

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
THE UNIVERSITY OF DANANG**

VÕ THỊ CẨM THÙY

**A STUDY OF "UP"-"DOWN" IN ENGLISH
AND "LÊN" - "XUỐNG" IN VIETNAMESE: A
COGNITIVE SEMANTICS PERSPECTIVE**

Subject area: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Code : 60.22.15

**M.A. THESIS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
(SUMMARY)**

Supervisor: NGŨ THIỆN HÙNG, Ph.D.

Đà Nẵng – 2011

The thesis has been completed at the College of Foreign Languages,
Danang University.

Supervisor: **NGŨ THIÊN HÙNG, Ph.D.**

Examiner 1:

Examiner 2:

The thesis to be orally defended at Examining Committee.

Time:

Venue: Danang University

The original of this thesis is accessible for purpose of
reference at the College of Foreign Languages Library,
Danang University and the Information Resources Centre,
Danang University.

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

Language is the most effective means of communication through which we convey our ideas, our thought and our desire. English is chosen as a main language to communicate with other people all over the world. However, it is not easy to learn and use English effectively and accurately, especially the meaning of prepositions.

The noticeable point that makes Vietnamese learners easily cope with difficulties to understand and translate is a group of prepositions “in- out, up -down” - a prepositional group of direction. It is not simple to understand these words by just relying on their literal meanings, their positions, or their functions. We together pay much attention to some examples below:

- (1) I'm *feeling up*.
- (2) I'm *feeling down*.
- (3) Nền kinh tế nước ta đang *tăng lên* đáng kể
- (4) Doanh thu của doanh nghiệp này *giảm xuống* nghiêm trọng

There is the fact that using prepositions in general, in particular using “up”-“down” in English (versus Vietnamese “lên” and “xuống”), is really a problem to Vietnamese learners. Trying the best to find the right answer for the difficulties so as to motivate teaching and learning effectively is one of the most necessities which Vietnamese teachers teaching English as well as linguistics take for granted. Investigating into “up” – “down” and “lên” – “xuống” in respect of cognitive processing and semantic structure under the light of conceptual metaphor is of great help for both linguistic study and language teaching methodology.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1. Aims of the study

- To investigate into the syntactic, semantic features of “up” - “down” in English and “lên” - “xuống” in Vietnamese relying on the conceptual metaphor

- To provide the Vietnamese learners of English with a better understanding about “up” - “down” and “lên” - “xuống” in the light of cognitive semantics

1.2.2. Objectives of the study

The study is intended to:

- Examine the syntactic and semantic features of “up” - “down” in English and “lên” - “xuống” in Vietnamese

- Explore the semantic features of “up” - “down” in English and “lên” - “xuống” in Vietnamese in the light of cognitive semantics

- Make a comparison to find the similarities and differences between “up” - “down” in English and “lên” - “xuống” in Vietnamese

- Give some suggestions for learning-teaching and translating prepositions “up” - “down” and “lên” - “xuống” in Vietnamese

1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study is to answer the following questions:

1. What are the syntactic features of “up” - “down” in English and “lên” - “xuống” in Vietnamese?

2. What are the semantic features of “up” - “down” in English and “lên” - “xuống” in Vietnamese?

3. What are the semantic features of “up” – “down” in English and “lên” – “xuống” in Vietnamese in the light of cognitive semantics?

4. What are the similarities and differences in syntactic, semantic characteristics of “up” - “down” in English and “lên” – “xuống” in Vietnamese?

1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

In this thesis we just focus on the meanings of “up” - “down” and “lên” – “xuống” which are understood by relying on the conceptual metaphor in the two languages in the hope of seeking the differences and similarities in “up” – “down” in English and “lên” – “xuống” in Vietnamese.

1.5. JUSTIFICATION

With the aim to describe on the syntactic, semantic features of “up” – “down”, the study provides Vietnamese learners of English with better mastering how to apply these prepositions in sensible ways, how to thoroughly understand, and how to translate exactly, effectively and naturally use in receptive and productive skills.

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Literature review

Chapter 3: Methodology of research

Chapter 4: Findings and discussions

Chapter 5: Conclusion, implications, limitation, suggestions for further study

Chapter 2

LITERATURE REVIEW & THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. PREVIOUS STUDIES

Prepositions have begun to attract the attention of many language researchers over the past few decades. As we know, Jackendoff [10] states “people seem never to have taken prepositions seriously. Downing and Locke [5] introduced 140 prepositions and discussed the prepositions and prepositional groups in details. In Vietnam, the issue of prepositions has been mentioned by Nguyễn Kim Thảo [27], Nguyễn Đức Dân [21], and Du Ngọc Ngân [26].

Especially, Lakoff and Johnson [12] applied orientational metaphor which gave a concept a spatial orientation to explain a concept of “up –down, in –out, front –back, on –off, deep –shadow, central – peripheral”. The principles of cognitive linguistics are investigated by Vietnamese linguistics as Lý Toàn Thắng [28] and Nguyễn Lai [25] who also mentioned a group of directional words “up- down, in- out” and make an examination of the regularities of the groups of these words. In “Nghiên cứu giới từ định vị theo hướng ngữ dụng” [23] Trần Quang Hải mentioned pragmatic factors to express the spatial relationship and some solutions to overcome the difficulties in learning English.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Concepts of Prepositions in Natural Language

2.2.1.1 English Prepositions

In traditional studies, prepositions were usually defined and taken into consideration, but, it really seems not to be “treated” seriously. Jackendoff [10] blamed that people seem not to acknowledge that prepositions are really worth examining.

2.2.1.2. Vietnamese Prepositions

Nguyễn Kim Thảo [27] affirms that “preposition” is a notional word (it belongs to group of relators) combining two words, two components that have a relationship of order. In addition, Diệp Quang Ban [19], Lý Toàn Thắng [28] and Nguyễn Lai [25] mentioned the words of movement in the relationship between building mechanism and original positions and the spatial meanings of the words “in –out, up –down”.

2.2.2. Orientational Prepositions and Classification

As mentioned in Cognitive English Grammar by Radden and Dirven [27] the spatial orientational prepositions are known as the prepositions: *up –down, front –back, left –right, in –out, above –below*. The English prepositions describing vertical and horizontal orientations are shown in the figure:

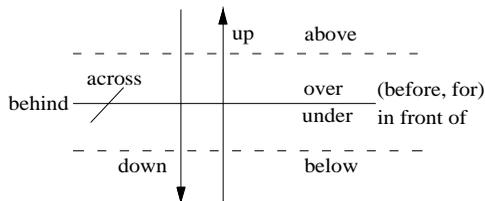


Figure 2.1. The basic orientational prepositions of English (Adapted from Radden and Dirven [17])

2.2.3. Cognitive Linguistics and Semantics

Boers [1] claimed that cognitive linguistic theory considers a speaker's linguistic knowledge as an integrated part of cognition in general. In Vietnamese, Lý Toàn Thắng [28] affirms that cognitive linguistics carried out studying linguistics basing on the experiences and cognitions of human beings about the world objectively as well as their ways cognizing and conceptualizing everything in the world. [7], [12], [13] in English and [20], [25], [28]...in Vietnamese.

2.2.4. Conceptual Metaphors and Orientational Metaphors

In the cognitive linguistic view, metaphor is defined as understanding one conceptual domain in terms of another conceptual domain. CONCEPTUAL DOMAIN (A) is CONCEPTUAL DOMAIN (B), which is what is called a conceptual metaphor.

2.2.5. Mapping

A mapping is the systematic set of correspondences that exist between constituent elements of the source and the target domain. There are two main types of conceptual domains used in conceptual metaphors: Source domain is the conceptual domain from which we draw metaphorical expressions, while, target domain the conceptual domain that we try to understand.

2.2.6. Proto-scene for “Up” –“down”

We propose that the proto-scene for “up –down” is used to denote a relation in which the trajectory (TR) is directed towards the top of the landmark (LM). Thus, the LM is conceptually partitioned and construed as having a top and bottom. The TR is also conceptualized as being oriented; in this case, the asymmetry arises as a result of the direction in which the TR is directed.

Chapter 3

METHOD AND PROCEDURES

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

The qualitative approach has been chosen to identify the linguistic characteristics of “up” – “down” in English and “lên” – “xuống” in Vietnamese. Besides, a combination of the descriptive and contrastive methods were utilized to seek the qualitative information and to find out the similarities and differences of “up” – “down”, “lên” – “xuống”.

3.2. DATA COLLECTION

3.2.1. Sampling

The data used in the study were collected from English and Vietnamese short stories, poems, novels and newspapers where instances of prepositional phrases “up – down” and “lên” – “xuống” were used in literal meaning and in metaphorical contexts.

3.2.2. Procedures of data collection

3.3. DATA ANALYSIS

The data analysis was also done for further contrastive information about the syntactic and semantic features of “up” – “down” and “lên” – “xuống” in the two languages. This was executed by juxtaposing cases of syntactic realizations of “up” – “down” and “lên” – “xuống” in different structures and semantic features both literal meanings and metaphorical meanings.

3.4. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

I followed the designed procedures as presented in the foregoing section to ensure the reliability of the samples and the results of data collection and data analysis. As for the validity of the data collection and analysis, the study checked whether the samples observed have yielded information in terms of the syntactic and semantic features as intended in the objectives of study.

Chapter 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF “UP” - “DOWN” IN ENGLISH AND “LÊN” - “XUỐNG” IN VIETNAMESE

4.1.1. Syntactic Features of “Up” - “down” in English

4.1.1.1. “Up” - “down” in Prepositional Phrases as Adverbial

“Up” –“down” are treated as an Adv because they have no function of its own as a typical preposition with a noun as object as in “*rolled down the muddy road*”. Similarly, “up” -“down” are mainly adverb of the verb in the sentence as an adverb answering where, when, how or to what degree about the verb without any object after it such as *fall down, get up*. Furthermore, “up” –“down” are also adverb or adjunct which has an adverbial function as in “*up to now*” as shown below.

S + V + Prep as Adverb + Ø

S +V + Prep+ prepositional phrase as Adverb

[Adv of Prep + Prep+ Adv] (adjunct), S + V

4.1.1.2. “Up” – “down” in Prepositional Phrases as Subject Complement

Subject complement is the one linked to a subject with the help of intensitive verb or a linking verb and has a co-referential relation with the subject as in the sentence “*you ‘re up stump*”. It is able to generalize the case of the syntactic structure of “up” - “down” in prepositional phrases as Subject Complement as below.

S + Be +Prep + N
S + Be + Adj (with Prep)

4.1.1.3. “Up”- “down” in Phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs can be intransitive (not followed by a direct object) or transitive (followed by a direct object). Concretely, the phrasal verb “*end up*” constituted by the combination of the verb “*end*” and the particle “up” do not need to be followed by a noun. In other cases, the combination of the verb “lift” and Prep (particle) “up” to make the phrasal verb “*lift up*” with need the object after it as in “*lifted up her voice*”. Besides, when a phrasal verb has a direct object, the two parts of the verb can usually be separated as in “*get my dancer up*” or “*lay me down*” as examined in following structures.

S +V +particle
S +V +particle +Od
S +V + Od +particle
S +V + Pronoun +particle

To be complicated, like many prepositions, “up” –“down” also combined with other words to make phrasal-prepositional verbs which consist of three parts: a base verb, an adverb particle and a preposition: **V + particle + Prep** as in “*put up with*” or “*scoot on down*”

In general, prepositional verbs are defined as intransitive verbs that consist of a verb followed by a prepositional phrase. The prepositional phrase functions as a verb complement defined as a word or phrase that directly follows and completes the meaning of the verb. Meanwhile, phrasal verbs are defined as periphrastic intransitive or transitive verbs that consist of a verb followed by one or more prepositions functioning as a particle.

4.1.1.4. “Up” – “down” in Idiomatic Phrases

The prepositional phrases “*up in arms*” with the meaning of *to plan for fight* and “*down in the dumps*” using *to speak about depression* are mainly idiomatic expressions which cause some difficulties in understanding because of their figurative meanings.

4.1.2. Syntactic Functions of “Lên” – “xuống” in Vietnamese

4.1.2.1. “Lên” – “xuống” in Phrases as a Preposition

In Vietnamese, “lên”- “xuống” can be treated as prepositions following the main verbs and preceding a noun as direct object in these sentences as the verb “*ngó*” +prep “lên” and the verb “*rót*” + prep “xuống” create the meaning of direction for these verbs. This normally occurs in the following construction.

S + V +Prep (lên –xuống) +O

4.1.2.2. “Lên, xuống” in Phrases as an Adverbial

It is not as similar as the case of “lên”- “xuống” in phrases as a Prep, which we can not put an object after “lên” as an Adv. In “reo lên”, “lên” which has the function of an Adv can modify directly the verb “reo” without any object as shown in syntactical structure.

S + V + Adv (lên –xuống)

4.1.2.3. “Lên” – “xuống” in Phrases as a Transitive Verb or Intransitive Verb

“Lên” – “xuống” in “đến nơi”, “xuống đây” are intransitive verbs because they themselves stand individually without any objects, which are followed by an adverb denoting time, place.... Typically, it normally take the following syntactical structure:

S + V (lên –xuống) + (Adv)

In case of transitive verbs, “lên” –“xuống” are treated as main verbs of the sentences followed by direct object or indirect object as in “lên danh sách”. we can examine the feature by following structure.

S + V (lên –xuống) + Od

4.1.2.4. “Lên”- “xuống” in Idiomatic Phrases

The meaning of the idiomatic phrases “lên voi xuống chó” or “lên bờ xuống ruộng” is quite different from the meanings of each componential word in the idiomatic phrases.

4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF “UP” – “DOWN” IN ENGLISH AND “LÊN” – “XUỐNG” IN VIETNAMESE

4.2.1. Semantic Features of “up”

In general, preposition “up” expresses the following meanings.

Table 4.1. The meanings of “up”

	MEANING
UP	to or toward or situation at a higher point
	toward a particular direction or in the interior of, as a region or territory
	toward, or at a high or higher station, condition, or rank on
	in a good mood

4.2.2. Semantic Features of “down”

Table 4.2. The meanings of “down”

	MEANING
DOWN	from a higher to a lower level
	on a lower level than before
	in a good mood the depression or the low feeling

4.2.3. Semantic Features of “lên”

Table 4.3. The meanings of “lên”

	MEANING
LÊN	move to a higher position
	move to a forward position
	increase of higher quality or quantity

	develop / improve
--	-------------------

4.2.4. Semantic Features of “xuống”

Table 4.4. The meanings of “xuống”

	MEANING
XUỐNG	move from higher to lower position
	move to lower place in the space
	decrease of the quantity or quality

4.3. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF “UP” – “DOWN” IN PHRASES IN VIEW OF COGNITIVE SEMANTICS

4.3.1. “Up” – “down” denoting Psychological Senses

There are connections between our emotions, our feelings such as happiness, sadness, consciousness we can get the general metaphorical structure of the metaphorical images “happy is up, sad is down”, “conscious is up, unconscious is down” or “health and life are up, sickness and death are down”. We can analyse “happy is up, sad is down” like the following way:

SOURCE DOMAIN	→	TARGET DOMAIN
UP	→	HAPPY
DOWN	→	SAD

The psychology is up when the happiness, health or consciousness are up, however, it can be down when they are down. The senses can be symbolized in table 4.5 below.

Table 4.5 “Up” and “down” denoting Psychological Senses

<i>Psychological Categories</i>		Up denoting upwards movement with positive change	Down denoting downwards movement with negative change
Psychological Senses	Mood	Feel up, cheer up, lighten up \approx X becomes more cheerful, happier	Feel down, weigh down \approx X is depressed, in low spirits
	Health, life	Build up \approx X develops or increases in stages or by degrees	Be down, drop down, put down \approx X has a disease
	Consciousness/unconsciousness	Get up, wake up \approx X becomes awake or conscious	Lie down \approx X places oneself at rest in a flat, horizontal, or recumbent position; in unconscious mood

4.3.2. “Up” – “down” denoting Quantity Senses

The experiential basis of the very common “more is up, less is down” which is also metaphorical image can be understood by using the “up, down schema” indicating the choice of VERTICALITY as the source domain for the structuring of the target domain QUANTITY. The senses can be symbolized in table 4.6 below.

Table 4.6. “Up” and “down” denoting Quantity Senses

Quantity Categories		Up denoting upwards movement with positive change	Down denoting downwards movement with negative change
Quant	More/Less Senses	Take up, put up, go up, pump up \approx X increases the quantity	Slow down, quiet down, go down, pipe down \approx X decreases the quantity
	Improvement/Worse	Dig up, dress up, touch up \approx X improves or increases greater	Be down, break down \approx X worsen or decreases quantity

it-y Sense s	Senses	quantity	
	Comple tion/ depleti on sense	Fill up, eat up, well up, drink up ≈ X is full of container	Run down, draw down ≈ X runs out of container

4.3.3. “Up” - “down” denoting Quality Senses

The concepts, such as VERTICALITY, serve as the source domain for target domains, such as goodness, badness, virtue or depravity as:

SOURCE DOMAIN	→	TARGET DOMAIN
UP	→	GOOD/ VIRTUE
DOWN	→	BAD/ DEPRAVITY

The metaphorical image “good is up”, “virtue is up”, together with a metaphor that we discuss not only the good quality of people but also the good quality of things is very popular in daily language. On contrary, we discuss the bad quality of people or things by depending on the conceptual metaphor “bad is down”, “depravity is down as in 4.7.

Table 4.7. “Up” and “down” denoting Quality senses

Quality Categories		Up denoting upwards movement with positive change	Down denoting downwards movement with negative change
Qualit y Sense s	Good/ Bad Sense Virtue/ Depravity Senses	Fix up, live up, look up ≈ X is more well – being, prosperous in the society	Business down ≈ X is less well –being, prosperous in the society

4.3.4. “Up” – “down” denoting Social Senses

The notion “having control of force, being subject to control of force” is set by the social criteria and people’s criteria. When we are at the height of the power in the society, it means that we have responsibility for controlling works or the other people. However, we are also controlled when we are at the lower position in the society as understood by applying the up, down scheme:

SOURCE DOMAIN → TARGET DOMAIN

UP → HIGH STATUS, HAVING CONTROL OF FORCE

DOWN → LOW STATUS, BEING SUBJECT TO CONTROL OF FORCE

In short, we suggest that due to an independently motivated experiential association between control and being vertically elevated. The senses can be symbolized in the table 4.8 below.

Table 4.8. “Up” and “down” denoting Social Senses

Quality Categories		Up denoting upwards movement with positive change	Down denoting downwards movement with negative change
Social Senses	High / low status Having control of force / being subject to control of force	Climb up ≈ X has higher power in social hierarchy	Step down, bring down ≈ X has lower power in social hierarchy

4.4. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF “LÊN” – “XUỐNG” IN VIETNAMESE IN VIEW OF THE COGNITIVE SEMANTICS

4.4.1. “Lên” – “xuống” denoting Senses of Status

The word “lên” implies the movement to the high space, and the word “xuống” is understood conversely. Therefore, “lên” – “xuống” can be

used to denote the movement or change from the low status to the higher status in the society. The good, high status/ bad, low status are the target domains which are understood from the source domains “lên” – “xuống”.

4.4.2. “Lên” – “xuống” denoting Capability Senses

“Lên” – “xuống” not only indicate the meanings of movement but also figuratively denote the meanings of capability. We easily find out other phrases denoting the capability senses such as: *giỏi lên, học lên hẳn, học xuống hẳn*

4.4.3. “Lên” – “xuống” denoting Appearance Senses

With the expression, “lên” indicates the positive value, which helps us to know: “*đẹp lên: become prettier, make the appearance more beautiful*”, meanwhile, “*xuống sắc*” may imply “*look less pretty or make the appearance less beautiful*” due to “xuống” indicates the negative value. It is common to see many other phrases denoting the appearance senses: *lên cân, béo lên, xuống cân*.....

4.4.4. “Lên” – “xuống” denoting Senses of Mood

Together with “up” – “down”, “lên” is a metaphor for happiness, joyful (upbeat, things are looking up, on the upside) while “xuống” is a metaphor for sadness, disappointment (he’s looking down, there was a downturn, and she’s down about her job). It is popular to see other phrases to denote this factor such as *phấn khởi lên, phấn chấn lên, suy sụp xuống*....

4.4.5. “Lên” – “xuống” denoting Social - cultural Senses

The phrases “*lên rừng*”, “*xuống biển*” are set by the physical space: jungle is higher place which is oriented “lên” and river or sea is lower place which has the downward orientation. Meanwhile, “*lên tỉnh*”,

“*xuống xã, xuống huyện*” are also an orientation in space which is considered as highly appropriated positions in the society (as in the social hierarchy), therefore, “*lên tỉnh*” may imply that *he has a higher position in a society* due to the conceptual metaphor in social –cultural space. Moreover, the use of “*lên*” –“*xuống*” denoting the concepts “*lên nhà trên*”, “*xuống bếp*”, “*xuống nhà dưới*” which are known as “*nhà trên*” has the orientation of a better, more polite, luxurious place than “*nhà dưới*”, therefore, when we want to emphasize a better, higher position, “*lên*” is used to to infer the meaning and “*xuống*” infers the a worse, lower one. To some extent, to orient the movement of footballers in the ground in which the footballers of the home team move to the half of the ground of the host team, we use “*lên bóng*”, “*dồn lên*”, meanwhile, the ball passes the ground of the home team, “*xuống biên*”, “*thoát xuống*” are used to show the movement of the ball.

4.4.6. “*Lên*” – “*xuống*” denoting Anthropocentric Senses

The people are treated as cognitive map in space because their verticality is the same the verticality of the earth, therefore, the concept “*lên*” has the orientation of “*head*” and “*xuống*” has the orientation of “*foot*”. When orienting the directions (North, South, East, and West) in the world, we also choose some different ways.

The senses of “*lên*” –“*xuống*” in Vietnamese in view of cognitive semantics can be symbolized in the table 4.9 below.

Table 4.9. “*Lên*” and “*xuống*” denoting Categories

Categories	“ <i>Lên</i> ” denoting upwards movement with positive change	“ <i>Xuống</i> ” denoting downwards movement with negative change
------------	---------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------

Senses of Status	Lên voi ≈ X moves up the elephant (in the expression “lên voi xuống chó”), khá lên ≈ X gets wealthier nông lên ≈ X posits higher status	Xuống chó ≈ X moves down the dog ấp xuống ≈ X is more difficult xuống, đẩy xuống ≈ X posit lower status
Capability Senses	Lên chân ≈ X improves competence/ expertise, Học lên hẳn, khá lên ≈ X improves in study	Xuống sức ≈ X diminishes competence/ expertise Học xuống hẳn, xuống hạng ≈ X worsens in study
Appearance Senses	Đẹp lên ≈ X becomes prettier, lên cân, béo lên ≈ X gains weigh	Xuống sắc ≈ X looks less pretty), xuống cân ≈ X loses weigh
Senses of Mood	Vui lên, sướng lên ≈ X becomes happier Tức lên ≈ X gets angry, đỏ lên ≈ X is hot –temper	Xịu xuống, sầm xuống ≈ X becomes sorrowful Nén giận xuống ≈ X restrains one’s anger, Xuống nước, xuống tay, lắng xuống ≈ X gets less angry
Social-cultural Senses	Lên bóng, dồn lên ≈ X moves the ball up Lên nhà trên ≈ X goes up the main room (living room) Lên chiếu trên, lên tinh ≈ X posits a more respected place	Xuống biên, thoát xuống ≈ X moves the ball down Xuống nhà dưới ≈ X goes down the outhouse (kitchen) Xuống chiếu dưới, xuống huyện ≈ X posits a less respected place
Anthropocentric Senses	Lên trên đầu ≈ X moves up the head Lên Hà Nội ≈ X goes up Hà Nội (psychologically)	Xuống dưới chân ≈ X moves up the foot Xuống Hà Nội ≈ X goes up Hà Nội (psychologically)

4.5. “UP” – “DOWN” DENOTING NEGATIVE MEANINGS IN ENGLISH (VERSUS “LÊN” – “XUỐNG” IN VIETNAMESE)

It is normal to know that “up” (lên) codes the positive meanings of the phrase in which physical elevation is associated with more quantity, higher status...., meanwhile, we experience positions described by “down” (xuống) as being negative meanings precisely because they correlate with less quantity, lower status.... However, we find really exciting to find out a reverse process of “up” (lên) denoting negative meanings such as “*hard up*” and “*fed up with*” and “down” (xuống) denoting positive meanings such as *calm down*, *wash down*, *lay down*.... In Vietnamese, the use of “lên” denoting the negative meaning and “xuống” expressing the positive meaning is rather plentiful as found in “*dâng lên*”, “*đau nhói lên*”, “*ừ lên*”, “lên” expresses the negative meaning and “xuống” in “*láng xuống*” denoting the positive meaning.

4.6. DISCUSSION

4.6.1. Similarities

Both groups of words have the functions of adverbial, preposition, idiom, and verb in sentences. When they are combined with verbs, they are transitive or intransitive verb phrases.

These prepositions and their adverbial particles such as “up” – “down” and “lên” – “xuống” are mapped into many concepts such as psychology, status, mood, society, etc in different ways in English as well as in Vietnamese as mentioned in the table 4.12.

Table 4.12. The Similarities of the Categories of “Up” – “down” and “Lên” – “xuống”

Categories	Up	Lên	Down	Xuống
Senses of Happiness/ Sadness	Feel up, Lighten up, Cheer up	Vui lên, sướng lên, phấn chấn lên	Feel down Weigh down	Xịu xuống, sảm xuống
Senses of Intensity/Strength	Build up	Khỏe lên, mạnh lên	Drop down	Yếu xuống, đau xuống
Senses of More /Less	Take up, Put up, Pump up, Go up, Speak up	Tăng lên, lên tiếng	Slow down, Go down, Come down, Pipe down, Put down, Turn down, Quiet down	Giảm xuống
Senses of Improvement /Worse	Dig up, Dress up, Make up Touch up	Khá lên, Giỏi lên(knowledg e) Đẹp lên, Xinh lên	Be down	Xuống hạng, Xuống sắc
Senses of Status	Climb up	Lên chức Nồng lên	Step down	Xuống chức Văng xuống

4.6.2. Differences

Firstly, although “up” – “down” in English have the function as Subject Complement in a sentence, “lên” – “xuống” in Vietnamese are not able to follow Subject to modify it as Subject Complement.

Secondly, in phrasal verbs, when verbs are followed by “up” – “down” and one or more than one prepositions, they are usually called phrasal - prepositional verbs, idiomatic phrases with different meanings of each word such as: *put up with, fed up with, come down with*. However, in Vietnamese, when “lên” – “xuống” which combine with other words can

be either the stems (the verbs) or complements in the verb phrases such as: *chạy xuống dốc* (xuống: complement (preposition)), *xuống dốc* (xuống: stem (verb)).

Thirdly, in English “up” –“down” only following the verbs are called either prepositions or spatical particles such as *go up* not *up go*, yet, in Vietnamese despite the fact that “lên” –“xuống” can converse the order in the phrase such as *đi lên, lên đi*, the syntactic feature and the semantic feature diferently change.

Semantically, we find that using “up” –“down” in English to infer the completion /depletion senses show the meaning “the increase is complete / the decrease is finished”. However, this point can not be discovered in using “lên” –“xuống” to express this sense.

Moreover, we are not able to omit “up –down” in the phrases which are used to code the upward / downward movements as well as the positive / negative meanings. Meanwhile, “lên” –“xuống” can be omitted in the phrases without changing the meaning of the phrases, but we can understand the upward / downward movements as well as the positive / negative meanings.

Vietnamese have profound knowledge to orient the upward / downward movement in the football ground with using the concept “lên” –“xuống” such as *lên bóng, dồn lên, xuống biên*.... Meanwhile, we find it really uncommon for English to use the concept “up” –“down” to do this .

In the verb phrase “*béo lên*”, “lên” has the function of improving the body. Together with this sense, “*béo lên*” in Vietnamese can translate into English “gain weight” without “up” in this phrase.

The last thing we would like to mention is that in Vietnamese, the anthropocentricity is highly appreciated in directing the space “lên” – “xuống.”

Chapter 5

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSIONS

Syntactically, “up” –“down” in English and “lên” –“xuống” in Vietnamese have the functions as prepositions and as adverbial or verbs in the phrases. “Up” “-down” were also considered as particles in the phrasal verbs in English and “lên” –“xuống” could play the roles of the main verbs in the phrasal verbs. Moreover, the distinctions in syntactic features show that “up” –“down” could modify the subject in the sentence, yet, we found no evidence for the modification of “lên” –“xuống” for the subject in Vietnamese.

In the light of semantic features, it is common for “up” –“lên” to orient the upward movement as well as code the positive meaning in the sense of cognitive semantics. Conversely, “down” –“xuống” were used to direct the downward movement and the negative meaning. In some cases, “up” –“lên” could imply the negative value while the positive value was coded by “down –xuống”.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS

The analysis of the semantics of “up” –“down” in English and “lên” –“xuống” in Vietnamese may be useful for teachers, learners and translators in which they can orient themselves in language learning, teaching and translating.

Despite social -cultural differences, in both English and Vietnamese happiness and sadness, correlate physically with up-down orientation. In order to facilitate the comprehension of the aforementioned idiomatic expressions, the teacher should lead the students to the discovery of the conceptual metaphors *happiness is up/sadness is down*, high status is up/ low status is down... coding such figurative usages

In a pedagogical context, it may be useful to draw learners' attention to those aspects of a preposition's spatial sense that are especially relevant for its metaphorization processes.

5.3. LIMITATION

The terms used in this study are not uniform and precise enough for readers to follow easily. Then, different terms used by Vietnamese linguists are really difficult to offer an equivalent in English because there are not one –to –one correspondence between English and Vietnamese terms. Therefore, we have great difficulty in dealing with Vietnamese terminology.

5.4. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

We would like to propose these aspects of cognitive semantics involving prepositions of movement:

- A study of the pragmatic features of "up"- "down" in English and "lên" - "xuống" in Vietnamese
- A study of "front"- "back" in English and "trước " - "sau" in Vietnamese in the light of cognitive semantics perspective