Work without name: changing patterns of children's work in a Northern Vietnamese village

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GLOSSARY

This glossary includes specific words, slang phrases, proverbs and sayings that have appeared in this text. Most of them are widely used in Northern Vietnam but some should be understood in the context of Giao village.

Words and phrases

Ac tat  Malignity
Am  Yin
Anh chi em ruot  Full siblings
Anh chi em ho  Patrilineal/matrilineal same-generation cousins
Anh/chi cung cha khac me  Senior half-brothers/sisters
Ba khoan  Three points contract system
Bac  Father’s older brothers/sisters
Ban Bao Ve Di Tich Lich Su Van Hoa: Committee for Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments
Ban Khanh Tiet  Village Committee for Rituals
Bar kinh voi bo me  Disrespect to the parents
Binh cong  Public evaluation of workpoints
Cai thau  Entrepreneur
Cam  Bran
Cam Ion  The mixture of vegetable and bran for pigs
Can bo trung uong  Central cadre
Cau tu  Praying for having a male heir
Chau dich ton  The eldest son who will inherit and continue the lineage
Chi bo dang  The village cell of the CPV
Chi ho  Extended family
Chi tieu  Work norm
Cho nguoi  People market (where labourers are hanging around to hire out their labour)
Chong  Husband
Chu quoc ngu  The national script
Chua Huong  Perfume Pagoda
Con gai  Daughter/girl
Con trai  Son/boy
Con sen  Maid-servant
Cong diem  Payment points
Cong khoan  Payment based on piece-work
Cong nhat  Fixed daily payment
Cuc  Marigold
Cuoi lai  Re-marriage
Cuong hao  Local tyrant
Dam dang viec nha  Responsible for housework
Dam dat  Lewdness
Dan ba  Woman
Dan ong  Man
Dan ngu cu  Adopted residents
Dao Hieu  Filial Duty
Day cu  Full-day old (referred to newly born child)
Day nam  One full-year old
Day thang  One full-month old
Den  Temple
Di hoan
Dia chu
Dieu cong
Doi cac cu
Doi cay
Doi cong
Doi Moi
Doi san xuat
Doi thu cong
Doi trong cay

Doi truong tuan
Doi tuong chinh sach
Dong
Dong ho
Dua o
Duc Ong
Duong

E chong
Ghen tuong
Ghen ty
Gia dinh
Gia dinh tuyet tu
Gia pha
Giao vien chu nhiem
Giap

Gio to
(Go) lim
(Go) mun
(Go) po-mu
(Go) trac
Gui (ban) con vao cua thanh

Hang xao
Hiep tho
Ho dang cha/ho noi
Ho dang me/ho ngoai
Ho gan
Ho xa
Hoc cach lam nguoi
Hoi Bao Tho
Hoi Cac Gia
Hoi Dong Nien
Hoi ho
Hoi tho moc
Hoi Tu van
Hop tac xa mang non
Hop tac xa nong Nghiep
Hu
Huan Dich Thap Dieu
Huong uoc

To get castrated (a slang referring to people who receive sterilisation)
Landlord
Work distribution
Elderly people team
The planting team (mostly female workers)
The plowing team (mostly male workers)
The guardian team
Subjects covered by a social policy
The dong (or: the piaster, Vietnam currency)
Lineage
House servant
Guardian Deity
Yang

Those women who have difficulty in finding a husband
Jealousy
Envy
The family
Heirless family
The family record
Teacher in charge
An organisation of village male members aged from 18 and older
The ancestor's death anniversary
Erithlophreu fordii o (wood)
Ebony wood
Filkieniahodginisi (wood)
Delbergia cochinchinenis (wood)
Commending the child to deity

Rice miller
The guild of worker.
Father's patrilineage
Mother's patrilineage
Close relatives
Distant relatives
To learn the way of living
Association for Protection of Elderly People
Buddhist Association of Elderly Women
Association of people of the same age group
Credit association
Association of carpenters
Association of Confucian scholars
Co-operative of young persons
Agricultural co-operative
Naughty
Ten Commandments to the Children
Village convention

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Contract
Household contract
Output contract
Contracted tasks
Contract 100 (comes from the directive numbered 100
(issued by the CPV)
Childlessness
The Book of Rites (Confucian text)

To help
Main labourers
Assistant labourers
Indirect labour
Nomination of a male heir
Garrulousness
Hired labour for wage
Using labour to make a profit
Dragon
Additional tutorials
Kindergarten/nursery school
Harmonizing food
Unicorn
The village head (old)

Apricot
Undisciplined
Land measurement unit, an area of 3,600 square meter
(about 1/3 hectare).

Family Instruction (Confucian text)
Collection of Chinese wisdom sayings (used as text book to
teach children).

Uncle Ho's Five Commandments to Children
Boy and girls are not allowed to be close (Confucian ethics)
Good behaviour
Supplementary production branch
The Five Classics (Confucian Text)
Selfish people

Adult
Strangers
Five Ethics
Crèche
Cultural House
Adopting a child

Twenty four filial duties of the children (Confucian ethics)
Self-denial
Hot

Bonded labour
Servant for life
Seasonal servant
Servant on annual basis
A conservative man (slang).
Phat phat  
Pho pho  
Phu nong  
Phuong  
Phuong nghe nghiep  
Pho nho  
Qua bao  
Qua do  
Quy  
Quy dat  
Ruong chua  
Ruong cong lang xa  
Ruong dinh  
Ruong ho  
Ruong huong hoa  
Sao  
Sep  
So ghi cong diem  
So phan ham hieu  
Su nu  
Su nghiep trong nguoi  
Tam  
Tam Cuong  
Tam Thien Tu  
Tam Tong, Tu Duc  
Tam Tu Kinh  
Tao hon  
Tha co  
Than Thanh hoang  
Thang hau  
Thanh Mau  
Thay cung  
Thay do  
Thay giao  
Thien chua giao  
Tho ban  
Tho ca  
Tho cham  
Tho long  
Tho Mai Gia Le  
Thoc can doi  
Thu tu  
Thuan phong my tuc  
Thue than  
Thuy to  
Tien heo  
Tien taoi  
Tiet thanh minh  
Tinh cam  
Tram xa  
Trau  

Buddhism  
Deputy head of village  
Rich peasant  
Phoenix  
Craft and trade guilds  
Little worker/apprentices  
Retribution based on karma  
Transition  
Tortoise  
Land fund  
Land owned by (Buddhist) Pagodas  
Communal land  
Land owned by the village communal house  
Land owned by specific patrilineage  
Ancestral cult portion land  

A land measurement unit, an area of 360 sq.m2.

Chief  
Workpoints records  
Unfortunate fate  
Nun  
The cause of cultivating the people  
Broken rice  
Three Principles (Confucian ethics)  
Three Thousand Words (Chinese characters)  
Three Follows and Four Virtues (Confucian ethics regarding women’s morality)  
Trimmetrical Classics  

Premature marriage  
"Leaving the wife at large" (a village custom)  
Village Tutelary Deities  
Houseboy  
Goddess  
Priest  
Village teacher of classical Chinese  
Teacher  
Christianity  

Craftsman  
Foreman  
Carvers  
Carpenter  
Confucian Book of Family Rites  
Balanced paddy  
Custodian  
Good practices and customs  
Poll-tax  
Founder of patrilineage  
Withering [slow] money (slang word)  
Fresh [quick] money (slang word)  
Grave-visiting festival  
Sentiment  
Clinic station  
Rice husk  

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Proverbs and sayings

Be nguoi con nha bac, lon xac con nha chu
(Though young as she/he is, she/he is the child from the higher patrilineal offshoot, though old as [you are], you are only a child from a lower branch)

Ca ao ai vao ao ta ta duoc
(If a fish comes to my pond, it is mine no matter where it comes from).

Cha me dat dau con ngoi day
(Children have to sit at the place arranged for them by their parents).

Co tien mua tien chung duoc
(With money, you can even buy angles).

Cong Dung Ngon Hanh
(The Four Woman Virtues: Housewifery, Tolerance, Nice Words, Good Character).

Con hu tai me, chau hu tai ba
(Children are spoiled by their mothers, and grandchildren are spoiled by their grandmothers).

Con gai la con nguoi ta, Con dau moi that me cha mua ve
(A daughter is someone else's child, A daughter in law is a real child bought by the parents)

Con dai cai mang
(Parents have to bear responsibility for their children’s foolishness).

Dat vua chua lang
(The land belong to the King, the pagodas belong to the village)

Day con tu thu con tho
(A child needs to be taught at an early age).

Dep trai di bo khong bang mat ro di Honda
(An ugly boy riding a Honda motorbike is more respectable than a handsome boy going about by foot).
Dong tien la Tien, la Phat, la suc bat cuoc doi
(With money, you can be regarded as Angles and Buddha, and money make you stronger in life)

Gai thap tam, nam thap luc
(A girl is mature at 13, a boy at 16)

Giu cua nhu giu ma to
(Keeping the valuables as careful as keeping the ancestral tombs).

Gia don non nhe
(To enforce discipline (on children), just use a big stick).

Giau con ut, kho con ut
(For better or worse, parents prefer to stay with the last-born son).

Giot mau dao hon ao nuoc la
(A drop of kinship blood is much more precious than a pond of water).

Khi doi, dau goi phai bo
(When you're hungry, you'll have to crawl).

Khong thay do may lam nen
(Without a teacher, you will be nobody).

Mot me gia bang ba con o
(An elderly mother can work as hard as three house servants).

Mua khong den mat, nang khong den dau
(One's face and head are safe from rain and sun-- meaning the preference of light jobs).

Nam ton nu ty
(Veneration for men and disregard for women).

Nham mat lam ngo
(Turn a blind eye).

Nhan cu vi bat thien
(Idleness is the root of all evils).

Nu nhi ngoai toc
(Females are outsiders of the patrilineage)

Phep vua thua le lang
(The King's Law surrenders to the village custom)

Ra duong hoi nguoi gia, ve nha hoi tre nho
(If you want to know your way around, ask the elderly; If you want to know what really goes on in the home, ask the children).

Ruong be be khong bang nghe trong tay
(Having a lot of rice land is no better than possessing a skill)

Ruong sau trau nai khong bang con gai dau long
(A first-born daughter is worth more than a piece of fertile rice land or a good buffalo).

Sinh nghe, tu nghielp
(To be born into the trade and to die for the trade).

Tam nam bat phu, tu nu bat ban
(Three sons do not make you rich, four daughter do not make you poor).

Thang gu lung lam cho thang ngay lung an
(The hard worker do more but in the end, lazy-bones eat)

Thuong con cho roi cho vot, Ghet con cho ngot cho bui
(If you love your children, give them the rod and the stick; If you loathe your children, give them sweets and tidbits; or: Spare the rod and spoil the child).

Tien hoc le, hau hoc van
(Learn the rites first, then acquire the knowledge).

Ton su trong dao
(Veneration for educational ethics).

Trai o re nhu cho chui gam chan
(Son-in-law living at his in-laws is just like a dog living under the pantry).
Van hay chu tot khong bang thang dot lam tien
(A well-educated man is worth less than an illiterate boy making a lot of money).

Vang nhu chua ba Danh
(As quiet as a pagoda).