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Extralinguistic motivation of proverbs and sayings
(in English and Czech)

(Bakalářská práce)

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1. INTRODUCTION

This bachelor thesis discusses proverbs, idioms and other sayings used in the English language. It focuses on their origin and circumstances of their creation, and it gives their Czech equivalent for comparison. In addition, it compares the geographical differences of proverbs and sayings used in English and Czech.

During my studies I have been very interested in sayings and their history. I have always felt like they were little pieces of treasure left behind by our ancestors and that they represent “a message in a bottle” for future generations. After my grandmother died while working on the thesis, I realized there are so many things that disappear when the heart of a person stops beating. Except the memories and the knowledge left behind by the person while they were still alive.

Given the fact my other field of study is geography I will concentrate on words with a geographical meaning. I decided to go with any word I have encountered during my geography studies at the university that can be geographically tracked or contains a geographical reference. These words can also be linked to weather, the universe and the planets, as well as water and other natural elements.

The most difficult task was to find sufficient amount sayings. Firstly, my goal was to find about 600 of them and later, after making general selections, I ended up with only 229 sayings, which now can be found in the Appendix. I spent many hours in libraries and, of course, on the internet, however the most important sources for me were Manser’s *The Facts on File dictionary of proverbs* (2007), Hendrickson’s *The Facts on File encyclopedia of word and phrase origins* (2008) and Speake’s *The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs* (2003). These publications summarized not only the origin of the proverbs but also their hidden meanings and stories. I have not translated any of the sayings myself, all of them were found in the sources listed in the Bibliography in order to be sure the proverbs really exist in English (or in Czech) and are in fact used in the language.

The first part of this work is dedicated to the definitions of proverbs and sayings and other terms connected to them, which might further appear in this work or are closely related to the proverbs and other sayings.

The second part of the thesis works with the extralinguistic motivation of the proverbs chosen for this work. It refers to the historical background and other occasions that aided the creation of the sayings.

All sayings are listed in the Appendix and are listed in an alphabetical order. For better orientation, all sayings are numbered. In the work itself, many of the sayings are cited and numbered by their reference number present in the Appendix. Although, sometimes they are mentioned only by their reference number without the citation.

2. DEFINITIONS

As there are many kinds of sayings that are often mixed up and hard to categorize (Lacinová, 1996), I find it necessary to start with the definitions of these terms to determine the main difference between them. Although, during my research, I discovered the distinction between these terms is quite vague. It can be argued that the following definitions are not only sayings but also other terms that somehow relate to proverbs, idioms and other kinds of sayings.

2.1. Proverb

A proverb is “a short well-known sentence or phrase that gives advice or says that something is generally true in life”. (Oxford studijní slovník, 2010) Baldick (2008) agrees and adds that we do not know the original author of each proverb and that proverbs express not only the general truth in life but also a kind of a superstition. Shipley (1971) adds that it is “a short pregnant criticism of life” ... “In longer works, it brought vividness, color, by compression and boldness of imagery. “

According to paremiologists, a proverb is a sentence or a short parable very often using allusions and metaphor which express instructions, rules and principles that refer to a certain life situation of people. Most proverbs relate to the human being and relationships, the way of thinking and psyche, events of the world and natural phenomena. (Swierczynski, 2008)

Lacinová (1996) defines proverbs very distinctively as “the jewels of wisdom” and “the thorns of wit”, advices and the wisdom expressed in a short expression that can be later turned into a long story. Because proverbs contain wisdom, jokes, criticism, advices or consolation, English speaking people still tend on using them, not only in the spoken language but also in literature and especially in the newspaper.

Paremiology and paremiography are studies about proverbs, their collection and definitions. (Hrisztova-Gotthardt, 2015)

2.2. Idiom

An idiom is defined as a proverbial phrase or a grammatical construction with a figurative meaning, (Norrick, 1985) so the meaning is not equal to the original words in the idiom, which means idioms cannot usually be translated literally into another language. (Baldick, 2008)

2.3. Saying

In Oxford studijní slovník (2010) we can find a very simple definition that a saying is “a well-known phrase that gives advice about something or says something that many people believe is true.” If we compare this definition with the definitions of proverbs mentioned above it is evident that proverbs and sayings do not differ in many ways. According to Baldick (2008) it can be said that proverbs and idioms are a specific category of sayings.

Following terms and their definitions are present for a reason, that they appear in this work, such as in the definitions of the main terms and explanations of a particular proverb and other sayings mentioned here or those that are closely related to them.

2.4. Allegory

Shipley (1971) describes allegory as a story made of a metaphor and parable. It has “a second meaning partially hidden behind its literal or visible meaning.” (Baldick, 2008) In allegories, a personification is used (Baldick, 2008), which means that each character or event represents an abstract quality, such as evil or death. (Oxford studijní slovník, 2010)

2.5. Alliteration

Alliteration is also known as a “heard rhyme” or “initial rhyme” (Baldick, 2008) which is based on a repetition of the same letter or sounds at the beginning of neighbouring words. (Oxford studijní slovník, 2010) It is frequent in early poetry but nowadays it is popular in modern poetry too. (Shipley, 1971)

2.6. Allusion

“Allusion is an indirect or passing reference to some event, person, place, or artistic work, the nature and relevance of which is not explained by the writer but relies on the reader’s familiarity with what is thus mentioned. The technique of allusion is an economical means of calling upon the history or the literary tradition that author and reader are assumed to share, although some poets ... allude to areas of quite specialized knowledge.” (Baldick, 2008)

2.7. Aphorism

According to Shipley (1971) aphorisms were first used in Aphorism of Hippocrates and signify a concise scientific principle. Baldick (2008) adds that aphorism is a memorable statement containing a lot of wisdom condensed into few words and nowadays it is a very good way of making definitions of terms.

2.8. Assonance

Assonance is described as an effect that is created by repeating identical or similar vowel sound in two syllables of neighbouring words with different consonants. (Oxford studijní slovník, 2010) In English, assonance is used to emphasise lines of a verse whereas in early Celtic and Spanish it was used as a substitute for rhyme only at the ends of the verse lines. That is why it is sometimes called a vowel or vocalic rhyme. (Baldick, 2008) Sometimes it is also used in spirituals and popular songs. (Shipley, 1971)

2.9. Folklore

Baldick (2008) describes folklore as “a modern term for the body of traditional customs, superstitions, stories, dances, and songs that have been adopted and maintained within a given community by processes of repetition not reliant on the written word.” Shipley (1971) adds, it also contains a tradition in methods of textile and agriculture and because it is traditional, no originality is expected. Shipley (1971) also states that “since folklore is primarily recorded from the speech or other actions of the people themselves, it is likely to be lost unless great care is taken in its collection and proper preservation.”

2.10. Maxim

Shipley's (1971) definition of maxim says that it is "any principle or statement generally received as true". Both Shipley (1971) and Baldick (2008) also agree that nowadays maxim and aphorism can be used interchangeably, especially if the aphorisms contain any advice or guidance. (Baldick, 2008)

2.11. Metaphor

According to Baldick (2008) metaphor is "the most important and widespread figure of speech, in which one thing, idea, or action is referred to by a word or expression normally denoting another thing, idea, or action, so as to suggest some common quality shared by the two." Oxford studijní slovník (2010) offers us a definition that might be easier to understand. It is "a word or phrase that is used in an imaginative way to show that somebody or something has the same qualities as another thing."

Both Baldick (2008) and Shipley (1971) agree on the opinion that metaphor is a simile without "like" or "as" and that it is the main feature used in poetry. Although, metaphors can be also used in the everyday language. (Baldick, 2008)

2.12. Simile

In poetry and prose simile is a very common form of speech (Baldick, 2008) comparing two different things using the words "like" or "as". (Oxford studijní slovník, 2010) According to Baldick (2008) "simile is more tentative and decorative than metaphor."

According to Zaorálek (1996) proverbs, sayings, idioms (in Czech "příслови", "rčení", "pověkadlo", "úслови", "souslovi") are still often defined as "proverbs". Apparently, the reason of cumulating these terms into one definition is the picture they represent and the fact that all of them are used to enrich the language. Despite this, there is a difference between all of these which we can find in the definitions above. In many cases it is impossible to find the difference easily. They differ in their origin and function. Proverbs are full of human philosophy, the life experience and wisdom whereas the other figurative terms are formed by a folk fantasy and imagination. In contrast to idioms and sayings, the purpose of proverbs is to teach, warn or reprimand, while idioms and sayings are used to

enrich the language only. (Zaorálek, 1996) According to Čermák (2007) idioms are the only part of language which do not follow the standard language rules and contain language irregularities.

3. THE MOTIVATION

3.1. Proverbs, idioms and sayings in English

There have been many paremiologists and paremiographers to gather proverbs used in English and study their origin, structure and function for a long time. To be more precise, there are hundreds of proverb collections in English. Especially in Europe, there has been a great interest about works that compared the English proverbs to those of other languages. (Mieder, 2004) According to Lacinová (1996) in the old English proverbs, we can find that they follow a different grammar and it is clear that future tense does not exist. “Will” and “shall” are considered modal verbs there. Lacinová (1996) adds that English people are good at alliteration, earlier it was used instead of rhyme too, and this is the reason why alliteration can be found in many English proverbs.

Nowadays, it is essential to know proverbs especially while reading newspaper headlines. Usually there are only parts of the proverbs mentioned and the rest is supposed to be finished in the readers’ minds. (Lacinová, 1996) Not only newspaper but whole mass media, such as television and radio, are strong enough to dispose of strong social presence to spread proverbs very quickly and efficiently. Thanks to media, many of the modern proverbs have come from the United States. In the past, proverbs were used only in a little circle of people and then they progressively spread to the larger groups of people, then to the cities, then countries and at the end they might have ended up in the whole world. This led to the fact that there are many variations of each proverb to be found. (Mieder, 2004)

3.2. Proverbs, idioms and sayings in Czech

In the Czech language the types of sayings called “rčení”, “pořekadlo” and “příslví” are not usually divided into single categories as it is very difficult to define the difference between them. (Zorálek, 1996) The Czech word for proverb “příslví” comes from an older word “mudrosloví” which could be translated as “wise words” and which, long time ago, were invented by wise people and then the proverbs spread around the world but most of the authors were forgotten. That is why another people interested in proverbs started collecting them. (Lacinová, 1996) According to Swierczynski (2008) the proverb collection in Czech language does not have a long tradition. The extensive material related to the Slavic languages was gathered by František Čelakovský in the 19th century. Additionally,

Bitnerová and Schindler (1997) say that Čelakovský's collection of proverbs is the only work of this character finished in the Czech Republic. Besides this, even in this country, proverbs are very popular and used in everyday conversations usually to confirm the truth of a previous information. Czech proverbs often draw on the country's history (such as "Dopadli jako sedláci u Chlumce") and literature. (Čermák and Filipec, 1985) According to Flajšhans (2013) proverbs used in the Czech language are oriented to the "western languages" to the Germanic and Romanesque language families.

3.3. Proverbs, idioms and sayings in other countries

In Africa, every country has their own heritage of sayings and proverbs. Some of them are known throughout the whole continent, while others are unique only to individual countries. Because courage and honour are the most important qualities in Arabic culture, most of the proverbs produced by this culture are focused on these qualities. The rest of the Arabic proverbs are somehow connected to the desert, which is the place the whole Arabic culture originated from. (Manser, 2007)

According to Manser (2007) it is said that the author of many Chinese proverbs, in which the Chinese tradition and the way of life are reflected, is the Chinese philosopher Confucius. In reality, the authors of most of the Chinese proverbs are unknown. In Japanese proverbs, we find advices of a slightly mystical range for inner happiness. Indian proverbs are the most poetic ones in the world. They focus on everyday difficulties such as hunger and poverty. South American proverbs reflect the daily life routine of people living on this continent and their traditions connected to their strong belief in God.

As we have a look around Europe, for a long time the Dutch were famous for their commerce and trade, the French and Italian are known for their passion for food, wine and the way of enjoying their life, in Germany, the proverbs are based on warnings about everyday experiences in interpersonal relationships. Greek proverbs tend to help people in the relationships as well. Although the Greek proverbs are mostly of the ancient origin, they have been relevant since they were first introduced. Spanish proverbs are related to the family, music, gossip and religion. Scandinavian countries' proverbs are based on their history including Vikings and their life difficulties connected to weather and sailing the sea.

(Manser, 2007) Above all, Mieder (2004) suggests that in Europe a lot of proverbs are very common and they can be found in many languages in identical or similar wording.

3.4. Historical background and the origin of proverbs, idioms and sayings selected for this work

English proverbs are very noble and the English people spent a lot of time to track down the author and the origin of each proverb, whereas the Czech proverbs contain common sense more often as Czech people were more likely to be focused on agriculture. (Lacinová, 1996)

According to Swierczynski (2008) most proverbs of the world originated in the antique, more precisely in the old Greek and Roman literature where some others originated from biblical stories. But many of them are considerably younger. Kovářová (1994) agrees with Swierczynski's statement and adds that most proverbs have a specific historical origin.

3.4.1. Bible

The Bible is a very important part of our history. This book is known worldwide and since it was written, it has influenced the whole world and societies for generations. The book is considered as the main source or a founding document of the Christian religions (Alter and Kermonde, 1987) and as a very important historical artefact. (Free, 1950) Although it is said that the whole Bible relies only on legends (Free, 1950) it still shows us the history of people and societies from that time. Additionally, it shares wisdom and tells us how to behave correctly according to its basic ethic rules. (Alter and Kermonde, 1987)

The Bible contains a Book of Proverbs which does not follow precisely our definition of proverbs mentioned at the beginning of the thesis but the biblical proverbs have a similar function as the ones we have been talking about in this work. (Alter and Kermonde, 1987) The main difference is that the proverbs in the Book of Proverbs contain only wisdom of Israel but the message they share might be familiar to

people not only from Israel. Proverbs that can be found in the Book of proverbs in the Bible are in the form of poems and each of them is numbered. (Waltke, 2004)

People in general tend to repeat sayings and share them with others for the reason of believing in the wisdom the sayings provide and accept it as a general truth. If we have a look at the biblical proverbs, it could be argued they are shared only within the Christians or the people studying the Bible and the proverbs do not get many chances to be used in the atheistic society. That is why only some of the biblical proverbs in their original form are well known or used in everyday interactions. (Alter and Kermonde, 1987) According to Manser (2007) many proverbs frequently used today begin with the Bible quotations, however only a small number of people knows that the proverbs they use can be also of a biblical origin. Moreover, Swierczinski (2008) believes that a lot of proverbs of the world originated from the Bible.

In the following paragraph we will analyse sayings of biblical or religious origin. Firstly, there is a group of proverbs which has its origin in the Book of Proverbs. Proverbs *"Faith will move mountains"* (62), *"Red sky at night shepherd's delight; red sky in the morning, shepherd's warning"* (154) and *"The salt of the Earth"* (198) appear in Mathew 17:20, 16:2-3, 5:13; proverbs *"Never let the sun go down on your anger"* (125) and *"Nothing new under the sun"* (134) come from Ecclesiastes 4:26 and 1:9; proverb *"Stolen waters are sweet"* (176) is from Proverbs 9:17; *"Tell it not in Gath"* (184) is from Samuel 1:20 and *"They that sow the wind, shall reap the whirlwind"* (207) from Hosea 8:7. Most of these proverbs are nowadays written in an easier form, originally the proverbs were longer and harder to understand. Proverb number 154 is not only known from the Bible but it is also famous as "an ancient mariners' rhyme" which was used for predicting future weather conditions on the sea (Manser, 2007) and that is why it is considered a weather lore. (see Weather lore, p. 28) The proverb number 176 can be also known in these variants: *"Stolen fruit is sweet; stolen pleasures are sweetest"* or in a similar meaning: *"Forbidden fruit is sweet"*. In proverb number 62 the first word "faith" can be replaced by "love" which then loses its religious subtext and the meaning that everything is possible if you believe in God, but the origin remains the same.

Proverb number 207 stays in the form of allusion to the biblical proverb Hosea 8:7: *“For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind”*. Proverb containing a word “wind” and still referring to God is also a proverb *“God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb”* (73) which originated in 1594 in France. (Manser, 2007)

Then there is also a very interesting saying, *“Dead to the world”* (46), which might have originated in 1700’s with a different meaning than it is known in present. Although nowadays we use this in the meaning of deep sleep, (Writing Explained, 2018) for which the Czech language has also sayings such as *“Spát jako pařez”* and *“Jako když ho do vody hodí”* (Swierczinski, 2008), in the past it was used in a religious sense for a person who did not care about anything else but God and religion. A hundred years after introduction of this saying, a person who was thought to be unconscious was called *“Dead to the world”* as well. (Writing Explained, 2018)

The Bible also mentions the names of important cities, which also in turn influenced some proverbs, such as *“Road to Damascus”* (155) and *“Tell it not in Gath”* (184). The proverb number 155 refers to a Saint Paul’s travel to Damascus, during which he converted to Christianity. Believed to have existed since two thousand years before Christ, Damascus is accepted as one of the oldest cities in the world. (Hendrickson, 2008) The other proverb (184) appears in Samuel 1:20 and refers to the Philistines’ city of Gath. (Manser, 2007)

3.4.2. Ancient Rome and Greece

Many things such as words, landmarks, thoughts and games originated in the ancient Greece. About 2500 years ago a new culture, that influenced the whole world, was born. Nowadays, many architects still get the inspiration from the ancient Greek buildings. Even a modern theatre originated in Greece. Additionally, democracy, a new way of a state system, was invented in Greece. But only men born in Athens could debate about the “governmental” issues. Its Golden Age, when the most of inventions were born, lasted for about 300 years, from around

600 to 300 B.C. Later, the Greek culture, even made its way to the Middle East and the North America. (Adams, 1992)

According to Adams (1992), the most important Greek states were Athens and Sparta. Athens was very good at trade and became a center of the Greek civilization, which resulted in so many people moving there. Sparta was the state of warriors. Every boy was obliged to join the army and stay until 60 years of age and even women had to stay physically fit.

Greece boasted many significant philosophers. They used to ask many questions about the meaning of life and since then, most of them has not been answered yet. For instance, there was Socrates who studied the meaning of life and taught others how to live, and he also asked people very smart questions to convince them that their opinions might be wrong. Socrates himself never wrote any book, but he very often appeared in the books of other influential philosopher, Plato. (Adams, 1992)

Many stories and some sayings which come from Greece contain stories about the Greek gods. Greek mythology is notorious and everybody knows a few Greek gods. The Greek mythology does not have one specific source like, for instance, Christians have the Bible, so the Greek myths were, in particular, a kind of a folklore. Furthermore, throughout the history, the myths have enriched literature and influenced many authors. (History.com, 2009a)

If we have a look at proverbs containing "Greece" in their text, which are "*Beware of Greeks bearing gifts*" (32) and "*When Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war*" (220), we can see they reflect a part of the Greek history. The proverb number 32 refers to the city of Troy which lets in a large wooden horse to be delivered to the city. By means of deception, the Trojans helped the Greek soldiers hiding inside the horse to defeat the city of Troy. (Manser, 2007) Originally this proverb comes from the work called Aeneid written by Virgil in the first century B.C., which contains a warning to the Trojans about the Greeks and their gifts. (Hendrickson, 2008) The proverb number 220 was inspired by Alexander the Great who said: "*When Greeks joined Greeks, then was the tug of war!*" and later, in 1477, it was used in a play by Nathaniel Lee "*The Rival Queens*" and thanks to this people became familiar with

the proverb. (Manser, 2007) The proverb *“A Spartan life”* (11) refers to Sparta and introduces us to the poor conditions of Spartan soldiers. (Hendrickson, 2008)

As it was already mentioned above, the ancient Greece produced a great number of philosophers and authors whose works are well known today and some of their thoughts became proverbs. (Swierczynski, 2008) For instance, there was a satirist called Lucian who wrote *“Ode to a fly”* where he shares an idea of *“making an elephant out of a fly”*, which is still used as a proverb in France and Germany but the proverb shares the same idea in English *“Make a mountain out of a molehill”* (115), it can be found in the Book of Martyrs written in 1570 by Foxe. (Hendrickson, 2008) The Czech language has its own variant of this proverb, which refers to a mosquito and a camel: *“Dělat z komára velblouda”* (Swierczynski, 2008) As we can see, *“Between a rock and a hard place”* (30) and *“Between the devil and the deep blue sea”* (31) have a very similar structure and, of course, their meaning and origin are the same as well. Both proverbs refer to difficult decisions people are supposed to make during their lives. For instance, Odysseus, in Homer’s *Odyssey*, had to choose whether to reach his target fighting a sea monster Scylla or a dangerous whirlpool called Charybdis. Thanks to this story, also an idiom, *“Between Scylla and Charybdis”* is sometimes used. (Ginger Software, 2018) A proverb *“Leave no stone unturned”* (110) has also its equivalent in Czech *“Nenechat kámen na kameni”* (Swierczynski, 2008) and it first appeared in the Euripedes’ work, however in English, the first mention of this saying can be traced to the Dice-Play from the year around 1550. (Manser, 2007) Another proverb which originated from the Greek work, made by Saint Athanasius, but saw its rise later thanks to another work, written by John Wycliff around 1380’s, is *“Like a fish out of water”*. (112) (Hendrickson, 2008) Its meaning can be found in the Czech saying *“Tělo bez duše”*. Interestingly enough, a saying *“Jako ryba ve vodě”* reminds us of the proverb number 112 too, but it has an opposite meaning. (Swierczynski, 2008) In the ancient times Ovid said: *“the harvest is always more fruitful in another man’s fields”* in which corresponds to a more widely used *“The grass is always greener on the other side of the hill”* (189) where the word *“hill”* could also be replaced by a word *“fence”*. *“There is always something new out of Africa”* was first recorded in *“De Anima”* by

Aristotle but these days it gained popularity thanks to the film called "Out of Africe". The last proverb which was made up by a Greek author is "You can't step twice into the same river" (229). This proverb was first recorded in the fifth century before Christ in some of Heraclitus' writings. (Manser, 2007)

There are also other proverbs which originated in the territory of the ancient Greece, but their author or the story behind their origin are not known. For instance, there are 3 proverbs which are believed to be of ancient Greek origin, but they first were mentioned in 1500 in a Dutchman Desiderus Erasmus' work called "Adagia". (Manser, 2007) Erasmus collected and explained the meanings of number of proverbs, which are derived from Latin especially. (Mieder, 2004) The proverbs are "A rolling stone" (9), "A rolling stone gathers no moss" (10) and "In the land of the blind the one-eyed man is king" (93). Proverbs number 9 and 10 might look and be understood the same, in fact the first one has a positive meaning and the second one's meaning is of negative character. (Manser, 2007) This proverb also appears in the Czech language in the following wording: "Kámen často hýbaný neobroste mechem". (Swierczynski, 2008) As it was already said, also proverb number 93 appears in Adagia. There is also a story written by Wells where the main character of the story tries to prove the truth hidden in this proverb. (Manser, 2007) In Czech, the proverb is used too. (Swierczynski, 2008) Other proverbs which are of the ancient origin are "A dog-eat-dog world" (1), "A great city, a great solitude" (4) and "One swallow does not make summer" (144). The proverb number 1's original wording was "Dog does not eat dog" and the 144's is "One swallow does not make a spring." (Manser, 2007) The proverb number 144 also appears in Czech but it mentions spring, not summer as listed in the English version. (Swierczynski, 2008)

The Roman Empire was the largest empire in the history. It was a well-organized country which connected strategic parts of west Europe, Middle East and the north coast of Africa. Cities in different countries were built to bare the same resemblance and, also water and sewage delivery systems were built. In addition, all roads had to connect the regions to the capital of Rome. The Roman Empire had a professional and formidable army. To protect Britain in the North, the Romans built a Hadrian's wall whose ruins stand to this day. There was a great leader and politician, Julius

Caesar, who enlarged the empire's territory and was beloved by people. In 45 B.C. he became a dictator of the Roman Empire and unfortunately a year later he was killed. (Adams, 1992)

Compared to the ancient Greece, the ancient Rome was not a source of so many proverbs, although they still might be very important. Other than Greece, there are also proverbs which are in their wording connected to Rome. The first proverb that is going to be mentioned is *"Better be first in a village than second at Rome"* (29) which has been considered a proverb since Julius Caesar first quoted it while having reached his goal to become a ruler. However, in English literature, this proverb first appeared many years later in 1542 in *"Apothegms of Erasmus"* written by Nicholas Udall. The other proverb of the ancient origin which appeared quite late after it was first used as a proverb is *"Rome wasn't built in a day"* (156). (Manser, 2007) The proverb was first recorded in 1546 in *"the first collection of English sayings"* called *"The Proverbes of John Heywood"*. (Hendrickson, 2008)

Proverbs *"To fiddle while Rome is burning"* (210) and *"When in Rome, do as the Romans do"* (221) are based on the legends of the ancient Rome. The former talks about Nero, a Rome emperor, who set fire to the city of Rome, in order to see *"what Troy had looked like when it burned"* (Hendrickson, 2008) all while playing his musical instrument. (Manser, 2007) The latter refers to the story of St. Ambrose and St. Augustine. In Milan and in Rome, Italians fasted on different days of the week and St. Augustine felt very confused, so St. Ambrose gave an advice to him: *"When I am in Milan, I do as they do in Milan; but when I go to Rome, I do as Rome does!"* (Hendrickson, 2008)

Proverb *"Cross the Rubicon"* (43) refers to a real history event dated 49 B.C., when Julius Caesar with his legion crossed the river of Rubicon, a natural border between Italy and Gaul. This act was considered a war declaration to Italy. (History.com, 2009b)

Although a proverb *"God made the country, and man made the town"* (72) refers to God, which could be categorized as of biblical or religious origin, the original thought was shared by the Roman scholar named Varro: *"divine nature gave us the fields,*

human art built the cities." (Manser, 2007) In the Czech language this proverb exists too: *"Bůh stvořil venkov a člověk udělal město."* (Swierczynski, 2008) Talking about God, there is a proverb *"Far from Jupiter, far from thunder."* (63) which refers to Jupiter or sometimes called Jove, the Italian God of sky and thunder. (Hendrickson, 2008) The Czech version does not refer to any god but the meaning remains the same: *"Daleko od ohně, daleko od popálení."* (Swierczynski, 2008) After thunder, moving on to weather itself, we can see proverbs *"Storm in a teacup"* (177) and *"The sharper the storm, the sooner it's over"* (201) referring to a storm. The sentiment of the proverb 177 can be connected to Cicero's quote "stirred up waves in a wine ladle". Later in the 17th century there were also similar proverbs used such as *"a storm in a wash basin"* and *"a storm in a cream bowl"* but the expression itself as listed in the Appendix is slightly younger. (Hendrickson, 2008) *"Bouře ve sklenici vody"* is the Czech interpretation. (Swierczynski, 2008) The proverb number 201's author is Cicero, whose expression is very similar to the proverb 201: *"the harder storms are, the shorter they last"*. (Manser, 2007)

Seneca, who lived from 4 B.C. to A.D. 65 in Spain and Italy was a Roman philosopher and statesman, also shared the thought of the proverb *"Good mind possesses a kingdom"* (75). (Stone, 2005) Other very important Roman person was a poet Horace whose thoughts we can find in the proverb *"Laugh and the world laughs with you; weep and you weep alone"* (109) and *"Seize the day"* (161). (Manser, 2007) Thanks to the movie *"Dead Poets Society"* the proverb 161 became very popular and still often used in its Latin form *"Carpe diem"*. (Hendrickson, 2008) The last proverb of this section is a famous superstition referring to an unlucky wedding planned for May *"Marry in May, rue for aye"* (118), which was originally written in one of his writings by a Roman poet Ovid. (Manser, 2007) In Czech language it is known as well: *"Svatba v máji, volá na máry."* (Swierczynski, 2008) There are even more superstitions in English about this month bringing bad luck, for instance: *"May chickens come cheeping"*. (Speake, 2008)

3.4.3. Younger history, international relations

Every historical event had an impact on the formation of society. There always have been borders between countries and every country has their specific customs, as we can see in an already mentioned proverb *“So many countries, so many customs”* (58), so it is not surprising that people made new proverbs according to their personal experiences while meeting others to generalize the difference between each other.

3.4.3.1. Britain

There are numerous proverbs that refer to the English people, cities or regions and of course, historical occasions in Britain. Some proverbs, such as *“An Englishman's home is his castle”* (17) and *“An Englishman's word is his bond”* (18) describe the English qualities (Manser, 2007) which can be dated to the 16th century and a book about Lancelot and the Knights of a Round Table. (Wilson and Smith, 1970) Such proverbs do not always describe positive qualities only, in *“Yorkshire born and Yorkshire bred, strong in the arm and weak in the head.”* (226) we can see a bit insulting example of a general opinion about people who come from Yorkshire and sometimes “Yorkshire” is replaced by other names of English counties and cities. (Speake, 2008) On the other hand *“Sussex won't be druv”* (179) refers to the strong minds of the Sussex people (Manser, 2007) so here we can compare the regional differences between two English regions, where one of them lays in the northern part of England and the other in the south east. (Collins Dictionaries, 2014) The proverb *“What Manchester says today, the rest of England says tomorrow”* and some others (38, 78, 81, 165) which can be found in Appendix, show us the history or a status of the specific British cities, such as the northern industrial cities of Manchester and Newcastle, where for many years, Newcastle was known to be in the coal mining center of England. (Morgan, 1999) The existence of a widely known proverb *“To send owls to Athens”* or

the Czech one “Nosit dříví do lesa”, which carry the same meaning as the proverb “Bringing coals to Newcastle” (38), (Swierczynski, 2008) prove that people share their interest with others mostly about the things or places which are personally close to them. (Speake, 2008) Proverb number 219 about Manchester mentioned on the previous page has its roots in the Corn Law and Manchester’s fight for a free trade. (Manser, 2007) If you “*send someone to Coventry*” (165), you refer to either the city, where prisoners were sent or to the military base, where every soldier felt lonely, so it was not a pleasurable experience to be posted there. (Hendrickson, 2008) “*He will never set the Thames on fire*” (81) is used as an ironic expression referring to the river of Thames in London. (Farlex, 2015) Proverbs “As right as rain” (23) and “Scotch mist” (159) mention the typical weather situations in Britain and “*England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity*” (56) the relationship of England with Ireland (Hendrickson, 2008) and “Talk for England” (183) and “The cat, the rat, and Lovell the dog, rule all England under the hog” (186) can describe the situation of power in the Medieval times. (Speake, 2008)

3.4.3.2. Netherlands

England and Netherlands have a very rich history together. Both of these countries were known for their trade and colonies. Sometimes they fought against each other, for example to gain other colonies, and sometimes they cooperated to strengthen the trade or to be protected from other countries. (Haigh, 1992) The bond between England and the Dutch republic strengthened after the “Glorious Revolution”, when the Dutch invaded England to protect the English church to stay protestant. The roman catholic James II was removed as king and was replaced by a Dutchman William III of Orange, who got married to the James’ daughter Mary. (The Hutchinson illustrated encyclopedia of British history, 1998)

The relationship between the England and the Dutch republic is illustrated by an idiom “*Dutch courage*” (52). More likely, it is related to an alcoholic drink, probably gin, that was invented by a Dutchman and might have had been used

to boost one's courage while fighting the people living in the British colonies. (Phillips, 2014) The drink was very cheap, and it was called a "Dutch gin" (The Hutchinson illustrated encyclopedia of British history, 1998) and that is one of the theories, how could possibly this saying be invented.

Although sayings "*Go Dutch*" or "*Dutch treat*" (71) contain a word of Dutch and might be connected to the British and Dutch history, Quinion (2012) is convinced that the word Dutch presented in these sayings refers to Germany and not Netherlands. The sayings were first recorded in the 19th century in the United States and because there were many German people settled around Pennsylvania who spoke German and spread their traditions around, the word "Dutch" could come from a German word "Deutsch" by mistake. According to Mieder (2004) German immigrants had a significant impact on the Americans, who were quick to learn the traditions brought from overseas. On the other hand, the British were not exactly fond of the Dutch, and that is why they started using the word "Dutch" in many sayings primarily in a negative sense of the word, such as Dutch widow, metal, uncle or comfort. (Quinion, 2012)

3.4.3.3. France and other countries

Proverbs referring to France such as "*Pardon my French*" (147), and two others (164, 182) which can be found in the Appendix, do not have a very positive meaning as well as some of the Dutch proverbs. There has been a prejudice towards French people, for example about their sexuality and relationships. As we can see in the proverb 147, it shares an opinion that in its literal meaning, there are no swearing words in English. (Hendrickson, 2008)

In the UK, there is a popular game called "*Chinese Whispers*". The same wording has also a proverb number 84 which for unknown reason replaced a phrase "*Russian scandal*". (Hendrickson, 2008)

Other proverbs (6, 14, 70, 84, 95, 105, 126, 133, 196, 214) are not connected to the British history, so their introduction will be brief. "*A Mexican standoff*" (6) connects the history of the USA and Mexico, or Mexico itself (History.com,

2009c) The *“Indian summer”* (94) with its Czech variation *“Babí léto”* (Swierczynski, 2008) is used for a description of a warm weather in autumn and there are many other phrases using *“Indian”* as a negative prefix to words like *“intelligence”* or *“honesty”*, referring to the American Indians. (Hendrickson, 2008) Proverbs *“The only good Indian is a dead Indian”* (196) and *“Too many chiefs and not enough Indians”* (214) talk about the negative experience with Indians as well (Hendrickson, 2008) with a little variation in proverb number 214, that originated in Australia. (Manser, 2007)

3.4.3.4. Specific historical events

In the past, there were many works produced as a reference or experience of the men travelling on sea such as *“Get a second wind”* (68) and *“He that would learn to pray, let him go to sea”* (80). A saying *“On the rocks”* (138) is used as an allusion to *“a ship grounded off a rocky coast ... and ready to sink”*. (Hendrickson, 2008)

In 1815 in the Battle of Waterloo Napoleon Bonaparte was defeated, and of course, the English have a saying for this event as well, which is *“Meet your Waterloo”* (121). (Hendrickson, 2008) A proverb *“Sell in May and go away”* (163) is of a younger origin and refers to the London Stock Exchange when May was a very busy month of the year as it is close to summer and everyone was eager to go on vacation after selling everything they needed. (Manser, 2007) A saying, *“Take a rain check”* (181) has its origin in St. Louis, US in a baseball game, where if the game was cancelled due to rain a ticket for this game could be used later. (Hendrickson, 2008)

3.4.4. Writers

Many proverbs, which are regularly used today, do not have their roots exclusively in old history but very often people start to repeat memorable parts of the works of a particular author. Such quotations then become familiar and get a status of a proverb or a cliché. (Manser, 2007)

The proverbs do not always originate from books or plays, but also from famous songs such as *"Come rain or shine"* (42) which comes from 1946 (AllMusic, 2018a) and its Czech equivalent could be *"Za každou cenu"*. (Swierczynski, 2008) There have been many songs written with the title of *"Cry me a river"* (44) and the first one was made in 1953. (AllMusic, 2018b) In Czech language there is a saying *"Vyplakat potok slz"* which seems similar to the proverb 44 but the meaning is different. (Bittnerová and Schindler, 1997) The proverb *"Love makes the world go round"* (114) comes from a popular French song, its author is not known but the same sentiment is also expressed in Jacopone da Todi's and Dante Alighieri's poems from the 13th century. (Hendrickson, 2008) In Czech, there are two potential sayings of the similar meaning with the original one: *"Láska hory přenáší"* (Bittnerová and Schindler, 1997) and *"Láska hýbe světem"*. (Swierczynski, 2008) *"North wind doth blow, we shall have snow"* (132) comes from a nursery rhyme (Manser, 2007) Czech variation is known too: *"Severák se zdvih, přinese nám sníh."* (Swierczynski, 2008) The origin of the saying *"Pie in the sky"* (148) is supposedly in the song *"The Preacher and the Slave"* written by one of the members of the International Workers of the World and *"Slow boat to China"* (168) comes from an American song. (Hendrickson, 2008)

William Shakespeare is one of the authors whose works influenced the world and society. (Logan, 2007) Proverbs number 106, 142, 172, 175, 202 are the ones that were created thanks to Shakespeare and his works. Proverbs *"It's an ill wind that blows no one any good"* (106) and *"Still waters run deep"* (175) can be found in Shakespeare's play Henry VI (Manser, 2007) with their Czech equivalent proverbs *"Všechno zlé je k něčemu dobré"* for proverb 106 and *"Tichá voda břehy mele"* for proverb 175. (Swierczynski, 2008) The proverb *"One Englishman can beat three Frenchmen"* (142) occurs in Henry VIII but Hendrickson (2000) states that there are other similar sayings even older than the play. *"Something is rotten in the state of Denmark"* (172) from Hamlet is very often used allusively and the word "Denmark" is replaced by a different word. (Manser, 2007) The proverb *"The world is your oyster"* (202) has been known but in his *"The Merry Wives of Windsor"*,

Shakespeare popularized it. (Hendrickson, 2008) In Czech, we can express this proverb by *“Mít svět na dlani.”* (Swierczynski, 2008)

Although, Geoffrey Chaucer is famous for the proverb *“All roads lead to Rome”* (16) from his Prologue to *Astrolabe*, (Manser, 2007) it was used long before Chaucer in the reference to the roads in the Roman Empire, (Ammer, 1997) which were also mentioned in chapter 3.4.2. of this work. Czech people use this saying too, *“Všechny cesty vedou do Říma”*. (Swierczynski, 2008) Proverbs *“Every country has its customs”* and *“So many countries, so many customs”* (58), *“Fields have eyes, and woods have ears”* (65) and *“Oaks may fall when reeds stand the storm”* (135) originated from the Chaucer’s works. Proverbs 58 and 135 come from *Troilus and Criseyde* (Manser, 2007) and in Czech language proverb 58 is expressed by *“Jiný kraj, jiný mrav”*, and *“Stěny mají uši”* is a variation from proverb number 65 (Swierczynski, 2008) that comes from *Canterbury Tales*. (Manser, 2007)

There are sayings which remind us of weather lore like the proverb *“April is the cruellest month”* (21) and others, such as proverbs number 24, 124 and 211, which can be found in the Appendix, which originally come from works written by T. S. Elliot, Francis Bacon and other authors. Bacon is also the author of *“If the mountain won't come to Mohammed, then Mohammed must go to the mountain”* (89) referring to the Islamic prophet Mohammed. (Manser, 2007) Other proverbs are connected to weather and nature itself. Such proverbs will be described in chapter 3.4.6 Nature.

The proverbs that refer to a specific nation or country situations are also very interesting. For example, there is the proverb *“An Englishman's home is his castle”* (17) and others (51, 55 and 187) which are about to classify England and the English people and all of them appeared in literature around 16th century, (Manser, 2007) although some of them, for instance a proverb number 187: *“The English are a nation of shopkeepers”*, are thought to be quoted by Napoleon (Speake, 2008) as well as *“Scratch a Russian and you find a Tartar”* (160). (Manser, 2007) Proverbs referring to the nation, people or countries in general, are proverbs number 7, 53, 77, 99, 100, 128, 129, 143, 190 and 195. *“A nation without a language is a nation*

without a heart" (7) is of a Welsh origin, a proverb number 77, "*Happy is the country which has no history*", was originally written by Montesquieu and Benjamin Franklin shared this idea too. "*It takes a whole village to bring up a child*" (99) originally came from Africa however it became famous thanks to Hillary Clinton. (Manser, 2007) Proverbs "*The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world*" (190) and "*The mountains are high, and the emperor is far away.*" (195) are mostly about the country leaders. Proverb 195 comes from China and what is interesting it was replaced by another proverb from Russia "*God is high above, and the tsar is far away*". (Speake, 2008) Rudyard Kipling once said in his poem, what is nowadays considered a proverb, "*East is east, and west is west (and never the twain shall meet)*" (53) and another English author, John Donne, is the author of proverb number 128: "*No man is an island*". "*No moon, no man*" (129) is attributed to Thomas Hardy and also refers to a superstition, that children born during a new moon will not live long. (Hendrickson, 2008) Proverbs "*An hour in the morning is worth two in the evening*" (19) and "*Sing before breakfast, cry before night*" (167) have a similar structure. Proverb 167 originated in the 16th century in France, whereas proverb 19 in the 19th century in "Every-Day Book" written by William Hone. (Manser, 2007) Proverb "*Call it a day*" (39) was used as a goodbye phrase at the end of the day when employees were finishing their shift. (Hendrickson, 2008) The proverb "*The longest day must have an end*" (191), also contains the motif of the end of the day, which was first used in 16th century in "Euphues and His England". (Manser, 2007) A "*New York minute*" (127) refers to a shorter period of time which is a minute. In a written form it first appeared in 1967, although it is said that it was used earlier, probably at the beginning of the century. (Hendrickson, 2008)

3.4.5. Weather lore

Many years ago, in the late Middle Ages, time as we know it was invented. Before this invention people did not know seconds, minutes or hours; the measuring of time was more dependent on nature and events of that time, such as the sun, the moon and the stars, wars and the peace between the wars, national disasters, the reign of kings, miracles, heavy rains, sweeping plagues, hard winters, or the

hourglass. People watched the whole cycle when the seasons of the year were changing. (Judge, 2004)

According to Judge (2004), the Sumerians were the first nation who started to recognize the stars and their constellations as the groups of stars reminded them of animals. The Sumerians combined these new findings with their everyday activities with growing crops, breeding animals and other events which seemed to be in a special relationship with the stars, the moon and the sun. Before the Sumerians, people believed that the movement of the sun and the moon in the sky and other phenomena of the nature were only the answer of Gods and with the God decisions there was nothing to do but worship.

Besides the Sumerians, the Greeks also made a huge attempt in astronomy and weather predicting, nevertheless we should have a look to more than two thousand years before the Greek civilization, when the Neolithic temples were built. The most famous temple is the Stonehenge located in England. (Judge, 2004) According to astronomers, the Stonehenge was also built for astronomical purposes and might have had operated as an astronomical calendar (History.com, 2010) which “still invites the sun to rise over its hele stone on Midsummer Day.” (Judge, 2004) And here we can see that people have always been dependent on the weather.

Weather lore or also called weather folklore is a proverb or a saying which concerns the weather. (Inwards, 1893) As it is a kind of a folklore we can say that, according to Shipley’s (1971) definition, it is a proverb or a saying which was recorded especially by speech and which is based on the previous experience of our ancestors with weather and its changes. It used to be a kind of a weather forecast for the people who lived in the times when weather lore was made. Weather lore was about to help especially in agriculture to predict the weather. (Inwards, 1893) And even now they are still used by amateur weather forecasters. (Schafernaker, 2011)

The following information is only to show the readers the existence of weather lore as a part of sayings. Because weather is a field of geography and there are many forms of weather lore to be found, only some of them were chosen to present their motivation.

As we can see in the Appendix, proverbs number 85, 86, 87, 88, some of the weather lore starts with an "If" and then refers to a specific day or month in a calendar and then gives us a prediction. For instance, in proverbs *"If Saint Paul's day be fair and clear, it will betide a happy year"* (87) and *"If St. Vitus's Day be rainy weather, it will rain for thirty days together"* (88) names of the Saint Paul and Saint Vitus are mentioned. The Conversion of Saint Paul is traditionally celebrated on 25th January and Saint Vitus day on 15th June. (Manser, 2007) Saint Vitus day could be also referred to a Czech version of this weather lore *"Medardova kápě, čtyřicet dní kape"* (Swierczinski, 2008) which is celebrated on 8th June. (Lada, 2017) The other two weather lores *"If Candlemas day be sunny and bright, winter will have another flight; if Candlemas day be cloudy with rain, winter is gone, and won't come again"* (85) and *"If in February there be no rain, 'tis neither good for hay nor grain"* (86) relate to Candlemas day and February. Candlemas day in the Church calendar is celebrated on 2nd February and it has got this name because of the tradition of blessing candles at church. The festival is to worship "the Purification of the Virgin Mary and the Presentation of Christ in the Temple". (Speake, 2008) *"Candlemas day, put beans in the clay, put candles and candle-sticks away"* (41) is another lore which gives an advice for the Candlemas day. In Czech language, there is also weather lore for the day of 2nd February which is *"Na Hromnice o hodinu více"*. (Langhammerová, 2008) The English weather lore describes a weather situation and the weather prediction and give an advice whereas the Czech one only refers to the fact that days get longer by this day. We can find also other weather lore which does not begin with the preposition "if" but still have the same function as the previous ones. For instance, *"A dripping June sets all in tune"* (2) and others 13, 22, 64, 166, 170 (see Appendix) relate to a whole month, in addition, *"Barnaby bright, Barnaby bright, the longest day and the shortest night"* (26) and then proverbs number 137 and 157 deal only with one specific day of a calendar and *"A cherry year, a merry year; a plum year, a dumb year"* (5) with a situation of a whole year. *"When the wind is in the east, 'tis neither good for man nor beast"* (222) mentions a typical weather condition of the east wind, that is known to be cold and sharp because it comes off the continent. (Manser, 2007)

3.4.6. Nature

There is no doubt that like weather, the nature itself has influenced people's lives, so they started to use words close to nature and to themselves (Judge, 2004) in memorable phrases which then became proverbs. (Shipley, 1971) Because storms and thunders are something that a lot of people find fascinating, many sayings related to them are used. (Judge, 2004) About weather, there is a good saying "*Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it*" (60) which is thought to have been formulated by either Mark Twain or his friend. (Manser, 2007) In this paragraph, we are going to analyse proverbs number 8, 15, 36, 40, 61, 95, 151, 169 and 180. Most of these proverbs are very old. Although most of them were first recorded between 16th and 19th century, the idea they convey may be even older. (Manser, 2007) They were first shared orally (see a definition of a Folklore) and were based on the imagery, so it is very difficult to find the exact origin of these. (Shipley, 1971) If we have a look at the Czech variations of these proverbs, there is "*Po bouřce zas slunce svítí*" which can be assigned to "*After a storm comes a calm*" (15) and "*Ticho/Klid před bouří*" to a saying "*Calm before the storm*" (40). (Swierczynski, 2008) There are also proverbs of a known origin or author. They are proverbs number 20, 111 and 174. There is a very interesting background of the last proverb "*Steal someone's thunder*" (174) which was invented at the beginning of the 18th century by John Dennis, who invented a new way how to make a sound of a thunder in theatre. After the play was closed, his thunder was stolen by another theatre company. If there is thunder, there must be a lightning too, which is represented in "*Lightning never strikes twice in the same place*" (111). The proverb first appeared at the end of the 19th century in P. H. Meyers' "*The Prisoner of the Border*". (Hendrickson, 2008) The Czech variation of this proverb is "*Blesk neudeří dvakrát do stejného místa.*" (Swierczynski, 2008)

Clouds are connected to storms or the weather as well and meteorologists classify the clouds by their shape, height and other features influencing the weather, into four categories containing ten types of clouds. (Grant, 1944) One of the proverbs, "*On cloud nine*" (136), is thought to have come from the meteorologists'

classification, where a cloud number nine is a cumulonimbus, which is considered the highest cloud. (Hendrickson, 2008) The synonym for this proverb could be a proverb number 216: *“Walk on air”* and in the Czech language *“Být v sedmém nebi.”* (Swierczynski, 2008) *“Every cloud has a silver lining”* (57) share the similar meaning with proverb *“(March winds and) April showers bring forth May flowers”* (22) (Manser, 2007) and the Czech variations are *“Všechno zlé je k něčemu dobré”* and *“Všechno má své dobré stránky”*. *“Head in the clouds”* (82) is in the Czech language used in the same wording *“Mít hlavu v oblacích”*. (Swierczynski, 2008)

Water is one of the most essential elements on Earth and in our lives. Next to others, it was water that helped the Earth to be created and what sparked life on our planet. It forms the landscape and seashore. In addition, our bodies are made up of 60 % water. (Hughes, 1999) Proverbs containing water where their author is unknown are proverbs *“A stream cannot rise above its source”* (12) and then 34 and 66 in Appendix. A proverb number 34 mentions a blood that is *“thicker than water”*. Talking about blood, there is another saying, *“Get blood out of a stone”* (69), with its Czech version *“Kámen slzy neroni”*. (Swierczynski, 2008) If we have clouds and water, there is rainfall. And if it is not a fair weather, we can use a proverb *“Under the weather”* (215) and in Czech *“pod psa”*, (Swierczynski, 2008) which was invented by I. K. Marvel. (Hendrickson, 2008) When it comes to rain, there are proverbs 98, 153 and 158 referring to it. Proverb 98 *“It never rains but it pours”* was first written in the 18th century by John Arbuthnot. One of the most popular proverbs, *“Raining cats and dogs”* (153), first appeared in the 17th century and is attributed to Richard Brome. In England, if the rains were heavy, the water then carried dead cats and dogs. Other idea for the origin of this proverb comes from a “French word ‘catadoupe’, which sounds like cats and dogs”. (Hendrickson, 2008) For heavy rain in Czech Republic we can say *“leje jako z konve”*. (Swierczynski, 2008) Proverbs connected to sea and travelling on the sea are proverbs 79, 92, 103, 200, 208 and 225. There were mariners to share stories from their travels so, many works were written and of course the mariners themselves on the ships used some phrases that later became proverbs. (Hendrickson, 2008) These proverbs were made up between the 16th and 19th century and were first recorded in literary works. *“Worse*

things happen at sea" (225) can be also used as a synonym to the *proverbs* "*Into every life a little rain must fall*" (95) and "*It's an ill wind that blows no one any good*" (106) and was first used in "Charles Spurgeon's John Ploughman's Talk". (Manser, 2007) "*Three sheets to the wind*" (208) where sheet is a part of a sail and if it does not tighten the sail, the sail would just flutter in the wind, is used to describe a drunk person and first appeared in "Two Years Before the Mast". According to Hendrickson (2000) sayings "*Little drops of water, little grains of sand, make a mighty ocean and a pleasant land*" (113) and "A drop in the ocean" (3), first appeared in the 19th century in a work called "Little Things". There are other proverbs that are of a similar meaning. It is "*Every little helps*" or the proverb itself is used in a shorter form without the first sentence "*little grains of sand, make a mighty ocean and a pleasant land*". (Hendrickson, 2008) Ice is a different form of water (Hughes, 1999) and it appears in a saying "*Break the ice*" (37) which is attributed to the ice-breaking ships around the 17th century. (Hendrickson, 2008) In Czech we can say "*prolomit ledy*". (Swierczynski, 2008)

The creation of the universe, planets and the stars has puzzled people since the dawn of time. The first star to mention is the Sun, that is the center of the Solar system (Woolfson, 2013) and there is the proverb "*The morning sun never lasts a day*" (193) and others, 76 and 171, which can be found in the Appendix, referring to the sun. The other, the brightest of the stars, is Sirius, which is a part of a constellation of the Great Dog and that is why it is sometimes called a Dog Star. (Hughes, 1999) It is said that when the star was close to the Sun, the following days became very hot (Woolfson, 2013) and that is the reason why they are called "*dog days*". (48) (Manser, 2007) Then there is the Moon and the saying "*Once in a blue moon*" (141) refers to the Blue moon which rarely appears in the sky. There are particles of dust which turn blue in the atmosphere and make the moon look blue too. Other sayings of moon are proverbs "*Ask for the moon*" (25) and "*Be over the moon*" (28). Proverb 28 comes from the 16th century from a poem for children (Hendrickson, 2008) and it is synonymous with the saying "*On cloud nine*" (136), which was already mentioned in this work. The proverb "*Men are from Mars, women are from Venus*" (122) mentions two other different planets, Venus and

Mars, and started to be used in 1993 after releasing a book by John Gray. (Manser, 2007)

There are also proverbs such as *“Winter never rots in the sky”* (224), *“It is not Spring until you can plant your foot upon twelve daisies”* (97) and two others (197, 223) defining the seasons of the year and the last one, *“There's a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow”* (206), refers to a popular legend that at the place where the rainbow touches the ground, there is a treasure to be found. (Hendrickson, 2008)

4. CONCLUSION

The goal of this bachelor thesis was to analyse the origin and historical circumstances of selected proverbs, idioms and other sayings in English. The sayings selected for this work were the ones, which were connected to the subject of geography.

In the first part of the thesis we discussed the main differences between a proverb, idiom and a saying. Thanks to the definitions given, we found that proverbs and idioms can be classified as special categories of sayings. According to the definitions we can say that all these terms are very hard to categorize and that is the reason why they are so often mixed up. As this work was not meant to be focused on the linguistic analysis, there was no emphasis given on the differentiation between the proverbs, idioms and sayings.

The second part of the thesis at first compares the differences between the sayings and proverbs in English, Czech and other languages and cultures of Europe and other continents and shows us that people always tend to use things which are somehow close to them, their culture and the geographic location. After this, the work moves to the main part of the whole work. Here we can see a classification of the selected sayings by their origin. Most of the proverbs originated in the times of the ancient Rome and Greece and in the Bible's Book of Proverbs. Many proverbs are based on the quotes by the Roman emperors Caesar and Nero and the Greek philosophers. Other group of sayings is made of those sayings which come from the books of famous writers such as William Shakespeare, Geoffrey Chaucer and many others. The most significant is the chapter called "Nature" which gathers every saying which has been created based on people's own experience and interests with the natural phenomena. The chapter called "Weather lore" is a very special one, as it gathers the advices about the weather condition for particular days of the year.

If we compare the English sayings with their Czech variations given in this work, it might be argued, that due to the geographic location of England and the Czech Republic it is clear, that English bounds are closer to the water (sea, ocean), and considering England is notorious for its rainy weather and the rain is more prevalent in England than in the Czech Republic (Weather Online, 2018), the English people tend to use more proverbs about water and weather itself.

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APPENDIX

The list of sayings

- 1 A dog-eat-dog world
- 2 A dripping June sets all in tune
- 3 A drop in the ocean
- 4 A great city, a great solitude
- 5 A cherry year, a merry year; a plum year, a dumb year
- 6 A Mexican standoff
- 7 A nation without a language is a nation without a heart
- 8 A perfect storm
- 9 A rolling stone
- 10 A rolling stone gathers no moss
- 11 A Spartan life
- 12 A stream cannot rise above its source
- 13 A wet May brings plenty of hay
- 14 A young Turk
- 15 After a storm comes a calm
- 16 All roads lead to Rome
- 17 An Englishman's home is his castle
- 18 An Englishman's word is his bond
- 19 An hour in the morning is worth two in the evening.
- 20 Any port in a storm
- 21 April is the cruellest month
- 22 (March winds and) April showers bring forth May flowers
- 23 As right as rain
- 24 As the day lengthens, so the cold strengthens
- 25 Ask for the moon
- 26 Barnaby bright, Barnaby bright, the longest day and the shortest night
- 27 Be in deep water
- 28 Be over the moon
- 29 Better be first in a village than second at Rome
- 30 Between a rock and a hard place
- 31 Between the devil and the deep blue sea
- 32 Beware of Greeks bearing gifts
- 33 Blessed are the dead that the rain rains on
- 34 Blood is thicker than water
- 35 Blue are the hills that are far away
- 36 Brainstorm
- 37 Break the ice
- 38 Bringing coals to Newcastle
- 39 Call it a day
- 40 Calm before the storm
- 41 Candlemas day, put beans in the clay, put candles and candle-sticks away
- 42 Come rain or shine
- 43 Cross the Rubicon

44 Cry me a river
45 Dead in the water
46 Dead to the world
47 Doesn't hold water
48 Dog days
49 Don't go near the water until you learn how to swim
50 Don't throw out your dirty water until you get in fresh
51 Drought never bred dearth in England
52 Dutch courage
53 East is east, and west is west (and never the twain shall meet)
54 East, west, home's best
55 England is the paradise of women
56 England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity
57 Every cloud has a silver lining
58 Every country has its customs./So many countries, so many customs
59 Every land has its own law
60 everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it
61 Face like thunder
62 Faith will move mountains
63 Far from Jupiter, far from thunder.
64 February fill dyke, be it black or be it white
65 Fields have eyes, and woods have ears
66 Follow the river and you'll get to the sea
67 Full of hot air
68 Get a second wind
69 Get blood out of a stone
70 Get off scot-free
71 Go Dutch/Dutch treat
72 God made the country, and man made the town
73 God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb
74 Good Americans when they die go to Paris
75 Good mind possesses a kingdom
76 Happy is the bride that the sun shines on
77 Happy is the country which has no history
78 He that will to Cupar maun to Cupar
79 He that would go to sea for pleasure, would go to hell for a pastime
80 He that would learn to pray, let him go to sea
81 He will never set the Thames on fire.
82 Head in the clouds
83 Hit the town
84 Chinese whispers
85 If Candlemas day be sunny and bright, winter will have another flight; if Candlemas
86 If in February there be no rain, 'tis neither good for hay nor grain
87 If Saint Paul's day be fair and clear, it will betide a happy year
88 If St. Vitus's Day be rainy weather, it will rain for thirty days together
89 If the mountain won't come to Mohammed/Mahomet, then Mohammed/Mahomet
90 If there were no clouds, we should not enjoy the sun
91 If you have to live in the river, it is best to be friends with the crocodile
92 In a calm sea every man is a pilot

93 In the land of the blind the one-eyed man is king
94 Indian summer
95 Into every life a little rain must fall
96 It is ill sitting at Rome and striving with the Pope
97 It is not Spring until you can plant your foot upon twelve daisies
98 It never rains but it pours
99 It takes a whole village to bring up a child
100 It takes all sorts to make a world
101 It's a small world
102 It's always fair weather when good friends get together
103 It's good fishing in troubled waters
104 it's not the end of the world
105 It's all Greek to me
106 It's an ill wind that blows no one any good
107 Keep your head above water
108 King of the hill
109 Laugh and the world laughs with you; weep and you weep alone
110 Leave no stone unturned
111 Lightning never strikes twice in the same place
112 Like a fish out of water
113 Little drops of water, little grains of sand, make a mighty ocean and a pleasant land
114 Love makes the world go round
115 Make a mountain out of a molehill
116 Make hay while the sun shines
117 March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb
118 Marry in May, rue for aye
119 May chicken come cheeping
120 May-December/September romance
121 Meet your Waterloo
122 Men are from Mars, women are from Venus
123 Money makes the world go round
124 Ne'er CAST a clout till May be out
125 Never let the sun go down on your anger
126 Never sell America short
127 New York minute
128 No man is an island
129 No moon, no man
130 No smoke without fire
131 No spring chicken
132 North wind doth blow, we shall have snow
133 Not for all the tea in China
134 Nothing new under the sun
135 Oaks may fall when reeds stand the storm.
136 On cloud nine
137 On the first of March, the crows begin to search
138 On the rocks
139 On thin ice
140 On top of the world
141 Once in a blue moon

- 142 One Englishman can beat three Frenchmen
- 143 One half of the world does not know how the other half lives
- 144 One swallow does not make summer
- 145 Out of this world
- 146 Over the hill
- 147 Pardon my French
- 148 Pie in the sky
- 149 Plenty of fish in the sea
- 150 Put something on ice
- 151 Rain before seven, fine before eleven
- 152 Rain on (someone's) parade
- 153 Raining cats and dogs.
- 154 Red sky at night shepherd's delight; red sky in the morning, shepherd's warning
- 155 Road to Damascus
- 156 Rome wasn't built in a day
- 157 Saint Swithun's day if thou be fair for forty days it will remain
- 158 Saving for a rainy day
- 159 Scotch mist
- 160 Scratch a Russian and you find a Tartar
- 161 Seize the day
- 162 Sell ice to Eskimos
- 163 Sell in May and go away
- 164 Send a donkey to Paris, he'll return no wiser than he went.
- 165 Send someone to Coventry
- 166 September blow soft, till the fruit's in the loft
- 167 Sing before breakfast, cry before night
- 168 Slow boat to China
- 169 Small rain lays great dust.
- 170 So many mists in March, so many frosts in May.
- 171 Soak up some sun
- 172 Something is rotten in the state of Denmark
- 173 Space cadet
- 174 Steal someone's thunder
- 175 Still waters run deep
- 176 Stolen waters are sweet
- 177 Storm in a teacup
- 178 Summer fling
- 179 Sussex won't be druv
- 180 Take (something) by storm
- 181 Take a rain check
- 182 Take French leave
- 183 Talk for England
- 184 Tell it not in Gath
- 185 The best of both worlds
- 186 The cat, the rat, and Lovell the dog, rule all England under the hog
- 187 The English are a nation of shopkeepers
- 188 The frog in the well knows nothing of the sea
- 189 The grass is always greener on the other side of the hill
- 190 The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world

191 The longest day must have an end
192 The mill cannot grind with the water that is past
193 The morning sun never lasts a day
194 The mountain has brought forth a mouse
195 The mountains are high, and the emperor is far away.
196 The only good Indian is a dead Indian
197 The rich man has his ice in the summer and the poor man gets his in the winter
198 The salt of the Earth
199 The scalded dog fears cold water
200 The sea refuses no river
201 The sharper the storm, the sooner it's over
202 The world is your oyster
203 the world runs on wheels
204 There are clouds on the horizon
205 There is always something new out of Africa
206 There's a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow
207 They that sow the wind, shall reap the whirlwind
208 Three sheets to the wind
209 To blow smoke
210 To fiddle while Rome is burning
211 To know which way is the wind blowing
212 To make (to turn) the air blue
213 To spend money like water
214 Too many chiefs and not enough Indians
215 Under the weather
216 Walk on air
217 Water seeks its own level
218 We never know the value of water till the well is dry/You never miss the water till
219 What Manchester says today, the rest of England says tomorrow
220 When Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war
221 When in Rome, do as the Romans do
222 When the wind is in the east, 'tis neither good for man nor beast
223 Winter finds out what summer lays up
224 Winter never rots in the sky
225 Worse things happen at sea
226 Yorkshire born and Yorkshire bred, strong in the arm and weak in the head.
227 You buy land you buy stones
228 You can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the
229 You can't step twice into the same river

ANOTACE

Jméno a příjmení:	Pavla Tesárková
Katedra:	Ústav cizích jazyků
Vedoucí práce:	doc. PhDr. Václav Řeřicha, CSc.
Rok obhajoby:	2018

Název práce:	Mimojazyková motivace rčení a přísloví (v angličtině a češtině)
Název v angličtině:	Extralinguistic motivation of proverbs and sayings (in English and Czech)
Anotace práce:	Práce se zabývá studiem rčení a přísloví v anglickém jazyce se zaměřením na jejich původ a okolnosti vzniku a porovnává české ekvivalenty vybraných přísloví. Práce taktéž porovnává geografické rozdíly přísloví a rčení v anglickém a českém jazyce.
Klíčová slova:	Rčení, přísloví, původ přísloví, pranostiky, starověké Řecko a Řím, bible, počasí
Anotace v angličtině:	The bachelor thesis discusses proverbs, idioms and other sayings used in the English language. It focuses on their origin and circumstances of their creation, and it gives their Czech equivalent for comparison. In addition, it compares the geographical differences of proverbs and sayings used in English and Czech.
Klíčová slova v angličtině:	Paremiology, proverb, saying, idiom, origin, ancient Rome and Greece, the Bible, weather lore

Přílohy vázané v práci:	Appendix: The list of sayings
Rozsah práce:	46 stran
Jazyk práce:	angličtina