

## MERONYMY OF WORDS EXPRESSING GRASS CARP AND MUSSEL BODY PARTS IN VIETNAMESE AND LAOS

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### *Abstract*

*This article examines the meronymy of words expressing grass carp and mussel body parts in Vietnamese and Laos. The underlying theory of the article is the concept of the meaning of words in the system, meronymy. The research methods used by the article are the field linguistic, descriptive, and comparative-contrastive methods. The article surveyed 107 Vietnamese, and 91 Laos holonyms and meronyms expressing body parts of grass carp and mussels. The number of holonyms and meronyms expressing body parts of grass carp and mussels in Vietnamese is more than in Laos. Laos has 16 lexical gaps compared to Vietnamese. Hence, the linguistic picture of the word expressing body parts of grass carp and mussels in Vietnamese and Laos is sketched. As a result, the article clarifies the similarities and differences in the category thinking of Vietnamese and Lao people.*

*Keywords: meronymy, words expressing grass carp, words expressing mussel, Vietnamese, Laos.*

### **1. Introduction**

Ylva O. (2008) described the extended meanings of the word “head”, from which I will compare it with Spanish and English to find similarities and differences. This article is important for native speakers as well as second language learners to have a large vocabulary. Hence, people can be able to convey their thoughts and knowledge in the process of communication.

In Vietnam, Marina Prévot - Thuy, P.T - Hiep, N.V (2016) has studied how thinking and cultural characteristics are expressed through a system of French and Vietnamese idioms related to human body parts (head, hands, fingers, nails, chest, abdomen, legs, knees, nose, mouth, lips, teeth, tongue, ears, neck, shoulders, elbows, fists, back, hair, forehead, eyes, brain, heart,...). Then, the authors established Franco-Vietnamese idiomatic equivalents related to human organs in two

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cases: (i) Where French idioms have Vietnamese idioms equivalents and (ii) Where French idioms do not have Vietnamese equivalents.

Que, P.V (1996) studied the field of idioms - proverbs with factors indicating animals in English and explained the teaching to translate idioms - proverbs with factors of animals in English. When studying the field of idioms - proverbs with factors indicating animals in English, the author presented a list of animals used in English idioms - proverbs. Their meaning is considered a type of cultural meaning, i.e., a meaning that reflects the culture of a community of people. After researching the field of idioms - proverbs with factors indicating animals in English, the author offers methods for teaching and learning to translate idioms - proverbs with factors indicating animals in English, including the following contents: common phenomena, requirements for teaching and learning the translation of idioms - proverbs with factors indicating animals in English, teaching and learning methods for translating idioms - proverbs with factors indicating animals in English. Common phenomena are differences in emotional relations between British and Vietnamese about animals, differences in customs, customs, and religious beliefs, and difficulty finding animal equivalents between idioms - proverbs of two languages, the distinction is of a nationalistic and cultural nature. The basic requirements are reproducing the semantic content of foreign idioms - proverbs with mother tongue material, must have cultural - linguistic bravery (knowledge of the language, background culture, and country of study). Methods of teaching and learning to translate English idioms - proverbs include the following stages: identifying idioms - proverbs, determining the type of meaning, detecting cultural factors involved in the process of creating the meaning of idioms - proverbs, seeking to translate (equivalent translation, close translation of each word, check the result). According to the author, common phenomena, the requirement to teach and learn translation as well as the method of translation are all pierced by a red thread, that is idioms - proverbs with animal factors must be considered not only from a linguistic perspective but also from a cultural perspective because of the meaning of an idiom, reflects the culture of an entire ethnic community.

Hoa, D.T. (2010) described the forms of expression in folk poetry, studied the animal world and new behavioral patterns in natural and social environments, and the denotative value of the animal world in folk poetry. Firstly, the author classified the variations of the aesthetic signal system that reflects the animal world in folk poetry into four groups: Insects, Fish, Birds, and Animals. Among them, Fish and Birds were the most frequent groups and had the most diverse variations. The central factor of the Fish group was Fish, and the central factor of the Bird group was Birds. The Insects and Animals groups did not have

central factors. The variations of these two groups had significant differentiation in terms of the range of realistic expressions and denotative meanings. According to the author, the animal world imagery in folk poetry reflects the most essential aspects of social relations in the life of the Vietnamese people, including hierarchical relations, marital relations, and community relations (clans, neighbors, villages). The species hierarchy, evolutionary characteristics, common features, and isolation of species were transformed into social values in the aforementioned areas of human life. The animal world imagery in folk poetry also reflects the behavioral patterns in the natural environment, especially in food sources, domesticated and wild animals, rivers, land, and vegetation.

Southeast Asia is a region with a dense network of rivers, abundant groundwater reserves, large surface flows, no freezing, and high silt content. With such natural geographical conditions, Southeast Asian countries have very rich fishery resources. Vietnam and Laos are two countries located in Southeast Asia. For Vietnamese people and Lao people, life of the people of the two countries is closely linked with the freshwater environment, that is natural flows (rivers, streams) and standing water bodies (ponds, lakes).

The aquatic animals studied in the article are "grass carp" and "mussels". These two species are both aquatic animals and representatives of mollusks and vertebrates - species that exist commonly in freshwater environments in the two countries of Vietnam and Lao.

## **2. Literature review**

### **A. Word meaning in system.**

According to Chau, D.H. (2005), "the meaning of the word is a multi-component complex". Do Huu Chau mainly defines the meaning of real words (descriptive words). Descriptive words are signals that relate to reality other than language. Each word must correspond to some fact, thing, phenomenon, process, state, nature, character, ...

Thiem, L.Q (2013) asserts: "The most pertinent and rational conception of modern linguistics associated with the problem is the concept of signaling, which treats linguistic signals as a psychological entity that has two sides of expression (significant) and what is manifested (signifié). What is expressed is the form of the signal, the form of the linguistic expression, what is expressed is the meaning of the signal form, the form of expression in the system and the operation and function." To have this mental entity, languages must be constructed, functioning in the full sense of the functional tools they

undertake. Before meaning exists in words, language must practice function, words must perform their functions to have mental products shaped in words. Functional and operational perspectives need to be thoroughly understood in defining and explaining the existence and transformation of the meaning of words in the contemporary as well as in the history of their development.

From there, it can be understood, the meaning of the word is what is expressed by linguistic signals, including human perception of objective things and human emotions and attitudes.

When existing in the system, words have two broad types of meanings, lexical meaning, and grammatical meaning (structural meaning). Scientists agree among themselves that, in the lexical meaning of words there are the following components: denotative meaning, Significative meaning, and Connotative meaning. The denotative meaning is one of the three lexical meaning components of words.

According to Chau, D.H. (2005), "denotative meaning is a reflection of things and phenomena, in fact into the language. These are 'pieces', 'pieces', 'cuts' of reality but not completely coinciding with reality."

Thiem, L.Q (2013) defines: "The meaning of denoting is speech-specific, it is used in practical life when the sentence is related to things, activities, properties that the word denotes", "in the practical and pragmatic sense, about a large number of people who use language, the meaning denotes the conspicuous reality, most recognizable. It helps the speaker to inform, and communicate naturally, directly without much inference or reflection. It can be said that knowing the word first is knowing the meaning of signification."

Hence, denotative meaning is the first meaning when it comes to the meaning of words in the system, which are "slices" of objective reality reflected in language. The denotative meaning is the basis for this article to clarify lexical blanks in Vietnamese and Laos.

#### B. Meronymy

Dirk Geeraerts (2010) defined "summary relation" (or "part-whole relation", "semantic relation") as follows: "Meronymy holds between pairs such as arm and elbow: the arm is the holonym and elbow the meronym."

Meronymy can be identified in terms of the predicates 'has' and 'is a part of' (an arm has an elbow, and an elbow is part of the arm).

Dirk Geeraerts also suggested that the part-whole relation is not a unitary one, but comprises several subtypes, like the relationship between component parts and the material entity to which they belong (keyboard/computer), the relation between a member and the

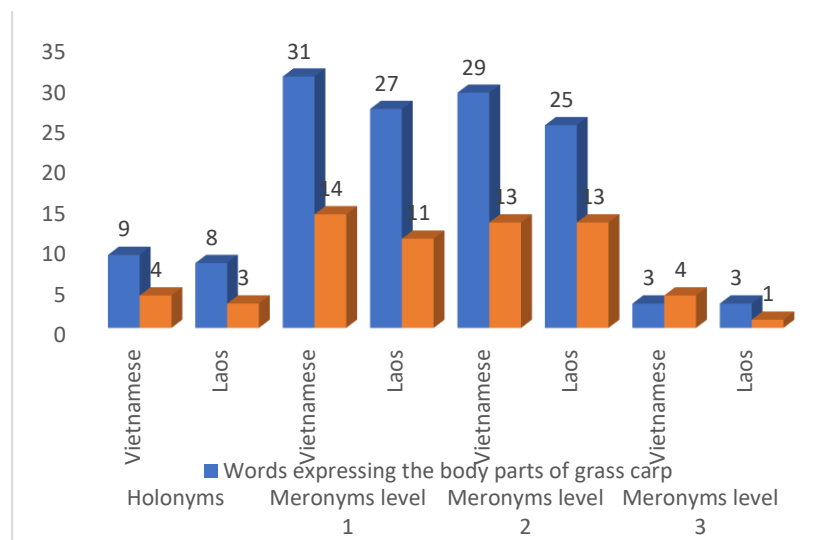
collection to which it belongs (soldier/army), the relation between a material and the object of which it forms an ingredient or a constituent element (wood/door), or the relation between a component action and the overall activity of which it forms part (paying/shopping).

### 3. Research procedure

#### A. Data Preparation

Sources used in the article include (1) The word system for the expression of body parts of grass carp and mussels in specialized books on Biology, (2) The word system for the expression of body parts of grass carp and mussels in the Vietnamese dictionary and the Lao-Vietnamese dictionary, (3) The magnetic system of expressions of body parts of grass carp and mussels in the daily life of the two peoples.

**Figure 1. Bar chart showing the number of words expressing body parts of grass carp and mussels reflecting the meronymy in Vietnamese and Laos**



According to the survey data, the number of words indicating the total nouns and subtitles expressing body parts of grass carp and mussels in Vietnamese is 107 words, and in Laos is 91 words. The number of words for total nouns and subtitles expressing body parts of grass carp and mussels in Vietnamese is larger than in Laos. The Lao language has 16 lexical gaps compared to Vietnamese (words that are only available in Vietnamese but not in Lao).

## B. Research methods

The article uses the following research methods:

### 1. Field linguistic methods

This method is used to survey linguistic materials in the languages of the two ethnic groups of Vietnam and Laos.

### 2. Descriptive method

This method is conducted after a corpus survey with the following methods: methods of context analysis, and methods of case analysis.

### 3. Comparative-contrasting method

The comparative-contrasting method is one of two variants of the comparison method. In this method, one language is the center of attention, while the other is the means of study.

Procedure for setting up language blanks.

When comparing the vocabulary of the two Vietnamese and Lao languages, the following situation often occurs: a lexical unit or a certain meaning appears in Vietnamese but not in Lao. The researchers call such absences "lexical gaps," "gaps," or "white marks on the semantic picture." The method of establishing blanks is used in the study of total semantic relations to consider overlapping and distinct matrices on the lexical-semantic level.

## 4. Research Findings and Discussion.

### A. Research finding

1. Meronymy of words expressing grass carp body parts in Vietnamese and Laos.

**Table 1. Number of holonyms and meronyms expressing grass carp body parts in Vietnamese and Laos**

No	Words expressing thegrass carp body parts		Holonyms		Meronyms					
					Level 1		Level 2		Level 3	
			<i>Vietna- mese</i>	<i>Laos</i>	<i>Vietna m-ese</i>	<i>Laos</i>	<i>Vietna m-ese</i>	<i>Laos</i>	<i>Vietna- mese</i>	<i>Laos</i>
1	General		5	5	7	6	2	1	0	0
2	Each parts	<i>Head</i>	1	1	7	6	22	19	3	3
		<i>Body</i>	2	1	17	15	5	5	0	0
		<i>Tail</i>	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals			9	8	31	27	29	25	3	3

The word expressing the body part of the grass carp is divided into: words expressing the body part of the grass carp in general and words expressing each part of the grass carp (head; body, tail). In this slice of the language, the number of holonyms and meronyms in Vietnamese is both more than in Laos. Besides, the meronyms expressing the body part of the grass carp are divided into three levels. Moreover, the number of meronyms in Vietnamese is 63 words, and in Laos is 55 words. Hence, Laos exists 1 lexical blank of holonyms, and 8 lexical blanks of meronyms compared to Vietnamese.

#### 1.1 Meronymy of words expressing grass carp body parts in general

**Table 2. The table establishes holonyms and meronyms expressing the grass carp body parts in Vietnamese and Laos in general.**

No	Denotative meaning	Holonyms		Meronyms level 1		Meronyms level 2	
		<i>Vietnamese</i>	<i>Laos</i>	<i>Vietnamese</i>	<i>Laos</i>	<i>Vietnamese</i>	<i>Laos</i>
1	The outer part of the body of the fish, composed of thin bone plates, round shape, the outer shore of smooth scales, arranged like roofing tiles.	scale	ເກັດ				
2	The part that envelops the body of the fish, has many mucous glands.	skin	ໜັງ				
3	The organ functions as an important sense that helps the individual perceive stimuli about pressure, water flow	sense organs	ອະໄວຍະວະທາງຂ້າງ				

	rate and obstacles in the way to avoid.						
4	The part is shaped like a paddle, holding the function of movement, and adjusting balance.	fin	ຄີ				
5	Are small bone rays, fastened to the base of the fins.			fin ray	ຄີຫາງ		
6	It is a thin skin, which has the function of connecting the fin rays.			membrane layer	ເຍື້ອຫຸ້ມເຊວ		
7	The hard and strong part makes the frame of the body of the grass carp.	Bone	ດູກ				
8	The bone covering the outside of the fish's brain.			cranial	0		
				Skull	ຫົວກະໂຫຼກ		
9	The bone runs along the body of the grass carp, with clear vertebrae, the body is concave on both sides.			spine	ກະດູກສັນຫຼັງ		
10	The fluid is in the vertebral arc.					spinal cord	ທໍ່ໄຂກະດູກ
11	The tubular part contains blood in the					caudal vein	0



	tail part.						
12	The hard part, which has an arc shape, is located symmetrically on both sides of the body of the fish.			rib	ກະດູກຂ້າງ		
13	The bones are slender, small, scattered in muscle bundles.			Small fish bones	ກະດູກນ້ອຍ		
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

Through the survey data, in Vietnamese and Laos, holonyms expressing the body parts of grass carp, in general, have the same number (5 words in Vietnamese: scales, skin, sense organs, fins, bones; 5 words in Lao: ຕັກດ - scales, ຫນັງ - skin, ອະໄວຍະວະທາງຂ້າງ - sense organ, ຄີ - fins, ດູກ - bones). However, the number of meronyms in level 1 and level 2 in Vietnamese is more than in Laos (Vietnamese consists of 9 words, but Lao only has 7 words). As can be seen, in Laos, there exist two lexical gaps compared to Vietnamese. With denotative meaning: "The bone covering the outside of the fish's brain.", Vietnamese has 2 words (cranial and skull) while Lao has only 1 word (ຫົວກະໂຫຼກ - skull). As for the denotative meaning "The tubular part contains blood in the tail part", Vietnamese has the word "caudal vein" but Lao has no equivalence.

1.2Meronymy of words expressing each part of the body of the grass carp

**Table 3. Table established holonyms expressing grass carp body parts in Vietnamese and Laos.**

No	Denotative meaning	Holonyms	
		<i>Vietnamese</i>	<i>Laos</i>
1	The slender part is tightly attached to the fish's body, extending from the mouth to the end of the gill cover.	head	ຫົວ
2	The body part is elongated, extending from the end of the gill cap to the tip of the fin.	Body	ລ່າໂຕ
		body	0

3	The part extends from the tip of the anal fin to the end of the caudal fin, has the function of repelling water, helping the fish move flexibly.	Tail	ຫງ
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>

According to Khoi, L.V (2012), the grass carp's body is divided into three parts: the head; body, and tail. Laos has a lexical blank (a word that is only in Vietnamese but not in Lao), which is “body”. The meronymy of the word expressing tail - ຫງ has been described in the survey of words expressing body parts of grass carp in general, so it will not be specified below. Hence, the meronymy of the word expressing the grass carp body parts has two contents that will be described in depth, namely: (1) words expressing the head - ຫົວ and (2) words expressing the body - ລຳໂຕ in Vietnamese and Laos.

#### 1.2.1. Meronymy of words expressing head - ຫົວ of the grass carp

**Table 4. The table establishes meronyms expressing the head - ຫົວ of the grass carp in Vietnamese and Laos**

No	Denotative meaning	Meronyms Level 1		Meronyms Level 2		Meronyms Level 3	
		<i>Vietnamese</i>	<i>Laos</i>	<i>Vietnamese</i>	<i>Laos</i>	<i>Vietnamese</i>	<i>Laos</i>
1	The part used to catch grey and digest food.	mouth	ປາກ				
2	The part is composed of soft muscle folds that make the mouth wall.			lip	ຮິມ		
3	The bone part in the mouth,			jaw	ຄາງ		

	which has the function of holding food.						
4	Teeth grow in the terminal bearing lower part.					pharyngeal teeth	ແຂ້ວໃນຄໍຫອຍ
5	The part has the function of biting and dropping food.			molar surface	ເຄື່ອງໂມ້		
6	The part has a function for smelling.	nose	ດັງ				
7	The part is shaped like a cuddle, with the function of detecting prey and enemies.	eyes	ຕາ				
8	The transparent colloidal mass has a convergent lenticular sheath,			vitreous	0		

	located in the eyeball, which helps regulate the eye's ability to see near or far.						
9	The part consists of cartilage that covers the outside of the eyes.			sclera	ເຫຍື້ອແຂງ		
10	The outer part of the eyeball, under the sclera.			vascular membrane	ເຫຍື້ອສາຍເລືອດ		
11	The part is located under the vascular membrane, contains the nerve cells of the eyes.			retina	ເຫຍື້ອຕາໜ່າງ		
				retina	0		
12	The part has a nearly flat structure, allowing the fish to see			cornea	0		

	close, in direct contact with water.						
13	The focal part is hard in the middle of the eye, spherical, white.			pupil	ແກ່ນຕາ		
14	The part has a thin wire structure that helps the ankle move in all directions.					pupillary sphincter muscle	ກ້າມຊີ້ນແກ່ນຕາ
15	The scythe-mesh unit, which helps regulate the lens.			iris	ກະບົງຕາ		
16	The part has the function of helping the fish breathe.	gill	ຟັນເຟີມ				
17	The part has a solid construction, thin slabs,			gill cover	ຝາອັດຟັນເຟີມ		

	located on the outermost part of the gills.						
18	The part has a solid, arc-shaped construction, located in the gills.			gill arch	ເງິບ		
19	The slender plate-shaped part, containing gill fibers, attaches to each gill arc.			gill plate	ເຈ້ນພັນພິມ		
20	The part located on each gill leaf, consisting of slender fibers, is covered with thin epidermis.					gill filament	ໄຍພັນພິມ
21	The mass concentrates	Brain	ມັນສະໜອງ				
		Brain	0				

	the central nervous organs located in the skull.	Brain	ສະໝອງ				
22	The part that controls the sense of smell.			olfactory organ	ອະໄວຍະວະສຳພັດກິ່ນ		
23	The part of the brain is in front of the skull, the roof of the brain is covered with membranes.			forebrain	ສະໝອງໜ້າ		
24	Is very developed, located in the middle of the brain.			medial brain	ສະໝອງສ່ວນກາງ		
25	The part contains large visual cortex.			mesencephalon	ສະໝອງກາງ		
26	The part has the role of visual control.			visual cortex	ອະໄວຍະວະສຳພັດຕາ		

27	The part has the role of regulating and coordinating complex activities when swimming.			Cerebellum	ຕົ້ນສະໝອງ		
28	The part has the role of controlling the taste.			gustatory cortex	ອະໄວຍະວະສຳພັດລົ້ນ		
29	The part has the role of internal control.			medulla	ໄຂກະດູກ		
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

The total number of meronyms 3 levels expressing the head of the grass carp in Vietnamese is 32 words but in Lao, there are only 28 words. The meronyms expressing the head - ຫົວ of grass carp in Laos have 4 lexical gaps compared to Vietnamese. With the denotative meaning "The mass concentrates the central nervous organs located in the skull.", Vietnamese has 3 words, but Laos only consists of 2 words (ມັນສະໝອງ - brain, and ສະໝອງ - brain). With the denotative meaning "The transparent colloidal mass has a convergent lenticular sheath, located in the eyeball, which helps regulate the eye's ability to see near or far.", Vietnamese has the word "vitreous", but this is a lexical blank in Laos. With the denotative meaning "The part has a nearly flat structure, allowing the fish to see close, in direct contact with water", Vietnamese has the word "cornea". However, there is no equivalence in Laos. As for expressing the meaning "The part is located under the vascular membrane, contains the nerve cells of the eyes.", Vietnamese has 2 words, but Lao only has 1 word (ເຫຍື້ອຕາຫນ່າງ - retina).



1.2.2. Meronymy of words expressing body - ລຳໂຕ of the grass carp.

**Table 5. Table establishes meronyms expressing the body - ລຳໂຕ of grass carp in Vietnamese and Laos**

No	Denotative meaning	Meronyms Level 1		Meronyms Level 2	
		<i>Vietnamse</i>	<i>Laos</i>	<i>Vietnamese</i>	<i>Laos</i>
1	The upper part of the grass carp, extends from the tip of the anterior dorsal fin to the end of the posterior dorsal fin.	back	ຫຼັງ		
2	The lower part of the grass carp, extends from the end of the gills to the end of the pectoral fins.	breasts	ເອິກ		
3	The lower part of the grass carp, extends from the end of the pectoral fin to the tip of the fin.	abdomen	ທ້ອງ		
4	The part located near the gills, level with the pectoral fins, helps to contract to collect and push blood into the arteries, helping blood circulation.	Heart	ຫົວໃຈ		
5	The upper compartment of the heart, which contains blood in the body, is transferred to the heart.			atrium	ຫ້ອງຫົວໃຈເບື້ອງເທິງ
6	The lower compartment of the heart, which has a contractile function, transfers blood from the heart to organs in the body.			ventricle	ຫ້ອງຫົວໃຈເບື້ອງລຸ່ມ
7	The hollow contains blood from the organs in the body to the heart.			venous sinuses	ກະບົງເສັ້ນເລືອດດຳ
8	The organ has the function of secreting bile that helps the digestion of food.	liver	ຕັບ		

9	The blue fluid secreted by the liver helps in the digestion of food.	gallbladder	ບີ		
10	The part is located just below the mouth, the end of the esophagus is slightly enlarged.	oesophagus	ຫຼອດອາຫານ		
11	The small part, located behind the esophagus.	stomach	ກະເພາະ		
12	The tubular muscular unit extends from the stomach to the anus.	intestines	ໄສ້		
13	The part is composed of a thin membrane sac tied in the middle, located close to the spine, participating in respiration, enhancing hearing, balancing, and helping fish sink easily in water.	swim bladder	0		
		swim bladder	ຫຼອດລົມ		
		swim bladder	ຖົງລົມ		
		swim bladder	0		
14	Large thin film pockets are in front			coelom	ທ້ອງໃຫຍ່
15	The small thin film pocket is located at the back.			coelomic cavity	ທ້ອງນ້ອຍ
16	Genitals of male carp, consisting of 2 white bands.	testicle	ໝາກອັນທະ		
17	Genitals of female carp, consisting of 2 yellow ovaries.	ovary	ຮວຍໄຂ່		
18	The part is close to the base of the fin.	anus	ຮູທະວານ		
19	The part is in the middle of the body cavity, close to the spine, purple red, located on both sides of the spine, has the function of filtering blood and excretion but the filtering capacity is	kidney	ໝາກໄຂ່ຫຼັງ		

	not high				
<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

The number of meronyms level 2 expressing the body - ລຳໂຕ of grass carp in Vietnamese and Laos has equivalence (both have 3 words). However, the number of meronyms level 1 in Vietnamese is more than in Laos (17 words in Vietnamese and 15 words in Laos). The two lexical blanks in Laos are the words expressing "swim bladder". To identify the part with denotative meaning "The part is composed of a thin membrane sac tied in the middle, located close to the spine, participating in respiration, enhancing hearing, balancing, and helping fish sink easily in water.", Vietnamese has 4 words. However, Laos has only 2 words (ຫຼອດນົມ - swim bladder, ຖົງນົມ - swim bladder).

2. Meronymy of words expressing mussel body parts in Vietnamese and Laos

**Table 6. Number of holonyms and meronyms expressing mussel body parts in Vietnamese and Laos**

No	Words expressing the mussel body parts	Holonyms		Meronyms					
				Level 1		Level 2		Level 3	
		<i>Vietnamese</i>	<i>Laos</i>	<i>Vietnamese</i>	<i>Laos</i>	<i>Vietnamese</i>	<i>Laos</i>	<i>Vietnamese</i>	<i>Laos</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Shell</b>	1	1	7	6	1	1	0	0
<b>2</b>	<b>Body</b>	2	1	5	4	12	12	4	1
<b>3</b>	<b>Feet</b>	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

According to the survey material, the words expressing mussel body parts are divided into three parts: shell part; body; leg. The holonyms that express mussel body parts in Vietnamese are more than in Laos (Vietnamese has 4 words, Laos has 3 words). The meronyms expressing mussel body parts are divided into 3 levels. The number of meronyms in Vietnamese is also more than in Laos (Vietnamese has 31 words, and Laos has 25 words). In this language slice, Laos has 1 lexical blank holonym, and 6 lexical blanks meronyms compared to Vietnamese.

**Table 7. The table establishes holonyms expressing mussel body parts in Vietnamese and Laos.**

No	Denotative meaning	Holonyms	
		<i>Vietnamese</i>	<i>Laos</i>
1	It consists of two pieces, covering the sides of the body, and sticking together on the dorsal side by ligaments	<i>Shell</i>	<i>ເປືອກ</i>

	and joints.		
2	The part is in the shell, which contains most of the body parts of the mussel.	<i>body</i>	ລ່າໂຕ
		<i>body</i>	0
3	An axe-shaped part, at the bottom of the body, sticking out of the shell when moving.	<i>feet</i>	ຂາ
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>

According to Kien, T (2015), mussel body parts are divided into three parts: shell, torso, and legs. According to the survey data, the holonyms expressing the mussel body parts in Vietnamese consist of 4 words, but in Laos, there are only 3 words (ເປືອກ - shell, ລ່າໂຕ - body, ຂາ - legs). With the denotative meaning "The part is in the shell, contains most of the body parts of the mussel", Vietnamese has 2 holonyms. However, Laos only has 1 word (ລ່າໂຕ - body). Hence, in Laos, there exists a lexical blank holonym compared to Vietnamese (a word only in Vietnamese but not in Laos).

#### 2.1. Meronymy of words expressing shell - ເປືອກ of the mussel

**Table 8. The table establishes the meronyms expressing the shell - ເປືອກ of mussels in Vietnamese and Laos.**

No	Denotative meaning	Meronyms		Meronyms	
		Level 1		Level 2	
		Vietnamese	Laos	Vietnamese	Laos
1	The part has a slightly rounded shape, located next to the top of the shell.	Shell head	ເປືອກຫອຍ		
2	The part is round, protruding highest relative to the mussel shell, located close to the hinge of the shell.	Shell top	ເປືອກທາງເທິງ		
3	The part has a slightly pointed shape,	byssal tail	ຝາທ້າຍ		

	located opposite the tip of the shell.				
4	The part is elastic, along with the shell closing muscle to adjust the movement of closing and opening the shell.	hinge	ບານພັບເປືອກຫອຍ		
5	The part on the dorsal side plays the role of opening the shell.			byssus	ເອ້ນ
6	The part grows with mussel age, each year there will be one more growth ring on the shell (1 shell valve).	growth band	ວົງຂະຫຍາຍຂອງເປືອກ		
		shell indentation	0		
7	The part firmly adheres to the inside of the shell, adjusts the movement of closing, opening the shell.	adductor muscle	ຝາອັດເປືອກ		
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

To identify the shell - ເປືອກ of mussels, Vietnamese has 7 meronyms for level 1(shell head, shell top, byssal tail, hinge, shell growth band, shell indentation, adductor muscle), but Laos has only 6 words (ເປືອກຫອຍ - shell head, ເປືອກທາງເທິງ - shell top, ຝາທ້າຍ - byssal tail, ບານພັບເປືອກຫອຍ - hinge, ວົງຂະຫຍາຍຂອງເປືອກ - growth band, ຝາອັດເປືອກ - adductor muscle). Besides, to name " The part grows with mussel age, each year there will be one more growth ring

on the shell (1 shell valve)", Vietnamese has 2 words (growth band, shell indentation), while Lao only consists of 1 word (ວົງຂະຫຍາຍຂອງເປືອກ - growth band). Therefore, when identifying the shell - ເປືອກ of mussels, Laos exists a lexical blank meronym level 1. The number of meronyms level 2 expressing the shell - ເປືອກ of mussels is equal in number.

## 2.2. Meronymy of words expressing body - ລ່າໂຕ of the mussel

**Table 9. The table establishes the meronyms expressing the body- ລ່າໂຕ of mussels in Vietnamese and Laos**

No	Denotative meaning	Meronyms Level 1		Meronyms Level 2		Meronyms Level 3	
		Vietnamese	Laos	Vietnamese	Laos	Vietnamese	Laos
1	The part for draining water out of the body carries waste and carbonic gas.	siphon	ທ່ອນ				
2	The part draws water into the body, carrying food and oxygen.	siphon	ທຸ່່ງ				
3	The part is located on the outer edge throughout the length of the mussel's body, often secreting limestone shells covering the outer body.	mantle	ປຶກເສືອ				
		mantle margin	0				
4	The part is in the mantle, concentrating the cells that hold			mantle	ຢອຍ		

	sensory or secretory functions.						
5	The space between the mantle and the shell and legs.	mantle cavity	ຊ່ອງເສືອ				
6	The organ has the function of respirating, transporting and rolling food to the mouth.			gills	ພັນພິມ		
7	The part is triangular, arranged in two rows, with the function of transporting and rolling food to the mouth.					gill plate	0
8	The part located in the mantle cavity, plays an important role in the circulatory system, transporting blood to parts of the body.			heart	ຫົວໃຈ		
9	The main organ drains blood to other parts of the body.					main artery	ເສັ້ນເລືອດແດງ
10	The single structure (1 kidney) is located on both sides of the envelope cavity, V-			kidney	ໃຕ		

	shaped, the pointed part is directed backwards.						
11	The part is black, open in the first part of the capsule cavity.					mantle gland	0
12	The part has a tubular shape, located in the excretory hole into the mantle cavity.					siphon	0
13	The part has the function of catching food in the mouth.			byssal disc	ແຜ່ນປາກ		
14	The starting part of the digestive organ, located at the base of the double lobes of the mouth.			mouth	ຮູປາກ		
15	The part located immediately behind the mouth, has the function of transferring food to the stomach.			oesophagus	ຫຼອດອາຫານ		
16	The part with strong muscles carries the function of grinding food.			stomach	ກະເພາະ		
17	It is a digestive enzyme and is a place of intracellular			liver gland	ຕ່ອມຕັບອ່ອນ		



	digestion and absorption of food.						
18	The stained structural part conducts digestive sebum towards the anus.			intestines	ໄສ້		
19	The organ is located just before the anus, containing the last residue to transfer down to the anus.			rectum	ໄສ້ຕັນ		
20	The part is located at the base of the drainpipe.			Anus.	ຮູທະວານ		
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

In Vietnamese, the meronyms 33 levels expressing the body- ລຳໂຕ of mussels is 21 words but in Laos, there are only 17 words. When identifying the body - ລຳໂຕ of mussels, Laos exists 1 lexical blank meronym level 1, 3 lexical blank meronyms level 3. To identify " The space between the mantle and the shell and legs.", Vietnamese has a word (mantle cavity) but in Laos, there is no word to express this part. To designate " The part is triangular, arranged in two rows, with the function of transporting and rolling the food to the mouth", Vietnamese has the word "gill plate" but this word is also a lexical blank in Laos. When studying meronyms level 3 expressing body - ລຳໂຕ of mussels, Vietnamese has two words "mantle gland" and "siphon" expressing " The part is black, open in the first part of the capsule cavity." and " The part has a tubular shape, located in the excretory hole into the mantle cavity.", but in Laos has no equivalence.

### 2.3. Meronymy of words expressing foot – ຂ້າງ of the mussel

**Table 10. Table establishes meronyms expressing the foot - ຂ້າງ of mussels in Vietnamese and Laos**

No	Denotative meaning	Meronyms Level 1	
		Vietnamese	Laos
1	The part that helps the mussel's legs contract and stretch during movement.	leg muscles	ກ້າມຂ້າງ
2	The fluid part in the leg, which plays a role in creating pressure along with the leg muscles to help the mussels move.	fluid	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

To identify the leg part - ຂ້າງ of mussels, Vietnamese has 2 words (leg muscle and fluid) but Lao has only one word (ກ້າມຂ້າງ - leg muscle). With the denotative meaning "The fluid part in the leg, which plays a role in creating pressure along with the leg muscles to help the mussels move.", Vietnamese has the word "fluid", but Laos has a lexical blank. As can be seen, in this slice of language, Laos has 1 lexical gap compared to Vietnamese.

#### B. Discussion

The meronymy of the word expressing the grass carp body part has a greater number of holonyms in Vietnamese than in Laos (Vietnamese has 9 words, Lao has 8 words, and Laos has 1 lexical blank holonym compared to Vietnamese). As can be seen, the category of objective reality in this slice of language in Vietnamese is equivalent to Lao. The number of meronyms expressing the body parts of grass carp in Vietnamese is also more than in Laos (Vietnamese is 63 words, Lao is 55 words, and Lao has 8 vocabulary gaps compared to Vietnamese). Hence, the objective realistic separation of the word expressing grass carp body parts in Vietnamese is more detailed and richer than in Laos.

In addition to the words expressing grass carp body parts, the holonyms expressing mussel body parts in Vietnamese are more than in Laos (Vietnamese has 4 holonyms, Laos has only 3 holonyms; Vietnamese has 31 meronyms, Lao has only 25 meronyms). In this language slice, Lao has 1 lexical blank holonym, and 6 lexical blanks meronyms compared to Vietnamese. Therefore, the category of objective reality in this slice of language in Vietnamese is more

generalized than in Laos. Moreover, the classification depth in Vietnamese is more specific and detailed than in Laos.

## 5. Conclusion

The article presented the concept of the meaning of words in the system, the denotative meaning of words, and the meronymy. The article surveyed 107 Vietnamese as well as 91 Laos holonyms and meronyms expressing body parts of grass carp and mussels.

The meronymy in this article is studied in the direction of describing the meaning relationship between the holonyms and the holonyms expressing body parts grass carp and mussels body parts in Vietnamese and Laos. Hence, providing some comments on linguistic slices belonging to the categories of words expressing grass carp and mussel body parts in Vietnamese and Laos. Through the survey data, the category of the objective reality of the word expressing body parts of grass carp and mussels in Vietnamese is more generalized than in Laos. Furthermore, the classification depth in Vietnamese is also more detailed and richer than in Laos.

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