M.A. THESIS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
(RESEARCH SUMMARY)

Danang, 2011
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

Idioms can be considered an attractive and popular phenomenon of every language. They can convey speaker’s intention more interestingly, persuasively and succinctly than a word. It is the reason why idioms are so popular. They occur not only in everyday conversations but also in standard literature works. However, understanding an idiom by understanding its components is not enough because idioms’ meanings are unpredictable which derive from unusual forms, stylistic devices and knowledge on culture. Although idioms are not easy to comprehend, it is necessary for learners not to disregard idioms in studying languages because idioms are an unseparated element of languages and so common in daily use. As a second language teacher, this urges me to conduct the thesis entitled “An Investigation into English and Vietnamese Idioms Containing Words Denoting Weather” to find out the resemblances and distinctions between EIWW and VIWW in the terms of syntax and semantics. The result of the study, to some extent, is hoped to be able to help Vietnamese learners of English use EIWW and VIWW effectively in communication so that their speech is more adequate, natural, interesting and imaginative.

1.2. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE STUDY

Idioms cannot be understood easily because the meaning of an idiom depends on many things such as the transparency of the idiom or how much the hearer knows about cultural values hidden in the idiom… So, most of second language learners find it uncomfortable to use them in daily life. Although idioms are one of the most difficult aspects of language study, no one can deny the effect of idioms in language use.

It is hoped that along with the understanding of the features of idioms in general and those of IWW in particular, the findings of the study can help learners employ IWW more regularly, spontaneously and effectively. Hence, the syntax and semantics of EIWW and VIWW are the focus of the thesis. The thesis also can be a useful reference resource for teaching and studying EIWW in particular.

1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.3.1. Aims of the study

- Exploring the syntactic and semantic characteristics of EIWW in comparison with VIWW.
- Motivating Vietnamese learners of English to obtain an insight of the syntactic and semantic features of EIWW and VIWW.
- Increasing the learners’ awareness of some cultural features hidden in EIWW and VIWW.

1.3.2. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the studies are:

- To identify, describe, classify and analyze syntactic and semantic features of EIWW and VIWW.
- To compare and contrast syntactic and semantic features of EIWW and VIWW.
- To suggest some ideas for teaching and learning English idioms.

1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

In this thesis, the focus is on the syntactic and semantic features of IWW in English and Vietnamese with a view to finding out their similarities and differences.

1.5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the syntactic features of EIWW and VIWW?
2. What are the semantic features of EIWW and VIWW?
3. What are the similarities and differences between EIWW and VIWW in terms of their syntactic and semantic features?

4. What are some suggestions for teaching EIWW to Vietnamese learners of English?

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The study is organized into five chapters: Chapter 1 is the Introduction; Chapter 2 is the Literature Review and Theoretical Background; Chapter 3 is the Methods and Procedures; Chapter 4 is the Findings and Discussions; Chapter 5 is the Conclusions and Implications.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

A lot of researchers have looked at idioms from various viewpoints. Among of them are Collins. V. H [10], John Sinclair et al [13], Judith Siefring [54], Nguyễn Như Ý [91], Hoàng Văn Hành [97]…

Judith Siefring (1999) published The Oxford Dictionary of Idioms with the purpose of providing clear definitions of idioms for those who do not know what they mean and offering the curious readers interesting facts about the origins of phrases and examples of their use. Nguyễn Như Ý and other co-writers collected and explained a large number of idioms and their uses in context.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUNDS

2.2.1. Definition of Idioms

For Pulman [49, p.2], “Idioms are pervasive in all styles of language use. Their meaning cannot be worked out by the usual syntactic and semantic rules”. In David Crystal’s opinion [12, p.181], “idiom is a term in grammar and lexicography to refer to a sequence of words which is semantically and often syntactically restricted, so that they function as a single unit”

Mai Ngọc Chùr, Vũ Đức Nghịệu & Hoàng Trọng Phién in Cơ sở ngôn ngữ học và tiếng Việt (1997, p.153–165), idioms whose meanings are imaginative are fixed in structure. Lê Văn Đúc (1970, p.2) regards an idiom as a short saying used by a lot of people for a long time to convey an imaginative idea.

In the thesis, an idiom is understood as a language unit containing the following features:

**Syntactically,** idioms are ready-made combinations of words. Constituents in idioms are usually bound together. They do not always follow normal grammar rules; even some have strange structure. They can be in form of phrases or sentences.

**Semantically,** idioms carry figurative meanings that are not always deduced from the combination of individual words. The meanings of idioms can sometimes be explained by referring to historical and cultural knowledge.

2.2.2. Idioms Containing Words Denoting Weather

**Idioms Containing Words Denoting Weather** in this thesis are the ones with weather words such as rain, cloud, wind, snow, fog… in English and mưa, cabelo, gió, bão, sương… in Vietnamese

2.2.3. Main Features of Idioms

2.2.3.1. Structural Features: Non-substitutability, Non-modifiability, Non-rearrangement, Non-omission.

2.2.3.2. Semantic Features: Transparent, Partly-compositional, Opaque.

2.2.3.3. Symbolic Features

2.2.3.4. Cultural Features
2.2.4. Idioms and Other Similar Language Units

2.2.4.1 Idioms and Phrases
2.2.4.2 Idioms and Collocations
2.2.4.3 Idioms and Proverbs

Table 2.5: Similarities and Differences between Idioms & Similar Language Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PHRASES</th>
<th>IDIOMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Similarity</strong></td>
<td>Groups of words</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Difference</strong></td>
<td>Syntactically</td>
<td>fixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Syntactically</td>
<td>relatively fixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semantically</td>
<td>literally understood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semantically</td>
<td>mostly figuratively understood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COLLOCATIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Similarity</strong></td>
<td>- Arbitrary word combination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Non- substitutability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Difference</strong></td>
<td>Syntactically</td>
<td>Can be modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Syntactically</td>
<td>Cannot be modified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semantically</td>
<td>Meaning is partly derived from its constituents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semantically</td>
<td>Meaning cannot be often determined through an analysis of component</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROVERBS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Similarity</strong></td>
<td>Unreproductive language units</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Difference</strong></td>
<td>Syntactically</td>
<td>fixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Syntactically</td>
<td>completely fixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Syntactically</td>
<td>short sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Syntactically</td>
<td>often have rhythm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semantically</td>
<td>equivalent to a proposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semantically</td>
<td>denoting a complete idea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semantically</td>
<td>expressing common truth, advice, moral lessons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2.5. Overview of Structure and Idiomatic Structure

2.2.5.1. Overview of Structure
The thesis is conducted based on Quirk et al’s view on structure.

a. **Phrase class:** (1) Noun phrase, (2) Verb phrase, (3) Adjective phrase, (4) Adverb phrase, (5) Prepositional phrase.

b. **Clause patterns:** (1) SVA, (2) SVC, (3) SVO, (4) SVOA, (5) SVOC, (6) SVOO, (7) SV

2.2.5.2. Idiomatic Structure
According to McCarthy [43, p.6], the types of idioms vary in size, form and structure from *compounds* and *prepositional phrases* to *simile* and *whole sentences*. Rosamund Moon [45, p 85] says that English idioms comprise a wide variety of structures. They are classified into three major categories: *Phrase idioms*, *Clause idioms* and *Sentence idioms*.

2.2.6. Overview of Meaning, Meaning of Idioms and Semantic Fields

2.2.6.1. Overview of Meaning
The analysis on idioms’ meaning in the thesis is based on the combination of *Conceptual meaning*, *Connotative meaning*, *Collocative meaning*, *Stylistic meaning* and *Affective meaning*, which are categorized by Leech [37, p.10-17].

2.2.6.2. Meaning of Idioms
Idioms’ meanings may differ perceptibly from the meanings of the individual words in the idiom. The level of literalness of idioms varies, which can create difficulties for language learners to understand. The transparency or opacity of an idiom really cannot be measured in absolute terms as it is affected by the individual’s real-world knowledge, awareness
of culture, general familiarity with the phrase and the context in which the idiom occurs.

2.2.6.3. Semantic Fields
Adrienne [38, p.197-207] has defined semantic field more specifically as "a set of lexemes which cover a certain conceptual domain and which bear certain specifiable relations to one another". The data collected in the thesis emphasize some semantic fields. Some of them are Speed, Weather Conditions, States of Life, Human Behaviour, and Psychological State…

2.2.7. The Relationship of Language and Culture
Claire Kramsch [35], in relation to culture language performs 3 functions: expressing cultural reality, embodying cultural reality, symbolizing cultural reality. Hence, the understanding of a culture and its people can be enhanced by the knowledge of their language and vice versa. The implications of language are completely entwined in culture. As a part of language, idioms encompass cultural values and daily life features of the people who speak that language.

CHAPTER 3: METHODS AND PROCEDURES
3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN
3.2. RESEARCH METHODS
The study combines descriptive method, deductive method, inductive method, comparative method, contrastive method as guidelines.
3.3. DESCRIPTION OF POPULATION AND SAMPLE
3.4. RESEARCH PROCEDURES
3.4.1. Data Collection
3.4.2. Data Analysis
3.5. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

CHAPTER 4: FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS
4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF EIWW AND VIWW
4.1.1 Phrase Structures
4.1.1.1 IWW with Noun Phrase Structure
English
[1] (Art) + A + N
[2] (Art) + N + N
Vietnamese
[1] Num + N/ Num + N
[2] N+ N / N + N
[3] N + V / N + V

4.1.1.2. IWW with Adjective Phrase Structure
English
Vietnamese
[6] A + Compound N
[8] A + VP/ A + VP

4.1.1.3. IWW with Verb Phrase Structure
English
[6] V + NP
[7] V + NP + PP
[8] V + PP
Vietnamese
[9] N + V/ N + V
[10] V + N (NP)
[12] V + Adv P
[13] V + N + PP

4.1.1.4. IWW with Prepositional Phrase Structure
English
[9] Prep + art +N
Vietnamese
VIWW have no contribution to Prepositional Phrase Structure.
4.1.1.5 IWW with Adverb Phrase Structure

- English
  - In nearly 200 EIWW, no adverb phrases can be found.
- Vietnamese
  - [14] Adv + NP

4.1.2. Sentence Structures

Sentence Structures just can be discovered in VIWW.

4.1.2.1. Simple Sentence Patterns

- ENGLISH: S + V + O
- VIETNAMESE: S + V + A

4.1.2.2. Compound Sentence Patterns

- ENGLISH: S + V + A, S + V + A
- VIETNAMESE: S + V + A, S + V + A

### Table 4.8: Statistical Summary of Syntactic Features of EIWW and VIWW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English and Vietnamese Idioms Containing Words Denoting Weather</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>VIETNAMESE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noun Phrases</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjective Phrases</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verb Phrases</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepositional Phrases</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverb Phrases</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase Structures</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>VIETNAMESE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simple Patterns</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compound Patterns</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total                                                        | 174     | 200        |

4.1.3. Similarities and Differences of EIWW and VIWW

4.1.3.1. Similarities

From the investigation, both EIWW and VIWW have the patterns in form of noun phrases, adjective phrases, verb phrases and prepositional phrases. In detail, both have 3 structures in common: A + Adv P, V + NP, V + NP + PP. Moreover, both use a lot of comparison construction expressed by “as…as” or “like” in English and “như” in Vietnamese such as quick as lightning, nặng như gió giở…

Idioms are considered fixed expressions; however, as mentioned in the theoretical section, they are relatively fixed. In some cases, the change of the word in the same semantic field or the order of the words in the idiom does not break its meaning at all like *Chill someone to the bone/ Chill someone to the marrow*; *An đát năm sương/ Ấn gió năm mura*. It is interesting that idioms employed in reality are really more flexible than what is known, especially by writers who want to create their own words on the basis of existing idioms. The structure of these idiomatic expressions is partly renewed; for example, their elements are changed by replacing a new one as in *ngày bãng sâm* (compared with *ngày như sâm*), gió thoaing *bên tai* (*gió thoaing ngoài tai*), *their port in all storms (any port in a storm)*; by omitting words as in *ù ụ cac các vít nghe sâm* (*ù ụ cac cac như vít nghe sâm*); by adding a new word as in *như vụ như bão* (*như vụ bão*). Nevertheless, the idiomatic properties of the new terms are lost by no means.

4.1.3.2. Differences

Among the samples, no adverb phrases appear in EIWW meanwhile there are no cases of prepositional phrases in Vietnamese. With regard to phrasal forms, the number of EIWW as verb phrases is more than those in Vietnamese, however, VIWW as noun phrases are used more than other kinds of phrases. VIWW own both simple and
compound sentence patterns whereas EIWW do not. In addition, a large portion of VIWW consists of four words and applies parallelism which cannot be found in EIWW. For example, in Ān sâm nói gió, Ān and nói are in the same grammatical category of verb, sâm and gió are in the same grammatical category of noun. Or in Nắng trưa mưa tối, the words nắng is parallel to mưa because they belong to the same semantic category of weather phenomena, trưa is parallel to tối, which are in the same semantic field of time. The symmetric structures in VIWW are diversified: N+N/N+N (Chiều đất mận suông), N+V/N+N (Nắng không ưa, mưa không chử), N+A/N+A (Cây cao gió cát), A+VP/A+VP (Dạy che mưa, thua che nắng), V+N/V+N (Ān sâm nói gió).

Another structural feature found in VIWW is that the words in the idiomatic expressions are separated to guarantee the euphonic property and the parallelism in the structure of four-word terms. As in the case “Nắng giữ mưa giàn”, the word “giữ giàn” is split into two parts which are then combine with two nouns to set up a phrase with four words, a common characteristic of Vietnamese idioms. Moreover, due to the influence of the Chinese culture, many Vietnamese idioms originate from China stories such as Mua Sơ máy Trên...and some idioms with words of Chinese origin (with or without Vietnamese equivalents) still remain such as Thanh phong mình ngày (Gió mặt特朗 thanh)...One more point is that, there is a repetition of the whole word or syllables in Vietnamese idiomatic phrases which are easy to memorize with rhythm. We can see the following terms as a proof. For example, Sọ bóng sọ gió, Lừa gió bọ buồm.

In all, tendency of parallelism, repetition and word separation which cause specific properties of Vietnamese idioms cannot be discovered in EIWW at all.

4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF EIWW AND VIWW

4.2.1. Semantic Fields of EIWW and VIWW

4.2.1.1. Weather Conditions

- English

(55) So come rain or shine, the week will be loaded with entertainment options.

(Đừ nâng hay mưa thì tuần này cũng dầy áp những lựa chọn giải trí.) [14, p.329]

- Vietnamese

(57) Nắng long lanh, mộng mảnh. Mùa thu như một lời xin lỗi của đất trời về cái nặng mưa mựa đầu của mùa hạ. [128, p. 3]

4.2.1.2. Psychological States

- English

(59) Ian’s best friend, Stolly (…) He’s in the hospital, unconscious, and hooked up to machines. The question Ian is trying to answer is: How did Stolly end up there? In a way, Stolly’s always been on cloud nine, living life by his own rules. [102, p. 96]

(Stolly, người bạn thân của Ian đang nằm ở viện trong tình trạng hôn mê, người mắc dày may hôm. Câu hỏi mà Ian đang cố tìm câu trả lời là Stolly kết thúc trên giường bệnh như thế nào? Theo một cách nào đó, Stolly luôn hạnh phúc, sống một cuộc đời theo nguyên tắc của anh.)

- Vietnamese

(61) Và cùng với lẽ đó mà long ghen bóng ghen gió của Minh cũng từ từ biến mất. [122, p. 52]

4.2.1.3. Physical States

- English

Another structural feature found in VIWW is that the words in the idiomatic expressions are separated to guarantee the euphonic property and the parallelism in the structure of four-word terms. As in the case “Nắng giữ mưa giàn”, the word “giữ giàn” is split into two parts which are then combine with two nouns to set up a phrase with four words, a common characteristic of Vietnamese idioms. Moreover, due to the influence of the Chinese culture, many Vietnamese idioms originate from China stories such as Mua Sơ máy Trên...and some idioms with words of Chinese origin (with or without Vietnamese equivalents) still remain such as Thanh phong mình ngày (Gió mặt特朗 thanh)...One more point is that, there is a repetition of the whole word or syllables in Vietnamese idiomatic phrases which are easy to memorize with rhythm. We can see the following terms as a proof. For example, Sọ bóng sọ gió, Lừa gió bọ buồm.

In all, tendency of parallelism, repetition and word separation which cause specific properties of Vietnamese idioms cannot be discovered in EIWW at all.
(62) He's right as rain now and I've actually booked him in for a trial next Monday to requalify. [148]

(Bây giờ anh ấy ổn rồi và tôi đã đăng ký cho anh ấy kiểm tra lại vào thứ hai rồi.)

❖ Vietnamese

(63) Người dân bà chuẩn bị đi xa đã khờ rồi, nhưng ở đâu trời còn làm thủ tục khác hơn. Nào áo ấm, nào bot gao, bot sân; nào thuộc men các loại rối đường rối sủa nữa cũng phải mang theo để phòng khi trái gió trở trời. [132, p. 123]

4.2.1.4. Human Actions

❖ English

(65) Attack is the best form of defence, throw caution to the winds and go for it. [34]

(Tàn công là một cách tự vệ tốt nhất. Hãy liều một phen đi.)

❖ Vietnamese

(67) Những mủi tên tâm thuộc độc ở đầu bàn đến như mưa. [139, p. 3]

4.2.1.5. Circumstance

❖ English

(70) Met Office under a cloud as BBC considers breaking 90-year partnership. [155]

(Met Office lâm vào cảnh thất thế khi BBC đang xem xét việc chăm dứt mối quan hệ đối tác trong 90 năm qua.)

❖ Vietnamese

(72) Tuổi già như người đến trước gió. Mắt bà hanh hao, là là như người đi đầu xa mỗi vẻ, và những cặp mắt xung quanh bà bồng lên nhìn trời nên hoang dại, ngất ngây thế nào! [125, p. 17]

4.2.1.6. Behaviour

❖ English

(74) Max put the chill on the guys who threatened him. [14, p.196]

(Max không thèm đến xã tôi may gã dã de đọt anh ấy.)

❖ Vietnamese

(76) Họ đang muốn Monroe bé mừng, nên ta phải thu xếp gấp rút vụ này. [140, p. 176]

4.2.1.7. Bad Fortunes and Disadvantages

❖ English

(77) But there is a cloud on the horizon - the Government's hike in bingo tax from 15 per cent to 22 per cent in April. [34]

(Những văn có may đến ông trời chung này. Chính phủ đưa đối xuất danh thuế trò chơi lô tô lên 15% đến 20%.)

❖ Vietnamese

(78) Dù khi gió kép mưa đơn, có ta dấy cũng chẳng con có gì. [115, p. 108]

4.2.1.8. Speed

❖ English

(80) …she ran like the wind. Suddenly a man from the side darted into the middle of the road, stood straight in her way. [104, p. 22]

(cô chạy nhanh như gió. Bắt người một người dân ông lao ra giữa đường đúng ngày rồi cô chạy.)

❖ Vietnamese

(82) Các bạn Kiên Gió chần cào chuyển nghệ dưa tin, nhánh như gió. [116, p.13]

4.2.1.9. Directions
(84) …leave your raft to drive before the wind, and swim to the Phaeacian coast where better luck awaits you. [155]

(Cho cái bè xuôi theo chiều gió và bơi đến bờ biển Phaeacian nơi những điều may mắn đang đợi anh.)

**Vietnamese**

No idioms expressing Directions are present in the large corpus of VIWW.

### 4.2.1.10. Human Character

**English**

EIWW have no contribution to the group of Human Character.

**Vietnamese**

(85) Có phải tạo hóa sinh ra phụ nữ với bản tính "som năng chiều mưa", vui buồn thất thường? [69]

### 4.2.1.11. Dangers and Challenges

**English**

EIWW about Dangers and Challenges are not found out.

**Vietnamese**

(88) Mạnh dâng gian lạo nơi đầu sóng ngọn gió mà sự hy sinh của những con người làm nhiệm vụ nơi đảo không thể diễn tả hết bằng lời. [71]

### 4.2.1.12. Opportunities and Advantages

**English**

In the corpus, EIWW do not share any idioms about Opportunities and Advantages with VIWW.

**Vietnamese**

(89) Đối như điều gặp gió. Ba năm, đánh hàng sürekli, dùng câm, mưu trí, được dễ bất trung đối phương. [129, p.91]

### 4.2.1.13. Power

**English**

VIWW own a lot of idioms about Power meanwhile there is no similar one in EIWW.

**Vietnamese**

(92) Đời con gió quyết mưa sa,
Huyễn thành đáp đó nằm tòa cối Nam. [115, p. 97]

### 4.2.1.14. Sufferings and Difficulties

**English**

EIWW do not contribute any idioms about Sufferings and Difficulties to the corpus.

**Vietnamese**

(94) Quần bao tháng đối năm chò,
Nghĩ người ăn gió năm mưa xót thắm. [115, p. 123]

### 4.2.1.15. Virginity and Immorality

**English**

EIWW do not contribute any idioms about Virginity and Immorality to the corpus.

**Vietnamese**

(96) Phảm tiên rồi đến tay hén,
Hoài công nằng gió mưa gìn với ai. [115, p. 53]

### 4.2.1.16. States of Life

**English**

No idiom about States of life exists in EIWW.

**Vietnamese**

(99) Ngu làm con ơi, mây trường chỉ có chung mái mới thúc đếm thực hôm, ăn đối mức rét mà đánh đắm đẩy hận. [150]
Table 4.10: Frequency of Semantic Fields of EIWW and VIWW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMANTIC FIELDS</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Vietnamese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Weather Conditions</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Bad-Fortunes &amp; Disadvantages</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Behaviour</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Circumstance</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>14.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Human Actions</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Physical States</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Psychological States</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>14.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Speed</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>13.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Directions</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Opportunities&amp; Advantages</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Human Characters</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Dangers &amp; Challenges</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Power</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 States of Life</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Sufferings &amp; Difficulties</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Virginity &amp; Immorality</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Others</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>198/174</td>
<td>113.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2.2. Stylistic Devices of EIWW and VIWW

4.2.2.1. Simile

Simile is used with a high frequency in both English and Vietnamese idiom structure such as white as driven snow, Như hạn mong mưa... (100) “Oh, she varies: she shifts and changes like the wind.”

(101) Hai chúng tôi, cùng chiều xong, vida định thắng bộ vào đầu choi loanh quanh mỹ phó thì trời bồng dỗ con mưa như trút.

4.2.2.2. Metaphor

Even though similes and metaphors are both forms of comparison, similes allow the two ideas to remain distinct, whereas metaphors compare two things without using "like" or "as".

(102) We got together every time we could because each of us wanted to pump the other for whatever straws we could to find which way the wind blew from the heart of May Martha Mangum--rather a mixed metaphor; Goodloe Banks would never have been guilty of that. That is the way of rivals.

The words in Mưa to gió lớn do not describe the bad weather condition but refer to challenges and obstacles happening to the character’s life in the story. In this case, the severity of life is compared to the severity of the weather.
4.2.2.3. Personification

Personification is the representation of an object or concept as if it were a person. The idioms are formed by the means of personification are Mưa gào gió rồng, Điều ăn gió... As we know, rain and wind cannot “shout”, a kite does not know how to “eat”, however, the actions of a human are assigned to the objects to make them become lively and to emphasize the idea the speaker wants to convey.

EIWW using personification as a stylistic device in Eye of the storm, In the teeth of the wind...

4.2.2.4. Metonymy

Metonymy is carried out by the substitution of a noun for another closely associated noun or the substitution of the name of an attribute or feature for the name of the thing itself. For example, Bụng and cất in Bụng đối cắt rết are organs of human body and they are used to generalize a person. As a result, the idiom manifests the fact that someone is in a difficult living condition. The word “head” in Get your head out of the clouds! is understood as someone’s mind.

4.2.2.5. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is frequently used for humor. Examples of hyperbole in IWW are: Bắt gió chụp bóng, A storm in a tea cup ...How can a storm be in a cup? Actually, the phrase A storm in a tea cup represents a great anger or excitement about a trivial matter. In Bắt gió chụp bóng, the expression is not understood literally that wind can be caught but it is about prediction based on unsure events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STYLISTIC DIVICES</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Vietnamese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[1] Simile</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[3] Personification</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>174</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2.3. The Similarities and Differences of EIWW and VIWW

4.2.3.1. Similarities

The IWW apply the means of 5 stylistic devices such as metaphor, simile, metonymy, personalization or hyperbole to demonstrate abstract ideas from simple and specific images of daily life. What is more, IWW of both languages approach to the same 8 topics illustrating different phenomenon of life such as Weather Conditions, Psychological States, Human Actions, Circumstance, Behaviour, Bad-Fortunes and Disadvantages, Speed, Physical States. More interesting, some English idioms have the Vietnamese equivalents, which prove the two peoples, to a certain extent, sometimes think in the same way. Especially, the way they express their ideas is alike in every word as in run like the wind (chạy nhanh như gió), on cloud nine (trên chín tầng mây).

4.2.3.2. Differences

There are no cases of idioms about Directions in VIWW in comparison with EIWW. In contradiction, there exist idioms expressing 7 other semantic fields such as Dangers and Challenges, Human Character, Opportunities and Advantages, Power, States of Life, Sufferings and Difficulties in VIWW which can not be discovered in EIWW.
What is more, although the way of thinking about the same matter showed in EIWW and VIWW is sometimes similar, it does not the same in all. For instance, “Snow” in “Trang như tuyết” signifies *purity of a girl* meanwhile “Snow” in “White as snow” indicates the human feeling of *being extremely pale, as if frightened.*

From the corpus of EIWW, the traits of Frigid Zone are easily seen through a plenty of the weather words such as: “snow”, “freeze”, “frost”; however, these words occur in VIWW with low frequency. Additionally, it can be realized that there is a long list of idiomatic phrases which have nautical origins such as: *Sail close to the wind, Three sheets to the wind* and the ones which originate from sports or refer to sports such as: *in a breeze, a rain check …*

On the contrary, a lot of VIWW reveal characteristics of a tropical country like Vietnam through words indicating tropical plants such as “Mùi gió bớt măng, Gió trúc mưa mai …”, unveil characteristics of a tropical country often suffering from severe weather phenomena through weather lexicon in the idioms “Gió bắc mưa đầm, Gió bắc mưa phun, Mưa đầm lâu cứng lụt…”. What is more, farming life of Vietnamese influenced considerably by weather conditions is also reflected in idioms *Mắt nắng bái sáng, Đi mưa về sáng…* Furthermore, VIWW often include words indicating domestic animals close to agriculture life such as gà, vịt, cò, ếch, cá rô… These words can be picked up in “U rủ như gà phải trời mưa, Như vịt nghe sấm, Mả bảo chết cò, Bắt ếch mưa rào, Cá rô gặp mưa rào, Voi uống thuốc gió”. Amongst the VIWW, some kinds of animals reflecting specific marks of the Asian culture such as rống, hac are realized in “Cá nước rống máy, Hạc nối máy ngăn”. Additionally, as can be seen from the collected idioms, the existence of words used in VIWW is attached with the things close to their daily life such as “Kín tranh hon lành gió, Gió thổi là chổi trời, Nắng mưa thì giếng nắng đầy, Mần sương chiếu đất…”. Moreover, the influence of China’s culture is still engraved in the Vietnamese language, which is realized through many idioms that originate from Chinese stories. For example, *Ép nài mây mưa* derives from a Chinese story about a dream of King Sở Tương Vượng with Vu Sơn mountain goddess.

In summary, the words in idioms and their meanings can expose not only the way a people speak that language recognize the world around them but also many other features related to their life, their geographic location, living habits, culture, customs and so on.

**CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1. CONCLUSIONS**

Firstly, in term of syntax, IWW in the two languages can be expressed in different kinds of phrases and sentences: *noun phrases: 3 in EIWW, 6 in VIWW; verb phrases: 3 in EIWW, 5 in VIWW; adjective phrases: 2 in EIWW, 3 in VIWW, adverb phrases: 2 in VIWW; no one in EIWW; prepositional phrases: 1 in EIWW, no one in VIWW; 2 simple sentence patterns and 1 compound sentence pattern in VIWW but no sentence item is discovered in EIWW. Amongst them, most structures of IWW in both English and Vietnamese do not resemble, except 3 phrasal constructions (A + Adv P, V + NP + PP, V + PP). In the limit of the collected corpus, the number of verb phrases is the most popular in use in the total of EIWW whereas noun phrases occupy the biggest number in VIWW. What is more, most of VIWW often including four words tend to be in parallel structures. The words in VIWW also have a tendency of being repeated and split.

Secondly, in terms of semantics, the total of 16 groups of semantic fields in both languages is categorized. After being analyzed, the
similarities and differences of various meanings of IWW are revealed. Most of the idioms possess opacity, to some extent, which partly stems from applying 5 stylistic devices such as metaphor, metonymy, simile, hyperbole or personalization in which metaphor is superior in numbers in both languages. Furthermore, IWW of the two languages approach to the same 8 topics illustrating different phenomenon of life such as Weather Conditions, Behaviour, Circumstance, Human Actions, Physical States, Psychological States, Speed, Bad-Fortunes and Disadvantages, Virginity and Immorality. However, IWW about Dangers and Challenges, Human Character, Opportunities and Advantages, Power, States of Life, Sufferings and Difficulties which exist in the corpus of VIWW do not appear in EIWW; on the contrary, in the limit of the corpus, English possesses IWW referring to Directions but Vietnamese does not. More interestingly, some English idioms have the Vietnamese equivalents, which prove speakers of English and speakers of Vietnamese, to a certain extent, sometimes recognize the world in the same way. Some terms in both languages are similar in every constituent and in structure but different in sense. By examining the words in IWW and their meanings, we also understand more about the living habits, history, customs, religion, geography and culture of English and Vietnamese speakers.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS

A good knowledge of idioms will help students to communicate better or more effectively. In teaching languages, teachers should get ESL students to be familiar with learning idioms in general and IWW in particular and not to be afraid of them. However, they often transfer meanings which are different from the meaning of their component words. Hence, first of all, the context should be offered for students to enhance interpretation of idioms. Moreover, learners should be encouraged to infer the meaning of IWW by searching for first language equivalents. The appropriate idiomatic units between the two languages establish a strong link to the brain of the learners, which is an easy way for them to understand the phrases. Another thing is that background knowledge about history, culture and customs… relating to the idioms should be provided by teachers and be employed by learners in the process of dealing with EIWW learning. The step of providing that helpful kind of information stimulates interest of students to learn voluntarily and effectively when they discover the beauty and the attraction covered in the language they are approaching. It is necessary to select the EIWW that are frequently encountered in target language and the ones that do not own too many special problems with vocabulary and grammar. EIWW should be classified into categories such as IWW about Power, Speed...Students can gain significant advantages if teachers design such a systematic network.

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

This investigation into idioms containing words denoting weather can not satisfy all aspects. It does not cover all the words denoting weather. Some weather words are not included in the study such as wet, clear, weather, drought, flood…; and it does not cover all the structures and meanings of the idioms. After doing the research, some suggestions for further studies can be drawn as following:

❖ An Investigation into English and Vietnamese Weather Idioms.

❖ A Pragmatic Study of Idioms Containing Words Denoting Weather in English and Vietnamese.