass* can also occur in combinations with various colour names. E.g. IisR *Plass punane, plass sinine, plass kollane, plass ruheline, plass pruun, nigu pliekind* 'pale red, pale blue, pale yellow, pale green, pale brown, as if faded'; Mar *ühnä valkjad, neoksed plassid rohiled* 'rather whitish, sort of pale green'.

Sometimes the word *lahja* 'weak, watery' (in dialects also *laeha, laih*) is used when speaking of less saturated colours. E.g. *ei old ilus, erga värviga, -- oli lahja, liiga valkjast jäänd* 'it wasn't beautifully bright, weak it was, had remained too pale'; Lai *ele pruun on lahjem, eledam pruun, ei ole tume* 'light brown is weaker, a lighter brown, not dark'; Se *at'i võrka värmitäss sinitsess, -- laih sinine vüü karva* 'fishing nets are dyed blue, a pale blue, the colour of water'; *lahja roosa* 'watery pink' (EKSS III 1 : 25). But *lahja* does not form compounds with the following colour word.

As can be concluded from the above, light colours are characterized by compounds with the attributive component *hele* in most Estonian dialects. In the Tartu and the Võru dialects, however, the attributive position is occupied by the adjective *valss*, or one of its modifying derivatives *valsjass, valsjane, valsukas*. The word *vaalakas* used in the North-Estonian Coastal dialect seems to have its meaning a little more restricted, being closer to that of white. Therefore, the compound word *vaalashall* could be translated as 'whitish grey', *vaalakaspunane* as 'whitish red', etc. In the rest of the North-Estonian dialects the adjectival derivatives *valkjās* and *valvakas* are used in this case (e.g. *valkjās-roheline* 'whitish green', *valkjaskõrb* 'whitish sorrel', *valvakassinine* 'whitish blue').

If a colour adjective is preceded by one of the following attributes *hale, kahvatu, kahkjās, kahtjas*, the word combination is meant to emphasize primarily the colour's low degree of saturation, although usually the colour is light as well. Compound colour names with *hele, kahvatu* and *kahkjās* as their first component have been noted down mostly from North-Estonian dialects, whereas *kahtjas* has been found only on the Isle of Saaremaa.

In the North-Estonian and the Mulgi dialects a semantic difference appears between the words *hele* 'light', *valkjās* 'whitish', and *kahvatu* 'pale'. No such difference, however, can be observed in the Tartu and the Võru dialects where the whole semantic field is covered by colour adjectives with *valss* as the attributive component. A similar undifferentiating attitude is characteristic of the Livonian and the Votic colour adjectives (Koski 1983 : 319).

In all those cases the colour name takes the attributive adjective in the nominative case, which perfectly corresponds to the rules of standard literary Estonian. (In Finnish, for example, the genitive form is used, v. Koski 1983 : 319).

The above method for giving names to light and pale colours suits all spectral colours and there is no restriction as to the objects that can be characterized by such compound colour adjectives. Accordingly, the number of such compounds (or word combinations) is in no way limited and the users are free to make up analogous combinations on the basis of any colour adjective as necessity may arise.

### Abbreviations

**Estonian dialects:** **Ans** — Anseküla; **Amb** — Ambla; **Emm** — Emmaste; **eP** — North-Estonian; **Hag** — Hageri; **Har** — Hargla; **Hls** — Halliste; **Hää** — Häädemeeste; **IisR** — Iisaku (Costal dialect); **JMd** — Järva-Madise; **Juu** — Juuru; **Jöh** — Jõhvi; **Jäm** — Jämaja; **Jür** — Jüri; **Kaa** — Kaarma; **Kei** — Keila; **Khk** — Kihelkonna; **KJn** — Kolga-Jaani; **Kod** — Kodavere; **Koe** — Koeru; **Kos** — Kose; **Krk** — Karksi; **Kuu** — Kuusalu; **KuuK** — Kuusalu (Central dialect); **Käi** — Käina; **Lai** — Laiuse; **Lut** — Lutsi; **Lüg** — Lügänu; **M** — Mulgi dialect; **Mar** — Martna; **Muh** — Muhu; **Nõo** — Nõo; **Ote** — Otepää; **PJg** — Pärnu-Jaagupi; **Plt** — Põltsamaa; **Plv** — Põlva; **R** — Costal dialect; **Ran** — Rannu; **Rei** — Reigi; **Ris** — Risti; **Rõu** — Rõuge; **Saa** — Saarde; **Se** — Setu; **T** — Tartu dialect; **Tor** — Tori; **Trm** — Torma; **Trv** — Tarvastu; **Tõs** — Tõstamaa; **Tür** — Türi; **V** — Võru dialect; **Vai** — Vaivara; **Vas** — Vastseliina; **Vig** — Vigala; **VII** — Valjala; **VNG** — Viru-Nigula.  
**EKSS** — Eesti kirjakeele seletussõnaraamat, Tallinn 1988—1995; **EMS** — Eesti murrete sõnaraamat, Tallinn 1994—1995; **SSA** — Suomen sanojen alkuperä I 1992; **ÕS** — Õigekeelsussõnaraamat, Tallinn 1976.

### LITERATURE

- H a l l a p**, V. 1983, Eesti ja sugulaskeelte adjektiivitüüpe. — *KK*, 422—432.  
**J a u n i u s**, K. 1972, Kalbininko K. Jaunius rankraštinis palikimas. Katalogas ir publikacijos, Vilnius.  
**K o s k i**, M. 1983, Värien nimitykset suomessa ja lähisukukielissä, Savonlinna.  
**R ä t s e p**, H. 1959, Lisamaterjali eesti keele *uh* > *hv* metateesi kohta. — *ESA* IV., Tallinn, 77—90.  
**T h o m s e n**, V. 1931, Wörterverzeichnis I. Baltische (Litauisch-Lettische) Wörter in die Finnischen Sprachen. Samlede Afhandlinger IV, København.  
**S a a r e s t e**, A. 1958, Eesti keele mõisteline sõnaraamat. Stockholm 1958—1968  
**V a b a**, L. 1989, [Rev.] K Häkkinen, Suomen kielen sanaston historiallista taustaa, Turku 1985. — *СФУ* XXV, 61—67.  
— — 1992, [Rev.] Fennougriistiline rännak läti nimekogumiku lehekülgedel. *Onomastica Lettica*, Riga 1990. — *KK*, 573—575.  
**W i e d e m a n n**, F. J. 1973, Eesti-saksa sõnaraamat, Tallinn.

ВИЛЬЯ ОЯ (Таллинн)

### СЛОЖНЫЕ ПРИЛАГАТЕЛЬНЫЕ ДЛЯ ПЕРЕДАЧИ СВЕТЛЫХ И БЛЕДНЫХ ТОНОВ В ЭСТОНСКИХ ДИАЛЕКТАХ

В эстонском языке как светлые и темные тона, так и разная степень интенсивности окраски чаще всего передаются с помощью сложных слов или словосочетаний, которые образуются путем присоединения к наименованию цвета — в позиции перед ним — определительного компонента, выраженного прилагательным.

В северноэстонских диалектах в названиях светлых цветовых тонов как определяющий компонент доминирует слово *hele* 'светлый'. При передаче очень светлых тонов в северо-восточных прибрежных диалектах используются прилагательные *vaalakas* и



в северо-восточных прибрежных диалектах используются прилагательные *vaalakas* и *vaalas* 'беловатый', в других североэстонских диалектах — *valkjas* и *valvakas* 'белесый'. В южноэстонских диалектах как светлые, так и белесые цветовые тона выражаются с помощью прилагательного *valss* 'беловатый' и его производных *valsjas*, *valsjane*, *valsukas* и т.п.

Словосочетание, в котором обозначающему цвет прилагательному предшествует определительное слово *hale*, *kahvatu* 'бледный', *kahkjas* (в североэстонских диалектах) или *kahtjas* (на о-ве Сааремаа) то же, призвано подчеркнуть как низкую степень наполненности цвета, так в большинстве случаев и светлый тон окраски.

Бледный тон окраски характеризуется также прибавлением к наименованию цвета прилагательных *plass* 'блеклый' и *lahja* 'жидкий'. Однако такие словосочетания в качестве сложных слов не закрепились.

Во всех рассмотренных в статье случаях прилагательное в форме номинатива как определительный компонент присоединяется спереди к наименованию цвета, что в этом отношении полностью отвечает действующей в эстонском литературном языке закономерности.

Описанный здесь способ наименования светлых и блеклых цветовых тонов можно использовать в отношении всего цветового спектра, подобные словосочетания характеризуют любой объект с точки зрения его окраски. Отсюда число таких сложных слов (или словосочетаний) неограничено и, учитывая существующую систему, пользователи языка могут соответственно своей потребности образовывать аналогичные сочетания на базе всех цветовых прилагательных.