MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
UNIVERSITY OF DANANG

DINH QUANG TRUNG

AN INVESTIGATION INTO SYNTACTIC, SEMANTIC AND CULTURAL FEATURES OF ENGLISH SLANGS CONTAINING WORDS DENOTING ANIMALS

Subject area: English Linguistics
Code: 60.22.15

MASTER THESIS ON LINGUISTICS
(A Summary)

Danang - 2011

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

Supervisor: TRAN QUANG HAI, Ph.D.

Examiner 1: ......................................................

Examiner 2: ......................................................

The thesis will be orally defended at The Examining Committee.

Time: ............................................................

Venue: University of Danang

The thesis is accessible for the purpose of reference at:

- College of Foreign Language, University of Danang
- Information Resource Center, University of Danang.
Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1. Statement of the Problem

Understanding and using slangs correctly and effectively is not an easy task. Sometimes, non-native speakers of English find it difficult to comprehend what is meant by English slangs as well as what structures the slangs belong to. Moreover, slangs denoting animals are various in the ways of expressing their meanings because, in some cases, we cannot understand some expressions by basing on their literal meanings. As a matter of fact that you frequently hear such slangs from animals in your daily life:

- “My God, he made a real dog’s breakfast of that presentation”. [28, p.131-132]
- “Stop being a mouse potato, go outside and talk to some real guys” [53]

It’s so difficult for us to master the deeply true and full meaning of such the phrase as dog’s breakfast, mouse potato if you are not under the light of slang, especially slangs containing words denoting animals.

Hopefully, this research will enable us to understand the syntactic and semantic and cultural features of English slangs containing words denoting animals and use them in sensible as well as productive ways.

For the above reasons, the topic “An Investigation into Syntactic, Semantic and Cultural Features of English Slangs Containing Words Denoting Animals” has been chosen for my MA thesis.

1.2. Aims and Objectives

1.2.1. Aims:
- to investigate some syntactic, semantic and cultural characteristics of English slangs containing words denoting animals.
- to help learners handle and understand such interesting and popular group of English slangs containing words denoting animals effectively and completely.
- to gain a better insight into various cultural aspects of the people speaking the language that they are learning.

1.2.2. Objectives

- to investigate syntactic, semantic and cultural features of English slangs containing words denoting animals
- to discover typical cultural characteristics of English slangs containing words denoting animals which enable to affect the effective interpretation and communication of non-native learners of English
- to provide non-native learners of English with a basic knowledge of the field to enable them to understand, use slangs containing words denoting animals in listening, speaking, and in translating effectively and naturally.
- to suggest some implications for teaching and learning activities, translation as well as communication.

1.3. Significance of the Study

The study intends to help non-native learners of English have an insight about slangs in general and slangs containing words denoting animals in particular.
Furthermore, this thesis will probably be an useful contribution to learning and teaching slangs.

1.4. Research Questions

1. What are syntactic and semantic features of English slangs containing words denoting animals?
2. What are cultural features of English slangs containing words denoting animals and their influence to non-native learners of English?
3. What are some suggestions for teaching and learning English as well as translating and communicating?

1.5. Scope of the Study

This study is restricted to English slangs containing words denoting animals. On account of reference constraints, in this study I just try to narrow down to syntactic, semantic and cultural features, not all the aspects that I intend to deal with for future research, of slangs containing words denoting animals.

1.6. Definition of Terms

In Wikipedia-The Free Encyclopedia [35], slang is defined as “the use of informal words and expressions that are not considered standard in the speaker's dialect or language…It is also used to identify with one's peers”.

According to Yule [30, p. 211], he defines slang in his work- The Study of Language as following “slang describes words or phrases that are used instead of more everyday terms among younger speakers and other groups with special interests”.

In The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English by E. Partridge and P. Beale [23], slang is “a peculiar kind of vagabond language, always hanging on the outskirts of legitimate speech, but continually straying or forcing its way into the most respectable company”.

1.7. Organization of the Research

This paper is divided into five chapters:
- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Literature review and theoretical background
- Chapter 3: Methods and procedures
- Chapter 4: Results and discussion
- Chapter 5: Conclusions and implications

Chapter 2
LITERATURE REVIEW & THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. Review of Previous Study

In “An Introduction to English Slang” (2008) by Elisa Mattiello, slang was fully described in terms of features of its morphology, semantics and sociology.

Eric Partridge examined slangs under different approach. He discussed the sketch of the history of English slang and investigated slangs in some particular aspects such as journalism, art, medicine, etc. in “Slang To-Day and Yesterday” (2007). “The Oxford Dictionary of Slang” (1998) by John Ayto is a good dictionary of slang. It is a collection of slangs which are arranged in a particular area of activity or concept, etc.

In Vietnamese, up to now, some authors have paid attention to slang. In “Từ Điển Tiếng Lóng và những Thành Ngữ Thông Tục Mỹ-Việt” (2006) by Bùi Phượng, it is an useful collection of

As to Phạm Hoài Anh, “The Use of and the Attitudes toward Slang Expressing Surprise and Disbelief among Young Americans” really draws her attention in doing a research as M.A linguistics thesis (2010) at the College of Foreign Languages, the University of Hà Nội.

At the College of Foreign Languages, the University of Đà Nẵng, there have been quite few of MA theses dealing with English slang. Tạ Thị Mưới’s MA thesis with the title is “An Investigation into Linguistic Features of English Originated Slangs Used by Vietnamese Young People in Present-Day Life”.

2.2. Theoretical Background

2.2.1. Definition of slang

2.2.1.1. The sociological approach

Within the sociological approach [20, p.32-33], slang is ascribed the two opposite purposes of keeping insiders together and outsiders out. On the one hand, Eble (1996, p.11) stresses the social and interpersonal aspects of slang and its function “to establish or reinforce social identity or cohesiveness within a group or with a trend or fashion in society at large”.

2.2.1.2. The stylistic approach

Within the stylistic approach, slang is neutrally and rather vaguely defined as a level of usage. In early studies (Partridge, 1947, p.287), it is claimed that slang is “the quintessence of colloquial speech”, or, as in Flexner (1960: vi), that it is “not accepted as good, formal usage by the majority”.

2.2.1.3. The linguistic approach

From the linguistic point of view, slang is regarded as the use of ordinary words in extraordinary senses or of extraordinary words in ordinary senses (Yust ed., 1950). Jespersen (1922, p.298) pioneers this position, stating that slang “finds amusement in the creation and propagation of new words and in attaching new meanings to old words”.

2.2.1.4. The lexicographic definition

Originally, the term was used to refer to the language of criminals, thieves and vagabonds. But later, the term “slang” gradually broadened to include the language of other subgroups, not necessarily of low culture, but rather connected by their profession.

2.2.2. The classification of slang

2.2.2.1. Slang vs. Jargon

Slang is not jargon, a widely used term referring to the specialized vocabulary and phraseology of a set of people sharing a trade or profession [39], although slang may be a choice within jargon.

2.2.2.2. Slang vs. Cant

Slang is not cant, the specialized and usually secret language of thieves, professional beggars, and other groups operating on the fringes of society [39]. Yet many slang words arise from the language of the underworld and are used for the purposes of secrecy and conspiracy.
2.2.2.3. Slang vs. Dialect

Slang [20, p.37] is not geographically restricted, like dialect, even if it is often regional and “may vary from place to place, dialect to dialect” (Andersson & Trudgill 1990, p.70)

2.2.2.4. Slang vs. Vernacular

Slang is not vernacular, the native speech of a particular country or district [39], but it frequently includes variation of sounds or mispronunciation of words which are typical of a limited area.

2.2.2.5. Slang vs. Accent

Since slang is pertinent to word form and meaning, it is not accent, which simply refers to word pronunciation (tone quality, pitch, stress, etc.) [20, p.38]. In actual fact, some slang words are created by changing some sounds of standard items.

2.2.2.6. Slang vs. Colloquial language

Slang [20, p.38-39] does not correspond to colloquial language, although, like familiar speech, it departs from neutral and formal styles.

2.2.2.7. Specific vs. General slang

Basically, specific slang is language that speakers use to show their belonging to a group and establish solidarity or intimacy with the other group members.

General slang, on the other hand, is language that speakers deliberately use to break with the standard language and to change the level of discourse in the direction of informality.

2.2.3. The description of slang

2.2.3.1. The linguistic properties of slang

a. Phonology

At the phonological level [20, p.41-42], slang plays with sounds and manipulates word pronunciations (Eble, 1996).

b. Morphology

At the morphological level, it is claimed that “the same ordinary word-building processes that give rise to the general vocabulary also shape slang expressions” (Eble, 1996, p. 39).

c. Grammar

Not much attention has been devoted so far to the grammar of slang. Munro (ed.) (1997: 19) argues that “the grammar of U.C.L.A. slang is almost identical to the grammar of standard English” (cited by Mattiello E., 2008), at least in its inflectional morphology.

d. Semantics

In particular, Eble (1996, p.61-73) and Munro (ed.) (1997, p.11-12) underline the tendency of slang to name things indirectly or figuratively, especially through metaphor, metonymy, euphemism, synecdoche and irony.

e. Pragmatics

According to Mattiello E., The pragmatics of slang is marginally hinted at in relevant literature, or is treated indirectly through the various functions that are attributed to the phenomenon, or the effects it produces upon the hearer.

2.2.3.2. The sociological properties of slang
In the literature, slang [20, p.46-55] is associated with many sociological properties, which derive from both its varied nature and its multifunctionality.

2.2.4. Morphology
2.2.5. Syntactic theories

There is a collection of many definitions in terms of syntax: Phrases, Clauses, An independent clause, A dependent clause, Noun Phrase, Adjective phrase, Adverb phrase, Verb phrase, Prepositional phrase, Participle phrase.

2.2.6. Concepts of semantic field

According to Adrian Akmajian, Richard A. Demers, Ann K. Farmer, Robert M. Harnish [5, p.240], the words in a semantic field, though not synonymous, are all used to talk about the same general phenomenon, and there is a meaning inclusion relation between the items in the field and the field category itself.

2.2.7. The inseparable relationship of language and culture

Language is the principal means whereby we conduct our social lives. When it is used in contexts of communication, it is bound up with culture in multiple and complex ways. In other words, the relationship language and culture is hardly deniable.

2.2.7.1. Language expresses cultural reality
2.2.7.2. Language embodies cultural reality
2.2.7.3. Language symbolizes cultural reality

Chapter 3
METHODS AND PROCEDURES

3.1. Research Design

In this study, the descriptive, analytical and qualitative methods are used.

3.2. Research Methods and Procedure

The procedures of the study are:
- to collect English slangs containing words denoting animals
- to sort the samples in terms of syntax, semantics and species.
- to describe and analyze
- to investigate the syntactic feature
- to find out the semantic feature
- to discover the cultural feature
- to draw a conclusion and suggest some implications

Chapter 4
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Syntactic features of English slangs containing words denoting animals

In this study, slangs containing words denoting animals can be structurally divided into 6 groups: NP, AdjP, VP, PreP, PartP and Clause.

4.1.1. Slangs containing words denoting animals in a structure of a noun phrase

4.1.1.1. Pre-modified noun phrase

The number of this kind is 234/259.
a. Unfilled determiner

There are 37 slangs.
- The bear in the air will be staying up there. [6, p.109]

b. A possessive (a full NP +’s)

Like unfilled determiner, a possessive is popularly used with the quantity of 32.
- I’ll have a pint of pig’s ear. [28, p.334]

c. Pre-modifying noun

In generally, slangs pre-modified by nouns are abundant, there are 146/359 total slangs containing words denoting animals in this study.
- Those two got into a harsh cat fight after school. [38]

d. Adjective phrase

Some of slangs are pre-modified by adjective phrases. The number of this is 19.
- Sad bear, I can’t believe that happened! [38]

4.1.1.2. Post-modified noun phrase

a. Prepositional phrase

Almost most of slangs from animals post-modified are such prepositional phrases (11/13).
- You look like a frog in pants.

b. Participle/infinitive phrase

There are just only 2 slangs post-modified by participle or infinitive phrase.
- Let's not worry about logo design. We have bigger fish to fry. [38]

4.1.1.3. Two nouns phrases combined by a conjunction

A number of noun phrases are combined by a conjunction “and” as the following pattern: Animal + And + Animal.

4.1.2. Slangs containing words denoting animals in a structure of a verb phrase

4.1.2.1. Verb phrases that have slangs from animals used as noun or prepositional phrase

a. Linking verb + subject complement

Just only 5 verb phrases are involved in this pattern.
- I’m going to get your goat!

b. Transitive verb + direct object

The number of this pattern is 37 in which there are 6 verb phrases additionally followed by object complement.
- She gave him the bird finally and for good. [6, p.204]

c. Intransitive verb + adjunct

This pattern consists of 11 slangs containing words denoting animals.
- I’ll go on the lamb until every thing cools down. [38]

4.1.2.2. Verb phrases that have slangs from animals used as verbs

There are a large number of verb phrases belonging to this kind (28/81).
- She ratted out at the last minute. [28, p.358]

4.1.3. Slangs containing words denoting animals in a structure of an adjective phrase

The small number of slangs from animals that constitutes structures of adjective phrases is 9.
- That food made me sick as a dog [38]
4.1.4. Slangs containing words denoting animals in a structure of a prepositional phrase

Only 3 slangs of this kind is available in this study.
- I hate homework, homework is for the birds. [54]

4.1.5. Slangs containing words denoting animals in a structure of a participle phrase

- I was calling the whales all night [38]

4.1.6. Slangs containing words denoting animals in a structure of a clause

4.1.6.1. Subordinate clause

Here are two examples of subordinate clause.
- A student: Think I could get into Harvard?
- F student: When pigs fly. [54]

4.1.6.2. Main clause

Slangs containing words denoting animals in a structure of a main clause is few, only 4.
- Hey look, the goat is in the garden. [38]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The structure of slangs from animals</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Noun phrase</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>72,1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Pre-modified noun phrase</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>65,1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A possessive</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>8,9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfilled determiner</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>10,3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-modifying noun</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>40,6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjective phrase</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5,3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.2: Summary of syntactic features of English slangs containing words denoting animals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure of slangs</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ Post-modified noun phrase</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participle/infinitive phrase</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepositional phrase</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Two noun phrase combined by “and”</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Verb phrase</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>22,5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Verb phrases that have slangs from animals used as noun and prepositional phrase</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>14,7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linking verb + subject complement</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitive verb + direct object</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>10,3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intransitive verb + adjunct</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Verb phrases that have slangs from animals used as verbs</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Adjective phrase</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Prepositional phrase</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Participle phrase</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Clause</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subordinate clause</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main clause</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2. Semantic fields of English slangs containing words denoting animals

4.2.1. The body and its functions

4.2.1.1. Parts of the body/ bodily functions
In this semantic field, it occupies a much more proportion than the rest (39/48).  

- I got to **hang a rat.** [38]

4.2.1.2. Illness/physique

Not many slangs containing words denoting animals implies illness and physique (9/48).

- Fred: I can’t come in to work today, I’m **sick as a dog.**
  Jane: Too bad…have a nice trip to the beach! [54]

4.2.2. People and society

4.2.2.1. People/group

There are 18 slangs whose implications are relevant to people and group.

- The **crocodile** rows of little children [6, p.55]

4.2.2.2. Sex/sexual orientation

The number of slangs related to this sub-field is 23- the most numerous in comparison with the rest.

- He **fish-kissed** me, then ran back to his car. [27, p.74]

4.2.2.3. Crime/prison

Only 5 slangs that are often used by criminals show crime and prison.

- I bought from him a copula times. He was a **mule,** Dad. That means he pushed to other kids. [6, p.98]

4.2.2.4. Police/military/maritime/air force

Using slangs to imply police, military, maritime and air force in the scope of the investigation of this study is just a few (11/57).

- They’ve got a **bear in the air** on duty in northern Indiana. [27, p.14]

4.2.3. Animals

Animal that is one of the semantic fields has the least quantity of slangs containing words denoting animals (3/359).

- You don’t see **horse hockey** in the streets anymore. [25, p.112]

4.2.4. Sustenance and intoxication

4.2.4.1. Tobacco/alcohol/drugs

Almost all of slangs in this field are about tobacco, alcohol and drugs (31/40).

- A **bee** is what he calls his habit; it’s always stinging him to get a fix. [15, p.12]

4.2.4.2. Eating/drinking

Another sub-field is eating and drinking. There are 9 slangs in this part.

- Do you want some **cat-soup** on your burger? [25, p.39]

4.2.5. Articles and substances

The fifth field is articles and substances. The slangs of this kind are only few (11/359).

4.2.5.1. Tools/implements/containers

Like the field of animals, the number of slangs referring the tools, implements and containers is rather small.

- Up on the **monkey’s island** he had realized there would be no power for the lights. [6, p.391]

4.2.5.2. Clothing/accessories

Clothing and accessories are also mentioned in slangs containing words denoting animals with the number of 7.
- He looked like another sub-Elvis, smooth flesh and duck's ass hair. [6, p.175]

4.2.6. Money, commerce and employment

4.2.6.1. Money
- My client is not the kind of man to be satisfied with a mere monkey for his services. [28, p.295]

4.2.6.2. Work/Business/commerce
The same amount of slangs denoting money is work, business and commerce (15/29).
- She gave him the bird finally and for good. [6, p.204]

4.2.7. Behavior, attitudes and emotions

4.2.7.1. Good/positive/suitable
The number of slangs of this part is 27.
- That concert was the bee's knees. [38]

4.2.7.2. Bad/negative/unsuitable
There are 46 slangs implying bad/negative/unsuitable characteristics.
- What's the matter, are you chicken? [28, p.87]

4.2.8. Thought and communication

4.2.8.1. Thought
It takes about half of the total of this part (17/39).
- Hadn’t it been plain all along that there was a streak of madness in the old boy? ... He had done a spell in the rat house and was only out on sufferance. [6, p.305]

4.2.8.2. Communication/education
In comparison with thought, communication and education are a little more (22 vs 17).
- There are lots of color pictures in the article, so I will send you the original by snail mail. [27, p.196]

4.2.9. The arts, entertainment and the media

4.2.9.1. Cards/gambling
One of the topics that slangs usually mention is cards and gambling which account for 75% in this sub-field.
- We used to play dice with them…Rats and mice the game was called. [6, p.360]

4.2.9.2. Sports/performance
Just 3 slangs are used to refer to sports and performance and they, of course, account for only 15%.

4.2.10. Time and temperature
Not too many slangs containing words denoting animals is used to express time and temperature (4/359).
- It was donkey’s years since he had been in an English train. [6, p.361]

4.2.11. Location and movement

4.2.11.1. Places
- I’m off down the frog and toad for a pint of pig’s. [28, p.170]

4.2.11.2. Movement/vehicles
This kind of slang constitutes 70% of slangs based on location and movement.
- I finally got fed up and told him to pig off [28, p.334]

4.2.12. Abstract qualities and states

4.2.12.1. Good qualities/states
Just only 6 slangs are used to imply good qualities/states.
- I’m the queen bee around here. [38]

4.2.12.2. Bad qualities/states

A great number of slangs from animals denote bad qualities/states in this sub-field (17/23).

- You’ve made a right pig’s breakfast of that. [28, p.334]

Table 4.3: Summary of semantic fields of slangs containing words denoting animals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semantic fields (359)</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The body and its functions</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parts of the body/ bodily functions</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illness/physique</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. People and society</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People/group</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex/sexual orientation</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime/prison</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police/military/maritime/air-force</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Animals</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Sustenance and intoxication</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco/alcohol/drugs</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating/drinking</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Articles and substances</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tools/ implements/containers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing/accessories</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Money, commerce and employment</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work/Business/commerce</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Behavior, attitudes and emotions</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good/positive/suitable</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad/negative/unsuitable</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Thought and communication</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thought</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication/education</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. The arts, entertainment and the media</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cards/gambling</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports/performance</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Time and temperature</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Location and movement</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movement/vehicles</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Abstract qualities and states</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good qualities/states</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad qualities/states</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3. Cultural characteristics of English slangs containing words denoting animals

4.3.1. The cultural characteristics of words denoting such familiar animals as dogs, cats, pigs, chicken, etc.

4.3.1.1. The cultural characteristics of “Dog” through slangs

“Dog” implies a person, sex, a bodily function, alcohol, education and unpleasantness.
4.3.1.2. The cultural characteristics of “Cat” through slangs
“Cat” implies excellence, remarkableness, pleasure, enjoyment, crime, cards, gambling, sexual orientation, a bodily function, trouble and unpleasantness.
4.3.1.3. The cultural characteristics of “Pig” through slangs
“Pig” implies physique, eating, drinking, work, sex, the police, ugliness and a place.
4.3.1.4. The cultural characteristics of “Horse” through slangs
“Horse” implies drugs and tobaccos, foolishness, perseverance, foodstuff, pleasure and enjoyment.
4.3.1.5. The cultural characteristics of “Duck” through slangs
“Duck” implies the body and its parts, people, cards, gambling, easiness and air-force.
4.3.1.6. The cultural characteristics of “Chicken” through slangs
“Chicken” implies cowardice, foolishness, money, prostitution and contemptibleness.
4.3.1.7. The cultural characteristics of “Sheep” through slangs
“Sheep” implies sex, business, commerce and alcohol.
4.3.1.8. The cultural characteristics of “Mouse, Rat” through slangs
“Mouse” implies sex, foodstuff, people using computers, drunkenness, bad quality, cards, gambling, illness, bodily function and insanity.
4.3.2. The cultural characteristics of words denoting such wild animals as whale, monkey, lion, tiger, etc.
4.3.2.1. The cultural characteristics of “Monkey” through slangs
“Monkey” implies money, sex, the body and its parts, temperature, tobacco, alcohol and foolish behavior.
4.3.2.2. The cultural characteristics of “Fox” through slangs
“Fox” implies slyness, alcohol and ethnic, national group.
4.3.2.3. The cultural characteristics of “Mule” through slangs
“Mule” implies a bodily function, cards, gambling and crime.
4.3.2.4. The cultural characteristics of “Donkey” through slangs
“Donkey” implies time, sex and difficulty.
4.3.2.5. The cultural characteristics of “Frog” through slangs
“Frog” implies an ethnic, national group, place, foodstuff, money, performance and education.
4.3.2.6. The cultural characteristics of “Bird” through slangs
“Bird” implies the body and its parts, foolishness, dismissal, drugs and sex.
4.3.2.7. The cultural characteristics of “Elephant” through slangs
“Elephant” implies an unattractive woman, drunkenness, drugs and money.
4.3.2.8. The cultural characteristics of “Snake” through slangs
“Snake” implies sex, work, anger, cards, gambling, alcohol and place.
4.3.3. The cultural characteristics of words denoting such insects as bees and ants.
4.3.3.1. The cultural characteristics of “Bee” through slangs
“Bee” implies drugs, eagerness, enthusiasm, power, influence, excellence and remarkableness.
4.3.3.2. The cultural characteristics of “Ant” through slangs
“Ant” implies a bodily function

**Chapter 5**

**CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS**
5.1. Conclusion

In terms of **syntactic characteristics**, English slangs containing words denoting animals consist of 6 structures: NP, VP, AdjP, PreP, PartP and Clause. However, the quantity of these structures is not clearly equal. It is said that English slangs from animals having phrase patterns are the commonest and most of them are constituted under the form of noun phrase and verb phrase; especially noun phrase.

In terms of **semantic characteristics**, slangs containing words denoting animals are showed in most of aspects and fields of daily life. The number of vocabulary in 12 domains, in generally, is relatively equal. However, one use of slang is to circumvent social taboos, as mainstream language tends to shy away from evoking certain realities. For this reason, slang vocabularies are particularly rich in certain domains, such as violence, crime, drugs, sex, attitudes and emotions.

In terms of **cultural characteristics**, in this study, a list of cultural characteristics of 39 kinds of animals from English has been explored. It is not difficult to realize that most of the animals symbolize for more than one specific characteristic, just a few reflect only one cultural feature. The survey on cultural characteristics is based on three main groups of animals: familiar animals, wild animals and insects. The study shows the relationship between animals and people’s life by means of the figurative meanings through animals’ images.

It is clearly showed that in certain cultures, slangs from animals will display different cultural features. The most familiarity is familiar animals which are observed and described by more specific situations in slangs than others. As a feature of slang, most of slangs from animals are used to symbolize the bad, the social aspects of life people shy to talk about.

5.2. Implications

5.2.1. Implications for teaching and learning English slangs

5.2.2. Implications for communicating and translating English slangs containing words denoting animals

5.3. Limitations and suggestions for further research

In this study, the subject is narrowed down to the small part of syntactic, semantic and cultural features of English slangs containing words denoting animals due to the shortage of time and source of reference materials. In fact, there are other aspects like metaphorical and pragmatic features along with English slangs containing words denoting other concepts that are not mentioned here so that hopefully in the future they need to be investigated.