

Re: Chinese-style measure words in English?

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"Lee Sau Dan" <danlee@informatik.uni-freiburg.de> wrote in message
news:87zmzw8rql.fsf@informatik.uni-freiburg.de...

>>>>> *"Peter"* == *Peter T Daniels* <grammatim@worldnet.att.net> writes:

>> *That's a little different, as "42 head of cattle" is just a
>> wordy way of saying "42 cattle". OTOH, you can talk of "23
>> slices of bread", but not "23 bread".*

Peter> You can say "42 cows" or "42 bulls" but not "42 cattle."

> *Can I say "2 papers"*, "3 sands", "4 rices", "5 grasses", "6 waters",
> etc.?
> [*] paper not meaning "an academic publication".*

Yes, when you mean 2 written examinations, 3 beaches or sandstone geological strata, 4 varieties of rice, 5 police informers, 6 brands of mineral water, etc. (to pick just one possibility in each case)

In Chinese, I presume this sort of thing would be indicated by using classifiers different than the "standard" ones for these nouns.

John.