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**LEXIKÁLNÍ JEDNOTKY SPOJENÉ S LIDSKÝM TĚLEM -
KULTURNÍ SROVNÁNÍ NAPŘÍČ JAZYKY**

Adriana Hlinková

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Faculty of Education

Department of English

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**HUMAN BODY LEXICAL ITEMS –
A CROSS - CULTURAL COMPARISON**

Adriana Hlinková

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Prohlašuji, že jsem práci vypracovala samostatně s použitím uvedené literatury a zdrojů informací.

V Plzni dne 25. května 2017

Adriana Hlinková

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This thesis is dedicated to all my beloved relatives who passed away too early- to my father, to my uncles, to my brother, to my grandmother, to my cousin, to my brother-in-law and to my husband.

ABSTRACT

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This undergraduate thesis deals with multiword lexical items with transferred meaning. It is concentrated on clause /sentence/ idioms related only to a human body. In the theoretical part the idiom definitions are given as well as idiom classifications. In the practical part the examples of 30 English individual clause idioms are analysed with their semantic meanings. As the aim is to compare the use of parts of a human body in the fields of idioms in a cross-cultural comparison, I decided to collate English idioms with the idioms of Czech, German and Russian language. The thesis is only focused on the idioms which contain parts of a human body in all four languages within one semantic meaning. In the practical part I made tables of the counterpart idioms followed by their literal word-for-word translation in order to show the diversity in languages. Analysis of paradigmatic relations between monitored idioms is given, focusing on the categories of synonymy, hyponymy, hypernymy and meronymy. The second part of the practical part consists of analysing questionnaires made for young English and Czech people aged 15-25. The goal in this piece of work is to get informed whether today's young people are able to understand or use the human body idioms and consequently show their frequency of usage and other factors in the analysis.

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1 INTRODUCTION

This undergraduate bachelor thesis is focused on the subject of human body lexical items with a cross-country comparison. The thesis basis is that language is believed to be a communication tool. However, language is pre-eminently a living organism affected by its environmental factors, such as **family, community, place and education**. Let me introduce a set of general factors affecting the development and usage of *MOTHER LANGUAGE*:

- **Language and family**

Family environment is the essential environment for general people's development and at the same time it is fundamental for language development. The specific way, how members of a family communicate, reflects their language standard.

- **Language and community**

Community which surrounds people also affects their language standard. It is obvious that lawyer or doctors' language standard differs from language standard of the criminals. Footballer language standard is dissimilar to gymnast language standard.

- **Language and place**

Another factor interacting language and its usage is the place where we live. People living in the countryside speak differently compared to people living in big cities; people living in the rainforest definitely speak distinctly in comparison with people living in villages.

- **Language and education**

As far as education, mother language in school curriculum contains general language knowledge based on grammatical structures and other fields of language teaching with the help of literature lessons; all fields developing perception, communicative skills, reading and writing.

I have already mentioned four factors affecting the development and usage of *MOTHER LANGUAGE*. Nevertheless, the topic of the undergraduate thesis deals with English idioms compared to three other foreign language idioms: Czech, German and Russian.

Learning and understanding *FOREIGN LANGUAGES* is a completely different process compared to learning and understanding *MOTHER LANGUAGE*.

Learning *FOREIGN LANGUAGES* is a fascinating process. There is an uncountable number of devices helping with learning foreign languages:

- ✓ You can teach yourself with perfectly elaborated textbooks for self-learners.
- ✓ You can attend classes with a native speaker teacher.
- ✓ You can study via the Internet and on-line courses.
- ✓ You can watch movies in their origin versions with subtitles supporting your learning.
- ✓ You can make friends all over the world and speak to them via the Internet.
- ✓ You can pack your luggage and move to your dream country to learn their language “live” there
- ✓ You can buy or borrow hundreds sources related to learning a foreign language, such as: dictionaries, language encyclopaedias, textbooks.
- ✓ You can read books in their origin versions.

The result is that everybody, who decides to learn a foreign language, can learn a foreign language on some level. Talent for languages is also needed, some people’s limit may be ‘beginner’ level, some people might reach ‘advanced’ level; some can become professional teachers of particular language.

The undergraduate thesis is concentrated on clause /sentence/ idioms published in academic dictionaries and only related to parts of a human body.

The starting point of the thesis is to find English clause idioms related to a human body. The thesis is divided into theoretical and practical parts.

Aims of the thesis are:

- ✓ to show the diversity in the use of clause idioms in English, Czech, German and Russian language with the possibility of changing the form in monitored languages from an idiom to a simile.
- ✓ to analyse the questionnaires filled in by young English and Czech people aged 15-25 in order to elicit whether they understand the human body idioms or not together with other information, ie their frequency in idiom usage or rewriting the idioms by their own words in order to find out how they comprehend each particular

idiom. Consequently, this work shows how lexical field of clause idiom comprehension can be difficult for mother language speakers.

Theoretical part introduces in general the structure of the lexicon, its semantic fields and paradigmatic relations, such as: synonymy, hyponymy, hypernymy and meronymy. Moreover, explanations, definitions and classifications related to the topic of idioms and similes are also included in the theoretical part. Consequently, background of creating a questionnaire is listed.

In the chapter called Methods the process of registering the clause idioms in all four languages is described. The part shows searching for appropriate sources with English clause idioms related to a human body in the opening, and looking for the equivalent counterpart clause idioms in other three foreign languages- in German, Czech and Russian as the second point. The goal is to find such particular idioms, which would all refer to human body in their semantic meanings in all four languages. In addition to this part, 30 English clause idioms with their semantic meanings are set in a table. The other tables contain 30 German, 30 Czech and 30 Russian clause idioms relating a human body which equal to the semantic meanings of given 30 English clause idioms but contain partly distinct use of human body parts in the idioms.

To show the dissimilarity in using the parts of a human body in each particular language, I translated all the 90 clause idioms literally word-for-word into English language and compared the nouns and verbs in idioms from the point of paradigmatic relations.

The practical part also involves questionnaires. The methods of making the questionnaires are explained in the second part of Methods. There are 4 general questions and 14 idioms in each questionnaire. For each idiom there are 4 questions to be answered. The questions are created in two languages- in English and Czech. All the questions (Sincero, 2012) in the questionnaires are the same in both monitored languages.

2 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Theoretical background brings an introduction into the fields related to the undergraduate thesis. As the thesis is concentrated on idioms, the background contains idiom definitions and offers an overview of lexical structure and its fields from general point of view up to detailed classifications.

Besides, theoretical background of creating questionnaires is listed.

2.1. Lexical structure

David Crystal says: “When we talk about the ‘structure’ of the lexicon, we are referring to the network of meaning relationships which bind lexemes together- what is known as its *semantic structure*.” (Crystal, 2003) He explains his theory in following statements: No lexeme exists in splendid isolation. As soon as we think of one (say, *uncle*), a series of others come to mind. Some of these lexemes help to define *uncle* (*brother, father, mother*), others relate to it closely in meaning (*aunt, cousin, nephew, niece*), others have a looser semantic connection (*relatives, family, visit, outing*), and there may be figurative or literary uses (*Uncle Sam*), as well as a few personal or idiosyncratic associations (*birthday, funeral*). (Crystal, 2003)

Crystal declares that if we mentally probe all aspects of the semantic network which surrounds *uncle*, we shall soon build up a large number of connections. But on the other hand, he says that if we look at a dictionary entry for *uncle*, we shall see very few of our intuitions represented there. (Crystal, 2003)

2.2. Fundamental sense relations between lexical units

According to Cruse, there are two dimensions of the language: horizontal and vertical. The relationships on the vertical dimension are described as *paradigmatic* and those on the horizontal dimension as *syntagmatic*. (Cruse, 2004)

2.3. Paradigmatic relations

A paradigm is an abstract class of elements, units at whatever level of the system, and it is itself usually part of the system, states Čermák. It is based on a feature (formal, semantic

or functional) which is common to all these elements and unites them into a paradigm of whatever type it may be. Members of a paradigm are mutually equivalent and in a text generally also mutually substitutable, their choice being governed by the *either-or* rule. (Čermák, *Frazeologie a idiomatika česká a obecná*, 2007)

The broadest division of paradigmatic relations is into two groups:

- *relations of identity and inclusion*- polysemy, homonymy, synonymy, compatibility, hyponymy, meronymy
- *relations of opposition and exclusion*- complementarity, antonymy, converseness, incompatibility (Cruse, 2004)

2.4. Idiom

Idiom, according to (Webster's Universal Dictionary and Thesaurus, 1993, p. 273), is defined as an accepted phrase or expression with a different meaning from the literal or as a usual way in which the words of a language are used to express thoughts.

However, Lewis claims that technically, an idiom is a particular kind of lexical item, defined by the fact that the meaning of whole is not immediately apparent from the meaning of the constituent parts. (Lewis, 1993, p. 98)

McCarthy and O'Dell come with similar definition where they state that idioms are fixed expressions whose meaning is not immediately obvious from looking at the individual words in the idiom. (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2002, p. 4)

Czech linguist Čermák (2007) specifies an idiom as a unique combination of at least two elements some of which do not function in the same way in any other combination (of the kind) or occur in a highly restricted number. (Čermák, *Frazeologie a idiomatika česká a obecná*, 2007, p. 142)

David Crystal states that two central features identify an idiom:

- The meaning of the idiomatic expression cannot be deduced by examining the meanings of the constituent lexemes.

- The expression is fixed, both grammatically and lexically. (Crystal, 2003)

2.5. Idiom classification

According to Fernando (1996), idioms or conventionalized multiword expressions are indivisible units whose components cannot be varied or varied only within definable limits. She divides idioms into three sub-classes. (Fernando, 1996)

- ✓ Pure Idioms
- ✓ Semi-literal Idioms
- ✓ Literal Idioms

Idioms yield three subclasses: pure idioms, semi-idioms, and literal idioms. A working definition of a pure idiom which is adequate for the present is 'a type of conventionalized, non-literal multiword expression'. *Spill the beans*, for example, has nothing to do with *beans*. In contrast to its literal counterpart meaning 'letting fall leguminous seeds', a non-literal meaning is imposed on the idiom as a whole: 'commit an indiscretion'. (Fernando, 1996, p. 35)

A semi-idiom (Weinreich 1969; Cowie 1981) has one or more literal constituents and at least one with a non-literal subsense, usually special to that co-occurrence relation and no other: *drop* has the meaning 'overuse' only when it co-occurs with *names*. Other examples are *catch one's breath* 'check', *foot the bill* 'pay', etc. Some of these semi-idioms, like their kin, restricted collocations with specialized subsenses, permit lexical variation, for example, *blue* 'obscene' *film/joke/gag/story/comedian*. (Fernando, 1996, p. 36)

Literal idioms (*on foot*; *tall, dark and handsome*; *waste not, want not*; *on the contrary*; *a (very) happy birthday*; *a merry Christmas and a happy New Year*, etc.) meet the salient criterion for idioms: invariance or restricted variation. They are, however, less semantically complex than pure and semi-idioms. (Fernando, 1996, p. 36)

In comparison with Fernando, there exists another idiom classification created by Cowie, Mackin and McCaig (1993). They introduce a complex categorization which contains:

- ✓ Pure idioms
- ✓ Figurative idioms

- ✓ Restricted collocations /semi-idioms/
- ✓ Open collocation

- (i) *Pure idioms*. Though discussions of idiomaticity at both a technical and non-technical level are usually limited to the type illustrated by *blow the gaff* and *kick the bucket* (surely the most often quoted idiom of all), idioms in the strict sense comprise only one, and certainly not the largest, of a spectrum of related categories. Historically, pure idioms form the end-point of a process by which word-combinations first establish themselves through constant re-use, then undergo figurative extension and finally petrify or congeal. (Cowie, Mackin, & McCaig, 1993, p. xii)
- (ii) *Figurative idioms*. This category has already been identified. It is idiomatic in the sense that variation is seldom found (though note *act the part* or *role*; *a close, narrow shave*) and pronoun substitution unlikely (though consider *Bill had a narrow shave and Fred an even narrower one*). The merging of this group into that of pure idioms is illustrated by such expressions as *beat one's breast* and (again) *burn one's boats*. The literal senses of these expressions do not survive alongside their figurative ones in normal, everyday use and for some speakers they may indeed be unrelatable. For such speakers the expressions fall into the category of pure idioms. (Cowie, Mackin, & McCaig, 1993, p. xii)
- (iii) *Restricted collocations*. In such combinations, sometimes referred to as 'semi-idioms', one word (i.e. in the case of two-word expressions) has a figurative sense not found outside that limited context. The other element appears in a familiar, literal sense (c.f. the verb and noun, respectively, in *jog one's/sb's memory*) and the adjective and noun in *a blind alley*. Some members of this category allow a degree of lexical variation (consider, for instance, *a cardinal error, sin, virtue, grace*), and in this respect 'restricted' collocations resemble 'open' ones (see below). Another point of similarity is that the 'literal' element is sometimes replaced by a pronoun, or deleted altogether, in sentences where there is an earlier use of the full expression:
- The Board didn't entertain the idea, and the Senate wouldn't entertain it either. a rather chequered career, and I've heard it said that Blenkinsop's was equally chequered (or: an equally chequered one).*

In other respects, however, restricted collocations are idiom-like. The particular sense which *jog* has in *jog one's/sb's memory* occurs in no other context, while that of *chequered* is limited to collocations with *career* and *history*. It is the determination of a special meaning by a limited context which argues for the inclusion of such expressions in an 'idiomatic' dictionary. (Cowie, Mackin, & McCaig, 1993, p. xiii)

- (iv) *Open collocations*. Most sharply and easily distinguished from idioms in the strict sense are combinations such as *fill the sink* (already referred to) and *a broken window*. The use of the terms 'open', 'free' or 'loose' to refer to such collocations reflects the fact that, in each case, both elements (verb and object, or adjective and noun) are freely recombinable, as for example in *fill, empty, drain the sink* and *fill the sink, basin, bucket*. Typically, also, in open collocations, each element is used in a common literal sense. (Cowie, Mackin, & McCaig, 1993, p. xiii)

Subsequently, they come with another classification and say that the majority of entries can be classified under two general headings:

- ✓ Clause idioms
- ✓ Phrase idioms

Within these major groupings are several dominant sub-categories. There is a list with the most common *clause patterns* spanned by idioms: Cowie *et al* (1993)

CLAUSE patterns

Verb+Complement	V+Comp	go berserk
Verb+Direct Object	V+Od	ease sb's mind
Verb+Direct Object+Complement	V+Od+Comp	paint the town red
Verb+Indirect Object+Direct obj.	V+IO+Od	do sb credit
Verb+Direct Object+Adjunct	V+Od+A	take sth amiss

While the most commonly occurring *phrase patterns* are these:

PHRASE patterns

Noun Phrase	NP	a crashing bore
Adjective Phrase	AdjP	free with one's money
Prepositional Phrase	PrepP	in the nick of time

In this necessarily selective survey of the grammatical patterns in which expressions are found, state Cowie *et al.* (1993), the term 'idiom' has been applied without distinction as to pattern. In this view, they believe, that idiomaticity is largely a semantic matter, and that it is manifested in much the same way in expressions of different structural types.

The undergraduate thesis is based on Cowie's *et al.* (1993) classification and their 'clause idioms'

Nevertheless, Hatch and Brown (1995, p. 204) come with another idiom classification. They recognize four types of idiomaticity:

- ✓ Opaque (kick the bucket)
- ✓ Semi-opaque (tarred with the same brush)
- ✓ Semi-transparent (skate on thin ice)
- ✓ Transparent, non-idiomatic phrases (walk by the building)

The highest degree of idiomaticity is typical for the *opaque idioms*, (Brown & Hatch, 1995), whose meanings cannot be clear from the meanings of the separate words. Compared to other linguists, Fernando (1996), Cowie *et al.* (1993), their term for opaque idioms differs while they call such idioms pure idioms. Hatch and Brown's *semi-opaque idioms* (1995) are semi-literal for Fernando (1996) and restricted collocations or semi-idioms for Cowie *et al.* (1993). While Fernando (1996) omits the classification of figurative idioms, Hatch and Brown (1995) call them *semi-transparent* compared to Cowie's figurative. Fernando's literal idioms equal Cowie's *et al.* (1993) open collocations and Hatch and Brown's *transparent, non-idiomatic phrases*.

To sum up, there exist more than one complex idiom classification. Nevertheless, all cited linguists' academic points of view regarding idiom division are more or less the same.

2.6. Simile

Simile is a figure of speech likening one thing to another by the use of *like, as, etc*

Another definition of simile introduces Oxford Wordpower Dictionary as a word or phrase that compares something to something else, using the words 'like' or 'as'; the use of

✓ Archaic

Moreover, another type of question, which appears in thesis questionnaire, is introduced by socialresearchmethods.net: (Trochim, 2006).

- Filter questions

Example: Do you personally use another idiom to express the same or similar semantic meaning? YES/ NO? WHICH ONE? (Sincero, 2012)

3 METHODS

In the Methods chapter the process of collecting appropriate sources and samples of clause idioms is analyzed. There are also described the processes of creating questionnaires.

The target in the practical part is to find such English clause idioms for the analysis, which contain parts of human body. However, the essential condition for choosing the proper idiom is the fact, that there exist Czech, German and Russian counterpart with the same or minutely different meaning. Moreover, the Czech, German and Russian counterparts should also contain parts of human body. Despite this condition, five (three Russian and two German idioms) of ninety monitored counterpart idioms do not operate with parts of human body in their literal meaning. However, they are integral parts of the research as they show congruent semantic meanings and similar idiom structures.

3.1. Collecting the samples for the idiom analysis

Fundamental for the thesis is to find verified sources. The initial step is to choose appropriate idiom dictionaries. As mentioned, the basis comes from English clause idioms, therefore *The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms*; *Oxford idioms dictionary for learners of English*; *Oxford Dictionary of current idiomatic English*; *English Idioms in Use Intermediate*; *Oxford Wordpower Dictionary* and *Webster's Universal Dictionary and Thesaurus* are used as academic resources. (Ammer, 1997), (Ashby, 2001), (Cowie, Mackin, & McCaig, 1993), (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2002), (Oxford Wordpower Dictionary, 2006),.

The second step is to search in Czech, German and Russian idiom dictionaries and find appropriate counterparts for chosen English clause idioms, which would comply all the conditions mentioned in chapter 3. In this process, foreign language dictionaries are used all referring to Czech language: *Slovník české frazeologie a idiomatiky. Výrazy větné; Česko-německý frazeologický & idiomatický slovník; Ruské frazeologismy názorně.; Učebný slovar ruskoj frazeologii: na ruskom i češskom jazykách; Německé idiomy v praxi; Česko-ruský frazeologický slovník; Česko-anglický frazeologický & idiomatický slovník* and *Synonymwörterbuch der deutschen Redensarten*. (Čermák, Slovník české frazeologie a idiomatiky. Výrazy větné, 2009), (Česko-německý frazeologický & idiomatický slovník,

1999), (Dubrovin, 1984), (Gennad'jevna, 2013), (Kolečková & Haupenthal, 2002), (Mokijenko, 2002), (Řešetka, 1999), (Schemann, 1991).

3.2. Creating a table of 30 English clause idioms containing English clause idioms with Czech, German, Russian counterparts, their literal-word for word translation + analysis

After successful proceeding and amassing 30 English clause idioms with 30 Czech, 30 German and 30 Russian counterparts, the basic table is made which contains:

- ✓ Samples of 30 English clause idioms
- ✓ Semantic meaning of listed 30 English idioms
- ✓ Examples of 30 English idioms in use
- ✓ Origin of the idioms if known

As far as the part comprising idiom origins, following sources are extracted, such as: *The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms*; *Oxford idioms dictionary for learners of English*; <http://www.phrases.org.uk/cgi-bin/idioms/find-idioms.cgi?w=thumbs> and <http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/pulling-ones-leg.html>. (Ammer, 1997), (Ashby, 2001), (Gary, <http://www.phrases.org.uk/cgi-bin/idioms/find-idioms.cgi?w=thumbs>, 2017), (Gary, <http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/pulling-ones-leg.html>, 2017).

3.3. Making tables of four monitored languages (English, Czech, German and Russian) with clause idiom counterparts

This chapter introduces the process of creating 30 individual tables containing English clause idioms with their Czech, German and Russian counterparts with the process of analysing the tables from several points of view.

The aim in the method of making tables is to show synoptically congruence or difference in the use of human body parts in each individual idiom. Each particular idiom is listed in the table in its origin language and subsequently it is translated literally- word for word into English language.

Moreover, all the parts of human body English idioms and the literal translations to English used in each idiom are highlighted to be remarkable for the sequential analysis.

3.4. Creating questionnaires in English and Czech language referred to idiomaticity comprehension

I made English and Czech questionnaires for young English and Czech respondents aged 15-25. Both questionnaires contain exactly the same questions in English version and also in Czech version. The questionnaires consist of general questions recognizing gender, age, nationality and education. There are 14 idioms to be observed in the questionnaires. These 14 idioms were chosen from the table of 30 English clause idioms containing English clause idioms with Czech, German, Russian counterparts, their literal-word for word translation + analysis (Appendix 1).

There are four questions relating to each from 14 observed idioms; three of them appear in each idiom (Appendix 4). These are:

- *a multiple-choice question:*

You use this idiom: never - hardly ever - sometimes - often - every day

- *a Likert-type scale:*

In your opinion, this idiom is.....commonly used - unusual - archaic

- *a filter question:*

Do you personally use another idiom to express the same or similar semantic meaning? YES/ NO? WHICH ONE?

The fourth question in each idiom occurs in two types:

- *an open-ended question answering in a form of a text:*

Please, try to interpret the semantic meaning of the idiom in your own words (how you understand the idiom) i.e. by your own commentary or in a situational dialogue.

This kind of question appears in seven particular idioms.

- *a multiple-choice question:*

For example:

If somebody is poking their nose into something,

- ✓ they have got a well-developed sense of smell

- ✓ they are annoying, interfering in other people's business
- ✓ they are friendly

Such multiple-choice questions appear in seven monitored idioms. The individual multiple answers were inspired by the model of Oxford Idioms Dictionary for Learners of English, with an example:

- There's too much information for you to see clearly
- ✓ I can't see the wood for the trees.
- ✓ I just watch the world go by.
- ✓ I need to keep my eyes open. (Ashby, 2001)

4 PRACTICAL PART

4.1. Preview

In the practical part of the thesis:

- A list of 30 collected examples of English idioms, their semantic meanings, examples and origins is given. This list is **the starting point** of the practical part, because the subsequent work is dependent on this list. The list is a part of thesis's Appendix 1.
- 30 individual tables, where each particular table consists of an English idiom and its Czech, German and Russian counterparts translated literally, word for word. The tables are placed in thesis's Appendix 2.

Each individual English idiom is analysed from semantic point of view and compared to Czech, German, Russian idiom counterparts. Moreover, the paradigmatic relations between English, Czech, German and Russian parts of human body, contained in each idiom, are introduced. Most idioms also offer the paradigmatic relation between verbs in English idiom with comparison to Czech, German and Russian idiom counterpart.

4.2. Table of 30 English clause idioms

Elaborated table of 30 English clause idioms with their semantic meanings, examples of usage and idiom origins is placed in Appendix 1.

4.3. 30 tables containing English clause idioms with Czech, German, Russian counterparts, their literal-word for word translation + analysis

In this section of practical part, 30 individual idioms in use are analysed on the basis of 30 tables containing English clause idiom as the fundamental sample with clause idiom counterparts in Czech, German and Russian language with their literal- word for word translations. Each individual table is placed in Appendix 2.

- **Turn one's nose up to something**

There is a 100% congruence in both- semantic and literal meaning of the idiom in all four monitored languages. According to McCarthy, the main associations with NOSE are these with feelings/reactions and involvement (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2002, p. 110).

This individual idiom deals with feelings/reactions and shows a refusal. (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2002)

As far as categorization, the idiom is *a pure idiom*.

- **Not turn a hair**

Generally, HAIR in idioms deals with being calm and in control (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2002, p. 106).

When first seen, the literal meaning seems to be completely different in all languages. However, if we consider that “a HAIR” can be defined as a threadlike growth from the skin of mammals (Webster's Universal Dictionary and Thesaurus, 1993) we come to conclusion that there is a congruence relating to the growth, so from paradigmatic point of view, these (HAIR, CILIUM, EYELASH and EYEBROW) can be qualified as *near synonymy*.

Moreover, each body part of these idioms appears on HEAD. Interestingly, Czech, Russian and German idiom deals with EYE growth.

As far as semantic meanings of all four language idioms, there is no deflection in application at all and the idiom belongs to *pure idioms*.

- **Poke your nose into something**

The semantic meaning in all four languages is completely congruent and the form of the idiom is *a pure idiom*. Nevertheless, as far as literal meaning, English, Russian and German language offer ‘NOSE’ for the idiom use, while Czech ‘SNOUT’ is *a pejorative synonym* of ‘NOSE’ (pig's snout) in order to show the negative connotation of the idiom.

NOSE in English idiom usage is usually associated in involvement and this particular example shows ‘interfering’ (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2002, p. 110).

- **Pour one's heart out to somebody**

‘HEART’ as the essential human organ in the body has been metaphored to show ‘deep feeling’ for ages. This particular idiom shows a 100% congruence in action ‘POUR

OUT'. Moreover, the semantic meaning in all four monitored languages is the same and as far as category, it is *a pure idiom*.

The literal word for word translation, however, introduces another variant of 'HEART' in Russian language, substituting 'HEART' for 'SOUL', which relationship is *synonymous in metaphors*.

- **Turn a blind eye**

This individual idiom is *a semi-idiom*.

The semantic meaning in all monitored languages is congruent. The only difference can be seen after literal translation in English idiom verb 'TURN' compared to the Czech, German and Russian idiom counterparts with verb 'CLOSE'.

All in all, the semantic meaning does not change at all.

- **He/she is bone idle**

As far as classification, the idiom belongs to a group of *semi-idioms*.

This idiom shows that even there is a 100% congruence in the field of semantics, sometimes it is not possible to find another language idiom counterpart which would refer to 'a topic of idiomaticity'. The example of German counterpart 'He/she is a lazy PIG' means totally the same but there is no equivalent human body part existing.

However, I decided to include this idiom in my tables because parts of human body appear in other three remaining languages.

- **Live from hand to mouth**

This idiom represents the same semantic meaning in all four monitored languages with a prepositional structure FROM-TO in each idiom.

Nevertheless, the literal meaning equals in English, Czech and German language but differs completely in Russian language. There do not occur any parts of human body in this Russian idiom. Instead of 'Living from HAND to MOUTH', they 'Struggle through from BREAD to WATER' Despite this fact, according to academic dictionaries, the semantic meaning remains the same (Čermák, Slovník české frazeologie a idiomatiky. Výrazy větné, 2009). Moreover, to show negative connotation of the semantic meaning, Czech idiom contains GOB, *pejorative synonym*, as part of human body instead of MOUTH.

The idiom can be categorized as *pure or figurative idiom*.

- **He is lying through his teeth**

The semantic meanings of the idiom are congruent, however, there is another meaning mentioned for the Russian idiom. All idioms belong to a group of *pure idioms*.

In Russia, EARS ARE FADING not only because the speaker is not telling the truth but this idiom is also used in such a situation, where somebody is talking too much and it is obvious that he/she is making up his/her stories, so you are not willing to listen to him/her any more (Dubrovin, 1984).

In this English and Czech idiom, the parts of the body (TEETHS and GOB) are connected with MOUTH. 'MOUTH' idioms are associated with speaking or eating (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2002, p. 110). The Czech variation operates with GOB as a *pejorative synonym* of MOUTH showing negative connotation.

On the other hand, German literal meaning differs a lot as the idiom does not operate with any parts of human body. However, it likens the intensity of lying to BEAMS bending. Together with the Czech counterpart, the German idiom appears in a form of a '*simile*'.

- **It stands out like a sore thumb**

This clause idiom appears in a form of a *simile*. However, it is listed in Idioms dictionary (Ashby, 2001, p. 365).

The semantic meaning in all four monitored languages is the same. Nevertheless, the literal meaning in Russian language has nothing in common with parts of human body and it refers to a topic of urbanization or living. Compared to the English idiom, where "It stands like a SORE THUMB", Czech and German idiom operate both with the phrase "LIKE A FIST ON AN EYE".

- **Get something into one's thick head**

The idiom belongs to category of *pure idioms*.

The semantic meaning in all monitored languages is believed to be the same according to academic dictionaries. However, it is obvious from the table, that it significantly differs in the literal meaning as English idiom contains HEAD, Czech and German contain EARS and the Russian one works with NOSE.

Moreover, the English version with “*THICK*” can be classified as *synonym* of “*STUPID*” or “*SLOW TO LEARN OR UNDERSTAND*” (Oxford Wordpower Dictionary, 2006) and consequently together with head, it makes “THICK HEAD”.

McCarthy states that HEAD is used in a number of idioms that relate to emotions and staying calm and in control. Sometimes HEAD is used in idioms to mean the place where ideas or thoughts are produced. (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2002, p. 104)

On the other hand, according to the same author, EARS associate with hearing or listening which is prominent in most of the idioms. (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2002, p. 110)

Finally NOSES are associated with feelings or reactions and involvement. (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2002, p. 110)

All in all, the Czech and German idioms are congruent.

- **It is making my mouth water**

The semantic meaning of the idiom in all four languages is the same and this idiom can be classified as *figurative*.

McCarthy states that MOUTHS are associated with speaking or eating (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2002)

Interestingly, this English and German idiom operates with MOUTH, while in Czech and Russian language, there are SALIVAS.

From the paradigmatic relation point of view, SALIVAS are *congruent meronymy* of MOUTH.

As far as verbs in all listed idioms, they all show the process of activity related to *WATER*

- **It is on the tip of my tongue**

The semantic meaning of all monitored languages is congruent and from the point of category of idiomaticity, this is a *semi-idiom*.

There is also a 100% congruence in the part of body used in this idiom in all languages, which is “TONGUE”. However, English idiom operates with “TIP OF TONGUE”. Despite the congruence in the use of part of a body, the verbs describing the activity in the idiom differ in all languages. English idiom works with primary verb “TO BE”

and the Czech idiom with primary verb “TO HAVE GOT”, which both show only *the state*. Similarly, in German idiom we can feel, there is no movement inside the mouth, as sth.is just “LYING on the TONGUE”. Nevertheless, Russian idiom seems to show much more adrenalin, as sth.is “SPINNING on the TONGUE”.

According to McCarthy, TONGUES are associated with speaking. (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2002, p. 110)

- **Twist somebody round your little finger**

It is said, that idioms connected with the HAND / FINGER, THUMB, HAND/ can refer to ownership, control, acting and exercising skills. (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2002)

The semantic meanings in all monitored languages are, according to academic dictionaries, congruent, However, there is a 100% congruence in both, semantic and literal meaning, in German and Czech idiom only, where FINGERS are mentioned. Compared to the English idiom, there is LITTLE FINGER, which is *a hyponymy* to FINGER in the lexical point of view.

The Russian idiom does not contain any parts of human body.

All in all, the English, Czech and German idioms are *semi-idioms*, whereas the Russian idiom is based on phrasal verb TAKE OVER, which together with POWER creates *a pure idiom*.

- **Be all fingers and thumbs**

From the lexical point of view, all idioms relate to HANDS, being the *hypernymy* to FINGERS AND THUMBS.

The semantic meaning in all four languages is congruent, however the literal translations differ. While Czech and German idioms refer to LEFT HANDS / with the same semantic meaning, where left hand is supposed to be clumsy, because most people are right handed/, it does not show the same idea in English or Russian idiom. Compared to the Czech, German and Russian idiom, which are *semi-idioms*, the English idiom is *a pure idiom*.

- **Pull somebody's leg**

As far as qualification, this idiom is *a pure idiom*.

The semantic meaning in all four monitored languages shows no difference at all. Interestingly, Czech, German and Russian version of the idiom use 100% congruent words in the idiom with verb LEAD and NOSE as a part of human body. However, the English idiom operates with verb PULL / which can be understood as *synonym* to LEAD/ and as far as part of human body, LEG occurs there, which shows a significant distinction.

- **The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing**

This particular idiom is a rare example of a 100% congruence in both, semantic, and literal meaning appeared in all four monitored languages and it is *a pure-idiom*. As far as paradigmatic relation, “LEFT HAND” and “RIGHT HAND” are *doublet synonyms*.

- **Lick someone's arse**

This idiom can be qualified as *figurative* in Czech and German version and as *pure* in English and Russian version. This idiom belongs to informal slang according to the authors of Oxford idioms dictionary (Ashby, 2001, p. 210). There is a 100% congruence in the semantic and literal meaning in English and Russian language, surprisingly, with the action of “LICKING”. However, the Czech and German idiom are also the same, but operating with completely different verb “CREEK”.

On the other hand, (Kolečková & Haupenthal, 2002) introduce an idiom “LECK MICH AM ARSCH!” Translated literally word-for-word to English language as followed: “LICK MY ARSCH!” which is considered vulgar, reflecting strong feelings of disagreement, argument or disgust.

- **It makes my skin crawl**

As far as classification, this idiom is *a pure idiom*.

The semantic meanings in all four monitored languages is the same, however, English idiom is the only one of four, which deals with “CRAWLING SKIN”. In Czech, German and Russian idiom *the metaphor* of “GOOSE SKIN” occurs in the idioms.

Moreover, in the Russian idiom we know the exact place on the body, where the “GOOSE SKIN” is running. It is a “SPINE”.

- **Be soaked to the skin**

This individual idiom is *a semi-idiom*.

The semantic meaning in all monitored languages is the same. Literally, there is a difference in the use of human body part in the English idiom only, where “SKIN” occurs. In Czech, German and Russian idioms BONES are mentioned. However, in the Czech version, you are soaked to the BONE only, not BONES as in German and Russian language.

Moreover, English, Czech and Russian idiom operates with the verb BE SOAKED as the structure *BE+ ADJECTIVE*, whereas the German counterpart uses the term BE THROUGH, which is verb *BE+PREPOSITION*

- **Have got somebody in the palm of your hand**

This individual idiom is classified as a *semi-idiom*. There is a 100% congruence in semantic meanings in all monitored languages. However, the idioms differ from the point of *INTENSITY*.

While the English idiom uses “PALM OF HAND” to show the domination over somebody, Czech and German variants have “SOMEBODY UNDER THUMB” which reflects more intensity if you imagine the situation figuratively: you can only have or keep something (somebody) in your palm but you can use more power to press something (somebody) with your thumb. The Russian idiom version, however, shows the most intensive way how to keep somebody under control using “HEEL”. Compared to parts of hands (PALM, THUMB), if you tread something (somebody) with your heels, he/she has no chance to escape at all.

- **He has got a frog in his throat**

There is a 100% congruence in semantic meanings in all monitored languages. This particular idiom belongs to *semi-idioms*.

In English, Czech and German language, the idiom operates with THROAT. However, the Czech word “KRK” refers to surface part of human body in Czech language and the English counterpart for “KRK” is NECK. THROAT can be also understood as *congruent meronym* to NECK. However, registered Czech-English and English-Czech dictionaries include the translation THROAT as well, even there exists accurate translation for THROAT, which is HRDLO. (Oxford studijní slovník, 2010) The example of distinction between these two words is obvious from German variant of the idiom. It operates with “HALS”, which is

the meaning of THROAT even there is also word “der GENICK” which means NECK in German language.

Interestingly, both Czech and German idiom “HAVE DUMPLING” in the throat which is associated with their cuisine, where Russian idiom has “PORRIDGE” in the MOUTH, because porridge is Russian national cuisine.

However, I have no idea, why English idiom includes FROG.

- **It is preying on my mind**

The semantic meanings in all monitored languages are the same and the type of this clause idiom is *pure idiom*.

While English idiom operates with MIND, the other languages use HEAD. The relation between MIND and HEAD is as followed: “MIND is a part of your BRAIN that thinks and remembers” (Oxford Wordpower Dictionary, 2006, p. 461), “BRAIN is the part of your body inside your HEAD that controls your thoughts, feelings and movements. (Oxford Wordpower Dictionary, 2006, p. 83)

To sum up the relations, MIND is *congruent meronym* of BRAIN and BRAIN is *congruent meronym* of HEAD.

The Czech word for “MIND” is “MYSL” which is rarely represented in Czech idioms, even the idioms relate to thinking. “HEAD”, on the other hand, is mostly used in such idioms.

As far as the verbs used in these idioms, “PREY” and “DRILL” show slight similarity in action compared to “SPOOKE” and “SIT” with no similarity.

- **Loosen somebody’s tongue**

This individual clause idiom shows 100% congruence in both, semantic and literal meaning of all four monitored languages. This particular idiom is *semi-idiom* referred to Oxford Dictionary of Current Idiomatic English. (Cowie, Mackin, & McCaig, 1993).

- **Face the music**

The semantic meaning in all monitored idioms is 100% congruent. The English and German idiom version is *a pure idiom* while the Czech and Russian example is *a semi-idiom*.

As far as parts of human body, in the English idiom, there is FACE in function of verb, as it shows a *noun-verb conversion* from the lexical point of view.

Nevertheless, English and Russian idioms operate with “FACE”, while Czech and German idioms include “FOREHEAD” Foreheads are faces’ *hyponyms* in paradigmatic relation.

- **Not harm a hair of somebody’s head**

The semantic meaning in all four monitored languages is 100% congruent. Compared to Russian idiom, which operates with “FINGER” in the idiom, other idioms deal with “HAIR”

As far as verbs used in idioms, in Czech and German idiom, there is the same verb “DISTORT”, which can be qualified as *contextual synonym* to the verb occurring in English idiom- “HARM”, but with no relation with Russian idiom verb “TOUCH”

The idioms are all *pure idioms*

- **Not lift a finger (to do something)**

The semantic meanings in all monitored clause idioms is 100% the same. However, in literal word for word translation, difference in verbs is obvious. English idiom verb “LIFT” in collocation with “FINGER” can be classified as *synonym* to other, Czech and German idiom verb “MOVE” However, there is no paradigmatic relation between the Russian idiom verb “STRIKE” and other idiom verbs.

The idioms belong to a category of *pure idioms*.

- **Take to your heels**

The semantic meaning of clause idioms in all four monitored languages is 100% congruent. From syntagmatic point of view, the English idiom misses direct object compared to all other counterparts. German and Russian clause idiom is congruent, however, German people are obviously stronger than Russian, while they “take legs in THE HAND” (singular), while the Russian idiom operates with “HANDS” (plural).

All in all, these idioms are *pure idioms*.

- **Have got one foot in the grave**

The semantic meaning in all four monitored clause idioms is 100% congruent.

The idioms can be classified as *figurative semi-idioms*. From the paradigmatic relation point of view, there are relation between “FOOT” and “LEG” The relation is *congruent meronym*.

The verb in Czech idiom differs from the others, as it contains only *a state (copular) verb* “BE” while the other idioms operate with *full verb* “STAND”.

- **Be head over heels in love**

These clause idioms are all *pure idioms* with 100% congruent semantic meaning. Czech, German and Russian versions of the idiom have “EARS” as the main part of human body related to ‘placing the feeling of love’, while English idiom operates with “HEAD over HEELS”. There is no paradigmatic relation between “EARS” and “HEAD over HEELS”.

On the other hand, the idiomatic collocation “HEAD over HEELS” belongs to group of *antonyms, as directional opposition, antipodal* as far as paradigmatic relations.

Pointing out the verb in the idioms, all languages operate with verb “BE” followed my *complement* “IN LOVE”

- **Not have the heart (to do something)**

The semantic meaning in all monitored clause idioms is the same. The English, Czech and German idioms are equal in both, semantic and literal meaning. The Russian idiom operates with human body part “MIND” compared to the other idioms with “HEART”.

However, both are *abstract nouns* in the meaning of idiomaticity, so they could be considered as *co-hyponyms*.

These analysed idioms belong to category of *pure idioms*

4.4. Analysis of congruence in English, Czech, German and Russian idioms

Based on 30 tables with English human body idioms and their counterparts in Czech, German and Russian language, a table was created to show the occurrence of congruent lexical units involved in each individual idiom. Appendix 3 shows that only three English idioms out of thirty contain the same part of human body and also the same verb structure in all other monitored languages- in Czech, German and Russian language. These are:

- **“Turn one’s nose up to something”**

- **“The left hand doesn’t know what the right hand is doing”**
- **“Loosen somebody’s tongue”**

The aim of this table is to highlight dissimilarity in use of particular idioms which is, in my opinion, based on different people’s sentience. The other idioms differ at least in one language counterpart.

4.5. Questionnaires analysis

In the second analysing part of the thesis I would like to present the analysis of English and Czech questionnaires from the comparing point of view.

In the analysis, 23 respondents filled in the English questionnaire and 23 respondents filled in the Czech questionnaire. The questionnaires are focused on 14 human body idioms. The plan was to get more than 20 respondents. Honestly, I was hoping to get more than 40 respondents. Sadly, the truth is, that people are not willing to fill in questionnaires and this thesis section of persuading and begging young English and Czech people to spend about 10 minutes filling in, was one of the most exhausting sections indeed.

In the analysis I am mostly going to concentrate on the differences in English and Czech respondent answers relating to human body idioms. Moreover, if there is an evident distinction in sections referred to frequency or opinion over each individual idiom, this will also be registered in the analysis.

All question types are listed in the Methods part of the thesis.

The English questionnaire was finally filled by 21 English and 2 Scottish. The Czech questionnaire was filled by Czech only.

Idiom “*Turn one’s nose up at something*” vs “*Ohrnovat nad něčím nos*”

As far as frequency of use, 30% of English/Scottish respondents never use this idiom in everyday life compared to 9% of Czech respondents

Only 57% of English respondents think this idiom is commonly used in contrast with 87% Czech respondents with the same opinion.

Two young English/Scottish people *do not know* the semantic meaning of the idiom and one Czech filled in inappropriate explanation of the semantic meaning: “*Jsem zamilovaný*”

po uši” which equals English idiom: “*I am head over heels in love*” but has no relation with “*Turn one’s nose up at something*”

As far as respondents’ alternative idiom having the same semantic meaning, three Czech wrote down similar alternatives, but not idiomatic: “*Být fajnovka*” (Be fancy), “*Být vybíravý*” (Be choosy/picky) and “*Něco ti nevoní*” (Sth does not smell good to you).

However, two of English/Scottish respondents present these alternatives: “*Look down on something*” which is an alternative idiom listed in Oxford Idioms dictionary for learners of English; and “*Contempt prior to investigate*” This “saying” is not mentioned in idiomatic dictionaries.

Idiom “*Not turn a hair*” vs “*Nehnout ani brvou*”

48% queried English/Scottish state they *do not know* the meaning of the idiom. All Czech respondents tried to rewrite the meaning of the idiom, but 22% of them have misleading explanations. They think “*Nehnout ani brvou*” means “*Být líný*” = “*To be lazy*”.

As far as the frequency of use, 44% Czech say they *never* use this idiom compared to 73% of English/Scottish.

43% of English/Scottish think that this idiom is *archaic*, compared to only 18% of Czech respondents.

As far as respondents’ alternative idiom having the same semantic meaning, four of the Czech misunderstood the idiom as they think “*Nehnout ani prstem*” (Not lift a finger) is synonymy of “*Nehnout ani brvou*” (Not turn a hair). These two idioms are different as the second one is about not showing any emotion when others expect you to, but the first one entails that you are not making any effort to do sth (help sb) (Ashby, 2001).

Two English/Scottish state, they use an alternative idiom “*Not bat an eyelid*”, which is synonymy to “*Not turn a hair*”.

Idiom “*Poke/stick your nose into something*” vs “*Strkat do něčeho rypák*”

Interestingly, 100% of Czech respondents say this idiom is *commonly used* in comparison with 63% of English/Scottish respondents.

20% of Czech people introduced another idiom with the same semantic meaning: four people substitute the pejorative “*snout*” with “*nose*”, one says “*Sere se tam, kam nemá*” (He is

shitting where he is not supposed to) which is vulgar. However, this idiom is not mentioned in academic sources. Another equivalent is “*Plést se do cizích věcí*” (Meddle in unfamiliar matters).

As far as English/Scottish respondents, 20% of them wrote an alternative to negative imperative form of given idiom: “*Do not stick your nose into it*” = “*Mind your own business*”, one person thought of an alternative “*Nosey Parker*” which is considered old fashioned according to the dictionary (Ashby, 2001).

One English/Scottish person misunderstood the meaning and came with an alternative “*Busy little bee*” which means “hardworking”.

Idiom “*Pour one’s heart out to somebody*” vs “*Vylít si své srdce*”

As far as the frequency of the usage, Czech people seem to be pouring their hearts much more often than the English. 47% of Czech *often* use the idiom, while only 7% of English do so.

Nevertheless, 100% queried Czech and English/Scottish understand the semantic meaning of the idiom.

Two English/Scottish people out of twenty-three wrote an alternative form of the idiom; one is: “*Wear heart on sleeve*” and the second one: “*Open your heart*” (Ashby, 2001). Both forms are idiomatic and synonymous to “*Pour one’s heart to somebody*”.

Three Czech out of twenty-three wrote an alternative form of the idiom; two of them would say “*Jsem jedno velké ucho*” (I am one big ear) which is equal to an English idiom “*I am all ears*” This alternative is possible in such situations like: A: Oh, dear, I am completely desperate! B: I am all ears! (the meaning of “Pour your heart to me!”).

Another Czech alternative is expressive, very informal “*Vyblít se někomu*” (Vomit up to somebody) This idiom is not mentioned in academic dictionaries.

Idiom “*Turn a blind eye (to something)*” vs “*Zavírat před něčím oči*”

96% of Czech respondents recognized the meaning of the idiom in multiple choice question, whereas English/Scottish respondents only comprehended by 83%.

Subsequently the frequency reflects previous data, 74% of Czech respondents think that the idiom is *commonly used*, while only 47% of English/Scottish have the same opinion.

Two Czech questioned people came with feasible alternative idiom, “*Dělat mrtvýho brouka*” (Pretend to be a dead beetle) and the other idiom is “*Strkat hlavu do písku*” (Stick your head into sand) Despite the fact, that both idioms are used and heard by Czech people, the idiom “*Dělat mrtvýho brouka*” is not registered in academic sources.

Other two respondents misunderstood the semantic meaning and brought out wrong counterparts, “*Otočit se k někomu zády*”, which equals to English idiom “*Turn your back on sb/sth*”, which means: to refuse to help or support sb who needs it. (Ashby, 2001).

Another wrong interpretation is “*Mávnout nad čím rukou*”(Wave your hand over something), which is a counterpart to English “*Shrug something off*”, according to Czech Phraseological and idiomatic dictionary (Řešetka, 1999).

One out of twenty-three English/Scottish respondents came with an alternative form of the idiom “*Stick head in sand*”, which is a common Czech idiom and it is also listed in English dictionaries as “*Bury your head in the sand*” (Ashby, 2001).

Idiom “*To be bone idle*” vs “*Být líná kůže*”

This idiom shows manifestly different frequency of usage within English and Czech people. While only 30% of Czech say, they *never* use it, the percentage of 48% is the result among English/Scottish respondents. Moreover, 74% Czech find the idiom *commonly used*, while only 30% of English/Scottish do so.

50% of Czech respondents pointed out another variant of given idiom in a form as “simile”, such as: “*Líný jako veš*” (Řešetka, 1999) (Lazy like a louse), “*Líný jako prase*” (Řešetka, 1999) (Lazy like a pig),

However, these next idioms/similes have not been listed in academic sources yet, even they are used among people: “*Líný jako vandrák v létě*” (Lazy like a hobo in summer), “*Línej Arab*” (Lazy Arabian), “*Nemakačenko*” (no equivalent in English), “*Netáhlo*” (no equivalent in English).

Compared to Czech responses, only 20% of English/Scottish people came with another variant of the idiom, such as: “*Lazy bone*”, “*Lazy arse*”, “*Lazy bastard*” and “*Lazyitis*”. However, idiomatic dictionaries introduce only “*Lazy bone*” as open collocation.

Idiom “Live from hand to mouth” vs “Žít z ruky do huby”

Only 45% of English/Scottish respondents think the idiom is commonly used compared to 65% of Czech respondents.

Three out of twenty-three English/Scottish respondents came with another suitable variant of the idiom, such as: “Living on the bread line”, “Can’t make ends meet” and “To be JAMing”. All mentioned idioms can be taken as synonyms to the idiom “Live from hand to mouth” as they all refer to people having problems with money. Moreover, they are all listed in academic sources. (Ashby, 2001). Surprisingly, the idiom “To be in a jam” is explained as “Be in a difficult situation” (Ashby, 2001) without detail explanation of JAM. One of the respondents, however, unpuzzles the abbreviation as “Just About Managing”.

Twelve out of twenty-three Czech respondents came with another suitable variant of the idiom, such as: “Žít od výplaty k výplatě” (Live from paycheck to paycheck), “Mít hluboko do kapsy” (Has got deep pockets) and “Chodit s holým zadkem” (Go with bare bum)

The idiom “Mít hluboko do kapsy” has its counterpart in English “Be hard up” (Řešetka, 1999) and the same source also introduces a counterpart to “Chodit s holým zadkem” as “Go around bare-arsed” (Řešetka, 1999).

One Czech respondent came with alternative idiom “Žít ze dne na den” (Live from one day to another), which is misunderstood. This individual idiom expresses that the person does not think about future. The English counterpart to this idiom is “Have no thought for the morrow” (Řešetka, 1999).

Idiom “He is lying through his teeth” vs “Lže, až se mu od huby práší”

The most significant difference is shown in the opinion question, where 57% of English/Scottish respondents think, the idiom is archaic, compared to 17% of Czech. However, approximately the same number of respondents say, they never use this idiom 45/52%.

Two out of twenty-three English/Scottish respondents came with an alternative form of the idiom, such as: “He is shitting me” and “I wouldn’t trust him as far as I could throw him”. None of these alternatives is registered in academic sources.

Ten out of twenty-three Czech respondents also came with alternative forms of the idiom, mostly in a form of a simile, such as: “Lže, jako když tiskne” (He/she is lying as he is

printing), “*Lže jako cikán*” (He/she is lying like a gypsy), “*Lže, až se hory zelenají*” (He/she is lying that much that the mountains are getting green), “*Valí do mě klíny*” (He/she is rolling wedges into me), “*Namotává mě*” (He/she is winding me up), “*Kecá*” (He/she is talking rubbish).

Despite common usage of these alternatives among the Czech people, only two of them are listed in academic sources: “*Lže, jako když tiskne*” as “*He/she lies like the gasmeter*” (Řešetka, 1999) and “*Kecá*” as “*He/she talks rubbish*” (Řešetka, 1999).

Idiom “*It stands out like a sore thumb*” vs “*Je to jako pěst na oko*”

The most significant differences are shown in the opinion question, where 43% of English/Scottish respondents claim, this individual idiom is *archaic*, compared to 13% of Czech respondents, and in the question about frequency of use, where 52% of English/Scottish respondents state, they *never* use this idiom in comparison with 23% of Czech respondents.

Moreover, the English/Scottish respondents do not use another alternative idiom, while three out of twenty-three Czech respondents wrote these alternatives: “*Něco moc křičí*” (Something is screaming too much), which is not registered in academic sources, and “*Je to do očí bijící*” (It is eyes striking). This idiom has its English counterpart “It is painfully conspicuous” (Řešetka, 1999). Another alternative is introduced as “*Nehodí se to k sobě*” (It doesn’t match together), which is not idiomatic.

Idiom “*Get something into one’s thick head*” vs “*Zapiš si to za uši*”

As far as the opinion over this individual idiom, only 30% of English/Scottish respondents think, this idiom is *commonly used* compared to 90% of Czech respondents.

Another evident difference is seen in frequency of usage, where 70% of English/Scottish respondents say, they *never* use this idiom compared to 22% of Czech.

Nevertheless 90% of both monitored groups of people do not operate with an alternative idiom with the same semantic meaning. Two out of twenty-three English/Scottish respondents came with idiom “*Get it into your skull*” and three out of twenty-three Czech questioned people introduced this alternative: “*Vtluč si to do hlavy*” (Beat it in your head), which is not considered as a registered idiom according to academic sources.

One of twenty-three English/Scottish respondents misunderstood the semantic meaning of the idiom and introduced this alternative: “*Banging head against a brick wall*”, which means- to try for long time to achieve sth, persuade sb to do sth, etc. without success. (Ashby, 2001).

Idiom “*It is making my mouth water*” vs “*Sbíhají se mi sliny*”

This idiom is the only monitored idiom, which is used every day by two of twenty-three Czech respondents.

87% of the English/Scottish respondents think the idiom is commonly used compared to 100% of Czech respondents.

One English/Scottish questioned person introduced an alternative idiom: “*I am salivating*” and also one Czech person noted an alternative: “*Mám hlad jako vlk*” (I am hungry like a wolf). This equals the English idiom “*I could eat a horse*” (Řešetka, 1999). However, the semantic meaning is not 100% congruent. “*Make sb’s mouth water*” means – make sb feel hungry, while “*I could eat a horse*” means- I am very hungry. (Ashby, 2001).

Idiom “*It is on the tip of my tongue*” vs “*Mám to na jazyku*”

As far as the opinion over this idiom, 83% of English/Scottish respondents think, it is commonly used compared to 100% Czech.

Everybody understands the semantic meaning and the usage of the idiom. Only one Czech respondent came with an alternative “saying”: “*Jak se tomu nadává?*” (How do you call that shit?), which is not registered as idiomatic.

Idiom “*Twist somebody around your little finger*” vs “*Omotat si někoho kolem prstu*”

90% of all English/Scottish respondents and 80% of Czech understand the idiom fully. Interestingly, four Czech respondents out of twenty-three rewrote the idiom incorrectly in their own words. They wrote following explanations:

“*Přesvědčovat někoho jiného o mém názoru*” (Convince sb else about my opinion)

“*Je poslušný jako pes*” (He/she is obedient like a dog)

“*Mít na někoho velký vliv*” (Have a big influence on somebody)

“*Někoho navnadit*” (Whet sb’s appetite)

As far as alternative idioms, three of twenty-three English/Scottish respondents came with these: “*Somebody is whipped*” and “*Have somebody under the thumb*”.

Nevertheless, two out of twenty-three Czech respondents introduced wrong alternatives to the idiom, such as: “*Mít někoho na háku*” (Have somebody on the hook), which is commonly used Czech idiom meaning “Not care about sb at all”, however it is not registered in academic sources. The other misleading alternative form is: “*Zamilovaný až po uši*” (In love up to the ears) which equals English idiom “Be head over heels in love”.

Two out of twenty-three Czech respondents came with proper alternative idioms: “*Mít někoho v hrsti*” (Have somebody in the palm of your hand) and “*Skáče, jak píská*” (He hops the way he/she whistles). “*Skáče, jak píská*” equals the registered idiom “*Tancuje, jak někdo píská*” with English counterpart “*Dance to someone’s tune*” (Řešetka, 1999).

Idiom “*Be all fingers and thumbs*” vs “*Být levý na obě ruce*”

Every questioned person comprehended the meaning of the idiom. However, 80% of Czech respondents think, the idiom is commonly used compared to 31% of the English/Scottish respondents.

80% English/Scottish respondents and 70% Czech do not use another alternative idiom.

Four out of twenty-three English/Scottish state, they would say “*Butterfingers*” and one wrote an alternative: “*Cal handed*”.

Czech alternative idioms are mostly in a form of a simile. These are: “*Je levej jako turecká šavle*” (He is left like Turkish sabre), “*Je levej jak šavle*” (He is left like sabre), “*Je šikovnej jak hrábě do kapsy*” (He is handy like rake into a pocket). All mentioned similes are used among people, however, only “*Je levej jak šavle*” is listed in academic dictionaries with its counterpart “*Be all fingers and thumbs*”. (Řešetka, 1999).

The other alternative idiom introduced by one of Czech respondents is: “*Má olšové ruce*” (He/She has got alder hands), which is not registered in academic sources.

5 CONCLUSION

Human body lexical items in a form of clause idioms are parts of every single human being's life from the point of communication.

As the first aim of the thesis was to show diversity in the usage of such idioms in a cross-cultural comparison, I succeeded in meeting the target via creating tables with English idioms, their counterparts in Czech, German and Russian language, and with the consecutive analysis.

The second aim of the thesis was to analyse the questionnaires filled in by young English and Czech people to elicit whether they understand the human body idioms or not, together with other associated information relating to idiom usage and comprehension. While working on the thesis I found out that academic sources, such phraseological and idiomatic dictionaries do not operate with all lexical items which are used among people. The reason is the fact that language has been in a phase of development since human beings started to use language as a tool of communication. Due to this fact, it is impossible to get valid current statistics and data which would reflect the usage of idioms among people and therefore the second aim of this thesis cannot be successfully reached.

As far as the thesis questionnaire facts, it shows that young English/Scottish people use idioms related to human body less often than young Czech people in general. The other fact taken from the questionnaire analysis is that English/Scottish respondents more often find analysed idioms archaic compared to Czech respondents. However, this information does not give an answer to a question whether today's young generation comprehend idiomatic structures or not. The survey only reflects the fact that young respondents do not often operate with idiomatic structures registered in academic sources, such phraseological and idiomatic dictionaries.

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Appendix 1: Table of 30 English clause idioms

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	SEMANTIC MEANING	EXAMPLE	ORIGIN
TURN ONE'S NOSE UP AT SOMETHING (informal)	refuse or reject sth because you do not think it is good enough for you	You shouldn't turn your nose up at 200 pounds a week. It's better than nothing.	unknown
NOT TURN A HAIR	not show strong emotion like fear, surprise or excitement, when others expect you to	He didn't turn a hair when the judge gave him a 20 year prison sentence.	This term comes from horse racing. After a race, a horse often has roughened outwards - turned hair. It's figurative use, nearly always in the negative, dates from the late 1800 s. (Ammer, 1997)
POKE /STICK/ YOUR NOSE IN/INTO SOMETHING (informal)	interfere in the affairs or business of other people	She is always sticking her nose into other people's affairs. It's really annoying.	unknown
POUR ONE'S HEART OUT (to somebody)	tell sb all about your troubles, feelings, etc	When I asked her what was the matter, she burst into tears and poured out her heart to me.	unknown
TURN A BLIND EYE (to something)	pretend not to see sth or know about sth	There's so much suffering in the world, you can't just turn a blind eye to it.	This expression is believed to come from the siege of Copenhagen (1801), in which Lord Horatio Nelson, second in command of the English fleet, was ordered to withdraw but pretended not to see the flag ship's signals to do so by putting his glass the eye that had been blinded in an earlier battle. His attack led to a major victory. (Ammer, 1997)

BE BONE IDLE (informal)	(of a person) very lazy	The boy has a good enough brain but he's bone idle and won't study.	unknown
LIVE FROM HAND TO MOUTH	spend all the money you earn on basic needs such as food, without being able to save any money	There's no way we can even think about going on holiday this year, as we are literally living from hand to mouth	unknown
LIE THROUGH YOUR TEETH	tell very obvious lies without being embarrassed	The witness clearly lying through his teeth.	unknown
STAND/STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB	Be very obvious or noticeable in an unpleasant way	He's going to stick out like a sore thumb if he doesn't wear a suit to the wedding.	unknown
GET STH INTO ONE'S (THICK) HEAD (informal)	succeed in understanding or in making sb understand fully	When are you going to get in into your thick head that you don't need to worry about money?	unknown
MAKE SB'S MOUTH WATER	make sb feel hungry- make sb want to do or have sth very much	The smell of your cooking is making my mouth water.	unknown
BE ON THE TIP OF YOUR TONGUE	used when you are speaking and cannot remember a word, name, etc but feel that you will remember it very soon	What's her name? You know, that tall Italian girl...It's on the tip of my tongue... Claudia, that's it!	unknown
TWIST SB AROUND YOUR LITTLE FINGER (informal)	be able to persuade or influence sb very easily, usually because they like you	I can twist my parent round my little finger.	unknown

BE ALL THUMBS / BE ALL FINGERS AND THUMBS/	be unable to hold sth without dropping or damaging it - be clumsy	He's all thumbs when it comes to fixing machines.	Originated in Britain, 19th century A variant of the 16th century expr. each finger was a thumb' (www.phrases.org.uk)
PULL SB'S LEG (informal)	tell sb sth which is not true, as a joke	You came first! You've won the prize! "Really?" Or are you just pulling my leg?	Originated in the USA, 19th cent. (www.phrases.org.uk)
THE LEFT HAND DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT HAND IS DOING (informal)	one part of an organization, group, etc. does not know what another part is doing	First I got a letter from them saying they couldn't return my money, and then the next day they sent me a cheque. Obviously the left hand doesn't know what the right hands doing.	unknown
LICK SOMEONE'S ARSE (slang)	show too much respect for sb in authority because you want to please them	It makes me very angry when I see Andrew licking Ms Smith's 'arse' all the time.	unknown
MAKE (your) SKIN CRAWL	make you feel afraid of full of disgust	It makes my skin crawl when I think of what he might have done to me. Thank God, you were here!	Originated in Britain, 15th cent. (www.phrases.org.uk)
BE SOAKED TO THE SKIN (of a person)	be/get very wet	Don't go out in this rain- you'll get soaked to the skin	The implication in this idiom implies that water has penetrated one's clothing, so one is thoroughly wet. The phrase <i>to the skin</i> has been so used since about 1600- it and the variant were combined in Randle Cotgrave's Dictionary (1611) as "Wet through, or to the skin." (Ammer, 1997)

HAVE GOT SB IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND	have sb completely under your control or influence	Her boyfriend will do anything for her. She's got him in the palm of her hand.	unknown
HAVE GOT A FROG IN SB'S THROAT (informal)	not be able to speak clearly because your throat is sore, you want to cough, etc.	She had a frog in her throat, so she had a drink of water before she went on speaking.	unknown
PREY ON SB'S MIND	worry or trouble sb very much	The death of his father is really preying on his mind at the moment. He thinks it was his fault.	unknown
LOOSEN SB'S TONGUE	make sb talk more freely than usual	A bottle of wine had loosened Harry's tongue.	unknown
FACE THE MUSIC (informal)	accept criticism, the difficulties and unpleasant results that your words or actions may cause	He's been cheating us out of our money for years and now it's time for him to face the music.	This idiom might come from the days when, if a soldier was dismissed from his regiment, he was drummed out, which meant that the reason(s) for his dismissal were read out in front of the whole group while someone beat the drums. /Second half of 1800s/ (Ashby, 2001)
NOT HARM A HAIR OF SB'S HEAD	not hurt sb physically in any way at all	If he harms a hair of my daughter's head, I'll kill him.	unknown
NOT LIFT A FINGER (to do sth)	not make any effort at all to do sth, especially to help sb	He didn't lift a finger to help me when I was in trouble.	unknown

TAKE TO YOUR HEELS	run away very quickly	The burglars took to their heels when they heard the police arrive.	unknown
HAVE GOT ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE (informal, humorous)	be so old or ill that you probably will not live much longer	I may be retired, but that doesn't mean I've got one foot in the grave, you know.	unknown
BE HEAD OVER HEELS IN LOVE	be completely in love	He's head over heels in love with his new girlfriend.	This expression originated in the 1300s as heels over head and meant literally being upside down. It took its present form in the 1700s and its present meaning in the 1800s. (Ammer, 1997)
NOT HAVE THE HEART (to do sth)	not be able or willing to do sth which could hurt sb else	I didn't have the heart to take the money from him- it was all he had.	unknown

Appendix 2: Table 30 tables containing English clause idioms with Czech, German, Russian counterparts, their literal-word for word translation + analysis

Table “Turn one’s **nose** up to something”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	TURN ONE’S NOSE UP TO STH
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	OHRNOVAT NAD NĚČÍM NOS
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	TURN (one’s) NOSE OVER STH
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	DIE NASE ÜBER ETWAS RÜMPFEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	TURN THE NOSE OVER STH
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ВОРОТИТЬ НОС ОТ ЧЕГО
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	TURN (one’s) NOSE OVER STH

Table “Not turn a **hair**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	NOT TURN A HAIR
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	NEHNOUT ANI BRVOU
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	NOT TURN A CILIUM
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	NICHT MIT DER WIMPER ZUCKEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	NOT WINCE AN EYELASH
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	БРОВЬЮ НЕ ПОВЕСТИ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	NOT TURN AN EYEBROW

Table “Poke your **nose** into something”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	POKE YOUR NOSE INTO STH
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	STRKAT DO NĚČEHO RYPÁK
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	POKE (your) SNOUT INTO STH
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	SEINE NASE HINEINSTECKEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	POKE YOUR NOSE INTO STH
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	COBATЬ СВОЙ НОС ВО ЧТО
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	POKE YOUR NOSE INTO STH

Table: “Pour one’s **heart** out to somebody”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	POUR ONE’S HEART OUT TO SB
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	VYLÍT SI SVÉ SRDCE
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	POUR ONE’S HEART OUT
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	JEMANDEN SEIN HERZ AUSSCHÜTTEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	POUR ONE’S HEART OUT TO SB
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ИЗЛИТЬ ДУШУ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	POUR ONE’S SOUL

Table: “Turn a blind **eye**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	TURN A BLIND EYE
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	ZAVÍRAT PŘED NĚČÍM OČI
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	CLOSE ONEŠ EYES TO STH
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	DIE AUGEN VOR ETWAS VERSCHLIESSEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	CLOSE ONEŠ EYES TO STH
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ЗАКРЫВАТЬ ГЛАЗА НА ЧТО
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	CLOSE ONEŠ EYES TO STH

Table: “He/she is **bone** idle”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	HE/SHE IS BONE IDLE
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	JE LÍNÁ KŮŽE
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	HE/SHE IS A LAZY SKIN
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ER/SIE IST EIN FAULES SCHWEIN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	HE/SHE IS A LAZY PIG
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ОН/ОНА ЛЕЖЕБОКА
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	HE/SHE IS A LAZY HIP

Table: “Live from **hand** to **mouth**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	LIVE FROM HAND TO MOUTH
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	ŽÍT Z RUKY DO HUBY
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	LIVE FROM HAND TO GOB
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	VON DER HAND IN DEN MUND LEBEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	LIVE FROM HAND TO MOUTH
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ПЕРЕБИВАТЬСЯ С ХЛЕБА НА ВОДУ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	STRUGGLE THROUGH (life) FROM BREAD TO WATER

Table: “He is lying through his **teeth**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	HE IS LYING THROUGH HIS TEETH
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	LŽE, AŽ SE MU OD HUBY PRAŠÍ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	HE IS LYING THAT MUCH THAT DUST IS GOING OUT OF HIS GOB
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ER LÜGT DASS SICH DIE BALKEN BIEGEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	HE IS LYING THAT MUCH THAT THE BEAM IS BENDING
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	УШИ ВЯНУТ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	EARS ARE FADING

Table: “It stands out like a sore **thumb**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	IT STANDS OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	JE TO JAKO PĚST NA OKO
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	IT IS LIKE A FIST ON AN EYE
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	DAS PASST WIE DIE FAUST AUF S AUGEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	IT MATCHES LIKE A FIST ON AN EYE
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	НИ К СЕЛУ, НИ К ГОРОДУ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	NOT A <i>VILLAGE</i> , NOR A <i>TOWN</i>

Table: “Get something into one’s thick **head**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	GET STH INTO ONE’S THICK HEAD
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	ZAPSAT SI NĚCO ZA UŠI
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	WRITE STH BEHIND ONE’S EARS
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	SICH ETWAS HINTER DIE OHREN SCHREIBEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	WRITE STH BEHIND ONE’S EARS
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ЗАРУБИТЬ СЕБЕ ЧТО НА НОСУ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	MAKE ONESELF A NOTCH ON A NOSE

Table: “It is making my **mouth** water”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	IT IS MAKING MY MOUTH WATER
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	SBÍHAJÍ SE MI SLINY
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-CZECH-ENGLISH	MY SALIVAS ARE RUNNING TOGETHER
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	MIR WÄSSERT DER MUND
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-GERMAN-ENGLISH	MY MOUTH IS WATERING
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	У МЕНЯ СЛЮHKИ ТЕКУТ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	MY SALIVAS ARE FLOWING

Table: “It is on the tip of my **tongue**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	IT IS ON THE TIP OF MY TONGUE
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	MÁM TO NA JAZYKU
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-CZECH-ENGLISH	I HAVE GOT IT ON MY TONGUE
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ES LIEGT MIR AN DER ZUNGE
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-GERMAN-ENGLISH	IT IS LYING ON MY TONGUE
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	У МЕНЯ ЭТО ВЕРТИТЬСЯ НА ЯЗЫКЕ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	IT IS SPINNING ON MY TONGUE

Table: “Twist somebody round your **little finger**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	TWIST SOMEBODY ROUND YOUR LITTLE FINGER
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	OMOTAT SI NĚKOHO KOLEM PRSTU
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-CZECH-ENGLISH	TWIST SOMEBODY ROUND YOUR FINGER
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	JEMANDEN UM DEN FINGER WICKELN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-GERMAN-ENGLISH	TWIST SOMEBODY ROUND A FINGER
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ВЗЯТЬ НАД КЕМ ПОЛНУЮ ВЛАСТЬ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	TAKE ABSOLUTE POWER OVER SOMEBODY

Table: “Be all **fingers** and **thumbs**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	BE ALL FINGERS AND THUMBS
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	BÝT LEVÝ NA OBĚ RUCI
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-CZECH-ENGLISH	BE LEFTHANDED IN BOTH HANDS
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ER HAT ZWEI LINKE HÄNDE
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-GERMAN-ENGLISH	HE HAS GOT TWO LEFT HANDS
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	У НЕГО РУКИ НЕ ТЕМ КОНЦОМ БОТКНУТЫ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	HIS HANDS ARE NOT STICKED BY THAT END

Table: “Pull somebody’s **leg**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	PULL SOMEBODY’S LEG
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	VODIT NĚKOHO ZA NOS
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	LEAD SOMEBODY BY THE NOSE
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	JEMANDEN AN DER NASE HERUM FÜHREN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	LEAD SOMEBODY ROUND BY THE NOSE
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ВОДИТЬ КОГО ЗА НОС
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	LEAD SOMEBODY BY THE NOSE

Table: “The **left hand** doesn’t know what the **right hand** is doing”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	THE LEFT HAND DOESN’T KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT HAND IS DOING
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	LEVÁ RUKA NEVÍ, CO DĚLÁ PRAVÁ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	THE LEFT HAND DOESN’T KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT HAND IS DOING
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	DIE LINKE HAND WEISS NICHT WAS DIE RECHTE TUT
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	THE LEFT HAND DOESN’T KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT HAND IS DOING
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ЛЕВАЯ РУКА НЕ ВЕДЕЕТ ЧТО ДЕЛАЕТ ПРАВАЯ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	THE LEFT HAND DOESN’T KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT HAND IS DOING

Table: “Lick someone’s **arse**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	LICK SOMEONE’S ARSE
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	LÉZT NĚKOMU DO PRDELE
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	CREEK INTO SOMEONE’S ARSE
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	JEMANDEM IN DEN ARSCH KRIECHEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	CREEK INTO SOMEONE’S ARSE
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ЛИЗАТЬ ЗАДНИЦУ КОМУ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	LICK SOMEONE’S ARSE

Table: “It makes my **skin** crawl”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	IT MAKES MY SKIN CRAWL
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	NASKAKUJE MI Z TOHO HUSÍ KŮŽE
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	<i>GOOSE SKIN</i> IS JUMPING ON ME BECAUSE OF IT
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ICH HABE EINE GÄNSE HAUT BEKOMMEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	I GOT A <i>GOOSE SKIN</i>
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	У МЕНЯ ПО СПИНЕ МУРАШКИ БЕГАЮТ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	<i>GOOSE SKIN</i> IS RUNNING ON MY SPINE

Table: “Be soaked to the **skin**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	BE SOAKED TO THE SKIN
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	BÝT PROMOKLÝ NA KOST
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	BE SOAKED TO THE BONE
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	DURCH BIS AUF DIE KNOCHEN SEIN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	BE THROUGH TO THE BONES
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ПРОМОКШИЙ ДО КОСТЕЙ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	BE SOAKED TO THE BONES

Table: Have got somebody in the **palm** of your **hand**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	HAVE GOT SOMEBODY IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	MÍT NĚKOHO POD PALCEM
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	HAVE GOT SOMEBODY UNDER YOUR THUMB
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	AUF JEMAND DEN DAUMEN HABEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	HAVE GOT A THUMB ON SOMEBODY
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ДЕРЖАТЬ КОГО ПОД КАБЛУКОМ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	KEEP SOMEBODY UNDER THE HEEL

Table: “He has got a frog in his **throat**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	HE HAS GOT A FROG IN HIS THROAT
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	MÁ KNEDLÍK V KRKU
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-CZECH-ENGLISH	HE HAS GOT A DUMPLING IN HIS THROAT
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ER HAT EINEN KLOSS IM HALS
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-GERMAN-ENGLISH	HE HAS GOT A DUMPLING IN HIS THROAT
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	У НЕГО КАША ВО ПТУ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	HE HAS GOT PORRIDGE IN HIS MOUTH

Table: “It is preying on my **mind**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	IT IS PREYING ON MY MIND
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	VRTÁ MI TO HLAVOU
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-CZECH-ENGLISH	IT IS DRILLING THROUGH MY HEAD
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ES SPUKT MIR IM KOPF HERUM
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-GERMAN-ENGLISH	IT IS SPOOKING IN MY HEAD
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ЧТО КРЕПКО СИДИТ У МЕНЯ В ГОЛОВЕ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION-RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	IT FIRMLY SITS IN MY HEAD

Table: “Loosen somebody’s **tongue**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	LOOSEN SOMEBODY’S TONGUE
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	ROZVÁZAT NĚKOMU JAZYK
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	LOOSEN SOMEBODY HIS/HER TONGUE
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	JEMANDEM DIE ZUNGE LÖSEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	LOOSEN SOMEBODY HIS/HER TONGUE
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	РАЗВЯЗАТЬ ЯЗЫК КОМУ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	LOOSEN SOMEBODY HIS/HER TONGUE

Table: “**Face** the music”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	FACE THE MUSIC
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	POSTAVME SE TOMU ČELEM
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	LET’S STAND TOWARD IT WITH OUR FOREHEAD
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	DIE STIRM BIETEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	OFFER A FOREHEAD
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ПОВЕРНУТЬСЯ ЛИЦОМ К ЧЕМУ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	TURN TOWARDS SOMETHING WITH THE FACE

Table: “Not harm a **hair** of somebody’s **head**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	NOT HARM A HAIR OF SOMEBODY’S HEAD
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	NEZKŘIVIT NĚKOMU ANI VLÁSEK
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	NOT EVEN DISTORT A HAIRSPRING OF SOMEBODY
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	JEMANDEM KEIN HAAR KRÜMMEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	NOT DISTORT A HAIR OF SOMEBODY
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	И ПАЛЬЦЕМ НЕ ТРОНУТЬ КОГО
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	NOT EVEN TOUCH SOMEBODY WITH A FINGER

Table: “Not lift a **finger** (to do something)”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	NOT LIFT A FINGER (to do something)
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	NEHNOUT PRO NĚKOHO ANI PRSTEM
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	NOT EVEN MOVE A FINGER FOR SOMEBODY
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	FÜR JEMANDEN KEINEN FINGER RÜHREN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	NOT MOVE A FINGER FOR SOMEBODY
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ПАЛЕЦ О ПАЛЕЦ НЕ УДАРИТЬ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	FINGER WON’T STRIKE THE OTHER FINGER

Table: “Take to your **heels**”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	TAKE TO YOUR HEELS
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	VZÍT NOHY NA RAMENA
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	TAKE LEGS ON SHOULDERS
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	DIE BEINE IN DIE HAND NEHMEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	TAKE LEGS IN THE HAND
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	ВЗЯТЬ НОГИ В РУКИ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	TAKE LEGS IN HANDS

Table: “Have got one **foot** in the grave”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	HAVE GOT ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	BÝT JEDNOU NOHOU V HROBĚ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	BE IN THE GRAVE WITH ONE LEG
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	MIT EINEM FUSS IM GRAB STEHEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	STAND IN THE GRAVE WITH ONE FOOT
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	СТОЯТЬ ОДНОЙ НОГОЙ В МОГИЛЕ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	STAND IN THE GRAVE WITH ONE LEG

Table: “Be **head** over **heels** in love”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	BE HEAD OVER HEELS IN LOVE
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	BÝT ZAMILOVANÝ AŽ PO UŠI
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	BE IN LOVE AS FAR AS THE EARS
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	SICH BIS ÜBER BEIDE OHREN VERLIEBEN SEIN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	BE IN LOVE AS FAR AS BOTH EARS
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	БЫТЬ ВЛЮБЛЁННЫМ ПО УШИ
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	BE IN LOVE AS FAR AS THE EARS

Table: “Not have the **heart** (to do something)”

ENGLISH CLAUSE IDIOM	NOT HAVE THE HEART (to do something)
CZECH IDIOM COUNTERPART	NEMÍT TO SRDCE (něco udělat)
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- CZECH-ENGLISH	NOT HAVE THE HEART (to do something)
GERMAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	NICHT DAS HERZ (zu etwas) HABEN
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- GERMAN-ENGLISH	NOT HAVE THE HEART (to do something)
RUSSIAN IDIOM COUNTERPART	НЕ ХВАТИТЬ ДУХУ СДЕЛАТЬ ЧТО
LITERAL-WORD FOR WORD TRANSLATION- RUSSIAN-ENGLISH	NOT HAVE THE MIND (to do something)

Appendix 3: Analysis of congruence in English, Czech, German and Russian idioms

	ENGLISH IDIOM PART OF HUMAN BODY	CZECH,GERMAN, RUSSIAN LITERALLY TRANSLATED PARTS OF HUMAN BODY IDIOM	RATIO	VERB USED IN ENG. IDIOM	CZECH,GERMAN, RUSSIAN LITERALLY TRANSLATED VERB IN HUMAN BODY IDIOM	RATIO
1	NOSE	NOSE,NOSE,NOSE	3/3	TURN UP	TURN UP, TURN UP, TURN UP	3/3
2	HAIR	CILIUM, EYE LASH, EYEBROW	0/3	TURN	TURN, WINCE, TURN	2/3
3	NOSE	SNOUT, NOSE, NOSE	2/3	POKE	POKE, POKE, POKE	3/3
4	HEART	HEART, HEART, SOUL	2/3	POUR OUT	POUR OUT, POUR OUT, POUR OUT	3/3
5	EYE	EYES, EYES, EYES	3/3	TURN	CLOSE, CLOSE, CLOSE	0/3
6	BONE	SKIN, X, HIP	0/2	BE	BE, X, BE	2/2
7	HAND TO MOUTH	HAND TO MOUTH, HAND TO MOUTH, X	2/2	LIVE	LIVE, LIVE, LIVE	3/3
8	TEETH	GOB, X, EARS	0/2	LIE	GO OUT, X, FADE	0/2
9	THUMB	FIST ON EYE, FIST ON EYE, X	0/2	STAND	BE, MATCH, X	0/2
10	HEAD	EARS, EARS, NOSE	0/3	GET	WRITE, WRITE, MAKE	0/3
11	MOUTH	SALIVAS, MOUTH, SALIVAS	1/3	MAKE	RUN, WATER, FLOW	0/3
12	TONGUE	TONGUE, TONGUE, TONGUE	3/3	BE	HAVE GOT, LIE, SPIN	0/3
13	LITTLE FINGER	FINGER, FINGER, X	0/2	TWIST	TWIST, TWIST, X	2/2
14	FINGERS AND THUMBS	HANDS, HANDS, HANDS	0/3	BE	BE, HAVE GOT, STICK	1/3
15	LEG	NOSE, NOSE, NOSE	0/3	PULL	LEAD, LEAD, LEAD	0/3
16	HAND	HAND,HAND,HAND	3/3	KNOW	KNOW, KNOW,KNOW	3/3
17	ARSE	ARSE,ARSE,ARSE	3/3	LICK	CREEK, CREEK, LICK	1/3
18	SKIN	SKIN,SKIN,SKIN	3/3	MAKE CRAWL	JUMP, HAVE GOT, RUN	0/3
19	SKIN	BONE,BONE,BONES	0/3	BE SOAKED	BE SOAKED,BE THROUGH, BE SOAKED	2/3
20	PALM HAND	THUMB, THUMB, THUMB	0/3	HAVE GOT	HAVE GOT,HAVE GOT, KEEP	2/3
21	THROAT	THROAT, THROAT, MOUTH	2/3	HAVE GOT	HAVE GOT,HAVE GOT, HAVE GOT	3/3
22	MIND	HEAD, HEAD, HEAD	0/3	PREY	DRILL, SPOOKE, SIT	0/3

23	TONGUE	TONGUE, TONGUE, TONGUE	3/3	LOOSEN	LOOSEN, LOOSEN, LOOSEN	3/3
24	FACE	FOREHEAD, FOREHEAD, FACE	1/3	FACE	STAND, OFFER, TUNR	0/3
25	HAIR	HAIRSPRING, HAIR, HAIR	2/3	HARM	DISTORT, DISTORT, TOUCH	0/3
26	FINGER	FINGER, FINGER, FINGER	3/3	LIFT	MOVE, MOVE, STRIKE	0/3
27	HEELS	LEGS ON SHOULDERS, LEGS IN HAND, LEGS IN HANDS	0/3	TAKE	TAKE, TAKE, TAKE	3/3
28	FOOT	LEG, FOOT, LEG	1/3	HAVE GOT	BE, STAND, STAND	0/3
29	HEAD OVER HEELS	EARS, EARS, EARS	0/3	BE	BE, BE, BE	3/3
30	HEART	HEART, HEART, MIND	2/3	HAVE	HAVE, HAVE, HAVE	3/3

Appendix 4: English and Czech questionnaire sample

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1kGc2Zf4O3b-sBujCx4esgrvnMLHIUaD48G_jh8U7J7I/edit?usp=drive_web

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1VPudZU4UeWgFfTZuQ3y2Dwn_0NCbfHssneHBjZBREHw/edit

SUMMARY

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá víceslovnými lexikálními jednotkami s přeneseným významem. Soustředí se na větné idiomy týkající se pouze lidského těla. V teoretické části se nacházejí definice idiomů spolu s jejich klasifikacemi. V praktické části je analyzováno 30 příkladů jednotlivých anglických idiomů spolu se sémantickým významem. Jelikož cílem práce je porovnat užití částí lidského těla na poli idiomatiky napříč kulturami, rozhodla jsem se srovnávat anglické idiomy s idiomy českými, německými a ruskými. Práce je zaměřena pouze na idiomy, které obsahují část lidského těla ve všech čtyřech jazycích v jednom sémantickém významu. V praktické části jsem vytvořila tabulky s idiomatickými protějšky zároveň s jejich doslovnými překlady, za účelem představit rozlišnost v jazycích. Je zde uvedena i analýza paradigmatických vztahů mezi sledovanými idiomy, zaměřená na kategorie synonym, hyponym, hypernym a meronym. Druhá část praktické části obsahuje analýzu dotazníků vytvořených pro mladé Angličany a Čechy ve věku 15-25 let. Cílem této části práce je získat informace, zda jsou dnešní mladí lidé schopni porozumět nebo použít idiomy týkající se lidského těla, současně ukázat frekvenci jejich užití a další faktory v rozboru.