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A Comparative Study of English and Czech Idioms Related to the Body

Bakalářská práce

Tomáš Bulko

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Prohlašuji, že jsem závěrečnou práci vypracoval samostatně a použil jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

V Olomouci dne 3. 6. 2021

……………………………………… Vlastnoruční podpis

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Abstract

This bachelor thesis compares English and Czech idioms related to the human body. The theoretical part concentrates on defining an idiom, methodology used in the practical part and the approach towards idiomaticity for the purpose of this thesis. The practical part contains a comparison of idioms including their meaning, their equivalents, translation into the other language and example of use within a sentence.

# 1. Introduction

The main aim of my bachelor thesis is to compare widely known English and Czech idioms dealing with the human body. However, idioms that are related to the human body form a wide group and therefore only a certain number of idioms will be concerned within this thesis as to show the different ways in which the idioms might differ. The idioms will be categorized into groups based on their correspondence and then compared on the level of semantics, lexicology and formality.

Chapter two deals with idioms from the point of a view of linguistic. In this chapter are provided many definitions of idiom from both dictionaries and linguists that specialize in this field. Features of idioms and their structure is considered in order to helpappreciate the complexity of the issue at hand. Lastly, I will introduce and substantiate an approach to idioms that the present study will adopt.

Chapter three sums up the items within the corpus and the reason of their selection. The reason of choosing idioms dealing with human body and criteria which idioms must meet to be analyzed within this thesis are stated.

Chapter four introduces the methodology used in the practical part. Each category is defined in detail with examples of idioms that fit into them, providing information of what to expect from the idiom analysis in the practical part.

Chapter five includes a comparison of idioms which are divided into categories based on the definitions set in the previous chapter. Their equivalents, translation and meaning of idioms are provided just as examples of their use in a sentence is concerned as well. The results of the analysis of the whole corpus are provided at the end of the chapter.

# 2. Idioms from a Linguistic Point of View

Idioms are usually treated in lexicology because of their field of concern, which is lexis of the language. They are grouped with other components such as metaphor, simile, etc. and together they create a class called Figurative language.

Idioms are used on a daily basis in people’s everyday life and often have metaphorical or metonymical character. Although idioms are stereotypical linguistic phenomena which are stable and non-changing, they are expressions that seem to bring some degree of playfulness and innovation into the language. With time, idioms are rooted in people’s minds and become a necessary part of their communication with the world.

The research and studies in the field of idiomatics did not bring a unique perspective of an idiom. Their opinions do not differ only in how an idiom is recognized and comprehended, but also on semantic and grammatical level.

## 2.1. What is an Idiom?

The word “idiom” originally comes from Greek ἴδιος (idios), carrying a meaning “one’s own, peculiar, strange” (Flavell and Flavell 1992, 6). This term suggests that idioms possess characteristics that are unusual in terms of their semantics and/or grammar.

Just as dictionaries diverge in the definition of the word *idiom*, there is no unified definition that linguists agree with. As said, dictionaries and scholars differ in understanding what an idiom is, although they agree on the majority of characteristics.

Idioms directly reflect difficulties that linguists must deal with while finding a fitting definition and classification of these expressions and explaining their grammatical behaviour.

Definitions not only from dictionaries, but also from specialized works by linguists and lexicologists will be provided in the next subchapters.

### 2.1.1. General Sources

Among general sources are considered dictionaries and linguistic works that do not deal solely with idioms as they do not specialize in any specific field.

According to the online version of Oxford English Dictionary, an idiom is “A form of expression, grammatical construction, phrase, etc., used in a distinctive way in a particular language, dialect, or language variety; *spec.* a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from the meanings of the individual words.” (“Idiom;” Oxford English Dictionary, n.d.)

A similar definition, yet easier to understand comes from Cambridge Dictionary, also accessible online, where an idiom is described as “a group of words in a fixed order that have a particular meaning that is different from the meanings of each word on its own”. (“Idiom;” Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.)

There are other dictionaries that share the same opinion. Among them is yet another online dictionary, Merriam-Webster dictionary, where the word idiom is seen as “an expression in the usage of a language that is peculiar to itself either in having a meaning that cannot be derived from the conjoined meanings of its elements or in its grammatically atypical use of words”. (“Idiom;” Merriam-Webster Dictionary, n.d.)

Another one is Collins Dictionary, which states that “An idiom is a group of words which have a different meaning when used together from the one they would have if you took the meaning of each word separately.” (“Idiom;” Collins Dictionary, n.d.)

A very similar opinion is expressed by British linguist David Crystal, who said “Two central features identify an idiom. The meaning of the idiomatic expression cannot be deduced by examining the meanings of the constituent lexemes. And the expression is fixed, both grammatically and lexically” (Crystal 1996, 163)

Another similar definition can be found in *Encyclopaedia of Linguistics, Information, and Control*. Meetham and Hudson (1969) state that “idiom is a habitual collocation of two or more words whose combined meaning is not deducible from a knowledge of the meanings of its component words and of their grammatical syntagmatic relations to each other” (p. 667).

The above definitions have one common feature. The major contribution is that the meaning of an idiom cannot be predicted based on the individual lexemes of the expression.

### 2.1.2. Specialized sources

The definitions in this subchapter are from different lexicological studies, dictionaries of idioms and other works by specialists in this field. As this thesis is about English and Czech idioms, I will include some of the Czech works as well.

Fraser, just like most dictionaries, suggests that the individual elements of the idiom do not carry the same meaning as their sum total, therefore an idiom cannot be understood from these individual elements but must be considered a whole. Fraser comes up with yet another definition of an idiom. “I shall regard an idiom as a constituent or a series of constituents for which the semantic interpretation is not a compositional function of the formatives of which it is composed” (Fraser 1970, 22).

Čermák is one of the few who devoted a lot of work to Czech idioms and phraseology. Čermák makes a distinction between *phraseme* and *idiom*. Although both these terms are similar, he says there is a slight difference between them. In his opinion a phraseme is a more semantically transparent unit than an idiom. He set basic criteria for defining idioms which do not apply to Czech idioms exclusively, but to all idioms in general. (Čermák 1982)

According to him, an idiom is “a unique and fixed combination of at least two elements some of which do not function in the same way in any other combination (of the kind) or occur in a highly restricted number” (Čermák 2007, 142).

In some other works we can find definitions that in some way differ from other definitions. Idioms are “multiword chunks consisting of elements, or constituents, which are bound together lexically and syntactically” (Kavka 2003, 12). Expressions with an idiomatic nature are divided into collocations and idioms proper. According to Kavka (2003, 38) the key feature of idioms proper is their invariability, therefore only expressions that do not allow modification can be considered idioms.

Firstly, Palmer agrees with the above authors in his opinion that an idiom is “a sequence of words whose meaning cannot be predicted from the meanings of the words themselves” (Palmer 1981, 80).

From the grammatical point of view there is many restrictions to the idioms, and they differ case by case. He says that idioms are not single units, because they cannot have a past tense, even though in some cases a past tense is possible (e.g. *pulled someone’s leg*). Some idioms do not allow forming a passive voice either (e.g. *the leg was pulled*), while others can (e.g. *the tables were turned*). While some idioms might function similarly to a normal sequence of words, others are strict that they lose all grammatical qualities. (Palmer 1981, 80).

Although, semantically they behave like single words, they cannot be perceived as such in terms of grammar as idioms normally do not undergo changes (Palmer 1986, 36).

According to Lipka, idioms are complex lexemes that cannot be broken down into morphemes. Idioms might be formed with elements that are homonymous with free lexical morphemes that occur on its own just as well with constituents that would never occur independently. We speak of an idiom, if the semantic changes are extreme to the level when meaning of the lexeme as a whole can no longer be derived from its parts (Lipka 1990, 74-95). This statement is closely related to the definitions of most of the dictionaries already mentioned in the previous subchapter.

Idiom is “a group of two or more words which are chosen together in order to produce a specific meaning or effect in speech or writing” (Sinclair 1991, 172). The next point he makes is that the individual words are not reliably meaningful in themselves, because the whole idiom is required to produce the meaning.

Another definition of an idiom is provided by Everaert, who says that “Idioms are conventionalized linguistic expressions which can be decomposed into potentially meaningful components and exhibit co-occurrence restrictions that cannot be explained in terms of rule-governed morphosyntactic or semantic restrictions” (Everaert 2010, 81).

Ifill (2002, 2) offers a simple definition of an idiom. He suggests that idiom is a fixed expression whose meaning is strictly given and cannot be taken as a combination of its components. Just as Laval, he says that idioms are not literal expressions and cannot be treated as such.

An interesting point of view on the matter was brought by Langlotz (2006). He refers to an idiom as a multiword conventionalized expression whose main function is to communicate experience or events. He also says that definitions of idioms are never precise because of the mutual overlap of expressions’ discursive functions.

He states that “idioms are multi-word units that consist of two or more lexical constituents” (Langlotz 2006, 3).

*On Idiom: Critical Views and Perspectives*, by Fernando and Flavell (1981) deals with the problematics from a different perspective and include also pragmatics and variability of fixedness.

Fernando and Flavell believe that idiom must be described by multiple criteria, rather than by one general feature. They came with five criteria, which every idiomatic construction should have. These criteria are:

* meaning is not the compositional sum of its constituents
* It is transformationally deficient in one way or another
* It forms part of a set of expressions in a given language
* It is a unit that either has a homonymous literal counterpart or at least individual constituents that are literal, although the expression as a whole would not be interpreted literally
* It is institutionalized

Bílková (2000, 9-10) says that idiom is a conventionalized multiword expression whose meaning cannot be derived from combining the meanings of its constituent parts, yet believed that the constituent parts contribute to the meaning of the idiom, therefore meanings of many idioms are partly predictable from the meanings of its constituent parts. Her other point is, that idioms involve metaphor, metonymy, or hyperbole.

The paragraphs and definitions included in this subchapter clearly show that unlike the definitions from general sources, linguists concern with idioms in a larger spectrum of views and many of their explanations of an idiom might attain complexity to the level where it can no longer be comprehended by a layman.

### 2.1.3. Basic Features of Idioms

In this chapter, the main focus is set on summarizing essential features of idioms that have already been mentioned in the previous chapter. As the definitions differ and linguists do not entirely agree with definitions of other linguists, there is no official list of basic properties of idioms. We might say that some features are regarded as basic idiom features more than others. Some of these features are:

* *Conventionality/Institutionalization*: Both these terms are commonly used. Idioms are conventionalized, therefore the meaning and use cannot be predicted based on the meaning of isolated individual words the idiom involves (Nunberg et al. 1994, 492). Fernando (1996, 6) further adds that the conventionality of an idiom is linked to the currency in the speech community.
* *Compositeness*: The fact that idioms are “multi-word units that consist of two or more lexical constituents” (Langlotz 2006, 3).
* *Inflexibility*: Idioms are strained and typically not many modifications are allowed as they are frozen in ways that other non-idiomatic expressions are not. Langlotz (2006, 3) regards this feature as frozenness as the number of modifications the idiom can undergo depends on how frozen the idiom is.
* *Constructional idiosyncrasy*: Idioms often contain grammatically incorrect structures or illogical phrases (Langlotz 2006, 4).
* *Figuration*: Idioms usually involve metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole, or other means of figurative language (Bílková 2000, 9)
* *Informality*: Informal and colloquial spoken language is more commonly associated with idiomatic expressions rather than selecting formal words.

The features listed above are not automatically applied to all idioms, apart from conventionality. There are idioms to whose some feature might not apply. The majority of scholars agree on three aspects of what an idiom is and how to recognize it. The aspects are:

* Idioms are multiword expressions
* Idioms are conventionalized expressions
* Idioms are non-literal expressions, therefore there is a difference between what is said and what is meant

### 2.1.4. Another Features of Idioms

Čermák (2007, 82) added something he calls “*anomaly*” - an unusual deviation from the general rules and their irregular nature which is a typical fundamental feature of an idiom. In his words, the anomaly is “omnipresent in phraseology in different degrees and shades, it is its constitutive feature”. What seems to be the object of a verb does not necessarily mean it is an object. Words are no longer connected to the familiar meaning as if they occur on their own. The structure in comparison with non-idiomatic constructions differs and is not productive nor generative (Liu 2012, 108).

*Idioms* and *idiomaticity* are very similar terms, but not the same. While all idioms show idiomaticity, not all word combinations showing idiomaticity must be idioms. (Fernando 1996, 30). Čermák (2007, 120) says the term idiomaticity is determined by “*anomalousness*” and there are different types of idioms when it comes to idiomaticity and can be described as a continuum. On one hand, some idioms do not allow any modifications and on the other hand, there are idioms that are not so strict and allow transformations.

There is a view opposing Čermák, where it is believed that the “meaning of each constituent of an idiom contributes to the overall meaning of the idiom, so the meaning of an idiom is predictable” (Liu 2012, 108).

Liu (2012, 111) states that “Idioms are neither totally arbitrary nor conventional.” It is also said that although there is a continuum just as Čermák suggests, most of the idioms are not on either of these ends, but somewhere in the middle of it and therefore some flexible modifications are allowed.

Another significant feature might be considered *proverbiality*. Idioms typically describe and explain the situation of social interest (Nunberg et al. 1994, 493). In other words, the everyday experience projects into their language via specific idioms with certain social and cultural backgrounds.

*Affect* is yet another feature praised by some linguists and scholars. “Idioms are typically used to imply a certain evaluation or affective stance toward the things they denote. A language does not “ordinarily use idioms to describe situations that are regarded neutrally…” (Nunberg et al. 1994, 493)

### 2.1.5. Form and Structure of Idioms

In terms of form, there are three main types of idioms, claims Čermák (2007, 97-114). The majority of the idioms are considered *collocational idioms* as they do not form a sentence on their own. The second group includes so-called *prepositional idioms* (sometimes regarded as *sentential idioms* also widely known as proverbs and sayings) as they form sentences. The third group is *lexical idioms*. Lexical idioms consist of just a single word.

Langlotz (2006, 3) says that the typical structure of an idiom is a composite structure of phrases or semi-clauses. Other composite structures include idiomatic compounds (blackboard), phrasal verbs (run into), and proverbs (An apple a day keeps the doctor away).

Another point is made by Seidl and McMordie (1978, 5) according to whom an idiom might have regular structure (heads will roll), irregular structure (still and all), or grammatically incorrect structure (That’s small potatoes). Although there is more than just one type of idioms in terms of structure, according to Seidl most of the idioms have a regular structure.

## 2.2. My Approach to Idiomaticity

Not only it was already said, but also the number of definitions included in this thesis already suggests that it is difficult if not even impossible to clearly define idiom. The majority of linguists agree on several aspects. The meaning of an idiom cannot be understood by knowledge of its individual constituents.

It is necessary for the purpose of this thesis to define what is understood by an idiom. Although there are many to choose from, there is one that corresponds with most of the definitions yet is simple to understand. In this thesis, the idiom is “a sequence of words whose meaning cannot be predicted from the meanings of the words themselves” (Palmer 1981, 80).

Expressions selected for comparison within this thesis must meet the following criteria:

* The expression must include lexeme connected semantically to a human body (not only body parts, but also words such as blood, guts or other constituents of the human body are acceptable)
* The expression must fit the definition of an idiom that was selected for the purposes of this thesis in at least one of the compared languages

Idioms related to the human body are a wide area containing a large number of idioms, therefore not every existing idiom will be analyzed and compared. As the aim is to compare the idioms, divide them into categories based on their correspondence and not to introduce the less known ones, the majority of compared idioms are widely known and used on daily basis. The conventionality and familiarity of an idiom are therefore considered.

The idiomatic expressions that undergo comparison and analysis were chosen mainly due to their practical use in life and the majority of them were found in online dictionaries from which not only the meaning of an idiom is taken in concern, but also examples in a sentence provided will be used.

# 3. Human Body Idioms

As was already mentioned above, only idioms that are in terms of semantics connected to the human body are included in this thesis. Just like idioms that concern any other area, they tend to be used to enrich the language alongside expressing something in a rather unusual way.

All the idioms composed of different lexemes other than the human body show playfulness as well, however, this specific area was chosen for a selfish reason. The human body is something that everyone should be interested in as all the readers including me is human and therefore it concerns me. Idioms including some part of the human body are most likely to refer to a man in some way. Nevertheless, the whole population should be familiar with the lexical means used within the idiom, therefore proving the fact that the meaning of an idiom cannot be predicted by the meaning of its individual constituents will be much easier than in some other areas that mostly involve words that the reader is not familiar with.

Another reason for concentrating on this area is that idioms and phrases are mainly based on the experiences or events in one’s life, therefore we might say that a person is caught in the center of it.

4. Methodology of Idiom Analysis

The methodology used for the idiom analysis in this thesis stands on Jana Vokáčová’s dissertation called *A Comparative Study of English, Czech, French, and German Idioms* (2008). Her dissertation deals with a comparative analysis of idioms related in any way to the human body, animals, and colours. Vokáčková (2008) distinguished these idioms into three main categories via their type of correspondence, which she introduces in her dissertation. The types of correspondence are:

* Total correspondence: Applies to all the idioms which correspond on levels of functionality, semantics, formality and both compared languages use the same part of the human body. This is the main category which is further divided into two subcategories:
  + 100% correspondence: Idioms belonging within this subcategory are considered identical on all levels and use the same body part to express the idiom.
  + Overall correspondence: Both compared languages use the same body part and therefore they will be classified as totally corresponding idioms, although idioms in this subcategory have slight differences on a certain level. The possible differences will be introduced in the subchapter dealing with idioms which are overall correspondent.
* Partial correspondence: Equivalents of these idioms just like idioms that are classified as overall correspondent do have slight differences that might include a change in word order and plural vs singular grammatical number. They show some degree of correspondence yet is not similar enough to possess the ability to belong into the category of total correspondence. Unlike overall correspondent idioms, the equivalents use different body part to express the idiom. Given examples that belong to this category fully agree on the semantic level.
* Non-correspondence: A wide category that contains idioms which equivalent in either Czech or English language does not include any part of the human body to express the idiom, or those with a non-idiomatic expression. These non-correspondence expressions have the possibility to be expressed in the other language via other means that are not counted as idiomatic, such as expressing the idiom with its literal meaning.

As said, the equivalents of overall correspondent idioms and partial correspondent idioms both disagree on some level. The biggest difference lies in the used part of the human body. There are, however, idioms that in one or the other language use multiple body parts, meanwhile their equivalent uses lesser number of body parts or even just one. If the idiom in one language uses more body parts yet also uses all the body parts used in the other language, then the idiom will be introduced in subcategory overall correspondence. An example of such idiom will be provided.

Although some idioms may be expressed in the second language in several ways, not all the variants will be included within this thesis. If an idiom has more equivalents, the one showing the highest level of correspondence will be presented and analysed accordingly. If an idiom occurs with numerous equivalents within the same category of correspondence, only one of them will randomly be chosen and undergo further analysis.

4.1. Total Correspondence

Idioms in this category are considered identical in both compared languages in terms of all the levels stated in previous chapters (stylistic/functional, semantic, formal) and both equivalents use the same body part.

An example of 100% correspondence:

* *Face to face*
* *Tváří v tvář*

Both idioms use the same lexical means, just as they agree in terms of structure in both languages and the semantic level.

4.2. Overall Correspondence

Idioms that find belonging within this category might share the same level in terms of semantics, however, there are several ways in which they might slightly differ. Despite their differences on the formal level, there is a resemblance as both equivalents use the same body part which cannot be overlooked and is therefore counted as overall correspondence idioms.

Overall correspondent idioms might be further divided into subcategories based on the difference of the compared idioms. While some idioms are obvious which category and subcategory they represent, there are idioms in which cases they cannot be simply assigned into one of the subcategories, because the line between them is not always clear. The goal of this thesis is to divide idioms based on the part of the human body which is used. However, there are numerous ways in which the idioms might differ and therefore brief explanation of some of the differences will be presented further in this thesis within the subchapter *Overall and partial Correspondence Examples*. The examples of overall and partial correspondence are provided within the same subchapter as in many cases the differences can fit both groups and the only reason why the idioms find their place in one category and not the other is the used part of the human body. It is necessary to say that the idiom might differ in more than just one of the topics that are to be introduced.

4.3. Partial Correspondence

Just as the title speaks of itself, idioms that find a place within this category partially correspond with the idiom in the other compared language. Although they are neither totally nor overall correspondent as they do not use the same part of the human body, they still agree on the semantic level. In contrast to the previous categories, there is a considerable difference in the part of the human body they use and therefore they find their place here. The idioms carry the same message, yet the lexical items used differ just as the formal structure might as well.

As said, this category could be also further divided into more subcategories just as overall correspondent idioms and these subcategories are to be described within the subcategory *Overall and partial Correspondence Examples* just to provide an insight on some of the ways in which idioms can differ.

4.4. Overall and Partial Correspondence Examples

**a) Grammatical Number**

The difference might be as small as a single letter if it interferes with the grammatical number. In some cases, the idiom involves a plural noun, while in the equivalent in the other language the noun is singular. An example:

* *To be all ears*
* *Být jedno ucho*

Both idioms have the same meaning, use the same lexical means and share the same structure. The only difference is that in Czech the *jedno ucho* (one ear) is singular, meanwhile *all ears* is plural.

**b) Usage of Diminutive**

Another deviation that might occur in some idioms is using a diminutive in one of the compared languages. English has many diminutives which are adopted from other languages, but most of them are lexicalized, therefore in comparison to Czech, they are barely used. If there is an idiom placed within this category due to this deviation, it will most likely be because of diminutive used in Czech. An example:

* *By a hair’s breadth*
* *O vlásek*

Once again, they both carry the same meaning and are used under the same circumstances in both languages as a measure. The difference is the diminutive used in the Czech version of the idiom simply to emphasize the distance furthermore.

**c) Word Order**

There might be differences in the word order. An example:

* *To poke a nose into something*
* *Strkat do něčeho nos*

If all the idioms were to retain the word order of its equivalent, we might get idioms that would not be grammatically correct, such as *to poke into something a nose.* On the other hand, in Czech we would get *strkat nos do něčeho,* which works perfectly as well.

Meaning to interfere with something or intruding in another’s person private life (mostly used in the sense that it should be none of your concern).

**d) Possessive Pronoun, Reflexive Verb, and Prepositions**

Overall correspondence idioms might deviate in the use of prepositions, its different grammatical case, or using a reflexive verb in just one language, mostly in Czech rather than English. Whereas the preposition is missing in one language, in another the preposition is necessary for the idiom. In terms of grammatical case, English often uses pronouns of a possessive case which is in Czech equivalent missing. In this thesis, the idioms whose deviations are mentioned in the previous paragraph will be treated as one subcategory. An example:

* *To save face*
* *Zachovat si tvář*

This is an example where the reflexive verb *si* is present in the Czech equivalent, yet there is no mention of it in English.

**e) Different lexical means of one the elements within the idiom**

The first subcategory involves only these idioms in which Czech or English equivalent differs in lexical means of the idiom in one of its constituents, while the expression is used in the same situation and carries the same meaning in both languages.

On one hand, there are idioms in which equivalents in the second language uses different lexical means that are connected semantically. An example:

* *To get out of hand*
* *Vymknout se z ruky*

The Czech word *vymknout* does not translate as *to get out*, although the meaning remains the same. However, the word *vymknout* is semantically on the same level as the equivalent used in the other language.

On the other hand, there are idioms where one of its elements is expressed by a different lexeme, however, the idiom still makes perfect sense in the language and carries the same meaning although the constituent is not connected in terms of semantics to the one used in the compared language. An example:

* *Poker face*
* *Kamenná tvář*

This is a perfect example of this subcategory. The word *poker* can hardly be translated as *kamenná*. The Czech version of the idiom involves completely different lexical means that commonly do not share the same meaning as the word *poker* and the semantical difference in the case of this idiom is obvious.

**f) Tone of the idiom**

In this subcategory are placed idioms that differ in tone. English idioms are commonly neutral just as their Czech equivalents, however in some cases they might show an expressiveness meanwhile the second compared language stays neutral. A good example is a word mouth which in many cases of Czech idioms is not translated and used neutrally as *pusa*, but a different word of the same meaning (as part of a human body the most common expression *huba*) is used to express the idiom, in a negative sense. An example:

* *To live from hand to mouth*
* *Žít z ruky do huby*

Both idioms are still on the same semantical level and both share the meaning. The Czech idiom uses the word *huba* and therefore is not neutral, meanwhile the English constituent is. *Žít z ruky do pusy* would be the neutral expression of this idiom, however, the negative expression is used instead.

**g) Number of lexical means**

Idioms within this subcategory have a different number of lexical means used in the other compared language. The difference might go both ways. Both languages have idioms that in comparison to the other language lack some lexical means, just as well as there is a number of idioms which compose of extra lexical means. The reason for adding an extra lexical mean to the idiom might differ. In some cases, it might be necessary for the meaning to be fully understood or to make sense in the spoken language. Sometimes the reason might be unimportant where the extra lexeme is not a necessity, in terms such as a sound of the idiom. Some examples:

* *Hold one’s tongue*
* *Držet jazyk za zuby*

In this example, an extra lexeme is used in the Czech idiom. In the English idiom there is no mention of teeth, unlike in the Czech equivalent. The literal translation into English would be *to hold one’s tongue behind the teeth*.

* *On the tip of one’s tongue*
* *Na jazyku*

This case is the absolute opposite of the previous example. Meanwhile, the English expression involves *the tip of one’s tongue*, the Czech equivalent uses just a single lexeme *jazyk* (tongue) to express the same meaning. Although the idiom is commonly used in Czech, the literal translation *Na špičce jazyku* is sometimes used as well but is not nearly as popular as the idiom mentioned.

In the final lines dealing with a number of lexical means, it is worth mentioning that it could be further divided into subcategories that would concern whether there is an extra lexeme used or its equivalent in the second language adapted, and it was decided not to use all the lexical means, therefore some “extra words” were omitted. For this, the whole other research would be necessary to find out what language the idiom originally comes from and then compare these idioms. However, this research is not important for this thesis as a different goal was set and therefore will not be included within this thesis.

4.5. Non Correspondence

This category consists of idioms whose equivalents in the other compared language do not contain any part of the human body or are expressed via lexical means that are considered to be non idiomatic expressions. These expressions agree on the level of semantics. They are non idiomatic expressions in one of the languages, however their equivalent in the other language is of idiomatic character and contains a part of a human body and therefore their rightful place is within this category and is to be concerned in this thesis.

This category could be further divided into just two main subcategories. Idiomatic expressions whose equivalent use no human body part and the expressions that are not considered idiomatic in one of the languages that are being compared.

**a) Idioms with no human body part**

As the title suggests, in this category are idiomatic expressions, but they do not use any part of the human body to express the idiom in one of the compared languages. An example of such an idiom:

* *To reveal one’s hand*
* *Vyložit karty na stůl*

*Vyložit karty na stůl* could be translated as *to lay the cards on the table*. As you can see, there is no part of the human body in the Czech version, meanwhile English version of the idiom uses *hand*.

**b)** **Idioms expressed via lexical means of non-idiomatic character**

In this subcategory, the idiom occurs only in one language whereas the equivalent in the other uses non-idiomatic words while maintaining the same level in terms of semantics. This can be achieved in various ways among which is expressing the idiom in one word, using lexical means that closely relate to the actual meaning of the idiom, or by using periphrasis. In this thesis, the idioms within this subcategory will not be further divided, however in some cases comments and details of why the idiom is within this category will be provided. Some examples:

* *Pull someone’s leg*
* *Utahovat si z někoho*

While the English expression is an idiom, the Czech equivalent is expressed via periphrasis which is not of an idiomatic character.

* *To have a change of heart*
* *Změnit názor*

At first sight, it might look like another example of periphrasis, however, this is a case of usage of a more transparent expression. The Czech version *změnit názor* is the literal meaning of the English idiom which is the change of one’s opinion.

* *In the face of (something)*
* *Navzdory (něčemu)*

Although both expressions in this case fully agree on the level of semantics, only one word in the Czech expression is used. However, the Czech word *navzdory* is not an idiom and could be translated as despite, which is the literal meaning of the idiom.

# 5. Idiom Analysis

This is the practical part of the thesis. As the title suggests, the focus in this part is set on the analysis. The description of the method used for the analysis of idioms concerned within this thesis was provided in the last chapter.

Each level of correspondence will be analysed and examined within this section. The comments on every idiom will not concern only with the equivalent in the other language and their meaning, but an example of possible use in a sentence will be provided as well. Idioms that were already provided as examples in the last chapter will be mentioned as well, however, only the use within a sentence and the meaning will be added as the differences were already described.

## 5.1. Total Correspondence

Idioms that are identical find their belonging here. In other words, they are idioms that agree on semantic, lexical and formal level. Some examples from the corpus are listed here as well as their meaning and use in a sentence.

* *At first hand*
* *Z první ruky*

Meaning: Learned directly from your personal experience rather than being told or read the outcome in a book.

Example: *He saw at first hand the effects of the recent heavy fighting.*

* *To shoot from the hip*
* *Střílet od boku*

Meaning: To react quickly without thinking carefully about something or having collected all the facts and therefore it might not be correct.

Example: *We're not going to shoot from the*hip*- we're going to*think*things through.*

* *All in one’s head*
* *Všechno v něčí hlavě*

Meaning: Not substantial or real; having been imagined or invented.

Example: *I don't know why you think I don't trust you. I can assure you that it's all in your head.*

* *To sweat blood*
* *Potit krev*

Meaning: To make an extremely great effort.

Example: *We sweated blood to get the work finished on time.*

* *To put heads together*
* *Dát hlavy dohromady*

Meaning: Not literally to put heads together, but to plan something together. To come up with a solution or an idea in cooperation with someone.

Example: *If we put our heads together, we can think of a solution.*

* *New blood*
* *Nová krev*

Meaning: People with a lot of energy or fresh ideas who are brought into an organization in order to improve it.

Example: *The new blood in the team should improve our chances of victory in next week's game.*

* *(To keep a) clear head*
* *(Udržet si/zachovat) čistou hlavu*

Meaning: The ability to think clearly.

Example: *I won't have another drink, thanks. I need to have a clear head for my meeting in the morning.*

## 5.2 Overall Correspondence

* *To be all ears*
* *Být jedno ucho*

Meaning: To be waiting eagerly to hear about something.

Example: *I'm all ears - tell us what they had to say.*

* *By a hair’s breadth*
* *O vlásek*

Meaning: A very small distance or amount.

Example: *His finger was within a hair's breadth of touching the alarm.*

* *To get out of hand*
* *Vymknout se z ruky*

Meaning: To become chaotic and unmanageable, as of a situation.

Example: *If your party gets out of hand, the neighbours will call the police.*

* *To save face*
* *Zachovat si tvář*

Example: *We said he left "to pursue other interests" to let him save face, but actually we fired him.*

* *Poker face*
* *Kamenná tvář*

Example: *One of the most difficult things to do in an emotionally charged situation is to maintain a poker face.*

* *Hold one’s tongue*
* *Držet jazyk za zuby*

Meaning: To not speak.

Example: *I'm going to have to learn to hold my tongue (= to not say things that upset people).*

* *On the tip of one’s tongue*
* *Na jazyku*

Meaning: About to be said if you can remember it.

Example: *I know her - her name is on the tip of my tongue, but it won't come to me.*

* *To live from hand to mouth*
* *Žít z ruky do huby*

Meaning: To have just enough money to live on and nothing extra.

Example: *My father earned very little and there were four kids, so we lived from hand to mouth.*

* *To shoot one’s mouth off*
* *Pustit hubu na špacír*

Just as in the last example, the word *mouth* is used with negative expressivity as *huba* instead of *pusa*.

Meaning: To talk too much in a loud and uncontrolled way.

Example: *It's just like Richard to go shooting his mouth off about other people's business.*

* *To be skin and bones*
* *Být kost a kůže*

Meanwhile English version has plural form *bones*; the Czech version has singular form of the word *kost.* However, there is yet another difference between these two idioms. The word order of *skin and bones* is twisted in Czech version to *bones and skin* (*kůže a kost* vs *kost a kůže*).

Meaning: To be extremely thin.

Example: *She was just skin and bones.*

* *To fight tooth and nail*
* *Prát se zuby nehty*

English version has singular forms *tooth* and *nail*, meanwhile the Czech version uses plural of both of these words as *zuby* and *nehty.*

Meaning: To try very hard to get something you want.

Example: *We fought tooth and nail to get the route of the new road changed.*

* *Hit the nail on the head*
* *Uhodit hřebík/hřebíček na hlavičku*

Czech version of the idiom uses diminutives of the word *nail* and *head.* Instead of *hřebík* and *hlavu*, the form *hřebíček* and *hlavičku* is used.

Meaning: To be absolutely accurate.

Example: *She hit the nail on the head when she said that the government’s main priority should be to deal with youth unemployment.*

* *To go to someone’s head*
* *Stoupnout někomu do hlavy*

The English idiom could be translated as *Jít někomu do hlavy*, however the Czech word *stoupat* is used as it is more specific and the meaning remains the same.

Meaning: To damage or weaken your judgment. If success goes to your head, it makes you believe that you are more successful or powerful than you really are.

Example: *Don’t let one win go to your head – you still have at least three more games to play.*

* *Don’t waste your breath*
* *Šetři dechem*

The English idiom uses negative *Don’t waste*, meanwhile the Czech idiom uses positive *šetři* instead of negative *neplýtvej*.

Meaning: If you waste your breath, you spend time and energy trying to give advice that is ignored.

Example: *Honestly, you're wasting your breath - he doesn't want to hear what anyone else has got to say.*

* *To open one’s heart*
* *Vylít si srdce*

The Czech idiom contains different lexeme as the word *vylít* (=to pour out, to spill out) cannot be translated as *to open.*

Meaning: To share one's deepest or most intimate emotions, thoughts, or secrets.

Example: *My father was a cold man, and he never opened his heart to anyone.*

* *To keep one’s head*
* *Neztratit hlavu*

Czech language uses *neztratit* (=not to lose)*.* Negative vs positive form was mentioned in the previous type of idioms as well, however, this time the word *neztratit* is a negative form of a different lexeme than the positive *to keep.*

Meaning: To remain calm and sensible in a crisis.

Example: *She did well to keep her head in such a stressful situation.*

* *To put an idea into someone’s head*
* *Nasadit někomu brouka do hlavy*

The Czech *brouk* (=bug)is replaced with *an idea* which is different lexeme that is not connected semantically. The English version is closer to the actual meaning of the idiom. Word order between these idioms differs as well.

Meaning: To make someone want to do something they had not thought about before, especially something stupid.

Example: *Don't go putting ideas into his head. We can't afford a new car.*

* *To take to one’s legs/heels*
* *Vzít nohy na ramena*

The Czech idiom uses two body parts (*nohy, ramena = legs, shoulders)* to express the meaning, whereas the English idiom contains only one reference to the body.

Meaning: To quickly run away.

Example: *When they saw the soldiers coming, they took to their heels.*

There is a lot of idioms that differ in more than just one point and are idioms with overall correspondence. An example of an idiom that differs in diminutive and other criteria is:

* *Harm a hair on someone’s head*
* *Zkřivit někomu vlásek na hlavě*

Diminutive of the word *hair* (*=vlas)* vs *vlásek* in Czech and use of a different lexical means *harm* (*=poškodit)* vs *zkřivit*.

Meaning: To hurt someone.

Example: *If he so much as harms a hair on her head, I won't be responsible for my actions.*

* *To have one foot in the grave*
* *Být jednou nohou v hrobě*

English version uses *to have* (=mít) meanwhile the Czech version uses *být* (=to be).

Meaning: To be very old and near death.

Example: *He’s not the youngest. He has one foot in the grave.*

* *Not to lift a finger*
* *Nehnout ani prstem*

Czech version uses the word *ani*, but there is no sign of it in English version. Both languages also use different verb to express the idiom. The literal translation of English idiom is *Nezvednout prst. Nehnout* (=not to move).

Meaning: To not do anything at all; to not take any action. Typically, due to refusal or unwillingness.

Example: *He hasn’t lifted a finger since he got here. He’s been no help at all.*

* *To turn my stomach*
* *Zvedá mi to žaludek*

*Turn* =(otočit/převrátit) in contrast to Czech *zvedat* (=to lift).

Meaning: To make someone feel sick, often because they are angry or upset about something.

Example: *The amount of money she spends on designer clothes really turns my stomach.*

## 5.3. Partial Correspondence

* *By the skin of one’s teeth*
* *O chlup*

The English version uses *skin* and *teeth* *(=kůže a zuby),* meanwhile Czech uses different part of the human body to describe the idiom. The literal translation would be *By a body hair.*

Meaning: If you do something by the skin of your teeth, you only just succeed in doing it.

Example: *He escaped from the secret police by the skin of his teeth.*

* *To rub someone’s nose into something*
* *Omlátit o hubu*

The Czech idiom uses word *huba* (=mouth), meanwhile the English one uses *nose*, yet both idioms share the same meaning.

Meaning: To say or do things that make someone remember that they failed or got something wrong.

Example: *Sue failed her exam, so just to rub her nose in it, I put my certificate up on the wall.*

* *Cheek by jowl*
* *Bok po boku*

The translation of the Czech idiom would be *side by side*, which refers to different body part. The literal translation of Czech equivalent might be heard as well, however it’s used in its literal meaning and not as idiom.

Meaning: Very close together.

Example: *The poor lived cheek by jowl in industrial mining towns in Victorian England.*

* *Break a leg!*
* *Zlom vaz!*

The Czech idiom uses *vaz* (=neck) as to express the same meaning as English *leg.*

Meaning: Used for wishing someone good luck, especially before a performance.

Example: *I heard you have a final exam next week. Break a leg!*

* *To stick in someone’s throat*
* *Ležet v žaludku*

The Czech idiom uses *žaludek* (stomach) instead of a *throat.*

Meaning: For something to bother one after it has happened, because it seems wrong or one cannot accept it.

Example: *Her comment really stuck in my throat. She was really out of line to say that.*

* *To put a bug in one’s ear*
* *Nasadit brouka do hlavy*

Main difference lies in the body part used. English uses *ear* (=ucho) and Czech idiom uses *hlava* (=head).

Meaning: To speak to one in order to impart some particular information, suggestion, hint, or warning.

Example: *I’ve been putting a bug in his ear for months about what I wanted for my birthday, but he was totally clueless when the day came.*

* *To have a long arm*
* *Mít dlouhé prsty*

Czech uses *prsty* (=fingers) meanwhile English uses *arm* (=ruka). The body part differs just as the grammatical number as the Czech idiom contains plural form of a noun.

Meaning: Broad, far-reaching power or influence.

Example: *The long arm of justice finally put the murderer in jail, where he belongs.*

* *To have one’s fingers all thumbs*
* *Mít obě ruce levé*

In English language are used two body parts to express the idiom. *Fingers* (=prsty) and *thumbs* (=palce). The Czech idiom refers to *ruce* (=arms/hands).

Meaning: To move your hands in an awkward way.

Example: *I'm all fingers and thumbs today. That's the second plate I've dropped this morning.*

* *Shake a leg!*
* *Hejbni kostrou!*

This idiom differs in both used words. English version *shake a leg* could be translated as *Zatřep nohou.* On the other hand, the literal translation of *hejbni kostrou* is *move the skeleton.*

Meaning: Used to tell someone to hurry or act more quickly.

Example: *Come on, Nick, shake a leg or we'll never be ready in time.*

## 5.4. Non Correspondence

* *To pull someone’s leg*
* *Utahovat si z někoho*

Meaning: To tell someone something that is not true as a way of joking with the person.

Example: *Stop pulling my leg – you didn’t have lunch with Bono!*

* *To have a change of heart*
* *Změnit názor*

Meaning: If you have a change of heart, you change your opinion or the way you feel about something.

Example: *She was going to sell her house but had a change of heart at the last minute.*

* *In the face of (something)*
* *Navzdory (něčemu)*

Meaning: Despite having to deal with a difficult situation or problem.

Example: *She left home in the face of strong opposition from her parents.*

* *A slip of the tongue*
* *Přeřeknutí*

The English idiom consists of more lexemes, whereas the Czech equivalent uses a single word to express the message. Although *přeřeknutí* can be translated as *slip of the tongue*, the word cannot be counted as idiom.

Meaning: Something that you say by accident when you intended to say something else.

Example: *I called her new boyfriend by her previous boyfriend's name - it was just a slip of the tongue.*

* *To have the upper hand*
* *Mít kontrolu*

The Czech expression is not of idiomatic character as the two words *mít kontrolu* mean the exact same thing even when standing on their own and are grouped together just because of the meaning of each word.

Meaning: If you have the upper hand, you have more power than anyone else and so have control.

Example: *After hours of fierce negotiations, the president gained/got/had the upper hand.*

* *Can’t make head nor tail of something*
* *Nechápat*

The Czech expression is not of idiomatic character and a single word with the exact meaning of the English counterpart is used.

Meaning: To not be able to understand something.

Example: *I can't make head nor tail of these instructions on the packet.*

* *Like getting blood out of a stone*
* *Jako když mluví do dubu*

Meaning: To make someone give or tell you something, when it is extremely difficult because of the character or mood of the person or organization you are dealing with.

Example: *Persuading Chris to buy a round of drinks is like getting blood from a stone.*

* *To have one’s back to the wall*
* *Být zahnaný do kouta*

The word *wall* is replaced in the Czech idiom by the word *corner.*

Meaning: To be in a very difficult or desperate situation.

Example: *He certainly has his back to the wall as he has lost his job and cannot find another one.*

* *To know something like the back of one’s hand*
* *Znát něco jako svoje boty*

English uses *back of one’s hand*, meanwhile Czech uses *one’s shoes*. Hand and shoes are completely different lexical item, but both represent something we should be familiar with and therefore is used in the idiom.

Meaning: To have very good and detailed knowledge of something.

Example: *I know this area like the back of my hand.*

## 5.5. The results

In this chapter the results of idiom analysis are presented. Not only idioms that were presented in the previous chapters, but all idioms that are in the corpus are concerned. A total of 83 idiomatic expressions were compared. The following table shows the exact percent representation of each group.

Table 1. The percentage of idioms in each group

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total number of idioms | Total correspondence | Overall correspondence | Partial correspondence | Non correspondence |
| 83 | 10 | 38 | 13 | 22 |
| Percentage | 10,05% | 45,78% | 15,66% | 26,51% |

As we see in Table 1., nearly 46% of idioms within the corpus belong into overall correspondence category. This fact shows that almost every second compared idiom within this thesis uses the same body part to express the corresponding idea. It is necessary to say that the results are based on 83 idioms that were compared and therefore it is not possible to say that the same results would come out if every single idiom concerning any part of the human body was analyzed. However, assuming that the sample of expressions is representative of all idioms to do with body parts, one can conclude that for the most part, English and Czech rely on the same means to convey similar ideas.

The second largest group includes idioms in the non-correspondence category. These make up 26.5% of the total. These expressions do not tend to have idiomatic equivalents in Czech.

Partial correspondence idioms is a smaller group of idioms which use different part of the human body to express the idiom.

The totally correspondent idioms form the smallest group of . Only roughly over 10% of the idioms within the corpus represent this group. In most cases the idioms which use the same part of the human body differ in some other way and are not totally correspondent.

# Conclusion

This thesis focused on the form of English and Czech idioms featuring names of body parts. The main purpose of the analysis was to compare equivalents in both languages to establish the degree of correspondence between closely related expressions.

Idiomatic expressions are an important part of both languages as they are used on a daily basis without people even realizing or thinking about it. Moreover, idioms help us communicate better and therefore I chose to compare idioms in these two languages.

The aim was to compare English and Czech idioms that contain words related to the human body. Idioms that are frequently used and understood even by the general public were chosen for analysis in this thesis. In majority the idioms were firstly found in English language and then the search for their counterparts in Czech language began. The meanings of the idioms and examples of their use were taken from online dictionaries.

Idioms were divided into categories based on their correspondence. The differences between compared idioms were described as to show that there are multiple ways in which idioms may vary. The idioms were divided based on the used part of the human body. Most of the idioms are in the category of overall correspondence as they use the same part of the human body, yet they differ on some different level than used lexemes.

Perhaps the most striking observation is that the majority of expressions considered here show a degree of correspondence. Czech expressions were found to match their English counterparts either one-to-one (so that they almost looked like verbatim translations) or to be rough equivalents. Cases of a complete lack of correspondence were relatively rare. These similarities can be accounted for in two ways. First, many expressions are historically related; that is, many Czech idiomatic expressions are calques (via German). The other source of similarity has to do with the symbolic value associated with some body parts (e.g., the heart being thought of as the seat of emotions, etc.)

That being said, for all the similarities encountered in my analysis, the differences cannot be ignored either. Rather obviously, a Czech learner of English cannot assume that the similarities are sufficient and simply translate body-part expressions from Czech to English. It is important to know (i.e. memorize) the exact form of the corresponding phrases.

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# Appendices

Total correspondence

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| At first hand | Z první ruky |
| To shoot from the him | Střílet od boku |
| All in one’s head | Všechno v něčí hlavě |
| To sweat blood | Potit krev |
| To put heads together | Dát hlavy dohromady |
| New blood | Nová krev |
| (To keep a) clear head | (Udržet si/zachovat) čistou hlavu |
| Someone’s right hand | Něčí pravá ruka |
| Behind someone’s back | Za něčími zády |
| Face to face | Tváří v tvář |

Overall correspondence

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| To be all ears | Být jedno ucho |
| By a hair’s breadth | O vlásek |
| To get out of hand | Vymknout se z ruky |
| To save face | Zachovat si tvář |
| Poker face | Kamenná tvář |
| Hold one’s tongue | Držet jazyk za zuby |
| On the tip of one’s tongue | Na jazyku |
| To live from hand to mouth | Žít z ruky do huby |
| To shoot one’s mouth off | Pustit hub una špacír |
| To be skin and bones | Být kost a kůže |
| To fight tooth and nail | Prát se zuby nehty |
| Hit the nail on the head | Uhodit hřebík/hřebíček na hlavičku |
| To go to someone’s head | Stoupnout někomu do hlavy |
| Don’t waste your breath | Šetři dechem |
| To open one’s heart | Vylít si srdce |
| To keep one’s head | Neztratit hlavu |
| To put an idea into someone’s head | Nasadit někomu brouka do hlavy |
| To take to one’s legs/heels | Vzít nohy na ramena |
| Harm a hair on someone’s head | Zkřivit někomu vlásek na hlavě |
| To have one foot in the grave | Být jednou nohou v hrobě |
| Not to lift a finger | Nehnout ani prstem |
| To turn my stomach | Zvedá mi to žaludek |
| To turn a blind eye on something | Přivřít nad něčím oči |
| To burn one’s fingers | Spálit si prsty |
| To go into something with one’s eyes open | Jít do něčeho s otevřenýma očima |
| To brin someone on his knees | Srazit někoho na kolena |
| To eat out of someone’s hand | Zobat někomu z ruky |
| To shoot one’s mouth off | Pustit hub una špacír |
| It goes in one ear and out the other | Jít jedním uchem tam a druhým ven |
| To bite one’s head off | Utrhnout někomu hlavu |
| Out of sight, out of mind | Sejde z očí, sejde z mysli |
| To be all eyes | Mít oči na stopkách |
| To put one’s feet up | Dát nohy na stůl |
| To stand on one’s own feet | Stát na vlastních nohou |
| To shout at the top of one’s lungs | Křičet z plných plic |
| To be hot on someone’s heels | Být těsně v patách |
| To do something with one’s eyes closed | Dokázat se zavřenýma očima |
| To turn one’s back on someone | Obrátit se k někomu zády |

Partial correspondence

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| By the skin of one’s teeth | O chlup |
| To rub someone’s nose into something | Omlátit o hubu |
| Cheek by jowl | Bok po boku |
| Break a leg! | Zlom vaz! |
| To stick in someone’s throat | Ležet v žaludku |
| To put a bug in one’s ear | Nasadit brouka do hlavy |
| To have a long arm | Mít dlouhé prsty |
| To have one’s fingers all thumbs | Mít obě ruce levé |
| Shake a leg! | Hejbni kostrou! |
| Put one’s shoulder to the wheel | Přiložit ruku k dílu |
| You shouldn’t look a gift horse in the mouth | Darovanému koni na zuby nehleď |
| To one’s heart content | Co hrdlo ráčí |
| To get something off one’s chest | Říct, co má člověk na srdci |

Non correspondence

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| To pull someone’s leg | Utahovat si z někoho |
| To have a change of heart | Změnit názor |
| In the face of (something) | Navzdory (něčemu) |
| A slip of the tongue | Přeřeknutí |
| To have the upper hand | Mít kontrolu |
| Can’t make head nor tail of something | Nechápat |
| Like getting blood out of a stone | Jako když mluví do dubu |
| To have one’s back to the wall | Být zahnaný do kouta |
| To know something like the back of one’s hand | Znát něco jako svoje boty |
| To have a foot in both camps | Nechávat si otevřená dvířka na obě strany |
| To have a gut feeling | Mít tušení |
| My lips are sealed | Jsem jako hrob |
| To be open handed | Být štědrý |
| To foot the bill | Zaplatit účet |
| She leads him by the nose | Tancuje, jak píská |
| To put one’s feet down | Dupnout si |
| Not to have a leg to stand on | Nemít žádnou oporu |
| Have a heart! | Měj slitování! |
| To get under someone’s kin | Lézt někomu na nervy |
| To face the music | Nést následky |
| To rub shoulders with someone | Kamarádit se |
| To have guts | Mít kuráž |

# Resumé

Tato bakalářská práce se zaměřuje na porovnání idiomů týkající se lidského těla v českém a anglickém jazyce a problematikou idiomů. První polovina je věnována teoretické části, kdy došlo k přiblížení problematiky a vysvětlení, co to idiom je a jak je brán v téhle bakalářské práci. Dále byl zmíněn důvod výběru daného okruhu idiomů a kritéria rozřazování idiomů do skupin. Druhá část bakalářské práce se zabývá analýzou idiomů, kdy každý idiom má přiřazený svůj protějšek v druhém jazyce spolu s rozdíly mezi nimi, význam idiomu a také příklad použití ve větě.

# Anotace

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jméno a příjmení: | Tomáš Bulko |
| Katedra: | Ústav cizích jazyků |
| Vedoucí práce: | Dr hab. Konraz Szcześniak |
| Rok obhajoby: | 2021 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Název práce: | Srovnávací studie anglických a českých idiomů souvisejících s tělem |
| Název v angličtině: | A Comparative Study of English and Czech Idioms Related to the Body |
| Anotace práce: | Cílem bakalářské práce je porovnat anglické a české idiomy, které souvisejí s lidským tělem. První polovina bakalářské práce objasňuje termín *idiom* podle různých zdrojů, uvedení klíčových faktorů, podle kterých jsou idiomy rozděleny a způsoby, ve kterých se mohou idiomy lišit. Druhá polovina obsahuje analýzu idiomů, přiřazení protějšku v druhém jazyce, rozdíl mezi ekvivalenty, význam idiomu a použití anglického idiomu ve větě. |
| Klíčová slova | Idiom, lidské tělo, srovnávací studie, ekvivalent |
| Anotace v angličtině | The aim of this bachelor thesis is to compare English and Czech idioms connected with the human body. The first half of the bachelor thesis clarifies the term idiom according to different sources, introducing the key factors according to whose the idioms are divided and how the idioms might differ. The second half includes idiom analysis, assignment of the counterpart in the second language, the difference between equivalents, meaning of the idiom, and use in English. |
| Klíčová slova v angličtině: | Idiom, human body, a comparative study, equivalent |
| Přílohy vázané k práci: |  |
| Rozsah práce: | 46 |
| Jazyk práce: | Angličtina |