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References

Part 1: INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale

Each nation has its own particular culture and the cultural identity of ethnic groups has decided the differences between customary practices, personality, and history of every country in the world. Among them, folklore is the most precious treasure for any country. As a result of a long process, proverbs and idioms have become important parts constituting that culture. In both Vietnamese and English there are many different idioms and proverbs that are really close to human life such as: nature, plants, people and even to the small animals like insects. I chose to research on insects for the following reasons:

- Firstly, Vietnam is an agricultural country, so insects of both beneficial and harmful species are close to and necessary for agriculture. It is obvious that people with considerable experience in agriculture are able to speak and understand the language better. The vivid picture, as it is expressed by idioms and proverbs is the best method to learn it.
- Secondly, In Britain, although industry has become the most important aspect of the modern state, the people still consider agriculture to have a significant impact on their culture, especially on the language. This is the reason why there are still lots of proverbs and idioms referring to nature. Each category has specific insects. Utility, different effects and people often lend their image to one or more of the general nature of man. They are mostly constituted out of rhymes so that they can easily be remembered. Through the country's history, these idioms and proverbs were given from one generation to another and are still relevant nowadays.
- Thirdly, idioms and proverbs are very common in spoken English and informal written English as well as Vietnamese, thus it is important and fun to learn some of them. In spoken English, they are used in most situations, from friendly conversations to business meetings. In written English, they are especially common in newspaper because the writers want to make the headlines and articles interesting and lively.

This interesting topic has attracted a large number of scientific researchers as well as numerous students. Even little children are interested in learning idioms, as they teach them a lot about life and the way some people behave. I learned so many interesting and useful things from this topic: understanding profound aspects of culture of both English and Vietnamese nation and gaining experience for my future life.

2. Scope of the study

Idioms and proverbs are so large and difficult aspect of each language, that my graduating paper cannot cover all insect idioms and proverbs; it only focuses on typical insects such as bees, fleas, bugs, butterflies, ants, flies, worms, beetles, gnats, crickets and grasshoppers.

3. Aims of the study

Idioms and proverbs are an extremely difficult topic, which is hardly understood by foreign English learners, and even native speakers, who learn the idioms and proverbs and do not know how to use them. Being aware of this fact, I appreciate the idioms and proverbs associated to attitude and behavior of the speakers. Sometimes we can ignore the spelling mistakes because we still understand, but if someone uses the wrong idioms or proverbs, we cannot understand. Therefore, my research is aimed at:

- Collecting and classifying some idioms and proverbs which are usually used in Vietnamese and English language.
- Finding out some similarities and differences between these two cultures.
- Helping the learners or someone interested in idioms and proverbs to use them in a correct way.

4. Methods of the study

In order to learn English and Vietnamese idioms and proverbs relating to some common insects' name better and to make learners recognize the important roles of idioms and proverbs in life, the following methods are used in the studying process:

- Material analysis: reading reference books to find and collect needed information. Other hand, collecting the specific examples for study.

- Consultations: having discussion with the supervisor, experts and friends.
- Comparison and contrast: selecting, comparing and contrasting examples in English idioms and proverbs and Vietnamese ones in order to find the most similarities and differences.

5. Design of the study

This paper provides a clear organization consisting three main parts, which are very easy to explore and learn. Part I- Introduction, consists of five small parts namely: Rationale, Scope of the study, Aims of the study, Methods of the study and Design of the study. Three other chapters are presented in the Part II. "Language and Culture", "An overview of idioms" and "An overview of proverbs" are belonging to Chapter 1, Theoretical background. In these sub-divisions I present some knowledge about language and culture, idioms, proverbs definition and their some common features. Chapter 2, Idioms and proverbs relating to insects' names in English and Vietnamese. Due to the limitation of time and knowledge, I just do research on ten typical insects' names: Bees, Fleas, Butterflies, Ants, Flies, Bugs, Worms, Beetles, Gnats, Crickets and the Grasshoppers. Chapter 3 is "Related problems faced by English learners and suggested solutions". And the last part is Part III, Conclusion.

Part II: DEVELOPMENT

Chapter 1. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

1. Language and Culture

1.1. What is language?

Language has been studied for many years and different perspectives. Ancient Greek philosophers elaborated on its proper use and purpose, modern scholars analyzed how it is produced and perceived. However, in order to understand this term completely, we must answer the question: "what is language?"

Many scholars did give the definition for the term of language. Language as a social phenomenon was first described by Ferdinand de Saussure who claimed that providing only historical description of languages (as it was done at his time) should not be only approach to this complex entity. He maintained that crucial information about language could be obtained from its common users, who in most cases do not possess practically any theoretical knowledge about their native tongue and yet are competent speakers. Moreover, as Saussure assumed, language use reflects the contemporary structure, which should enable synchronic language analysis (language used at a given point in time) in addition to diachronic analysis concerned with the past linguistic forms. The aspect of using language or speech was called *parole* by Saussure. While the underlying knowledge of linguistic structure was known as *langue*.

Another view on language, mainly language as behavior partially from the behaviorist psychology and philosophy. Linguistic presenting this attitude focused on different languages used by various people rather than on linguistic universal, as they assumed that linguistic data is best gathered by observation of human behavior and interaction. Apart from that, it was assumed that meaning of sentences is not observable, thus it must be analyzed referring to introspective judgments. What follows this assumption is

the definition of *language* provided by linguistic who represent this approach. They maintain that *language is the totality of utterances that can be made in a speech community.*

According to the third approach to language started by Noam Chomsky, *language is a mental organ.* Having noticed certain similarities among languages Chomsky expressed the view that they cannot be explained by environmental factors or be accidental and there needs to be a special mental ability embedded in human brains. He defined language by means of generative grammar: a finite set of rules, which would enable users to make an unlimited number of expressions. Representatives of this approach support the view that it is not particular languages that should be analyzed, but the Universal Grammar, or the mental organ that allows humans to speak.

The last group is constituted by scholars who claimed that language is an abstract object, as it does not occupy any space or time. Thus this view is in opposition to Chomsky's ideas, but linguistic who agree with it emphasize that the analysis of the best abstract models of language can bring helpful effects of the entire area of study.

(<http://www.tlumaczenia-angielski.info/.../language.html>)

Basing on the Oxford Advanced Learner's dictionary, we have a definition about *language* like:

"Language is the system of communication in speech and writing that is used by people of a particular country or area"

(Oxford Advanced Learner's dictionary, 1948, the 7th edition, page 862)

In short, language is the specifically human capacity for acquiring and using complex systems of communication, other way, it is the tool for communication, which enable human to communicate and cooperate with two styles: style of speaking and style of writing. Each language is the property of a single social community. Even though

some languages cannot be developed and be primitive, and even until now there is no written language due to historical reasons, these languages still be wonderful communication tool of man, as a means of idea and transmission of human culture.

1.2. What is culture?

Everyone talk about his or her culture with very high regard. However, do we know exactly culture is? Let us discover the meaning of culture and its significance in the life of an individual and society.

Culture is an integral part of every society. It is a learned pattern of behavior and ways in which a person lives his or her life. Culture is essential for the existence of a society, because it binds people together. In the explicit sense of the term, culture constitutes the music, food, art and literature of a society. However, these are only the products of culture followed by the society and cannot be defined as *culture*.

The term was first used in this way by the pioneer English Anthropologist Edward B. Taylor in his book, *Primitive Culture*, published in 1871. Taylor said that *culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, law, morals, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society.*

(<http://anthro.palomar.edu>)

Besides, many other scholars have defined "what culture is". According to Kluckhohn, C., & Kelly, W.H. (1945). The concept of culture. In R. Linton (Ed.). *The Science of Man in the World Culture*. New York, (page 78-105). "*By culture we mean all those historically created designs for living, explicit and implicit, rational, irrational, and no rational, which exist at any given time as potential guides for the behavior of men.*"

Basing on Parson, T. (1949). *Essays in Sociological Theory*. Glencoe, IL, (page 8) "*Culture...consists in those patterns relative to behavior and the products of human action which may be inherited, that is, passed on from generation to generation independently of the biological genes*".

On the view of Banks, J.A., Banks, & McGee, C. A. (1989). *Multicultural education*. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon. *"Most social scientists today view culture as consisting primarily of the symbolic, ideational, and intangible aspects of human societies. The essence of a culture is not its artifacts, tools, or other tangible cultural elements but how the members of the group interpret, use, and perceive them. It is the values, symbols, interpretations, and perspectives that distinguish one people from another in modernized societies; it is not material objects and other tangible aspects of human societies. People within a culture usually interpret the meaning of symbols, artifacts, and behaviors in the same or in similar ways."*

(<http://www.carla.umn.edu/culture/definitions.html>)

As said by Nguyen Quang, *Intercultural Communication*, Vietnam national university, Hanoi college of foreign languages press, page 3: *"Culture: a shared background (for example, national, ethnic, religious) resulting from a common language and communication style, customs, belief, attitude and values. "Culture" in this text is not refer to art, music, literature, food, clothing style and so on. It refers to the informal and often hidden patterns of human interactions, expressions, and viewpoints that people in one culture share. The hidden nature of culture has been compared to an iceberg, most of which is hidden underwater. Like the iceberg, much of the influence of culture on an individual cannot be seen. The part of culture that is exposed is not always that which creates cross- cultural difficulties; the hidden aspects of culture have significant effects on behavior and on interactions with others"*.

Culture is something that a person learns from his family and surroundings, and is not ingrained in him from birth. It does not have any biological connection because even if a person is brought up in a culture different from that in which he was born, he imbibes the culture of the society where he grows up. It is also not a hidden fact that some people feel the need to follow the beliefs and traditions of their own culture, even though they might be not subscribing to certain ideologies within.

Culture is a complex tool which every individual has to learn to survive in a society. It is the means through which people interact with others in the society. It acts in a subconscious way and whatever we see and perceive, seems to be normal and natural. Sometimes, other societies and people seem to be a little odd because they have a different culture from ours. We must remember that every society has a distinct culture that forms the backbone of the society. Culture does not remain stagnant; on the other hand, it is evolving constantly and is in fact somewhat influenced by the other cultures and societies.

Every society has a different culture, where people share a specific language, traditions, behavior, perceptions and beliefs. Culture gives them an identity that makes them unique and different from people of other cultures. When people of different cultures migrate and settle in another society, the culture of that society becomes the dominant culture and those of the immigrants form the subculture of the community. Usually, people who settle in other nations imbibe the new culture; while at the same time strive to preserve their own.

Although every society has a specific culture, there are certain elements of culture that are universal. They are known as cultural universals, in which there are certain behavioral traits and patterns that are shared by all cultures around the world. For instance, classifying relations based on blood relations and marriage, differentiating between good and bad, having some form of art, use of jewelry, classifying people according to gender and age, etc., are common in all cultures of the world.

Some people believe that humans are the only living beings who have a culture. Nevertheless, there is a group of people who believe in the existence of culture even in animals. It is said that animals have certain social rules that they teach their young ones as a medium for survival.

Culture is necessary to establish an order and discipline in the society. It is not only a means of communication between people, but also creates a feeling of belonging and togetherness among people in the society.

1.3. Language and Culture

Language and culture have the unseparated connection. Language is means of transporting of culture and also, culture belongs to language. It is said that, written language (script) and spoken language are quintessence of a single cultural nation, and the culture is developed and preserved for other generation by both spoken language and written language. The changed and developed of the language always keep abreast with the culture's change and development. Therefore, to study culture deeply we are sure to research the language deeply as well and vice versa. This is expressed clearly in case of two people have contact or communication but they are belong to different nations and culture background. In general, ability of using a foreign language, which consists the skillful of listening, writing, reading and speaking, is determined by two factors as: expert in the language and knowledgeable about the culture. When a man who is well- informed about a foreign language but cannot explain that language clearly; because he is not having a thorough knowledge of that language's culture context.

In short, we can understand that, language is a part of culture and reflects culture while culture determines the meaning and the use of language. Thus we need to confirm that they are closely interrelated.

2. An overview of idioms

2.1. What is an idiom?

It is important to recognize that idioms are not only colloquial expression, as many people believe. Idioms as a special form of language that carries a large amount of cultural information, such as history, geography, religion, custom and so on. They appear in formal style, in slang, in poetry...

To research idiom, first of all, we must well understand idiom's definition. There are many scholars defining what an idiom is. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's dictionary:

"A group of words whose meaning is different from the meanings of the individual words"

(Oxford Advanced Learner's dictionary, 1948, the 7th edition, page 707)

An idiom is a chain of words or phrase that means something different from what it says- it is usually metaphor. Only people who are very good at speaking the language of the idiom will know what an idiom means. This because in order to understand an idiom, you usually need to know the culture the idiom comes from.

In addition, another definition of idiom:

"A phrase which has a meaning that is commonly understood by speakers of the language, but whose meaning is often different from the normal meaning of the words is called an idiom."

(www.usingenglish.com/.../idiom.html)

As well as the definition from Oxford Advanced Learner's dictionary, the above one also indicates that idiom includes a chain of words, commonly understood by natives than learners. Another important thing here is the meaning of the word chain. Nobodies can break them from one another because of losing mean.

Idioms are words, phrases, or expressions that are unusual grammatically, as in *"under the weather"* or there is a meaning that cannot be derived from the conjoined meaning of its elements, as in *"storm in a teacup"*. Every language has idioms, and they are challenging foreign students to learn.

(<http://English-Zone.Com>)

In fact, this is what makes idioms all more confusing.

E.g.: *" Save for the rainy day "*

This idiom means: preparing for the rainy day, literally. However it means building up a fund to meet emergencies, idiomatically.

The definitions of idiom are many in our society. In my opinion, idioms consist of set phrases and short sentences, which are peculiar to the language in question and stepped in the national and regional culture and ideals, thus being colorful, forcible and true to life. Strictly speaking, idioms are expressions that are not readily understandable from their literal meaning of individual parts. In a broad sense, idioms may include colloquialisms, catchphrase, slang expressions, proverbs and so on.

To sum up, an idiom is a phrase where the words together have a meaning that is different from the dictionary definition of the individual words, which can make idiom hard for English learners to understand.

2.2. Some common features of idioms

There are many different definitions of idioms but we can find some similarities between them.

➤ An idiom is a multiword expression. Individual components of an idiom can often be inflected in the same way individual words in a phrase can be inflected. This inflection usually follows the same pattern of inflection as the idiom's literal counterpart.

E.g.: *"have a bee in one's bonnet"* = feeling anxiously

➤ An idiom behaves as a single semantic unit

▪ It tends to have some measure of internal cohesion such that a literal counterpart that is made up of a single word can often replace it.

E.g.: *"kick the bucket"* = die

▪ It resists interruption by other words whether they are semantically compatible or not.

E.g.: *"do a bunk"* = *"do a bunk with sb"*

or *"be sulky as a bear"* = *"be as sulky as a bear"*

▪ It resists reordering of its component parts.

E.g.: *"let the cat out of the bag"* = *"the cat got left out the bag"*

➤ An idiom has a non-productive syntactic structure. Only single particular lexemes can collocate in an idiomatic. Substituting other words from the same generic lexical relation set will destroy the idiomatic meaning of the expression.

E.g.: *"eat one's words" = "eat one's sentence"*

➤ It is syntactic anomalous. It has unusual grammatical structure.

E.g.: *"by and large"*

3. An overview of proverbs

3.1. What is a proverb?

Proverbs are used by speakers for a variety of purposes. Sometimes they are used as a way of saying something gently, in a veiled way (Obeng 1996). Other times, they are used to carry more weight in a discussion, awake person is able to enlist the tradition of the ancestors to support his position. Proverbs can also be used to simply make a conversation/discussion more lively. In ,any parts of the world, the use of proverbs is a mark of being a good orator. So what is a proverb?

Theoretically, there are lot of different ways to define what is proverb.

A proverb is a short saying or sentence that is generally known by many people. The saying usually contains words of wisdom, truth or morals that are based on common sense or practical experience. It is often a description of a basic ruler of conduct that all people generally follow or should follow. Proverbs can be found in all languages.

For example: *Every day is not Saturday*

Paul Hermadi and Francis Steen make it clearly by considering proverbs *"brief, memorable, and intuitively convincing formulations of socially sanctioned advice"*.

The concept of proverb is, however, a bit different in Vietnamese. *Từ điển Tiếng Việt* defines proverb as *"short statements, often expressed with rhythm, which sum up knowledge, life experience and moral lessons of people"*.

For example: *All lay loads on the willing horse* or *All men do not follow in the footsteps of their forbears*

According to Pham Van Binh "*A proverb is a complete sentence expressing an idea of comment, of experience, of morality, of justice or of criticism draw from the human life*".

To sum up, proverbs are often borrowed from different languages and cultures and sometimes come down to the present through more than one language.

3.2 Some common features of proverb

Even though each specialist has his own definition on proverb, we also can indicate some following common characters of proverb

- Proverbs are passed down through time with little change in form.
- Proverbs are often used metaphorically and it is understanding their metaphorical nature that we can unravel their meaning. While "a stitch in time saves nine", "don't count your chickens before they've hatched", "don't throw the baby out with the bathwater" are common proverb, few of us stitch clothes, count the chickens, or throw out bathwater.
- Proverbs often make use of grammatical and theoretical devices that help to make them memorable. including alliteration, rhyme, parallel structure, repetition of key words or phrases, and strong imagery.

4. The distinction between idioms and proverbs

4.1 English idioms and proverbs

If you say: "*The cat is out of the bag*" instead of "*The secret is given away*", you're using an idiom. But "*An apple a day keeps the doctor away*" is a proverb. Proverbs are old but familiar sayings that usually give advice unlike idioms.

Friedrich Seiler(1939) presented an important definition for proverb. He defined proverb as follows: The prominent, articulated, advisory, and free speeches that are current in people's language.

The proverb is a complete sentence with a firm structure that is based on an unchangeable foundation, like "*where there's a will there's a way*", or "*one who seeks will find*". Proverbs represent a complete piece of information because they can occur as a sentence. They are meaningful by themselves.

In contrast, idioms are not syntactically independent because they can not always occur as full sentences, but as a part of a sentence. As it was said, the difference between proverb and idiom pertains to their form, structure, and function. Contrary to the proverbs, idioms are the general and current phrases that must be substituted in sentences so as to obtain a complete sense. These phrases can change according to time adverb, subject, and object. Explanation of an idiom is possible in the sentence with some additions. In other words the meaning of sentence is not perceived from its component words. The idioms carry the substance of speech. They must be used in a complete idiom.

4.2 Vietnamese idioms and proverbs

As well as British culture, idioms and proverbs has been being a very important part of the Vietnamese folk treasure. Vietnamese people are used to using idioms and proverbs from the immemorial time in the daily life, on the other word, they have been very close to Vietnamese life. It is not surprise that our ancestors did composed a very diverse treasure of sayings, idioms, proverbs, folks, and so on. Our ancestors left us a great valuable experience on weather, agriculture, crop, and so forth, via idioms and proverbs. In the past, because of lacking material and knowledge, Vietnamese people often taught their children these idioms, proverbs and saying in oral. Nowadays they are written language in document or texture. All of the idioms and proverbs are written by very simple language and we can learn them very easily. In short, the Vietnamese meaningful idioms and proverbs contributed a great quantity as well quality in our culture.

Chapter 2: SOME IDIOMS AND PROVERBS RELATING TO NAMES OF SOME INSECT SPECIES

1. Idioms and proverbs relating to bees

Bees are flying insects closely related to wasps and ants, and are known for their role in pollination and for producing honey and beeswax. There are nearly 20,000 known species of bees in seven to nine recognized families, though many are undescribed and the actual number is probably higher. Bees are a very important insect for the human, plant and animal kingdoms. They provides humans, animals, birds and plants with nourishing honey, beeswax and associated produce; it plays a critical role in sustaining crops and wild plants by pollinating them.



the Honey- bee



the Hornet

In addition, this insect species is a hardworking one in the wild world. There are many kinds of them such as the honeybee, the worker, the Queen, and so on.

To talk about their busy feature, there is a very famous idiom which go like:

"As busy as a bee"

This idiom show an image of a very diligent manner of the bees. They work all daytime and nighttime, especially the worker. Thanks to his assiduous attitude, the wild world, even people can taste the most wonderful honey bee.

The native speakers use this idiom, which indicate the bee, to relate the human.

E.g.: *She's as busy as a bee, always going to meetings and organizing parties.*

(<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

In such case, the speaker wants to show off the characteristics of *she*, the industrious and clever woman, the busy woman indeed.

In Vietnamese culture, the native speakers already do use this feature of the bee to indicate the man: "*chăm chỉ như ong*". This idiom also talks about a characteristic of the bee - hardworking. Not only in the literature, but also in the daily life, the Vietnamese aware used to using this idiom to praise someone.

As far as we know, the bees always live together in a hive on the branch tree or underground, and they will move if their Queen moves. It means that they have the very high unity. To point out the dense of the bees, the English people say: "*as busy as bee hive*" or "*hive of activities*". Some people compare the market place with a hive due to the busy activities there. Both of them are crowded and noisy. As well as the moving swing of the bees, people in the market make the very riotous sound. With the same meaning but in different way, Vietnamese people say: "*đông như kiến cỏ*" or "*như ong vỡ tổ*".

Not only hardworking or busy, the bees are very ferocious species, especially the hornet. To denote the dangerous characteristic, the English people often use the idioms of: "*as mad as hornet*" or "*as angry as a wasp*". Hornet is one of the largest bees, he can reach up to 5.5cm in length. Hornets, like many social wasps, can mobilize the entire nest to sting in defense, which is highly dangerous to humans. Hornet stings more painful to humans than typical wasp stings because hornet venom contains a large amount poisonous. His poisonous can kill even a buffalo. So, don not make he mad, and it is very wise to keep away from this species.

Borrowing the image of the hornet, English people want to talk about the *hornet* men, who are easy to going mad, easy to loose their temper. Whenever these people can control their themselves, they become very dangerous and can harm the others.

E.g.: *He was as mad as a hornet when he heard what she said about him.*

(<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

By using another word, Vietnamese people also have the similarity saying: "*nổi cơn tam bành*". It is a state of angry, but very angry and the person who *as mad as hornet* usually threatening other people and make them away from himself.

Also mentioning this nature of the bees, Vietnamese people have a very famous idiom is: "*nuôi ong tay áo*". This sentence is explained as nurturing the bad guys without the awareness until suffering disasters or bad effects from that. Semantically, this idiom is understood fairly uniform, however, the image of the bee here is still controversial. Many people believe that "*nuôi ong tay áo*" means someone feeds the bee in their sleeve and someday they will be bitten. Nonetheless, this is somewhat unrealistic because *ong tay áo* is name of a black bee species. The species make nests in trees and the beehives downward as the design of the sleeve, thus, they are named *ong tay áo*. Opposite to the wasps, the good-luck bees, this specie is believed often bring bad lucks to the family if they build the nests in houses. So the idiom of "*nuôi ong tay áo*" means raising bees is not good but bringing bad lucks. The British have the same expression to Vietnamese which goes like: "*set the wolf to keep the sheep*".

In these idioms, the similarity is that both English and Vietnamese pay attention to the manner of the bees, and use these manners of the bees to imply people, and due to different cultures they have different ways to express.

2. Idioms and proverbs relating to fleas.

Another insect species is flea. Flea is the common name for the insect which are wingless insect with mouthparts adapted for piercing skin and sucking blood. Fleas are external parasites living by hematophagy off the blood of mammals and birds, especially, of dog. Their legs are long and they are the most wonderful jumping one in the wild life.



Relating to fleas, English culture utilize the image of fleas and the dog to denote happiness in such following idiom: "*as happy as a flea in a doghouse*". Living in a dog house(under the dog further), a flea is very happy because he did find out a favorable condition to settle. He can jump, and suck the blood, even dance. To refer to someone "*as happy as a flea in a doghouse*" means that they are very happy and contented.

E.g.: *One man who won the lottery as happy as a flea in a doghouse.*

(<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

By other way, other matter, Vietnamese people describe the happiness: "*vui như hội*" or "*vui như Tết*". To the Vietnamese people, festival (hội) and Lunar new year (Tết) are the happiest and the most important time. Thus, Vietnamese people spend 3 months a year to celebrate festivals nationwide. In the Tet holiday, no matter where they are, all Vietnamese people are eager to back home.

One another idiom, which also uses the symbol of the fleas to expresses the good-natured characteristic, is very popular in English culture: "*not hurt/ harm a flea*".

E.g.: *Ted would never hurt a flea, and he would not hit anyone as you claim.*

(<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

This idiom talks about a man who never hurt anyone even the smallest as flea. Same to Vietnamese, you can find out the same meaning saying in our folklore treasure: "*hiền như bụt*" or "*hiền như cục bụt*". "Bụt" is the Buddha, the symbol of the main religion in Vietnam, Buddhism. Buddha is considered the most good-natured man in the

Vietnamese spirits. Due to the effects of his good behavior, he becomes the standard of every good thing in society.

For other example of the English idiom relating to flea, "*skin a flea for its hide*". The British use this saying in the colloquial speech to emphasize the very mean person who never wants to pay anything but wants to receive many.

As well as, Vietnamese people also have the same idioms to describe this nature which goes like: "*rán mảnh sành ra mỡ*" or "*vắt cổ chày ra nước*". Besides these above sayings, we have many stories about this character as well. Remembering when I was young, I was told a story about a billionaire who was so very niggardly that he would sooner die than spending five coins to save his life. *Mảnh sành* (the glazed terra-cotta material) and *cái chày* (pestle) are very close to Vietnamese lives. It is impossible to fry (*rán*) the piece of glaze terra-cotta as well to squeeze a pestle.

By using the image of flea, the above idioms did show many good characteristics as well as the opposite ones of the human being. In spite of utilizing unlike methods, both Vietnamese and English culture have the same meaning of the idiom and saying.

3. Idioms and proverbs relating to butterflies



the Moth



the Butterfly

A butterfly is a mainly day-flying insect. Butterflies have large, often brightly colored wings and attractive, fluttering flight. Some butterflies have evolved symbiotic and parasitic relationships with social insects such as ants. Some species are pests because in their larval stages they can damage domestic crops or trees; however, some species are agents of pollination of some plants, and caterpillars of a few butterflies (e.g., Harvesters) eat harmful insects. Culturally, butterflies are a popular motif in the visual and literary arts.

Thank to the nature, the butterfly may be the most colorful and beautiful insect in the wild world. That could be the origin of the saying: "*as gaudy as butterfly*". The word "gaudy" (colorful) has the stronger effect than "beautiful", gaudy means too brightly colored.

E.g.: *The woman was as gaudy as a butterfly when she left for the concert.*

(<http://www.americanidioms.net/>)

The English native speakers employ this idiom to imply the striking color, especially the color in woman fashions. To talk about the flamboyant color, Vietnamese people often say: "*hoa hòe hoa sói*". Instead of using the image of insect, we use another word which show a flashy color to raise the emotion of such color. In conclusion, to praise the beauty world wide people can use many ways, but these beauties always are the striking one.

In the thought of nervous feeling, the English also employ the image of butterfly to express: "*there is butterfly in one's stomach*". As you feel very nervous or anxious, especially before doing something, you often say "there is butterfly in my stomach". That phenomenon is most often experienced prior to important event.

E.g.: *She had butterfly in her stomach as she walked out on the stages.*

(<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

E.g.: *When her boyfriend dropped to one knee and took a small box out of his coat pocket, Mary felt butterflies in her stomach.*

(<http://www.usingenglish.com/>)

On other researches, some scholars indicated that this state especially frequent in teenage than adult, and more frequently experienced by females than males. They also suggest, sometimes just sitting back, relaxing and taking deep breaths can help to relieve the feeling.

To show the same feeling, Vietnamese people say : "*lo ngay ngáy*" or "*như đứng trên đống lửa*". Whenever you feel anxious, you cannot do anything, even stand or sit and you will have uncomfortable, fear feeling.

Besides using image of the butterfly to emphasize her beauty in the idiom of "*as gaudy as butterfly*", people around the world may very familiar to another English idiom which is that: "*to break the butterfly on a wheel*". This is an American idiom and it is use frequently in daily time. The "wheel" was an ancient instrument of torture. It has given us this rather old expression meaning: to use more force or energy than necessary to accomplish a simple task.

E.g.: "*I've got to punish Gertrude for not studying but I don't want to break a butterfly on a wheel by being too severe with her*", her mother said.

(<http://www.englishdaily626.com>)

On the research, I found that Vietnamese people have the same way expression with the American in the idiom which goes like: "*giết gà bằng dao mổ trâu*". Perfectly, the Vietnamese use two contrast-in-size animals "*gà (chicken) - trâu (buffalo)*" to phrase this idiom and this brings the very good effect in conversation. Despite using different methods and animal images, both the American and the Vietnamese have the same expression, thus we believe that both two culture have some certain relationships.

Being of the order Lepidoptera moth is an insect related to the butterfly. The adult females are often larger than the males. Male moths usually have very elaborate antennae. Coloration may be different between the sexes. Although butterflies and

moths are very similar, they have many differences. Most butterflies fly during the day, and most moths fly during the night. The best way to identify a butterfly from a moth is to look at its antenna. A butterfly's antenna have knobs at the ends of their feelers, and the ends of the moth's antenna is either feather like or plain. Most butterflies rest with their wings held up above their bodies and most moths rest with their wings spread out flat. Typically butterflies have brightly colored wings and moths have dull colored wings. Most butterflies have slender, hairless bodies, while most moths have a fat abdomen and furry bodies. Butterflies form a chrysalis during the pupa stage of their lives. In moths, the chrysalis is normally contained inside a cocoon. Most moths have tiny hook or bristle hooking the forewings and hind wings together. Butterflies do not have this hook. Moths have existed about 100 million years longer than butterflies. So although butterflies and moths appear very much alike, there are quite a number of differences.

Relating to the moth, there is an idiom "*into mothball*" which means *bị bỏ xó* or *bị bác bỏ* in Vietnamese language. This idiom has origin from America and the American often use it to emphasize a condition of being set aside or discarded.

E.g. *They have put the plan into mothballs.*

(<http://www.thefreedictionary.com>)

And the idiom is also used to refer to a condition of long storage for possible future use.

E.g. *They put the battleship into mothballs.*

(<http://www.thefreedictionary.com>)

In brief, both two cultures have the novel methods to show off their aims. These ways do reach the conservation aim as them become the symbols of each language.

4. Idioms and proverbs relating to ants

Ants are socio- insect, they usually live in a big family with millions individuals. They are used to living on the land and creating the super group. As well as the bee, this

species are divided into many kinds: the Queen, the workers, the soldiers, and so forth. Characteristically, they have wings only in the males and fertile females and live in colonies that have a complex social organization. Many human cultures make use of ants in cuisine, medication and rituals. Some species are valued in their role as biological pest control agents. However, their ability to exploit resources brings ants into conflict with humans, as they can damage crops and invade buildings. Some species, such as the red imported fire ant, are regarded as invasive species, establishing themselves in areas where they are accidentally introduced.



To similar with the idiom of "*have butterfly in one's stomach*" the saying "*ants in one's pants*" also give the idea of extremely restless, uneasy, impatient, or anxious emotion.

E.g.: *This child just cannot sit still, he must have ants in his pants.*

(<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

E.g.: *There is a test tomorrow and he can't concentrate or keep still. He looks like he's got ants in his pants.*

(<http://www.learnenglish.de>)

This rhyming idiom calls up a vivid image of what might cause one to be jump. In this case, Vietnamese people often use the phrase : "*đứng ngồi không yên*" to express the child's action.

Relating to this insect's name, Vietnamese people say: "*kiến tha lâu cũng đầy tổ*". This saying raises a feeling of admiring the hardworking of the ants. The idiom is different from the above ones, it is not about the anxious feeling. It talks about a characteristic of the ant - laborious. As we see in daily life, the ant is a very laborious specie. For example, they appear whenever and wherever as soon as find out the food, especially sweet food. Due to the physical appearance - a small insect, they can carry a very small quantity food. Thus they must do many times. In Vietnamese culture, this idiom is usually use to indicate the hardworking person.

All in all, despite many differences in geography, language, or culture each nation have their own expression but same idea. There is only one ant, but he is employed in many different saying with different meaning. Thank to our ancestors who left us such wonderful relic.

5. Idioms and proverbs relating to flies



Fly is a kind of insect, who has a pair of wings and a mobile head with big eyes and also living in social colonies. They are used to appearing in the dirty place and they always make the food, which they foot on, soil or polluted. Like all insects, flies have 6 legs and segmented bodies consisting of a head, a thorax and an abdomen. Flies have hairy, sticky feet and are able to walk upside down. Their special feet enable them to land on smooth surfaces (like your wall) and not slide off. Flies lay their eggs in soil, on plants, on the bodies of other animals, and frequently on dead or rotting flesh. Fly

larvae are usually called maggots. Different flies dine on different foods. Flies around the world eat nectar, plant sap, blood, other insects, and decaying matter.

Due to his features, people employ the image in an idiom like: "*a fly in the ointment*". Let imagine of a pure oilmen and a foul fly who is swimming in, what happen here? The oilmen is soil, surely. This idiom is often symbolized to the degenerated man who destroy his fame as well as his family's or his collective's. It must be a bad one and it worth to excluding out of the collective. In another word, the man makes himself notorious and get bad reputation. What a pity!

E.g.: *We enjoyed the play, but the fly in the ointment was not being able to find my hat afterward.*

(<http://www.phrases.org.uk>)

To express the same action, Vietnamese people say: "*con sâu làm rầu nồi canh*". Soup (*canh*) is a indispensable dish of the Vietnamese meal. The delicious soup is destroyed by a dirty worm (*con sâu*) and then the soup cannot serve. Using the image of *soup* and *the worm*, Vietnamese people want to accuse crimes and warn people before doing bad things. Hoping that none of us make mistake and fall into disrepute. Another idiom relating to the fly I want to introduce is : "*a fly on the wall*". This American phrase alludes to the position of being able to freely observe a situation without being oneself noticed. In other word, if you say you would like to be *a fly on the wall* in a certain situation, you mean that you would like to be there secretly to see and hear what happens.

E.g.: *I'd give anything to be a fly on the wall when she tells him.*

(<http://www idioms.thefreedictionary.com>)

As we all know, a popular difficulty that English learners faced is: idioms and proverbs are not always have their equivalentents in Vietnamese, so the *a fly on the wall* idiom is. In Vietnamese language we just understand it like "*kẻ nghe trộm*". In spire of

different methods, the two both idiomatic expressions are used to emphasize the eavesdroppers. Sometimes eavesdropper is considered a bad guy but sometimes he is not because of his good aims.

During the research I found a very interesting other idiom relating to the *fly*, which appears like: "*a fly on the wheel*". This phrase is used to emphasize the man who is always highly appreciated himself than he can. In other word, that idiom is used to criticize the person who overestimate their own influence.

E.g.: *The man was a fly on the wheel; he could never win the first place in the singing contest with his poor voice.*

(<http://www.englishforum.com/>)

E.g.: *My boss is a fly on the wheel. All he talks about is his family background, his grades at college and how other people don not have good manner any more.*

(<http://www.englishrainbow.com/>)

To Vietnamese language, we have an equivalent from the above idiom which is: "*tự cao tự đại*". Not only Vietnam or Britain, but also all countries over the world have this kind of person. Via this idiom I believe the previous generations want to give us a message that we should not be presumptuous or haughty.

In short, although Vietnam and British are separated nearly half of the world, both two nations have the same thought, same feeling, same comparison, but expression ways.

6. Idioms and proverbs relating to bugs

As far as we know, the bug is a small insect with six legs and a pair of half hardest wings. Similarity to the flea, the bug also sucks out blood to feed himself. A number of health effects many occur due to the bug, including skin rashes, psychological effects, and allergic symptoms. Thus, this is a peril of human.



Relating to the bug insect, English culture have a lot of idioms. A quite famous idiom relating to bug go like: "*as snug as a bug in a rug*". *Snug* means warm and comfortable state, and the *rug* like a blanket which always cozy. This idiom mean a bug is snug by covered by a rug, literally. Idiomatically, the idiom refer to the state of comfortable, cozy and happy of a man who living in a good condition or receiving full love.

E.g.: *You get in your nice warm bed with your teddy and you'll be as snug as a bug in a rug!*

(<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

By different way, the same meaning is expressed by Vietnamese culture: "*trong vòng tay cha mẹ*". This idiom not mean living in the parents' arm as its literal meaning. We can understand the meaning of the idiom by the following way: under the care of parents, the children have prosperous lives both in physical and emotional life. With the parents care ness, the children are supplied a good living standard, a good quality life. Thanks to our parents, who gave us birth and brought us up with oceans of love and care ness.

In colloquial speech, the idiom of "*bug off*" is very popular. Also *go away, bug off* as in the following example:

E.g.: "*Bug off* before I call the police".

(<http://www.idioms.yourdictionary.com/>)

The both term are often used as an imperative, as in example, and the variant is heard more in Britain than in America. And in Vietnam, this phrasal verb means *đi chỗ khác*, hay, *cút cho khỏi tầm mắt ai đó*. Even the both sayings are belong to different language and culture, they have the same function, meaning and usage as well.

Another famous idiom relating to bug is *put a bug in someone's ear*. The British use the idiom with the mean that telling or giving someone reminder, suggestion, or hint about something or relating to future event. To Vietnamese language, we can understand this idiom as *kể cho ai nghe chuyện gì đó*.

E.g.: *Janet puts a bug in her husband's ear about getting the children a dog for Christmas*

(<http://www.answers.com/>)

By borrowing the image of the bug, who often parasitizes on the human bed and sucks the blood, the English people want to describe many factor in life using this insect. In another way, Vietnamese people also verbalize the same idea without the image of the bug. All in all, besides denote a good life, these idioms above advise us to respect our happiness.

7. Idioms and proverbs relating to worms

A small, easy to be hurt insect, which we all see in our life, worm. Worms live in almost all parts of the world including marine, freshwater, and terrestrial habitats. Some worms living in the ground help to condition the soil (e.g., annelids, aschelminths). Many thrive as parasites of plants (e.g., aschelminths) and animals, including humans (e.g., platyhelminths, aschelminths). Several other worms may be free-living, or nonparasitic. There are worms that live in freshwater, seawater, and even on the seashore. However, some kinds of them are harmful ones. They kill the trees, destroy the harvest, even poison people if we touch them. Ecologically, worms form an important link in the food chains in virtually all the ecosystems of the world. Some of them lives underground, a helpful insect.



The helpful worm



The harmful worm

Because they are very popular in our life, so previous generations in both United Kingdom and Vietnam have had created many idioms and proverbs relating to the worm. For instance, the English people said that: "*even a worm will turn*". As I present in the beginning, worms are considered as a small insect specie, and they are very easy to be hurt. There is no need to use a knife to kill a worm. If you pay enough attention in them, you will find out that this insect always go ahead, rarely turn back. When I was small, I often caught this insect and took them to the playground, and then used two branch trees to bar his way. Did not fear my threatening, he just shriveled up for a moment when faced to the branches, then he crept over the bar. How amazing they are! He did not give up, he did pass over. So, why did English people say: "*even a worm will turn*"? This phrase means that even a meek person will become angry if you abuse him or her too much.

E.g.: *You'd better stop maltreating Amy. She's a mild-mannered woman, but even a worm will turn.*

(<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

A very clear message from this proverb, do not bully other even the most good- nature person. Even though those people are harmless and never hurt any one, they have inner power that can kill you if you victimize them extremely.

Also in Vietnam, we have the idiom of "*con giun xéo lắm cũng quăn*". Surprising! They are, both in English and in Vietnamese, as like as two peas in term of meaning. Using the image of *con giun* (worm) as well, Vietnamese people want to send the same note, do not abuse others unless you will take the same treatment.

Opportunity is an important factor to the success. Successful people always recognize and seize right opportunities. The proverb "*the early bird catches the worm*" has emphasized the role of opportunity in success. This is first recorded in John Ray's "*A collection of English proverbs 1670, 1678*": "*the early bird catches the worm*". Clearly, the title of the work indicates that this was considered proverbial even in the 17th century. The proverb means that the person who arrives early will be successful. Literally, when birds are competing to catch one worm, the bird that arrives early will catch the worm because at times there is only one worm and one bird. In Vietnamese language, we can paraphrase it like "*trâu chậm uống nước đục*" hay "*đến chậm gặm xương*". In spite of different culture and language, the two nations have the same idiom and proverb to appreciate the opportunity.

E.g.: "*I always come early to work. The early bird catches the worm!*"

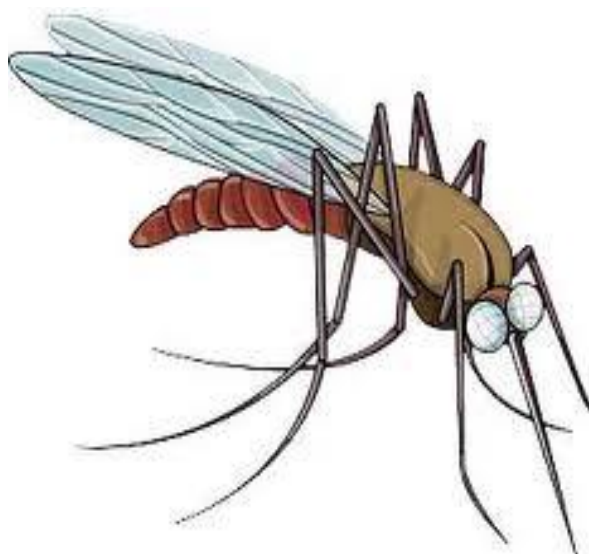
(<http://www.tienganh.com.vn/>)

E.g.: "*Though you have more than six months before you leave, start looking for good deals on airline tickets and reserve your seats early. The early bird catches the worm.*"

(<http://www.globaledu.com.vn/>)

These similarities between two culture make us astonish again. There is only one reason that two nations, careless about language, culture and so on, we have wonderful interest in wild life and take them to human life.

8. Idioms and proverbs relating to mosquitoes



Male gnat



Female gnat

Mosquitoes are holometabolous insects and therefore grow through an egg, larva, pupa to adult stage. Female mosquitoes are usually larger than males. Females have fine threadlike antennae with few hairs, whereas males have bushy antennae. In particular, the females of many species of mosquitoes are blood-sucking pests and dangerous vectors of diseases, whereas members of the similar-looking Chironomidae and Tipulidae are not. Even many species of mosquitoes are not bloodsuckers, and many of those that do suck blood do not transmit disease. Also, in the bloodsucking species, only the females suck blood. Furthermore, even among mosquitoes that do carry important diseases, neither all species of mosquito, nor or all strains of a given species transmit the same kinds of diseases, nor do they all transmit the diseases under the same circumstances; their habits differ. For example, some species attack people in houses, and others prefer to attack people walking in forest. Accordingly, in managing public health it is important to know which species, even which strains, of mosquitoes one is dealing with.

Mentioning to this kind of insect in the folklore treasure, the native speakers have got an idiom as "*mosquito newspaper*". This saying is used to refer to the newspapers which exist in the very short time and have satirical content. In Vietnamese language we can understand this phrase as "*báo lá cải*". Perhaps the origin of this saying due to the mosquito's feature, having short life (the longest is three months).

In the military term, there is an idiom which goes like: "mosquito boat". The native speakers use that phrase to talk about the small naval vessels, from eighteen to thirty one meters long, equipped with light weapons and were often used to torpedo in World War II. To the Vietnamese students, we should understand this phrase as *tàu hải quân loại nhỏ (thường dùng để bắn ngư lôi trong Thế chiến thứ hai)*.



The mosquito boat.

Gnat- maybe some one does not know about this genus of insect, but by using other word, *mosquito* we all knew him. Even though gnat is so small, mostly smaller than two millimeters, that is one easy moving type with a pair of wings and six legs and their speed can be 1.5 to 2.5 kilometers per hour. As well as other genus, this genus also is including female and male. It is very surprised that the male gnat is smaller than the female and he does not suck the blood as his wife does, his servers himself by sap. Maybe their features is the source of this following proverb "*strain at a gnat and swallow camel*". To analyze this idiom we need to pay attention on instances.

E.g.: *Jill: Look at that. Edward is combing his hair at his desk. How unprofessional.*

Jane: Don't strain at gnats and swallow camels. There are worse problems than that around here.

(<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

In the proverb we can see clearly two size opposite animal are utilized namely *gnat* and *camel*. One is the very tiny specie, one is a big genus. So how can we strain at a gnat? And how can we swallow a camel? The above proverb does not mean that.

Idiomatically, it means *too formal, too careful*, and it also criticize other people for minor offenses while ignoring major offenses. In the example, Edward's unprofessional combing hair action is not serious because there are worse problem around them and Jane used this proverb to remind Jill about those problems. The proverb give an obvious message, do not be too finical because *too* for every thing is unnecessary and may be annoy other. And instead of paying attention to this such small things, should be paid more care ness on the important one. Other words, do not be *a storm in a teacup*.

To Vietnamese people, in such case, we will say "*quá cầu nề, quá thận trọng*". No matter what idioms or proverbs, equivalent in Vietnamese is available. It is really wonderful if you know them well and practice fluently. Try your best and get good result.

9. Idioms and proverbs relating to grasshoppers

The grasshopper is an insect of the suborder Caelifera in the order Orthoptera. To distinguish it from bush crickets or katydids, it is sometimes referred to as the short-horned grasshopper. Species that change colour and behaviour at high population densities are called locusts. Male grasshoppers have a single unpaired plate at the end of abdomen. The females have two pairs of valves (triangle shapes) at end of abdomen used to dig in sand when egg laying. Many species of grasshoppers are general herbivores feeding on a variety of plants. Some species only like grasses. As herbivores, grasshoppers link plants to the rest of the ecosystem. Frass (droppings) contribute to nutrient turnover by returning nutrients as fertilizer for the plants. They provide food for birds and other arthropods. However, sometimes some species of grasshopper occur in very large numbers and cause serious crop damage and loss of plants in pastures. This genus is very popular in farm land areas and I am sure that we all see them once in life.



Employing this image, the English native speakers have an idiom about the very young human, the very short life time: "*knee-high to a grasshopper*".

Let's consider the following example:

E.g.: *I learned to ride a bicycle when I was knee-high to a grasshopper.*

(<http://www.americanidioms.net/>)

The phrase denote the childhood time of human or some things as short, small as the grasshopper. In the example, instead of saying *I learned to ride a bicycle when I was very young*, the native speakers usually replace the adjective *very young* by *knee-high to a grasshopper*. Meaning is clear, and the usage is precise as well. This phrase plays a role as an adjective. Nothing will be discussed here. Giving this proverb I just want to present you another way to express the idea of *very young*.

Same as in Viet Nam, we often say "*thủa còn trong trứng nước*" or "*từ khi bè tẹo tèo tèo*" to paraphrase this idea. All of them both in English and Vietnamese are very easy to understand and apply in communication. Hoping that my readers can get better way in communicating to native speakers afterward.

10. Idioms and proverbs relating to beetles

Beetle common name for insects of the order Coleopteran, which, with more than 300,000 described species, is the largest of the insect orders. Beetles have chewing mouthparts and well-developed antennae. Beetles are unique in every insect way and appropriately diverse, coming in many varied shapes, forms and colors and each can be found in equally diverse environments suiting their particular lifestyles and food requirements. They are characterized by a front pair of hard, opaque, waterproof wings called elytra, which usually meet in a straight line down the middle of the back. The elytra cover the rear pair of membranous flight wings, protecting them and the body from mechanical damage and desiccation. Beetles are poor flyers compared with many other insects, but they are well adapted for surviving rigorous conditions. They are found everywhere except in oceans and near the poles, and they occupy nearly every kind of habitat. Most are terrestrial, but some are underground tuneless and some live in water. These water beetles are often confused with water bugs, but the latter all have sucking mouthparts. Beetles range in size from under 1/32 in. (1 mm) to over 6 in. (15 cm) long; tropical species are the largest. Most are dull, but members of several beetle families are brilliantly colored, some with a metallic or iridescent sheen. The majority of beetles are plant eaters, but there are also many predators and scavengers and a few parasites. Many beetles are highly destructive pests of crops and gardens (e.g., Japanese, potato beetle , boll weevil), but others are beneficial predators of harmful insects (e.g., ladybird beetles).



Beetle appears in various forms and shapes

Relating to the insect, English learners should not forget the idiom of "*between the beetle and the block*", also "*between a rock and a hard place*". This phrase originated in the USA in the early part of the 20th century. It is American manifestation of a phrase that exists in several forms in other cultures. This idiom is used to describe the situation of a person who is in difficulty, faced with a choice between two unsatisfactory options or hard decisions. The idiom of "*between the beetle and the block*" means "*trên đê dưới búa*" in Vietnamese. Perfectly, two cultures have the same expression. To deeply understand this idiom, let consider the following examples:

E.g. "*I'd like to help you but I am stuck between the beetle and the block.*"

(<http://www.goenglish.com/>)

E.g. "*He had a dilemma on his hands. He was clearly between the beetle and the block.*"

(<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

11. Idioms and proverbs relating to cockroaches

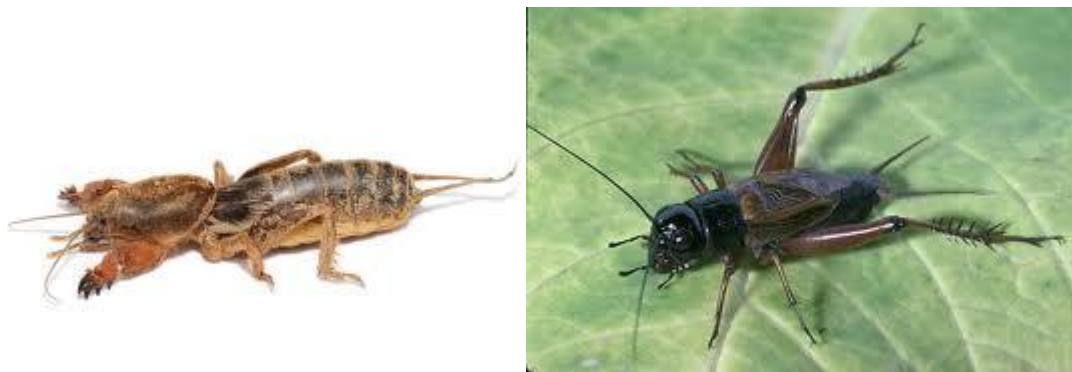
Cockroaches are insects of the order Blattaria or Blattodea and they are one of the oldest groups of insects, indicating how successful they have been in adapting to changes in their environments. One reason for this success may be related to diet--they are scavengers and will eat anything organic. They prefer food sources such as starches, sweets, grease and meat products, but other items may include cheese, beer, leather, glue, hair, starch in book bindings, flakes of dried skin or decaying organic matter (plant or animal). Cockroaches are attracted to warm, moist environments. They spend the daylight hours in dark, secluded sites under refrigerators, stoves, false bottoms in kitchen cabinets, in the backs of cabinets and in crevices between baseboards and floors or cabinets and walls. They may also be found behind pictures or within electronic equipment. A number of these openings will ultimately lead to voids in the stud walls. The insects leave these sites at night to forage for food and water. The presence of cockroaches during the day may indicate a large population.



The cockroach

There is a popular English idiom which is used the cockroach image as: "cockroach capitalist". Depending on the cockroach's size, perhaps, the native speakers employed cockroach in this idiom to emphasize one kind of capitalist, the small - size capitalist. This idiom is used firstly in the Machinists' Monthly Journal and the International Socialist Review published in 1914. In our language, Vietnamese, we can paraphrase it as: *Tư bản nhỏ*.

12. Idioms and proverbs relating to crickets



Different kinds of crickets

Crickets are insects somewhat related to grasshoppers, and more closely related to katydids or bush crickets. They have somewhat flattened bodies and long antennae. There are about 900 species of crickets. They tend to be nocturnal and are often confused with grasshoppers because they have a similar body structure including

jumping hind legs. Crickets are harmless to humans. Female crickets have long ovipositor in rear (may appear as two pieces); both sexes have cerci (segmented, tail-like appendages attached dorsally). Their wings are fully extended over the abdomen, however, some species may not have wings. Crickets are omnivores and scavengers feeding on organic materials, as well as decaying plant material, fungi, and seedling plants. They live under rocks and logs in meadows, pastures and along roadsides. Many are nocturnal. In the autumn when the weather begins to cool, a chorus of cricket songs fills the night air. These are the songs of male crickets trying to attract the female. The beauty of a cricket's song isn't apparent to everyone, but in some cultures singing crickets are kept as pets. About their impacts on Ecosystem, everything has two sides, and the crickets' impacts as well. Positively, crickets breakdown plant material, renewing soil minerals they are also an important source of food for other animals. Negatively, crickets may injure seedlings and large numbers can be destructive. Males songs can be quite loud.

Relating to the cricket, there are some popular English idioms. Firstly, a very famous one: "*It's not cricket*" or "*That's not cricket*". That is a humorous idiom which is widely used by British and Australian with the meaning that something that you say when you think something or someone has said or done is not right or not fair or not acceptable. And its equivalent in Vietnamese is *không quân tử* or *không có tinh thần thể thao*. Let consider the following examples:

E.g. *You can't do that! It's not cricket!*

(<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

E.g. *You can't make me do the washing up after I did all the cooking - it's just not cricket!*

(<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

The appearance of the above idiom leads to the existence of another idiom, which is: "*be cricket*". *Be cricket* means fair play, gentlemanly conduct and it is usually used in

the negative . In Vietameses, "be cricket" can be understood as "công bằng, đúng đắn, chính xác". To understand this idiom completely, we should consult the next example:

E.g. *The way that the government treated the union leaders was not cricket.*
(<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

The image of cricket is also used in some idiom to emphasize the feeling of cheerful or very happy such as "as merry as a cricket". There is a great mind think alike between "as merry as a cricket" and "as happy a flea in the dog house" that I did mention in the part of ***Idioms and proverbs relating to Fleas***. Then followings are some example with the aim of helping learners much more understand about the idiom of "as merry as a cricket":

E.g. *I felt as merry as a cricket as I waited for my friend to arrive at the airport.*
(<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

E.g. *Mary is as merry as a cricket whenever she has company come to call.*
(<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/>)

To express such emotion, Vietnamese people often say *Vui như Tết* or *Vui như hội*. Obviously, in each country, the happiness is expressed by different ways. Thus, to learn English well, the learners should not only learn language, but also study on the culture.

In general, there are certain similarities and differences between English - Vietnamese idioms and proverbs. Grammatically, about the order of the word. In the idiom, we cannot change the order of the word in the phrase. As well as, it is impossible to change the order of the of the words in the sentence in the proverb, unless under the

special circumstances belong to context. The next and also the very important one is grammatical structure, which we cannot change both in idioms and proverbs. Semantically, some names of insect species convey similar meaning when they are used in idioms and proverbs in both English and Vietnamese. For instance, the English idioms of "*as busy as bee*", we all understand as "*chăm chỉ như ong*" in Vietnamese language. However, some of them have different meaning as we used in Vietnamese and English idioms and proverbs. For example, about the idiom of "*there is butterfly in my stomach*", it means "nervous" in English but Vietnamese people do not employ the image of butterfly as well as any insect in this case. For such case, we have an idiom, which goes like "*như ngòi trên đống lửa*". In brief, it depends on the situation in which each name of insect is used to convey specific meaning. This use of language is due to the way people in that country think of the insect. This reflects the difference in the culture of each people.

Chapter 3: RELATED PROBLEMS FACED BY ENGLISH LEARNERS AND SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

1. Some difficulties in studying idioms and proverbs

In fact, many people want to learn English idioms and proverbs, but they deal with many difficulties. The following are some difficulties I have had in the process of researching on these papers:

Firstly, because of different geography, the differences between the cultures of two country is unavoidable, especially the idiom and proverb system.

Secondly, idiom, proverb, saying, quotation, slang and so on are similar to each other, thus identifying idiom and proverb among them is not an easy job.

Thirdly, most of idioms and proverbs are difficult to guess the meaning correctly, because they have association with the ordinary meaning of the individual words or phrase. They can be guessed if they are in the context, that is, when we know the particular situation they are.

Fourthly, the main difficulties is that learners do not know the levels of styles, that is, whether an idiom or proverb can be used in informal situation or not.

Lastly, when translating English idioms or proverbs, it is not easy to for Vietnamese equivalent suitable to the nuance of meaning of English idioms and proverbs.

2. Suggested solutions

With the above difficulties, how to overcome them is still a great question. The following tips are referred to help Vietnamese learners in their English studying:

Firstly, the learners should understand about the culture, belief, region, habit, and so on of both Vietnam and England, thus they could compare and guess the meaning of the idioms or proverbs and finally check their meanings in reliable dictionaries such as: *Oxford advanced learner's dictionary* by Sally Wehmeier (1948, seventh edition in 2005, Oxford university press); *Tuyển tập thành ngữ, tục ngữ, ca dao Việt-Anh thông dụng* (*Collection of Vietnamese - English common idioms, proverbs and folks*) by Nguyễn Đình Hùng (2007, Youth publisher, Ho Chi Minh city); *Comparative proverbs* by Phạm Văn Vĩnh (2003, Hanoi publisher) and so on.

Secondly, the learners should study the features of idioms and proverbs carefully and distinguish them from other kinds of set expression to identify the idiom and proverb better.

Thirdly, the learners can analyze the meaning of all components and the relationships among the components or study the meaning in the context or can ask native speaker.

Fourthly, it is advisable not to make frequent use of slang expression because it is easy to sound strange.

Lastly, some English idioms and proverbs have more than one equivalent so the learners should care when choosing them. Some English idioms and proverbs have no Vietnamese equivalents, so we should paraphrase them or find similar ones.

Part III: CONCLUSION

In conclusion, there are a lot of idioms and proverb relating to insect names. However, due to my limitation of time as well as my knowledge I have just only mentioned some idioms and proverbs that are supposed to be the most popular and important. The similarities and differences between such features of two countries have great effect on life experience idioms and proverbs both semantically and lexically.

The development is the main part the study. It consists of three chapters in which the general knowledge about idioms and proverbs in both Vietnamese and English are introduced in chapter 1: "Theoretical background" which provides learners of English some general information on language, and culture and an overview of idioms and proverbs.

In chapter 2 and chapter 3, we have "Idioms and proverbs relating to insects names in English and Vietnamese" and " Related problems faced by English learners and suggested solutions". In this chapter, I gave some idioms and proverbs, which were having its examples in order to make the process of learning English idioms and proverbs effectively, an analysis on some English idioms and proverbs in comparison with their Vietnamese equivalent is draw with the aim at helping learners of English understand cultural characteristics of each image.

Part 3 is mentioned to give some difficulties in learning English idioms and proverbs about idioms and proverbs relating to insect's names.

Lastly, because of the limited time as well as my limited knowledge, only idioms and proverbs relating to insect's names in comparison with Vietnamese equivalent and some difficulties in translation were focused, study on other animals will be left for further study.

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