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**AN INVESTIGATION INTO PROVERBS
WITH WORDS DENOTING HUMANS
IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE**

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

Natural language is not only a means of communication but also a tool of expressing thoughts, feelings, emotions and desires of human beings. As a part of natural language, proverbs play an important role in cultural life of many communities. They were used to diffuse not only life experience but also didactic lessons so they should be included in any language study. It is really interesting to realize that ancient people use proverbs to highlight the organic relationship between them and surrounding world. Human image figures in proverbs as lively subjects in the objective world and the numbers of proverbs with words denoting humans occur as an integral part in every language system. So they have become a linguistic phenomenon that linguistic researchers like us cannot ignore. Moreover, in the globalization age, studying proverbs of a nation, especially proverbs containing words denoting humans (PsWH) is one of the best ways to achieve the intercultural communicative purpose effectively. For those reasons, I select “**An Investigation into Proverbs with Words Denoting Humans in English and Vietnamese**” to study in the hope that I can gain a deeper insight into proverbs and their use in English and Vietnamese.

1.2. JUSTIFICATION

This research is of significance in linguistic practice. That is to say that the study is intended to:

- help teachers and learners of English raise their socio-cultural awareness of the country whose language they are utilizing.

- enable them to receive natural language like proverbs completely and sufficiently then apply them effectively in the process of communication.

- solve the problem of loss and gain partly when translating this genre.

1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.3.1. Aims

- To examine the syntactic, semantic characteristics of English proverbs containing words denoting humans (EPsWH) and Vietnamese proverbs containing words denoting humans (VPsWH). However, some stylistic devices in PsWH are also included in semantic section to clarify the sense relations of figurative proverbs in natural language.

1.3.2. Objectives

The study is planned to:

- Investigate and describe syntactic and semantic features of EPsWH and VPsWH

- Discover the similarities and differences between EPsWH and VPsWH in terms of syntactic, semantic features.

- Suggest some implications in language learning, teaching and translating proverbs of the two languages.

1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is restricted to the syntactic and semantic features of proverbs containing words denoting humans in English and Vietnamese such as “*Like father, like son*”, “*Yêu con ngon của*” not the proverbs “*Giàu đồ bìm leo*” or “*Dumb folks get no land*”(Trâu chậm uống nước đục) to point out the differences between the two

languages. The thesis is based on the viewpoint of Quirk [28], Norrick [27] in English and Diệp Quang Ban [40] in Vietnamese.

1.5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1) What are the syntactic and semantic features of EPsWH and VPswH?

2) What are the similarities and differences between EPsWH and VPswH in terms of syntactic and semantic features?

3) What are the implications for teaching, learning and translating PsWH ?

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Chapter 3: Research Methods and Procedures

Chapter 4: Findings and Discussions

Chapter 5: Conclusions and Implications

Chapter 2

LITERATUR REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

In English, Taylor [36] focused on proverb definition, metaphorical proverbs, proverbial types, variant proverbs in folk narratives, loan translation, classical or biblical origin of many proverbs. Ridoult and Whiting [30] collected eight hundreds English proverbs with their meaning. Norrick [27] introduced the semantic relations between proverbs. Freier [5] listed, gave representative samples of weather proverbs with reasons for why we should know them and how they work. Galperin [6] illustrated the periphery between proverbs and sayings. Mieder [21] presented the

classification of proverbs according to topics and explored their occurrence in context. In addition, Collis [2] gave out 101 American-English proverbs with a pithy overview about them. Nguyễn Đình Hùng [53] helped us distinguish proverbs and idioms, also presented the syntactic features of English and Vietnamese Proverbs. Chu Văn Liên [58] listed English proverbs and their Vietnamese equivalence.

In Vietnamese, Chu Xuân Diên, Lương Văn Đăng, Phương Tri [46], Vũ Dung, Vũ Thuý Anh [47], Vũ Ngọc Phan [60] classified, compiled dictionaries or books of Vietnamese proverbs into different topics, gave brief comments on syntactic features of Vietnamese proverbs. Nguyễn Lâm [54] also gave out a lot of Vietnamese proverbs, their meaning explanation, and their usage in specific situations. The matters relating to proverbs have been considered in some master theses. Lê Thị Mỹ Nhật [16] investigated the metaphoric devices in English and Vietnamese animal proverbs. Lê Vân's study was also involved in stylistic and cultural differences of English and Vietnamese proverbs from human and animals' characteristics. Đặng Ngọc Cư [3] investigated parallelism in proverbs. Trần Lê Nghi Trân [37] devoted herself to the Theme - Rheme structure of English - Vietnamese animal proverbs.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Overview of the Proverbs

In this part, I will illustrate some matters related to proverb definitions, proverb classification, characteristics of proverbs, proverbs with human words.

2.2.1.1. *The Notions of Proverbs*

There have been a large number of authors defining proverbs in one way or another such as the definitions in [9], [19], [21], [27],

[32], [36] in English and in [48], [50], [53] in Vietnamese. In this study, we will use the definition in [9] and in [21] as working definitions. Hornby [9, p. 1180] considers proverbs as “a well known phrase or sentence that gives advice or says something that is generally truth”. Besides, Mieder [21, p.5] defines “proverb is a short, generally known sentence of the folk which contains wisdom, truth, morals, and traditional views in a metaphorical, fixed and memorizable form and which is handed down from generation to generation”.

2.2.1.2. Proverbs with Words Denoting Humans

Proverbs that contain one or more words relating to or concerning people are regarded as PsWH.

2.2.1.3. Main Characteristics of Proverbs

- a. The proverbs are realized as propositional statements.
- b. Pithiness.
- c. The traditionality turns out to be a property of proverbs.
- d. The didactic function.
- e. Proverbs are also characterized by fixedness of form.
- f. Poetic features or devices.

2.2.1.4. Classification of Proverbs

- Matti Kuusi (cited in [21, p. 16-17]) classified proverbs on the base of lexicographical categories.

- Milner (cited in [27, p.51-52]) offered proverb classification system based on the semantic oppositions of proverbs by using positive or negative values.

- Based on the semantic oppositions like Milner, Dundes (cited in [27, p.56]) categorized proverbs into two main kinds: **oppositional** and **non-oppositional proverbs**.

- Permyakov (cited in [13, p.229]) built a system of proverb classification based on three aspects: **the linguistic aspect, the thematic aspect and logico-semiotic aspect**.

2.2.2. Proverbs and Other Language Units

2.2.2.1. Proverbs and Idioms

Proverbs and idioms share many common features as well as the differences.

Table 2.3 Similarities and Differences between Proverbs and Idioms

		PROVERBS	IDIOMS
SIMILARITIES		Ready-made linguistic units Figurative meaning	
DIFFERENCES	<i>Syntactic</i>	Sentence	phrase
	<i>Semantic</i>	- judgment - informative - didactic	- notion - nominalization - figurative

2.2.2.2. Proverbs and Sayings

Table 2.4 Similarities and Differences between Proverbs and Sayings

		PROVERBS	SAYINGS
SIMILARITIES		- repeated sentences with rhythm - independent units of communication	
DIFFERENCES	<i>Syntactic</i>	- fixed form	- modified form
	<i>Semantic</i>	- popular statements by unknown author. - informing or denoting a judgment - experiential didactic content or a rule of conduct	- well-known or wise statements by famous people. - denoting advice or obvious truth - observative statements without didactic force

2.2.2.3. Proverbs and Clichés

Table 2.5 Similarities and Differences between Proverbs and Clichés

		PROVERBS	CLICHÉS
SIMILARITIES		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - easily remembered formulaic structures - figurative form 	
DIFFERENCES	<i>Syntactic</i>	- brief sentence	- idea or phrase
	<i>Semantic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - judgment - informative - winning recognition through frequent use - packing didactic lesson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - notion - naming - losing vigor through the frequent use - no didactic lesson

2.2.3. Overview of Structures of Proverbs

2.2.3.1. Phrases

a. Noun Phrases

According to Quirk et al. [28, p.62], noun phrases consist of a head, which is typically a noun and of elements which (either obligatorily or optionally) determine the head and (optionally) modify the head, or complement another element in the phrase. This view is also shared by Diep Quang Ban [40, p.24] in Vietnamese.

b. Verb Phrases

Verb phrases consist of a main verb which either stands alone as the entire verb phrases or is preceded by up to four verbs in an auxiliary function [28, p.62].

Auxiliaries + **Main Verb**

Unlike an English verb phrase, a Vietnamese verb phrase includes a head verb and optional modifiers [40, p.63].

Modifier(s) + **Head** + *modifier(s)*

c. Adjective Phrases

Adjective phrases in English consist of an adjective as head, optionally preceded and followed by modifying elements [28, p.63].

Pre-modification + **Head** + *Post Modifier(s)*

2.2.3.2. Sentences

Sentences in both languages can be divided into:

- *Simple Sentences:*

A sentence consisting of one subject-predicate structure is known as simple [40, p.113].

- *Compound Sentences:*

A compound sentence consists of two or more subject-predicate structures, each of them can work as a simple sentence [40, p.113].

- *Complex Sentences:*

The sentence with two or more subject-predicate structures in which one subject-predicate is included in the rest subject-predicate is a complex one [40, p.109].

Chapter 3

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

3.1. OVERVIEW

3.2. RESEARCH METHODS

The descriptive and contrastive analysis of EPsWH and VPswH was conducted so as to draw out some implications for the

teaching, learning and translating English proverbs and vice versa. Besides, the quantitative and qualitative methods are concurrently used.

3.3. SAMPLING

A corpus of 200 PsWH and 200 VPswH was randomly gathered from different sources such as bilingual or monolingual dictionaries, books, encrypted both in print and on the internet

3.4. DATA COLLECTION

400 PsWH both languages have been arranged in the alphabetical order to be convenient in the study process.

3.5. DATA ANALYSIS

PswH in English and Vietnamese are analyzed in terms of syntactic and semantic features, then a comparison of PsWH in English and Vietnamese is also is given.

3.6. INSTRUMENTATION

The monolingual and bilingual dictionaries of proverbs in two languages are resorted to. Google search should be accounted because a lot of relevant journals, newspapers, reference materials have been taken thanks to this tool. Tables are also helpful for stating the results of analysis and the percentage as well.

3.7. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

3.8. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

- In terms of reliability, the PsWH used for the analysis in this study, as mentioned above, are mainly collected from dictionaries, books and websites.

In terms of validity, the samples of the study are taken from dictionaries, novels, short stories, or journals. Especially, proverbs

selected from bilingual dictionaries will be carefully checked up in the monolingual dictionaries to make sure their origin.

Chapter 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. OVERVIEW

4.2. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF EPsWH AND VPswH

The syntactic structures of PsWH in English and Vietnamese are generalized in two levels from phrase structures to sentence structures.

4.2.1. Phrase Structures

4.2.1.1. PsWH with Noun Phrase Structures

Noun Phrases of EPsWH and VPswH can be generalized in table 4.1 as follows:

NOUN PHRASES	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
	[1] (Art) + Adj + N/ (Art) + Adj + N	[1] N + N / N + N
	[2] Num + N/ Num + N	[2] N+ A /AP // Noun + Adj/AP
	[3] N + N / N + N	[3] N + (nào) + N + (nấy)
	[4] NP + prep + NP	[4] N + PP / N + PP
		[5] NP + NP / NP + NP
		[6] Num +NP / Num + NP
		[7] N + V/ N+ V

4.2.1.2. PsWH with Verb Phrase Structure

Verb Phrases of EPsWH and VPswH can be generalized in table 4.2 as follows:

PHRAS	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
	[5] A + VP // A + VP	[8] V + N / NP // V + N / NP
[6] V + N /NP // V + N/NP	[9] V/VP + VP // V/VP + VP	

	[10] VP + A // VP + A
	[11] VP + V // VP + N
	[12] V + PP // V + N

4.2.1.3. PsWH with Adjective Phrase Structure

Verb Phrases of EPsWH and VPsWH can be generalized in table 4.3 as follows:

ADJEC-TIVE PHRASES	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
	[7] Adj + AP	[13] Adj + N // Adj + N
		[14] Adj + AP
		[15] Adj + VP// Adj + VP// Adj + VP

4.2.2. Sentential Structures

4.2.2.1. Simple Sentences

Simple sentence patterns in EPsWH are generally formed in all seven basic clauses whereas simple sentence ones in VPsWH are framed in two structures:

[17] S + V + C

(4.54) - *Lúa ré là mẹ lúa chiêm.*

[18] S + V + O

(4.57) - *Gái dờ thềm của chua.*

4.2.2.2. Compound Sentences

In the corpus, both EPsWH and VPsWH own the structure of compound sentences. Most of English proverbs of this kind are formed in parallel form while Vietnamese structures occur in symmetric structures.

In the process of examining, we also discover some proverbs of compound pattern with unbalanced structures such as S + V + O //

S + V as in *Giặc đến nhà, đàn bà phải đánh* or S + V+ A// S + V + O as in *Đời cha ăn mặn, đời con khát nước.*

4.2.2.3. Complex Sentences

In the process of investigating it is quite obvious that the complex pattern of EPsWH and VPsWH are quite different from each other. The complex patterns of EPsWH turn out the compound patterns in Vietnamese.

All sentence structures existing in EPsWH and VPsWH can be shown in table 4.4 below:

Table 4.4 Sentence Structures of EPsWH and VPsWH

	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
	<i>Simple Patterns</i>	<i>Simple Patterns</i>
[8] S+ V+ A	none	
[9] S-V- C	[16] S +V + C	
[10] S+ V+ O	[17] S + V + O	
[11] S + V + O + A	none	
[12] S + V + O + C	none	
[13] S + V + O + O	none	
[14] S +V	none	
<i>Compound Patterns</i>	<i>Compound Patterns</i>	
[15] S + V+O +(O) // S+V + O	[18] S+ V + O + (O) // S + V + O	
[16] S + V + C // S+V + C	[19] S + V + C // S + V + C	
none	[20]S + V+ A // S + V+ A	
[17] S + V // S+V	[21] S +V // S +V	
<i>Complex patterns</i>	<i>Complex patterns</i>	
[18] S(S + V + O) + V + O	none	
[19] Sub + S + V // S + V	none	

[20] Sub + S + V // S + V + C	none
none	[22] S[S+V+O] + C.m + V[S + V + O]
none	[23] S [S +V + A] + C.m + V[S+V+ A]
none	[24] S [S +V] + C.m + V[S +V]

Table 4.6 A Statistical Summary of Syntactic Features of EPsWH and VPsWH

English and Vietnamese Proverbs with Words Denoting Humans			ENGLISH		VIETNAMESE	
			Number	%	Number	%
Syntactical Analysis	Phrase Structures	Noun Phrase	22	11.0	36	18.00
		Verb Phrase	4	2.00	32	16.00
		Adjective Phrase	2	1.00	10	5.00
	Sentence Structures	Simple Sentence	141	70.5	27	13.50
		Compound Sentence	19	9.50	62	31.00
		Complex Sentence	12	6.00	33	16.50
Total		200	100	200	100	

4.2.3. The Syntactic Similarities and Differences of EPsWH and VPsWH

4.2.3.1. Similarities

- Both EPsWH and VPsWH own the patterns in forms of noun phrases, verb phrase and adjective phrases. They both have similar structures such as **N+N / N+N, V + N/NP // V + N/NP, Adj + AdvP**.

- Parallel structures, elliptical structures, and comparative structures are frequently used by the English and Vietnamese such as *Ở chọn nơi, chơi chọn bạn; Đàn ông như giở, đàn bà như hom in Vietnamese and A good husband makes a good wife; Many women, many words in English.*

- EPsWH and VPsWH own a set of metaphorical descriptive structures as in *A bad workman quarrels with his tools or Đòi cha trồng cây, đòi con hái quả.*

- Both English and Vietnamese have many variants proverbs. This reveals that the fixedness of proverbs in both languages is relative.

4.2.3.2. Differences

- In the corpus, VPsWH in the form of verb phrases are much more than EPsWH of the same form in number.

- The number of EPsWH as simple sentences is more considerable than the one in Vietnamese.

- The parallel construction is more numerous in VPsWH than EPsWH.

- VPsWH exhibit the symmetrical structure in form or quadripartite structure. Many proverbs with four elements in their surface structure were found such as *Mẹ ăn, con già (trả)*, In contrast, the quadripartite structure of EPsWH are not popular.

- Prosodic feature tend to be used more frequently by the Vietnamese people than the English one.

4.3. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF EPsWH

4.3.1. Semantic Fields of EPsWH and VPsWH

4.3.1.1. *Humans and Labour*

4.3.1.2. *Humans and Life Experience*

4.3.1.3. *Humans and Weather*

4.3.1.4. *Humans and Health*

4.3.1.5. *Humans and Family Relationship*

4.3.1.6. *Humans and Social Relationship*

4.3.1.7. *Humans and Profession –Business*

4.3.1.8. *Humans and Marriage*

4.3.1.9. *Humans and Destiny*

4.3.1.10. *Humans and Psychological States*

4.3.1.11. *Humans and Characters*

4.3.1.12. *Humans and Education*

4.3.1.13. *Humans and Physical Appearance*

4.3.1.14. *Humans and Customs*

4.3.1.15. *Humans and Belief*

4.3.1.16. *Humans and Virginity*

4.3.1.17. *Humans and Situations*

Table 4.8 Frequency of Semantic Fields of EPsWH and VPsWH

	SEMANTIC FIELDS	English		Vietnamese	
		Number	%	Number	%
1	Humans and Labour	6	3.00	9	4.50
2	Humans and Weather	6	3.00	6	3.00
3	Humans and Life Experience	76	38.00	30	15.00
4	Humans and Medicine	3	1.50	3	1.50
5	Humans and Family Relationship	15	7.50	26	13.00
6	Humans and Social	28	14.00	12	6.00

	Relationship				
7	Humans and Profession-Business	3	1.50	13	6.50
8	Humans and Destiny	4	2.00	9	4.50
9	Humans and Characters	25	12.50	15	7.50
10	Humans and Education	6	3.00	11	5.50
11	Humans and Physical Appearance	7	3.50	14	7.00
12	Humans and Psychological States	1	0.50	12	6.00
13	Humans and Marriage	0	0	29	14.50
14	Humans and Circumstance	0	0	5	2.50
15	Humans and Custom	0	0	9	4.50
16	Humans and Belief	0	0	8	4.00
17	Humans and Virginity	0	0	5	2.50
18	Others	44	22.00	9	4.50
TOTAL		224/ 200	111.0	225/200	112.5

4.3.2. Stylistic Devices of EPsWH and VPsWH

4.3.2.1. Simile

In English simile can be recognized via connective words such as “like”, “as”, “such as”, “as if”, “seem”, “than”. In Vietnamese, comparative markers (c.m) are introduced by the words “như”, “bằng”, “hệt”, “tựa”, “giống như”, “tày”...

General comparative structure: **A c.m B**. However, in EPsWH **A** does not always appear.

(4.157) - *Drunk as a beggar.*

4.3.2.2. Antithesis

Characteristic of antithesis in proverbs is that antithesis is generally formed by the pairs of objective antonyms in parallel form.

(4.162)- A miserly *father* makes a prodigal *son*.

(Cha hà tiện, con hoang phí)

4.3.2.3. Metaphor

Metaphor is a useful means of creating figurative images so English and Vietnamese people prefer using it in proverbs to other stylistic devices.

(4.167)- *A wife is the key to the house.*

(Vợ là tay hòm tay khóa)

(4.168)- *A burnt child dreads the fire.*

(Con chim phải nã sợ cành cây cong)

4.3.2.4. Metonymy

Galperin [6, p.144] states that metonymy is based on a type of relation between the dictionary and contextual meaning, a relation based not on identification, but on some kinds of association connecting the two concepts which these meanings present.

(4.169)- *One tongue is enough for a woman.*

In English we have only two proverbs of metonymy. This stylistic device is not even used in the corpus of VPsWH.

4.3.2.5. Hyperbole

The use of hyperbole, therefore, is considered as a form of amplification. In the proverbs exaggeration is often moulded in the

form of a lexical item, quantifier or number from too high on some scale within the appropriate category.

(4.170)- *A woman's work is never done.*

(4.171)- *One father can support ten children, ten children cannot support one father.*

Table 4.9 Frequency of Stylistic Devices in EPsWH and VPsWH

STYLISTIC DEVICES		English		Vietnamese	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1	<i>Simile</i>	7	3.50	29	14.50
2	<i>Antithesis</i>	10	5.00	24	12.00
3	<i>Metaphor</i>	177	88.50	136	68.00
4	<i>Metonymy</i>	2	1.00	0	0
5	<i>Hyperbole</i>	4	2.00	11	5.50
Total		200	100	200	100

4.3.3. The Semantic Similarities and Differences of EPsWH and VPsWH

4.3.3.1. Similarities

- English and Vietnamese own a large number of PsWH in their national treasure of folklore. These proverbs, in some way, not only provide us with a valuable bag of wisdom but also broaden our awareness of cultural value, life experience.

- PsWH in the two languages is also marked by the use of many similar stylistic devices such as metaphor, antithesis, hyperbole, and simile.

- The phenomenon of the twofold application of meaning in most EPsWH and VPsWH: the surface meaning of the proverbs and

their figurative meaning embodied through the stylistic markers as mentioned.

- Identical semantic feature between EPsWH and VPsWH is that they both share the same eleven semantic fields: *humans and labour, humans and weather, humans and life experience, humans and medicine, humans and family relationship, humans and social relationship, humans and profession-business, humans and destiny, humans and psychological states, humans and characters, humans and education.*

- English and Vietnamese people meet each other in thought in spite of the fact that they live far from each other. As a matter of fact, the formation as well as the way they generalize their idea in proverbs are identical.

4.3.3.2. Differences

- Although both English and Vietnamese people like to use stylistic devices in their proverbs to make their utterance more condensed and colourful, the frequency of these expressive means does not always occur in correspondence because of different habit of language use in the two nations.

- The dissimilarities between cultural characteristics of the two nations impose on thought of people there. As a result, this produces different proverbs of different semantic field as an inevitable consequence.

- Another reason causes the differences in EPsWH and VPsWH may be originated from the circumstances, environment, economic condition, social context people are coming in for. Different awareness leads to the difference in describing objects or phenomenon in the objective world.

Chapter 5

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. OVERVIEW

In the final part of the thesis I would like to review the results of the study then draw some conclusions from the detailed analysis of the previous chapter and offer some implications for future research on proverbs and related genres.

5.2. CONCLUSIONS

As mentioned in the first chapter, this thesis is aimed to deal with the syntactic and semantic features of PsWH in English and Vietnamese. Through the detailed analysis and description of examples, many matters relating to grammatical structures as well as meaning transfer owned by PsWH can be generalized as follows.

Syntactically, EPsWH in the two languages are formed either in the phrasal structures or in sentence structures. The phrase structures in EPsWH and VPsWH are classified into noun phrases, verb phrases, and adjective phrases. Sentential structures are also categorized in simple, compound and complex sentences. In the collected corpus, the number of proverbs in noun phrase form in both languages is more popular than the other phrases. However, in the form of sentence, simple sentences tend to occupy the largest number in the total of EPsWH and these simple ones distribute in seven different patterns while in VPsWH there are three kinds of pattern frequently used. The symmetric structures of proverbs with four words in each half are used more popularly in VPsWH than in EPsWH. Thus it is easy for us to see the proverbs like these: *Cha đũa mẹ đón; Mẹ ẵm con trã.* However, the proverbs with four words in EPsWH are less frequently used than the ones in Vietnamese.

Semantically, there are total of 17 groups of semantic fields in both languages categorized. Through the process of investigation we have also discovered that most proverbs contain two simultaneous meaning at the same time: literal meaning and figurative meaning, so we sometimes find it difficult to understand the proverbs at the first sight. Basically, the figurative meaning or implied meaning of proverbs is usually conveyed through the expressive means such as metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole, simile, or metaphor. More interesting, some Vietnamese proverbs have no equivalence in English or vice versa because of the cultural differences from countries to countries.

5.3. IMPLICATIONS

No doubt proverbs are an indispensable part of any language system. One, therefore, should be equipped with the knowledge of proverbs so that he can be active in the communication process. However, in many cases, the figurative meaning of proverbs can be differently interpreted from their literal reading. So it is necessary for English teachers to foresee the language barriers their students often confront when they acquire foreign languages in general as well as proverbs in particular. Then these teachers can help the learners with effective ways of learning proverbs. For example, to control students' feeling of hesitation to use proverbs, teachers should get them to be gradually familiar with proverbs. The subtle transmission of the most frequently used proverbs in teaching process day by day can be served as an effective method to improve this.

Also, the English teachers like us should not ignore cultural gaps between source language and the target language because

interlingual errors are originated from the deficiency of cultural knowledge. The best way to solve it is to supply our students with background knowledge of history, culture, traditions, customs, related to proverbs in general and EPsWH in particular. Once the learners understand the context in which EPsWH exist, their language acquisition will be raised considerably. In the case of EPsWH or VPswH, there is no exception.

Another interesting thing getting our attention is that there always exist the various layers of meanings in most EPsWH and VPswH. Thus, a clear explanation of the meaning transfer should be given to make our students feel the hidden beauty of the proverbs. This profound understanding will get the learners to be involved in learning actively and enthusiastically.

Remembering a set of various proverbs is not always an easy task for many students. To eliminate this limitation teacher should categorize PsWH in sub-groups according to topics so that the students can take advantage of connecting similar lexical units in the process of memorizing and they can remember PsWH more easily.

From the contrastive analysis of PsWH in the two languages in chapter 4, it can be seen that some EPsWH and VPswH share the similarities of structures or semantics. For instance, English people say "*Like father, like son*", the Vietnamese use "*Cha nào, con nấy*". Clearly, both English and Vietnamese have corresponding equivalences in their proverb treasures. Therefore, discovering and using suitable equivalences in the inventory is the best way to have a perfect translation. This is to say that a translator must have a profound knowledge of the target language and the source language

so that the content and the form of proverbs can be exactly and naturally interpreted.

However, there are not always absolute equivalences. Many proverbs with words denoting humans in English have equivalences without words denoting humans in Vietnamese or vice versa. The English proverbs “*A man cannot spin and reel at the same time*” or “*A hungry man, an angry man*”, which are equivalent to “*Xay lúa thì khôì bông em*” or “*Đói ăn vụng túng làm càn*” in Vietnamese are typical examples for this. In Vietnamese equivalences, no words denoting humans can be found. In these cases, it is advisable for the translators to transform the structures of proverbs to make the content be remained. On the other hand, one must identify the implied meaning of proverbs to select proper equivalences. In case of not finding any synonymous as the translators desire, they should render the true meaning of the original proverb. In other words, literal translation should be favored in this case.

One more point of great importance is that while translating proverbs, one should not isolate them from cultural context because any forms of language, including proverbs are affected by cultural factors such as norms, customs, prejudices, notions, belief. A harmonious combination between language context and cultural context is the key to success in translating proverbs in general.

5.4. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

It is obvious to see that this study cannot cover all aspects of PsWH due to time constraint, limitation of materials. Here in this thesis we have centered on PsWH. However, not all PsWH are included and we have never touched upon all the structures and

meanings possessed by PsWH yet. For the reasons given above, some suggestions for further studies should be carried out to reveal practical uses of proverbs:

- ♦ An Investigation into Pragmatic and Cultural Aspects of Proverbs Containing Words Denoting Humans in English and Vietnamese.

- ♦ An Investigation into Syntactic and Semantic Features of Proverbs Containing Words Denoting Female in English and Vietnamese.