

## SOME INFLUENCES OF THE SINO - VIETNAMESE WORDS TO VIETNAMESE STUDENTS IN LEARNING IDIOMS

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### ABSTRACT

This article mainly focuses on the influences of the Sino - Vietnamese Words to Vietnamese students in learning Idioms. There are a large number of the idioms borrowed in Chinese using in Vietnam now. Most of the idioms borrowed in Chinese are expressed in the Sino - Vietnamese words, so the Sino - Vietnamese words have a great influence on Vietnamese students. The first influences are both positive and negative towards Vietnamese students. With the first positive, it helps students for learning pronunciation. Secondly, it helps students to understand the meaning of Chinese words easily. Besides that, it appears some negatives in learning Chinese such as the meaning between two languages is same but the word formation is different; or the word formation of two languages is the same but the meaning is different. In the process of learning Chinese, Vietnamese students usually make mistakes, so this article can help Vietnamese students in learning Chinese and idioms.

### INTRODUCTION

When Vietnamese students start to learn Chinese, their feeling is very familiar because there are many pronunciations between Chinese and Vietnamese words are the same, it is called "Tu Han Viet" (Sino - Vietnamese word) in Vietnamese. In Viet Nam, the use of the Sino - Vietnamese words is common nowadays, especially in idioms. We also know that the idioms borrowed in Chinese are very popular nowadays. Most of the idioms borrowed in Chinese are expressed in the Sino - Vietnamese words, so the Sino - Vietnamese words have a great influence on Vietnamese students. Because of the historical reasons, the Vietnamese and Chinese have a very close relationship. In Vietnamese, there are many words borrowed from Chinese, they are called the Sino - Vietnamese words. According to statistics, there are more than 60% of the total Vietnamese words borrowed in Chinese. So there're many influences to Vietnamese students when they start to learn Chinese.

### Some influences of the Sino - Vietnamese Words to Vietnamese students in learning Idioms

#### Auxiliary Effects

In the Chinese learning process, many students believe that idioms are difficult to learn, difficult to understand and difficult to remember. When you know more the idioms' meaning, it's very good for you to express the stories or it can convince others easily. Many Vietnamese people can say some idioms easily, even if not learned Chinese before. E.g: The Vietnamese idiom: "Bach phat bach trung" (referring that it's full grasp of things, never fall), it is equivalent to the Chinese idiom "百发百中" (bǎi fā bǎi zhòng). The Vietnamese idiom "Lá ngọc cành vàng" is equivalent to the Chinese idiom "玉叶金枝" ("yù yè jīn zhī" (referring to the imperial relatives, or people are descended from the aristocracy).

## Help For Learning Pronunciation

The first sound of Chinese is corresponding to “Thanh Ngang” of the Sino-Vietnamese word. The second sound of Chinese is corresponding to “Thanh Huyen” of the Sino-Vietnamese word, the third sound of Chinese corresponding to “Thanh Hoi” of the Sino-Vietnamese word. We can refer to some tables as follows:

**Table 1: The first sound of Chinese with “Thanh Bang” in Vietnamese**

Chinese		Sino-Vietnamese word
Chinese Character	Pinyin	
清	[qīng]	thanh (clear)
心	[xīn]	tâm (heart)
风	[fēng]	phong (wind)
知	[zhī]	tri (know)

**Table 2: The second sound of Chinese with “Thanh Huyen” in Vietnamese**

Chinese		Sino-Vietnamese word
Chinese Character	Pinyin	
平	[píng]	Bình (level)
城	[chéng]	Thành (wall)
神	[shén]	Thần (god)
蛇	[shé]	Xà (snake)

**Table 3: The third sound of Chinese with “Thanh Hoi” in Vietnamese**

Chinese		Sino-Vietnamese word
Chinese Character	Pinyin	
古	[gǔ]	Cổ (ancient)
死	[sǐ]	Tử (die)
彩	[cǎi]	Thể (color)
彼	[bǐ]	Bỉ (skin)

## Examples

Chinese Idiom		Idioms borrowed in Chinese
Chinese Character	Pinyin	
起死回生	[qǐ sǐ huí shēng]	<b>Cải tử</b> hoàn sinh (Back to life)
文武双全	[wén wǔ shuāng quán]	Văn <b>võ</b> song toàn (Both scholar and a warrior)
井底之蛙	[jǐng dǐ zhī wā]	<b>Tĩnh đẽ</b> chi oa (The frog sits at the bottom of well)

From the above examples, we can see the third tone of Chinese and “Thanh Hoi” of Vietnamese is related E.g:

**Chinese idiom:** “起死回生” (back to life) is equivalent with the idiom borrowed in Chinese: “Cải tử hoàn sinh”, there are two phrases: “起死” (the third sound in Chinese) and “cải tử” (Thanh Hoi in Vietnamese) related.

**Chinese idiom:** “井底之蛙” (the frog sits at the bottom of well) is equivalent with the idiom borrowed in Chinese “Tĩnh đẽ chi oa”. There are two phrases “井底” of Chinese (The third sound) and “Tĩnh đẽ” of Vietnamese (Thanh Hoi).

Through these similarities, Vietnamese students can find the relationship between Chinese words and Sino-Vietnamese words in learning Chinese; they can also help students to learn idioms borrowed in Chinese. They can find the word by using their own knowledge of Sino-Vietnamese words and find the pronunciation of words they are looking for by their own knowledge of Chinese-Vietnamese words or from the pronunciation of a Chinese word to find a Sino-Vietnamese word.

### Help to Understand the Meaning of Words

As we all know, the ancient Chinese uses the monosyllabic words mainly. In the process of the development of Chinese, the modern Chinese predominates with the trend of a double tone. The result is from a single syllable developed into a number of semantics. To grasp this point and to use analogy methods will allow Chinese learners to accumulate and grasp more new words easily. In other words, learners can use of this point to make Vietnamese words and Sino-Vietnamese words into a series of vocabularies in the process of learning Chinese. Chinese words and the Sino-Vietnamese words correspond with the semantic, phonetic, usage consistently, so you can use this feature to help students learn vocabulary, increase vocabulary. Specific methods are as follows:

We all know that Chinese words are compound words. Chinese and Vietnamese are independent; the word formation is combined by roots, or word plus words. For example, you can use "nhân" (human) to construct a new word, such as: Vietnamese is "nhân + cách = nhân cách" (personality), Vietnamese is "nhân + chứng = nhân chứng" (witness), Vietnamese is "nhân + dân = nhân dân" (people). When the students learn the words “安居乐业” (live in peace and contentment) and “安分守己” (be content with one's family), if the students understand the word "an" in the word "安", the students can find out the meaning of "安" "an" means to deal with (things), such as "arrangement" (an bài); “安康” (ankang) that peace and happiness. In this way, the 184 words in the modern Chinese dictionary, which begin with the word "安" (an), can be grasped by the students at once. Another example:

Chinese		Vietnamese	
Root	Sino-Vietnamese	Root	Sino-Vietnamese
心	心得	Tâm	Tâm đắc
	心地		Tâm địa
生	生存	sinh	Sinh tồn
	生病		Sinh bệnh

情	情歌	Tình	Tình ca
	情意		Tình ý
民	民族	Dân	Dân tộc
	民间		Dân gian

“合情合理” is equivalent to the idiom borrowed in Chinese “hợp tình hợp lý”, (meaning: When people do anythings that it must be reasonable). The Chinese word for “合情” is the same as the “hợp tình” in Vietnamese, because the word “合情” is “合 + 情” in Chinese, it’s the same as “hợp tình” is “hợp + tình” in Vietnamese. “全心全意” is equivalent to the idiom borrowed in Chinese “Toàn tâm toàn ý” (meaning that with all the energy, there is no reservation). The Chinese of “全心” is the same structure as “toàn tâm” of Vietnamese. “全心全意” is the “全” + “心”, and Vietnamese is the same, “toàn tâm” is “toàn + tâm”. We can refer to some tables as follows:

汉语成语	汉源成语	意思
民安国泰	Dân an quốc thái	国家太平，人民生活安定
心安理得	Tâm an lý đắc	事情做得合理，对已对人都很坦然
心地善良	Tâm địa thiện lương	道德的，有德行的，慈善的
情投意合	Tâm đầu ý hợp	形容双方意想感情融洽，合得来

Through the above example we can see that the Chinese words and the Sino-Vietnamese are corresponding between the semantic, phonetic and usage. Moreover, so you can use this feature to help students learning and increasing vocabulary, both learning Chinese vocabulary and learning Chinese idioms.

## NEGATIVE EFFECTS

We all know that in the process learning of the idioms borrowed in Chinese, the Sino-Vietnamese words towards Vietnamese students have a great role. But the Chinese words into the system of Vietnamese language are not the same. The degree of change is also different; so the number of Sino-Vietnamese words is very large in Vietnamese; the internal situation is also very complex. There are some Sino-Vietnamese words in the study will play a positive role in the migration, in addition to a part of the semantic changes in Chinese borrowings and by the Vietnamese to create their own Sino- Vietnamese words. There are many Vietnamese students usually make mistakes while comparing between Chinese and Vietnamese words.

**2.1 The meaning is same but the word formation is different**

Vietnamese		Chinese
Sino-Vietnamese word	Corresponding Chinese character	
Ngoại lệ	外例	例外 (exception)
Khoa ngoại	科外	外科 (Surgery)
Hướng nội	向内	内向(Inward)
Cành vàng	枝金	金枝(Golden branches)
Lá ngọc	叶玉	玉叶(Jade leaves)
Náo nhiệt	闹热	热闹(lively)
Khẩu Phật	口佛	佛口(Buddha mouth)
Tâm xà	心蛇	蛇心(Snake heart)

These words have the same meaning as Chinese words, but the structure has changed. If students do not pay attention to this point it is very easy to error, the word order of Sino-Vietnamese words directly applied to the Chinese inside. E.g:

“金枝玉叶” and the idiom borrowed in Chinese “Cành vàng lá ngọc”. The two idioms have the same meaning. But the morpheme position changes, “Cành vàng lá ngọc” If you use Chinese characters to express is “枝金叶玉”. The position has been changed, “金枝” into “枝金”, “玉叶” into “叶玉”.

“佛口蛇心” and the idiom borrowed in Chinese “Khẩu Phật tâm xà”. “Khẩu Phật tâm xà” If the Chinese characters to express is “口佛心蛇”, the location changes, “佛口” into “口佛”, “蛇心” into “心蛇”.

**The Word Formation Is Same but the Meaning Is Different**

The meaning of the Chinese word “困难” means “difficult”, if using the Sino-Vietnamese sound to write is “khốn nạn”, that meaning is completely different. Because the meaning of “khốn nạn” is bad, curse. In other words, the meaning of “方便” in Chinese is “convenience”, but Sino-Vietnamese sound is equivalent to “phương tiện” (tools or means), the meaning has changed. Through the above analysis, we can see that there is a part of the Sino-Vietnamese words making people feel that these words should be related with the Chinese words, but in fact the two kinds of these words don't have the same meaning. This is a cause for students make mistakes when they learn Chinese. In Vietnam, the idioms borrowed in Chinese occupies a very large part, it also occupies a large part in Vietnamese words. In the “Từ điển Hán-Việt sách giáo khoa phổ thông” (Chinese – Vietnamese general textbook dictionary), according to the author's statistics, there are more than 2,500 Chinese words having in the teaching program for students. So Vietnamese students learn Chinese than other countries,

students should be easier. The influence of Sino-Vietnamese words is undeniable towards Vietnamese students in learning Chinese. Through the positive of Sino-Vietnamese words, Vietnamese students can use them to learn idioms; students can speed up the memory and increase the Chinese vocabulary. This is important to the studying of idioms.

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