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WORDS EXPRESSING OF HUMAN BODY PARTS IN THAI LANGUAGE IN VIETNAM (WITH REFERENCE TO VIETNAMESE)

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale

1.1. Word meaning expresses and reflects the reality and thought. In general, word meaning is a mental concept materialized through the word's sound cover. As it is a mental concept, it is difficult to grasp word meaning precisely. Meanwhile, the comprehension of word meaning is one of the decisive factors in the communication process. In the book "Theories on lexical semantics", Dirk Geeraerts stated that the vocabulary of a language is not an unstructured box of word but it is a network of linguistic expressions bound to each other through semantic connections. As such, different semantic relations play the role of binding words together. As a system, words exist in a system of meanings, some of which are meronymy, hyponymy, polysemy, and synonymy.

1.2. Over the past, expressions of human body parts (HBPs) have been studied on the basis of theories on semantic fields and nomination. Using the theory of semantic relations as a extensive scope to identify words expressing HBPs is a choice to find out the answer on the relation between words ans words in the the linguistic system, between words and the objective reality.

1.3. The objective reality is a continuous entity with no clear boundaries. The segment of the objective reality in the language of each country reflects features of thought on category.

1.4. Thai is one of the few ethnic minorities is Vietnam which has a long-lasting script. This community of people also possesses a diversified folk culture handed down through ancient Thai texts. As their common origin, the languages of groups of Thai speaking people have large consistency.

For such reason, the researchers have chosen the following topic for their thesis ***Words expressing human body parts in Thai language in Vietnam with reference to Vietnamese***.

2. Study aims and tasks

2.1. Aims of study

The thesis aims to apply theories on semantic relations in Thai language to set up a lexical matrix of expressions of HBPs reflecting meronymy and synonymy (with reference to Vietnamese); establish a system of expressions of HBPs reflecting hyponymy; identify the structure and new denotations of expressions of HBPs in Thai language reflecting polysemy. On the basis of research on the wordnet of semantic relations of expressions of HBPs, Thai people's perceptive features will be clarified in comparison with Vietnamese.

2.2. Tasks of study

In order to reach the above aims, the thesis focuses on dealing with the following tasks:

- Overview of studies on words expressing HBPs and Thai language in Vietnam. Build up the theorical foundation for the thesis.

- Study meronymy, hyponymy, polysemy and synonymy of words expressing HBPs in Thai language in the northwest of Vietnam.

- Study several perceptive features of Thai people in the northwest of Vietnam through words expressing HBPs.

3. Object and scope of study

3.1. Object of study

The object of the study is: Words expressing HBPs in Thai language in the North of Vietnam (with reference to Vietnamese).

3.2. Scope of study

3.2.1. The thesis's scope of study covers word semantic relations including meronymy, hyponymy, polysemy, and synonymy.

3.2.2. The thesis surveys Thai rhymes, fairy tales, riddles and riddle songs, rhyming stories, and children's songs in the northwest of Vietnam. As for linguistic data of daily speeches, the data used in the thesis is limited within Thai Den language in the city of Son La, Son La province.

3.2.3. The thesis uses the Vietnamese Thai script, which overcomes the limitations of the ancient Thai script. This script has been agreed through

conferences and seminars by VTIK (Vietnam Thai indigenous knowledge network) on the basis of the script used in 7 provinces where Thai people reside (Son La, Lai Chau, Dien bien, Yen Bai, Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, and Nghe An).

4. Methods of study

In this thesis the researchers apply the following methods:

4.1. Field research methods of linguistics

This method was used to study Thai linguistic data with three tactics:

4.1.1. Techniques of recording, note - taking, photo - taking: These techniques are used to collect the data corretly and sufficiently

4.1.2. Analyze the statistics: Count, classify, and systematize words expressing HBPs in Thai language in appropriate semantic relations.

4.2. Description

The method was applied after linguistic data had been studied with three tactics:

4.2.1. Analyze the context: This tactic was used to study linguistic data beyond the sentence level in Thai language containing words expressing HBPs.

4.2.2. Analyze the components: This tactic was used to analyze the meanings of words expressing HBPs in the system. From there, the thesis separates the central meaning from the peripheral one.

4.2.3. Analyze case study: Case study was used to concentrate on analyzing several typical cases or cases with problems to make general comments or explain the characteristics or differences from specific aspects.

4.3. Comparison-collation

This is one of the two versions of the collation method**.** The method had been studied with analyze setting empty boxes.

Analyze setting empty boxes

This analyze was used mostly in meronymy and synonymy in order to study similar and different matrix at word-semantics level, thus making a list of linguistic phenomena which serve as the basis to work out cultural and national

features in the light of perception and categorization of the reality of Thai minority with reference to Vietnamese.

5. Contributions of study

5.1. Theoritical contributions

(1) This is the first study on words expressing HBPs in Thai language in the northwest of Vietnam.

(2) The thesis provides the reference and the view of the study on word-semantic in general from a specific of words expressing HBPs in Thai language in Vietnam.

(3) The thesis uses the theory by Dirk Geeraerts on semantic relations as the basis to implement research on words expressing HBPs in Thai language.

(4) The comparison and collation between words expressing HBPs in Thai language and in Vietnamese helps to identify the similarities and differences in the culture and thought of the two ethnic groups.

5.2. Practical contributions

(1) The thesis has paved the teaching of Thai language in school as Thai is one of the 8 ethnic languages approved to be taught in high schools and regular education centres by Vietnam's Ministry of Education.

(2) The analysis of semantic relations of words expressing HBPs in Thai language provides the Thai dictionary editors with the basic words in terms of quantity and meanings.

(3) This thesis is the linguistic basis to study the Thai folk works.

6. Structure of study

Besides *Introduction, Conclusion, and References and Appendixes*, the thesis is structured in four chapters as following:

Chapter 1: Overview and literature

Chapter 2: Meronymy and hyponymy of words expressing HBPs in Thai language in Vietnam

Chapter 3: Polysemy and synonymy of words expressing HBPs in Thai language in Vietnam

Chapter 4: Several perceptive features of Thai people in Vietnam through words expressing HBPs

CHAPTER 1: OVERVIEW AND LITERATURE

1.1. Overview on research

1.1.1. Research on words expressing HBPs

1.1.1.1. In the world

Research on words expressing HBPs has been done from a number of aspects.

1.1.1.2. In Vietnam

In Vietnam, words expressing HBPs have been studied in two directions: (i) Study language and culture in comparison with other languages and (ii) study language and culture through Vietnamese culture and vocabulary.

1.1.2. Research on Thai language in Vietnam

Through different research, we can see that the Thai people has a united language but Thai language has different dialects due to the differences of the local regions.

1.1.3. General judgment

- So far, research on words expressing HBPs have mostly been done in two directions: (1) Study on words expressing HBPs in Vietnamese and (2) Study on words expressing HBPs in comparison-collation. A score of researchers in Vietnam and the world have studied this subject and gained certain achievements.

- Their works are mainly based on theories on semantic field and nomination.

Therefore, this is the first thesis to study words expressing HBPs in Thai language in Vietnam (with reference to Vietnamese). Besides, the thesis surveyed Thai language on a large scope of linguistic data. The study applies theories on several semantic relations (meronymy, hyponymy, polysemy, and synonymy) as the basis to study on words expressing HBPs in Thai language in Vietnam. Theories on “word semantic relations in system” will help to overcome the

limitations of theories on semantic field in classifying words expressing HBPs. This will be clarified in the theoretical background of the thesis.

1.2. Theoretical background

1.2.1. Word meaning in system

1.2.1.1. Definition of word meaning

Word meaning is the expressed aspect of the linguistic sign including human awareness of objective things and their emotion and attitude.

1.2.1.2. Components of word lexical meaning

When existing in the system, words have two main meanings of lexical meaning and grammatical meaning (structural meaning). Basically, scientists agree that word lexical meaning consists of the following components: (1) denotative meaning, (2) significative meaning, and (3) connotative meaning.

a. Denotative meaning

a_1. Definition of denotative meaning

Denotative meaning is the first meaning when mentioning word meaning in system, the segments of the reality reflected in language.

a_2. Different segmentation of reality in languages and denotative meaning

For long, in linguistics a phenomenon has been discovered which is called the different segmentations of the reality in each language. Do Huu Chau explained this phenomenon as such: The objective reality is basically similar in every country and every language. However, each language has different names for the parts due to segments of reality with different boundaries.

b. Significative meaning

b_1. Definition of significative meaning

Significative meaning is one component of word meaning in system which is closely connected to the denotative meaning and plays the role of a device in organizing speech.

b_2. Structure of significative meaning

The establishment of significative meaning of words expressing HBPs helps to identify the meanings selected to be the basis for semantic

transformation. This issue is discussed in the part of polysemy – an important content in chapter 3 of the thesis.

c. Connotative meaning

Connotative meaning is one of the components of word meaning in system related to the emotion, attitude, judgment, etc. which the word elicits from the speaker and the listener.

1.2.2. Word semantic relations in system

1.2.2.1. Meronymy

Dirk Geeraerts defined meronymy as the relationship between words such as *arm* and *elbow* in which *arm* is the hololym of *elbow* (meronym).

1.2.2.2. Hyponymy

Dirk Geeraerts stated that hyponymy is used to denote the superordinate-subordinate relationship between a more general word (hyperonym, hypernym) and a more specific word (hyponym). Hyponyms of the same hypernym are co-hyponyms. The hierarchy of hyponyms and a hypernym is a kind of meronymy basing on the contrast between the “is a kind/type of” relationship and “is a” relationship.

1.2.2.3. Polysemy

Polysemy as discussed in this thesis is the relationship between words with several meanings. Therefore, it is necessary to provide a definition of polysemy.

a. Definition of polysemy

According to Nguyen Duc Ton, polysemy is a phenomenon in which a word has several meanings that have some recognizable relationship with each other".

b. How to identify the original and the derived meanings of a polysemy

According to Nguyen Duc Ton, in the semantic structure of a polysemy, the identification of the original and the derived meanings must be based on two fundamental rules: rule of human perception, and rule of word meaning transformation. Besides, another basis is the development history of the mankind civilization.

c. Semanteme and the transformation of word meaning

The transformation of word meaning is closely related to the semantic structure with semantemes separated during the identification of word meanings. This thesis applies the method of analyzing meaning components to set up the significative meaning structure of words expressing HBPs in Thai language, thus identifying the semantemes chosen to be the basis for the transformation.

1.2.2.4. Synonymy

Synonymy as discussed in this thesis is the relationship between words of similar meanings. Firstly, these words must have similar semantic scope. Secondly, they could be used to replace each other in all contexts without changing the meaning of the sentence.

According to Dirk Geeraerts, WordNet is a practical application of the concept of semantic relation which serves as a source of lexical data for English and other languages basing on semantic relations.

In brief, words expressing HBPs in Thai language, in applying theories on semantic relations, are described, analyzed and assessed with different scales. This is the background to clarify the cultural and thought features of the Thai people in Vietnam with reference to Vietnamese.

1.2.3. Category, reality categorization, linguistic panorama of the world

1.2.3.1. Linguistic panorama of the world

The linguistic panorama of the world of Thai people reflects the features of the culture and awareness of the universe and human of Thai people. Through words expressing HBPs in Thai language, the thesis focuses the world panorama which is systematic and reflects a diversified culture of Thai people in Vietnam.

1.2.3.2. Category

The concept of category was defined by Tran Van Co as the result of the generalization of the historical development of perception and social reality.

1.2.3.3. Reality categorization

Tran Van Co introduced the concept of categorization as such: the process of categorization aims to collect the phenomena similar to each other in some way into greater layers. In order to identify the features of reality categorization in each language, the thesis applies the method of setting empty word boxes.

CHAPTER 2: MERONYMY AND HYPONYMY OF WORDS EXPRESSING HBPS IN THAI LANGUAGE IN VIETNAM

To set up and explain empty boxes of words expressing HBPs in Thai language, the thesis studies semantic relation net. Chapter 2 discusses two semantic relations (meronymy and hyponymy).

2.1. Meronymy of words expressing HBPs in Thai language in Vietnam

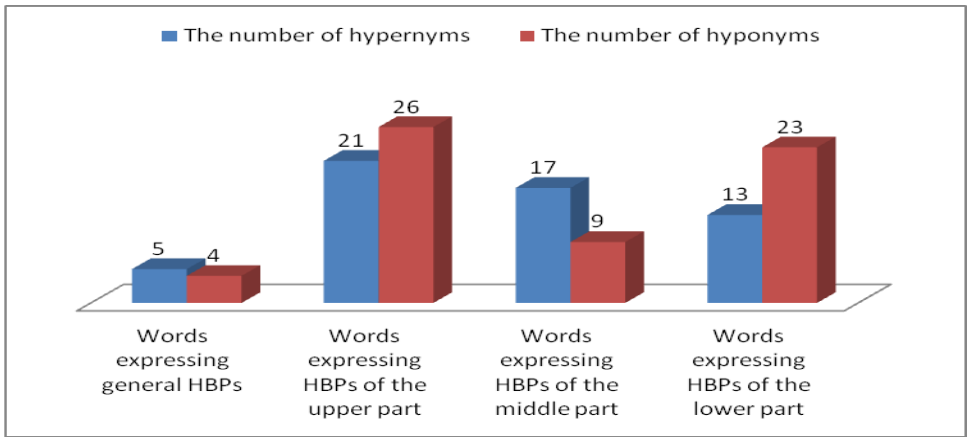

Diagram 2.1: Bar chart presenting the number of words expressing HBPs reflecting meronymy in Thai language

The total number of words expressing HBPs in Thai language (including hypernyms and hyponyms) is 118, of which words expressing HBPs belonging to the upper part account for the largest part (47) followed by words expressing HBPs belonging to the four limbs (36). In the third position are words expressing HBPs of the middle part (26). Words expressing general HBPs come last (9). According to statistics, meronymy of words expressing HBPs inThai

language is considered from two aspects: (1) words expressing general HBPs and (2) words expressing HBPs of each part (upper, lower, and four limbs).

2.1.1. Meronymy of words expressing general HBPs in Thai language in Vietnam

In terms of the number, words expressing general HBPs in Thai language include 5 hypernums and 4 hyponyms. In terms of the structure, words expressing general HBPs include 5 single-syllable words (*เอว, เท้า, หนัง, กาย, ผิว*) and 4 bi-syllable words (*กาย ต่าง, เป็น เอว, หาย เอว , ร่อง ผิว*).

In Vietnamese there are two hypernyms (*da dẻ (skin), cơ (muscle)*) and 1 hyponym (*gân (sinew)*) which are empty boxes in Thai language (that is, there are no equivalents in Thai language). In Thai language there is 1 hypernym and 1 hyponym which are empty boxes in Vietnamese (there are no equivalents in Vietnamese): *ผิว* (spiritual entity existing in attachment with human body) and *ร่อง ผิว* (where spiritual entities gather).

2.1.2. Meronymy of words expressing HBPs of upper part in Thai language in Vietnam

In terms of the number of words expressing HPBs of the upper part in Thai language, there are 21 hypernyms and 26 hyponyms. In terms of the structure, words expressing HBPs of the upper part include 17 single-syllable words, 28 bi-syllable words, and 2 tri-syllable words.

Words expressing HBPs of the upper part in Vietnamese include 8 hypernyms and 9 hyponyms which are empty boxes in Thai language (there are no equivalents in Thai) including *thái dương (temple), lưỡng quyền (cheekbones), hàm (jaw), hàm răng (set of teeth), mang tai (parotid), họng (throat), bộ óc (brain), bộ não (cerebrum), màng cứng (dura mater), màng kính, màng lưới (màng võng) (retina), màng mạch (choroid), quai hàm (jaw), óc (brain), não (cerebrum), tủy (marrow), tủy sống (spinal marrow)*. Besides, in Thai language there are 5 hypernyms which are empty boxes in Vietnamese

(there are no equivalents in Vietnamese) including: *เปีย ขะ (head); ไผ่น ขะ (ขาทั่ว; เก้า (chignon); ฟาน (ขมอฺวาหนี้ปีไผ่); แอน (นากวาขุ้าขน้อ.*

2.1.3. Meronymy of words expressing HBPs of middle part in Thai language in Vietnam

In terms of the quantity of words expressing HBPs of the middle part in Thai language, there are 17 hypernyms and 10 hyponyms. In terms of the structure, there are 13 single-syllable words, 12 bi-syllable words, and 2 tri-syllable words..

2.1.4. Meronymy of words expressing HBPs of four limbs in Thai language in Vietnam

In terms of the quantity of words expressing HBPs of the four limbs in Thai language, there are 13 hypernyms and 23 hyponyms. In terms of the structure, there are 4 single-syllable words (*แผ่น, มั้, วนั้, ฝา*) and 32 bi-syllable words (*ไหน แผ่น, ขมาน แผ่น, ฝา ขุะจ,...)*.

General comments:

Words expressing HBPs of the three parts (upper, middle and four limbs) in Thai language reflecting meronymy present a similarity in that the number of empty word boxes of hypernyms is larger than in Vietnamese, so the reality categorization in Thai language is shallower. However, unlike words expressing HBPs of the upper and middle parts, words expressing HBPs of the four limbs in Thai language have fewer empty boxes of hypernyms than in Vietnamese (5 boxes compared with 7 in Vietnamese), so the reality categorization of words expressing HBPs of the four limbs in Thai language is not as general as Vietnamese.

2.2. Hyponymy of words expressing HBPs in Thai language in Vietnam

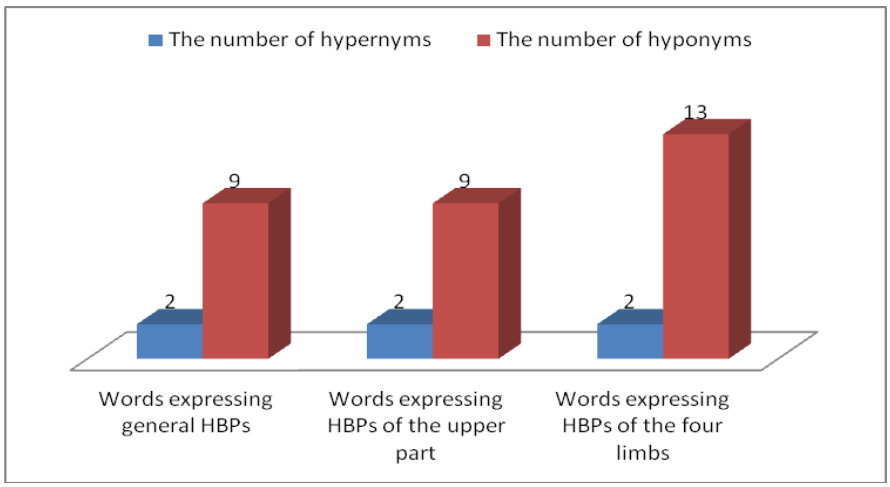

Diagram 2.2: Bar chart presenting the number of words expressing HBPs reflecting hyponymy in Thai language in Vietnam

In total, there are 37 hypernyms and hyponyms in Thai language. In the surveyed linguistic data, meronymy only appears among words expressing general HBPs, words expressing HBPs of the upper part, and of the four limbs, of which hypernyms and hyponyms expressing HBPs of the four limbs account for the largest part (15) followed by words expressing general HBPs and HBPs of the upper part (11 for both). According to statistics, hyponymy of words expressing HBPs are considered from 3 aspects: (1) hyponymy of words expressing general HBPs, (2) hyponymy of words expressing HBPs of the upper part, and (3) hyponymy of words expressing HBPs of the four limbs.

* *General comments:*

Words expressing general HBPs, words expressing HBPs of the upper part and the four limbs show some similarity in the number of hypernyms. Besides, words expressing general HBPs and HBPs of the upper part reflect hyponymy with a greater number of hyponyms in Thai language than in Vietnamese. This means that the wordnet in Vietnamese reflect deeper hyponymy of words expressing general HBPs and HBPs of the middle part and have higher productivity than Thai language. However, different from words expressing general HBPs and HBPs of the upper part, words expressing HBPs of the four limbs in Thai language have a greater number hyponyms of than Vietnamese. This presents to some extent the philosophy of taking human as the centre of Thai people.

CHAPTER 3: POLYSEMY AND SYNONYMY OF WORDS EXPRESSING HBP IN THAI LANGUAGE IN VIETNAM

Chapter 3 discusses two semantic relations (polysemy and synonymy). In studying polysemy and synonymy of words expressing HBPs in Thai language, the features of Thai people's perception of the universe and human (with reference to Vietnamese) will be clarified.

3.1. Polysemy of words expressing HBPs in Thai language in northwest of Vietnam

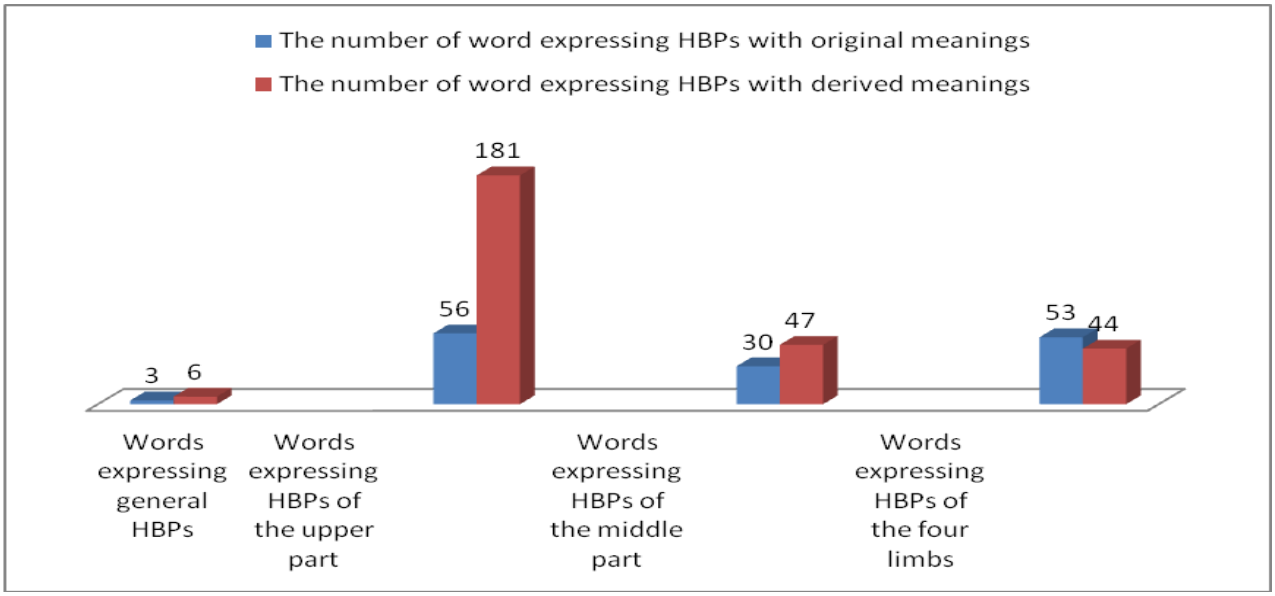

Diagram 3.1: Bar chart presenting the number of HBPs with the original and derived meanings in Thai language

In total, there are 420 words expressing HBPs in Thai with original and derived meanings (142 and 278 respectively). As for words with original meanings, words expressing HBPs of the upper part account for the largest (56 over 142, or 39.4%); words expressing HBPs of the four limbs comes second (53 over 142, equivalent to 37.3%); next are words expressing HBPs of the middle part (30 over142, equivalent to 21.1%); in the last position are words expressing general HBPs with original meanings (3 over 142, equivalent to 2.1%). As for words with derived meanings, words expressing HBPs of the upper part still rank first with 181 over 278 (65.1%) followed by words expressing HBPs of the middle part t with 47 over 278 (16.9%), words

expressing HBPs of the four limbs rank third (44/278, equivalent to 15.8%); and then words expressing general HBPs with derived meanings (6 over 278, equivalent to 2.2%). According to the survey results, polysemy of words expressing HBPs in Thai language was considered in four aspects: (1) polysemy of words expressing general HBPs, (2) polysemy of words expressing HBPs of the upper part, (3) polysemy of words expressing HBPs of the middle part, and (4) polysemy of words expressing HBPs of the.

3.1.1. Polysemy of words expressing general HBPs in Thai language in Vietnam

In polysemy of words expressing general HBPs in Thai language, the thesis studies polysemy of the word *ผิว - da*.

3.1.2. Polysemy of words expressing HBPs of the upper part in Thai language in Vietnam

In terms of polysemy of words expressing HBPs of the upper part, polysemy of words expressing 8 body parts were studied including *หัว - đầu (head);* *หน้า - mặt (face);* *หู - tai (ear);* *ตา - mắt(eye);* *ปาก, ฟัน - mồm, miệng (mouth);* *ลิ้น - lưỡi (tongue);* *ฝีปาก - bờ miệng (môi) (lip);* *แอก - phần mềm ở giữa xương (cartilage).*

Words expressing HBPs of the upper part could have derived meanings in 2 categories: *thing category, and time category.* The route of deriving meaning of these words could be identified starting from concrete categories and sub categories (people's jobs, artificial things, natural things, things that look like HBPs) to abstract categories and sub categories (kinship, human dignity, judgments on things, etc.) from visible categories (things) to invisible categories (time).

3.1.3. Polysemy of words expressing HBPs of the middle part in Thai language in Vietnam

In polysemy of words expressing HBPs of the middle part, polysemy of words expressing 2 body parts were studied including *หลัง - lưng (back), หัวใจ - tim (heart).*

3.1.4. Polysemy of words expressing HBPs of the four limbs in Thai language in Vietnam

In polysemy of words expressing HBPs of the four limbs, polysemy of words expressing the following parts were studied: *แขน - tay, cánh tay (arm); มือ – tay, bàn tay (hand);ขา - đùi (thigh), เท้า - chân, bàn chân (leg, foot).*

** General comment:*

Directions of semantic transformation of words expressing HBPs in Thai language are as diversified and of multi-levels as Vietnamese. Besides, in Thai language there are some differences in the 12 scopes of semantic transformation compared with Vietnamese including “Thai people’s kinship”, “human life value”, “people’s jobs”, “people’s characteristics”, “people’s firm statements”, “human love”, “human activities”, “Thai people’s worship place”, “human speech”, “thing’s wholeness”, “nomination of things with activities like HBPs’ activities”, and “unit of measurement”.

3.2. Synonymy of words expressing HBPs in Thai language in Vietnam

Synonymy was deployed by setting up “empty boxes of synonymous word chains” expressing HBPs in Thai language and Vietnamese with the total number of 37 boxes. In Thai language 14 synonymous word chains (37.8%) are empty boxes in Vietnamese (that is, there are no equivalents in Vietnamese), and in Vietnamese 23 synonymous word chains (62.2%) are empty boxes in Thai language (i.e. in Thai language there are no equivalents).

CHAPTER 4: SEVERAL PERCEPTIVE FEATURES OF THAI PEOPLE IN VIETNAM THROUGH WORDS EXPRESSING HBPS

To clarify the perceptive features of Thai people, context analyzing tactic was used in surveying linguistic data beyond the level sentence in Thai language. The meanings of words expressing HBPs will be considered in their inter-relation with words in the texts and related things outside the texts. To work out the perceptive features of Thai people, chapter 4 was studied from 3 angles: (1) Perception of the universe of Thai people through words expressing HBPs; (2) Perception of human of Thai people through words expressing HBPs; and (3) Perception of behavior to the environment of Thai people through words expressing HBPs.

4.1. Perception of the universe of Thai people through words expressing HBPs

Table 4.1: Survey on the number of words expressing HBPs reflecting the perception of the universe of Thai people

No.	Perception of the universe of Thai people	Words expressing HBPs		Quantity	Total	Ratio (%)
		Parts	*Words expressing HBPs*			
1	Nomination of natural things	Word expressing HBPs of the upper part	หัว - đầu (head)	9	34	43.6
			หน้า - mặt (face)	1		
			ตา - mắt (eye)	6		
			ปาก - mồm, miệng (mouth)	3		
			ฟาก - mồm, miệng (mouth)	5		
			ริมฝีปาก - bờ miệng (lip)	8		
			คอ - cổ (neck)	1		
			แอก - óc (brain)	1		
		Word expressing HBPs of the four limbs	มือ - bàn tay, tay (hand- arm)	1	4	5.1
			ตีน - chân, bàn chân (foot, leg)	3		
2	Nomination of artificial things	Word expressing HBPs of the upper part	หัว - đầu (head)	9	30	38.5
			หน้า - mặt (face)	8		
			(หู) - tai (ear)	6		
			ตา - mắt (eye)	5		
			จะนี - lưỡi (tongue)	2		
		Word expressing HBPs of the four limbs	ณา - đùi (thigh)	3	10	12.8
			ตีน - chân, bàn chân (foot, leg)	7		
Total				**78**		**100**

4.1.1. Perception of Thai people in nominating natural things through words expressing HBPs

In nominating natural things, words expressing HBPs of the upper part take a large number (34/78, equivalent to 43.6%). In this thesis, the researchers focus on discussing the perception of Thai people through the words *ขหน้า ปหปี - mặt phai, ฟหน น้ำ - miệng nước* và *ฟหน ปาก - miệng mó*.

***4.1.2. Perception of Thai people in nominating artificial things through* words expressing HBPs**

In nominating artificial things, words expressing HBPs of the upper part dominate in terms of quantity (30/78 words, equivalent to 38.5%), words expressing HBPs of the four limbs come next (10/78, equivalent to 12.8%).

Presumably, the perception of the universe of Thai people through words expressing HBPs reflect the principle of perceiving the objective world of Thai people under the philosophy of taking human as the centre. Thai people and Vietnamese people, in perceiving the objective world under this philosophy, reflect two contents (nominating natural things and nominating artificial things) This means the perception of the objective reality under the philosophy of taking human as the centre is popular among peoples. The cultural difference in perceiving the world under this principle by each people, herein Thai people, is shown in empty word boxes reflecting that objective reality.

4.2. Perception of human of Thai people through words expressing HBPs

***4.2.1. Perception of human appearance of Thai people through* words expressing HBPs**

Of the surveyed linguistic data, words expressing HBPs that reflect the superficial beauty of Thai language all belong to the upper part including *ขหน้า - face; ปหปี ขหน้า - face, ฟหปี (xป - lip; แหก้ม - cheek.*

4.2.2. Perception of human virtue of Thai people through words expressing HBPs

4.2.2.1. Perception of ethical virtue of Thai people through words expressing HBPs

In the perception of the ethical virtues of Thai people, words expressing HBPs of the middle part come first (20/44 words, equivalent to 45.5%) followed by words expressing HBPs of the upper part (18/44, equivalent to 40.9%) the words expressing HBPs of the four limbs (1/44, equivalent to 2.3%).

4.2.2.2. Perception of intellectual virtue of Thai people through words expressing HBPs

In Thai language, to present intelligence, people use such words as *ใจ ใส* *ใจ - tim sáng (bright heart - intelligent), ใจ ใส มืด - tim tối (dark heart - stupid), etc.*

***4.2.3. Perception of human emotions of Thai people through* words expressing HBPs**

To express human emotions, in Thai language there are such words as *หน้า - face, ตา - eye, ก้อน เอน - piece of brain.*

4.3. Perception of behavior to environment of Thai people through words expressing HBPs

4.3.1. Thai people's behavior to the natural environment

Thai people's connection with น้ำ - nặm - nước (water) và "ป่า ฟู - rừng núi (jungle) shown in words expressing HBPs reflect their behavior to the nature.

4.3.2. Thai people's behavior to the social environment

4.3.2.1. Thai people's behavior to their community through words expressing HBPs

Of the linguistic data of Thai people's behavior to their community, words expressing HBPs of the upper part take the largest part (4/10 words, accounting for 40%); words expressing HBPs of the middle part and of the four limbs occupy the same position with 3 out of 10 words (equivalent to 30%).

4.3.2.2. Thai people's behavior to their family through words expressing HBPs

In terms of Thai people's behavior to their family, words expressing HBPs of the upper part come first with 7 out of 12 words, accounting for 58.3% followed by words expressing HBPs of the middle part (3/12, equivalent to 25%); in the last position are words expressing HBPs of the four limbs (2/12, accounting for 16.7%).

Presumably, words expressing HBPs of the upper part, middle part and the four limbs all take part in the behavior culture of Thai people. Of all, words expressing HBPs of the upper part take the largest part with 15 out of 33 words which is equivalent to 45.5% with *ลิ้น - lưỡi (tongue) and หน้า - mặt (face)* being used with the most derived meanings. words expressing HBPs of the four limbs have the smallest quantity (7/33, accounting for 21.2%) with the words *มือ – tay (hand, arm), เท้า - chân (foot, leg).*

CONCLUSION

The data surveyed are listed in 10 diagrams, 6 statistic tables, 3 charts and 3 imind-maps. With the total 53 recorders of folk tales and daily speech, 10 written literature materials in Thai, the thesis has listed 229 words expressing HBPs in which there are 118 words denoting human body parts in the meronomy relation, 37 words in the hyponymy, 420 words in the polysemy and 26 chains of words reflecting the synonymy. Through the theory on outstanding semantic relations of the word in the systems, through four chapters of the thesis, the overall picture of the words expressing HBPs in Thai in the Northwest of Vietnam has been drawn on the following basic aspects:

1. In the studies on words expressing HBPS, the theory of semantic field has been commonly used to analyse the semantic structure and nomination feature of the words expressing HBPS. However, theories on "word semantic

relations in system” (meronymy, hyponymy, polysemy, synonymy) used in the thesis provides a new theory foundation to study this kind of subject. The theory of "category, categorization, and the world’s linguistic panorama" will be the basis to address the cultural and thinking features of the Thai as well as the similarities and differences in terms of culture - thinking between the Thai and Vietnamese ethnics.

2. Chapter 2 studies two types of semantic relation: meronymy, hyponymy of words expressing HBPS in Thai in Vietnam.

In meronymy, the vocabulary table (vocabulary matrix) is generated for the words expressing HBPS in general and words expressing HBPS in three areas (upper, middle and limb areas) in Thai and Vietnamese. Words expressing HBPS on the upper area and in the middle in Thai are greater than those in Vietnamese because the number of empty boxes denoting the nomination in Thai is more than that in Vietnamese.

In terms of the combination ability in the syntagmatic axis, because the number of the prehypothesis meanings of words expressing HBPS in the upper area and in the middle area in Vietnamese is more abundant than that in Thai. Therefore, the wordnet in Vietnamese reflecting the meronymy is deeper than that in Thai. In contrary, there are fewer boxes denoting the nomination than those in Vietnamese in limb area (5 boxes in Thai compared 7 in Vietnamese). The reality categorization of words expressing HBPs of the four limbs in Thai language is not more general than Vietnamese.

Vietnamese wordnet reflects hyponymy of words expressing general HBPs and HBPs of the upper part at deeper level and with higher productivity than Thai language. Words expressing general HBPs, HBPs of the upper parts and the four limbs show a similarity in the number of hyponyms, of which words expressing general HBPs and HBPs of the upper part reflecting hyponymy show a similarity in the number of hyponyms in Vietnamese

language which is greater than Thai. This means that the wordnet in Vietnamese is deeper and more abundant in That in Thai. The number of hyponyms denoting the human body part in the limb area is more than that in Vietnamese. This partly reflects the thought of taking people as the center of the Thai.

3. Chapter 3 studies the word expressing HBPs in Thai in Vietnam in terms of two semantic relations: polysemy, synonymy.

In polysemy, words expressing HBPs are studied in 4 aspects: polysemy of words expressing HBPs in general, in the upper area, middle area and limb area . In polysemy in general, the semantic change of word *ผิว – da (skin)* is specialized into 2 fields. The semantic change of words expressing HBPs in the upper area is divided into 2 categories*: thing and time categories* in which the word *หัว - đầu* (head) and *ปาก, ฟัน - mồm, miệng (mouth)* have the most semantic change. We can see that the semantic change of these words are from the specific fields (job, artificial things, natural things, things which look like human body parts) to the abstract one (family relationship, the face, the description of human, etc.); from the tangible categories (things) to intangible categories (time). In Thai, There are 10 different fields of semantic change compared to that in Vietnamese. The semantic change in words expressing HBPs in the middle area is only into the human field in the aspects of emotion, characteristics and intelligence of the human. In which, the word *หัวใจ – tim (heart)* has more abundant semantic change and more level of semantic change than the word *หลัง – lưng (back)*. In comparison with words expressing HBPs in the upper area, words in the middle areas in Thai has a narrower and shallower. The polysemy aspects of words expressing HBPs *แขน - tay, cánh tay (arm); มือ - tay, bàn tay (hand)* and *ขา - đùi (leg), เท้า - chân, bàn chân (foot)* are studied

in the polysemy of word expressing HBPs in the limb area. The semantic change of these words are in deep and multi-levels. They change into 2 categories: *human, thing and measurement unit categories*. In the human category, the semantic change is expressed in the aspects of nature, occupation, human characteristics and activities. In the thing category, the semantic change is expressed in the nomination of things which have the same appearance or position as human body parts. The polysemy of words expressing HBPs in the limb area are not as abundant in semantic change as in the upper area. However, words expressing HBPs in the middle area are deeper and more multifaceted. Synonymy was developed by setting up "empty boxes of synonymous word chains" expressing HBPs in Thai language and Vietnamese. Word chains in Thai language do not include borrowed words, so word meanings are not considered concrete or abstract. In Thai language there are only "absolute synonyms". However, in studying synonyms expressing HBPs in Vietnamese, besides absolute synonyms, there are also stylistic synonyms. This proves that the Vietnamese divided the objective reality category and expressed it in more detail than the Thai. The simplicity of this language phenomenon somehow expresses that the cross culture of Thai people is lower than that of Vietnamese people.

4. To clarify the cognitive characteristics of Thai ethnic, chapter 4 studies three aspects: universal cognition and the behavior-to-environment cognition through the words expressing HBPs.

Thai people and Vietnamese people, in perceiving the objective world under the philosophy of taking people as the centre, reflect two contents (nominating natural things and nominating artificial things). This means that the objective reality perception under the principle taking the human as the center is the common phenomenon. The cultural difference in perceiving the world under

this principle by each people, herein Thai people, is shown in empty word boxes reflecting that objective reality.

From the data, words expressing HBPs showing the beauty of Thai people belong to the upper area. They are: *ใบหน้า - mặt (face); ผิวหน้า - cái mặt (the face), ริมฝีปาก - bờ miệng (môi) (lips); แก้ม - má (cheek).* The appearance of the Thai women is shown in these words. However, that of the Thai men is only described with *ผิวหน้า - cái mặt (the face)*. In Thai, *ใบหน้า - mặt (face), ตา - mắt (eyes)* are often used to describe the appearance of human. To express the intelligence, the Thai people often use *หัวใจ - tim (heart)*. In terms of emotion, in Vietnamese, the word *lòng (bowel)* is absolutely used in expressions of emotion, mood, mind and affection while in Thai, people commonly use the word *หัวใจ - tim* (heart) in expression of affection.

Thai people's connection with nước (water) and rừng (jungle) categories in meronymy relation shown in words expressing HBPs reflects their perception features on their behavior to the nature. Through words expressing HBPs in polysemy, the connection of Thai people is expressed clearly. Besides, the behavior in the Thai family (father in law – daughter in law, father in law- son in law, etc.) shows that the connection in Thai family is very close and intimate.

5. We can see that the theory on some semantic relations in the system and theory of wordnet has widened the scope of study on words expressing HBPs. This direction contributes to the preservation of Thai culture in specific, the Vietnamese ethnics community in general. Besides, the thesis also provides a semantic reference for building the wordnet in Thai language. On that basis, the Thai researchers or learners can approach coded semantic reference. This thesis can be further studied in the direction of showing the different

development ways in terms of semantic meaning of words expressing human body parts in Thai and Vietnamese language. For example, the theory of “egocentrism” or the hypothesis of embodiment, metaphor, metonymy can be used to study in the future research.

PUBLISHES SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH RELATED TO THE THESIS

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