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	Nota di contenuto	Colouring Meaning -- Editorial page -- Title page -- LCC data -- dedication page -- Table of contents -- List of tables and figures -- Acknowledgements -- 1. A search for meanings -- 1.1 Introduction -- 1.2 Meanings and words -- 1.3 Words, collocations, phrases -- 1.4 Meaning in the mind -- 1.5 Meanings in use -- 1.6 Navigating variation -- 2. Idioms and idiomaticity -- 2.1 What is an idiom? -- 2.2 Idioms and collocations -- 2.3 A search for meaning(s) in idioms and metaphorical collocations -- 2.4 Into the wide blue yonder -- 3. Co(n) text and meaning -- 3.1 The idiom principle -- 3.2 Extended units of meaning -- 3.3 Collocation -- 3.4 Grammatical and lexical abstractions -- 3.5 Secondary semantics -- 3.6 Semantic prosody (i), a.k.a. semantic association -- 3.7 Semantic prosody (ii): Discourse and pragmatic functions -- 3.8 Idioms and the idiom principle -- 4. Words in usual collocations -- 4.1 Meanings that come out in the wash -- 4.2 From origin to use -- 4.3 Caught red-handed -- 4.4 Once in a blue moon -- 4.5 Passando la notte in bianco -- 4.6 Salient meaning, phraseology and delexicalisation -- 4.7 Out of the frying pan… -- 5. Phrases in context -- 5.1 Variation inside the unit of meaning -- 5.2

Colligational preference and modification -- 5.3 Semantic preference and re-metaphorisation -- 5.4 Relexicalisation -- 5.5 Metaphor and re-metaphorisation -- 5.6 Semantic preference, variation, and "imageable" idioms -- 5.7 Toeing the line -- 6. Variation, metaphor and semantic association -- 6.1 Don't count your chickens… -- 6.2 Variation of key constituents -- 6.3 Variation of hue: Emphatic nuances in the expression of emotion -- 6.4 Variation of tone: Ameliorative and pejorative nuances -- 6.5 Variation of saturation: Emphasis and defocusing -- 6.6 Culturally constructed colour scales -- 6.7 Pandora's box.

7. Punning, word play and other linguistic special effects -- 7.1 Optimal innovation -- 7.2 Changes to the canonical form -- 7.3 Expansion, addition and combination -- 7.4 Canonical forms in non-canonical cotext -- 7.5 More on seeing red/blue/green… -- 7.6 The grass is always greener… -- 7.7 The effects of variation -- 8. Words and meanings -- 8.1 A few words about meaning -- 8.2 Meaning what you say vs. saying what you mean -- 8.3 Meanings in words -- 8.4 Famous last words -- References -- Appendix -- Author index -- Examples index -- Subject index -- The series Studies in Corpus Linguistics.

| Sommario/riassunto | Primarily focused on idioms and other figurative phraseology, Colouring Meaning describes how the meanings of established phrases are enhanced, refocused and modified in everyday language use. Unlike many studies of creativity in language, this book-length survey addresses the matter at several levels, from the purely linguistic level of collocation, through its abstractions in colligation and semantic preference, to semantic prosody and connotation. This journey through both linguistic and cognitive levels involves the examination of habitual language and its exploitations, both mundane and colourful, explaining the phenomena observed in terms of current psycholinguistic research as well as corpus linguistics theory and analysis. The relationships between meaning in text and meaning in the mind are discussed at length and extensively illustrated with worked case studies to offer the reader a comprehensive overview of metaphorical and other secondary meanings as they emerge in real-world communicative situations. |