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**A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF GRAMMATICAL
AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF WORDS AND
IDIOMS RELATED TO “HEARING” IN ENGLISH
AND VIETNAMESE**

M.A THESIS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

Language is an essential form of communication. It allows people to convey and elaborate their perspective. It means that language is the bridge to connect people all over the world. Therefore, language is a subtle and complex instrument used to communicate an incredible number of different things. Being a basic component of language, word plays an important role in communication. Word helps us to express many shades of meaning at different levels of style. It means that word-meanings can be understood in different ways depending on contexts. For that reason, learners, users or translators of English often meet a lot of difficulties in expressing what need to be said or written.

Secondly, in our daily communication, we realize words related to senses of human beings are used regularly. And in five senses, we really concern with hearing because they not only have meanings as shown in dictionaries but also relate to attitudes and feelings that are not easy for us to understand.

Furthermore, *hearing* may be expressed by different linguistic items. For instance, talking about hearing with attention English people use *listen*, *to be all ears*, *to prick up one's ear*, whereas Vietnamese people say *lắng nghe*, *chăm chú nghe*.

Last but not least, as a teacher of English, we find learners may know a lot of English lexical items by learning vocabulary word-lists by heart but they do not know how to use them in

appropriate contexts. As a result, they often have failure in communication.

For all reasons, we decided to make **a contrastive analysis of grammatical and semantic features of words and idioms related to “hearing” in English and Vietnamese**. By this topic we hope that we can help the teachers, the learners and the translators understand and use words and idioms related to hearing in English and Vietnamese.

1.2. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Each language has its own number of vocabulary. And the number of English and Vietnamese related to hearing are so large that we cannot cover all of them in this study. Thus, this study is restricted to the grammatical and semantic features of some verbs and idioms related to hearing (WIRHs) in English and Vietnamese. These words and idioms are taken into the consideration for the contrastive analysis.

1.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.3.1. Aims

This study aims at:

- raising learners' and users' awareness of grammatical and semantic features of WIRHs in English and Vietnamese so that they can use WIRHs more effectively.
- helping learners and users of English gain a better insight into the meaning and usage of WIRHs in English and Vietnamese.

1.3.2. Objectives

- to analyze grammatical features of WIRHs in English and Vietnamese
- to describe semantic features of WIRHs English and Vietnamese

- to provide a brief account of grammatical-semantic similarities and differences between WIRHs in English and Vietnamese.
- to provide some suggestions for teaching/learning vocabulary in general, and teaching/learning , translation of WIRHs in particular

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the similarities and differences between WIRHs in English and Vietnamese in terms of grammatical features?
2. What are the similarities and differences between WIRHs in English and Vietnamese in terms of semantic features?

1.5. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Literature Review and Theoretical Background

Chapter 3: Method and Procedures

Chapter 4: Findings and Discussions

Chapter 5: Conclusion and Implications

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A REVIEW OF PREVIOUS STUDIES RELATED TO THE PROBLEM UNDER INVESTIGATION

Words and idioms have been a subject of studies by a lot of linguists in English as well as in Vietnamese at different levels. As for the field of perception, verbs have been studied by many researchers :Viberg, Graham, Angela Downing and Philip Locke.

There have also been many theses that study perception verbs such as Truong Hồng Anh studies verbs denoting sense perception in English and American novels and Vietnamese versions.

Lê Lan Phuong has a study of verbs denoting the concept of seeing in English and Vietnamese.

In Vietnamese, there are many researchers who had a considerable contribution to the study of perception verbs such as *Động từ trong tiếng Việt* (Nguyễn Kim Thản, 1976),

So far there has been no contrastive analysis of grammatical and semantic features of words and idioms related to hearing in English and Vietnamese. For this reason, a contrastive analysis of grammatical and semantic features words and idioms related to hearing in English and Vietnamese seems to be a significant task, contributing to the study of languages.

2.2 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Words

2.2.1.1. Definition

Word appears to be a simple concept but it is extremely difficult to have the best definition of the word,. Up to now, a lot of linguists have given out a variety of definitions on words, but the researcher chooses the ideas of Jackson and Amvela. They say that a word has some characteristics as below.

Firstly, the word is an uninterruptible unit.

Secondly, the word may consist of one or more morphemes.

Thirdly, the word occurs typically in the structure of phrase.

Finally, the word should belong to a specific word class or part of speech such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc.

2.2.1.2. Perception Verbs

Perception is defined as the process of selecting, organizing and interpreting information noticed with the senses.

2.2.1.3. *Auditory perception*

Audition or hearing is one of the senses, consisting of the ability to perceive sound by detecting vibrations through an organ such as the ear.

2.2.1.4. *Hearing*

Hearing is said to be the sense used to express all the meanings, both concrete and abstract of linguistic communication. There are always two elements involved in this sense: the hearer and the speaker.

2.2.2. *Grammatical features*

2.2.2.1. *Word Classification*

Word-class is an important feature in semantic feature analysis. There are two classes of words: the open classes or full word-forms and the closed classes or empty word-forms. And in this paper, we only focus on verb - one in the open classes or full word-forms .

2.2.2.2. *Phrase*

In Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary [104], phrase is defined as below: a phrase is a group of words which have a particular meaning when being used together

2.2.2.3. *Idioms*

Many other linguists such as Robin [23], Jackson and Amvela [13] also consider idioms as a special kind of collocation involving two or more words in context. They all agree that the meaning of an idiom cannot be deducted from the meaning of its constituent.

2.2.3. *Semantic Features*

2.2.3.1. *Semantic Properties*

Semantic properties play a very important part in differentiating the match between word and meaning. According to

Crystal [5], semantic feature is “a minimal contrastive element of a word meaning, in some approaches called a semantic component”.

2.2.3.2. *Component of Meaning*

a, *Grammatical meaning*

Lyons [18, p.52] points out that “Different forms of the same lexeme will generally, though not necessarily, differ in meaning: they will differ in respect of their *grammatical meaning*.”

b, *Lexical meaning*

Baker [2,p12] states that “The lexical meaning of a word or lexical unit may be thought as the specific value it has in a particular linguistic system and the ‘personality’ it acquires through usage within that system.” And “it is just the lexical meaning it is the most outstanding individual property of the word.” And the lexical meaning of the word can be classified in to denotational meaning and connotative meaning.

b1, *Denotative meaning or Denotation*

As defined in the *Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics* [12], *denotation* is a part of the meaning of a word or phrase that relates it to phenomena in the real world or in a fictional or possible world.

b2, *Connotative meaning or Connotation*

In [13,p.57] Amvela and Jackson point out that “connotations constitute additional properties of lexemes, e.g. poetic, slang, baby language, biblical, casual, formal, humorous, legal, literary, rhetorical.”

2.2.3.3. *Transference of Meaning*

a, Metaphor

“Metaphor is the transference of meaning (name) from one object to another, based on similarity between two objects.” [Nguyen Hoa]

b, Metonymy

Harris thinks that metonymy is another form of metaphor in which the thing chosen for the metaphorical image is closely associated with the subject with which it is to be compared.

2.2.3.4. Collocation

Collocation is a systematic kind of sense-relation, which involved the associations of ideas. It plays an important role in determining the meaning of the word.

CHAPTER 3

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

In our research, we use *descriptive* and *contrastive methods* to described, analyse and find out the relationship between grammatical and semantic features of English and Vietnamese words and idioms related to hearing .

3.2. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

3.2.1. Data Collection

The most important thing in data collection is to collect materials related to the study. We tried to choose the most appropriate ones. The paper is carried out over 1000 examples collected from different data.

3.2.2. Data Analysis

Data is described, classified, and analyzed systematically for the contrastive analysis.

3.3. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

Describing, analysing and contrasting grammatical and semantic features of words and idioms related to hearing in English and in Vietnamese require collecting corpora of literature work and Web corpus to be analyzed and studied. Since the whole research work relied on the corpora, it was important that these works should be carefully read and that examples should be cautiously selected to ensure a satisfying reliability of the results. It is required that the study should be verified if there are inaccuracies. The patterns from the data collection are used from dictionaries and grammar books for confirming the reliability and validity of the study.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WIRHs IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE IN TERMS OF GRAMMATICAL FEATURES

In this section, we will analyse one word in each meaning syntactically namely *hear* and *nghe* in meaning 1, *listen* and *lắng nghe* in meaning 2, *overhear* and *nghe lỏm* in meaning 3 and *mishear*, *nghe lầm/nghe nhầm* in meaning 4.

4.1.1. Grammatical Features of WIRHs in English

4.1.1.1. Grammatical Features of WRHs in English

a, Specific grammatical features of HEAR

- 1. S + hear (transitive) + object (NP)**
- 2. S + hear (transitive) + object (NP) + V-ing clause**
- 3. S + hear (intransitive)**

4. S + hear (transitive) + object (NP) + bare inf. clause
5. S + hear (transitive) + object (that clause)
6. S + hear (intransitive) + adjunct (PP)
7. S + hear (transitive) + object (Wh-clause)
8. S + hear (intransitive) + adjunct (AP)

b, Specific grammatical features of LISTEN

1. S + listen + adjunct (PP)
 - S + listen + to + oprep (NP)
 - S + listen + to + oprep (Wh-clause)
 - S + listen + to + oprep (NP) + v-ing clause
2. S + listen
3. S + listen + adjunct (AP)
4. S + listen + to + bare - infinitive

c, Specific grammatical features of OVERHEAR

1. S + overhear (transitive) + object (NP)
2. S + overhear (transitive) + object (NP) + v-ing –clause
3. S + overhear (intransitive)
4. S + overhear (transitive) + object (Wh-clause)
5. S + overhear (transitive) + object(NP) + bare-inf. clause
6. S + overhear (intransitive) + adjunct (AP)

d, Specific grammatical features of MISHEAR

1. S + mishear (transitive) + object (NP)
2. S + mishear (intransitive)
3. S + mishear (transitive) + object (NP) + complement
4. S + mishear (transitive) + object (NP) + v-ing clause
5. S + mishear (transitive) + object (Wh-clause)

Table 4.1 Summary of Grammatical Features of WRHs in English

Verbs	Intransitive	Intransitive + adjunct	Monotransitive	Complex - transitive
Hear	+	+	+	-
Listen	+	+	-	-
Overhear	+	+	+	-
Mishear	+	-	+	+

4.1.1.2. Grammatical Features of IRHs in English

1. VERB + N/NP

To lend an ear To turn a deaf ear
To be all ears To reach to one's ear

2. VERB + P. P

To prick up one's ear
To go in one ear and out the other.
To listen with half an ear/ with deaf ears

4.1.2. Grammatical Features of WIRHs in Vietnamese

4.1.2.1. Grammatical Features of WRHs in Vietnamese

a, Specific grammatical features of NGHE

1. S + nghe (transitive) + object (NP)
2. S + nghe (transitive) + object (clause)
3. S + nghe (intransitive) + adjunct (AD)
4. S + nghe (intransitive)

b, Specific grammatical features of LẮNG NGHE

1. S + lắng nghe (intransitive)
2. S + lắng nghe (transitive) + object (NP)
3. S + lắng nghe (transitive) + object (clause)
4. S + lắng nghe (intransitive) + adjunct (AP)

c, Specific grammatical features of NGHE LÒM

1. S + nghe lỏm (transitive) + object (NP)
2. S + nghe lỏm (transitive) + object (clause)
3. S + nghe lỏm (intransitive)

d, *Specific grammatical features of NGHE NHÂM/NGHE LẦM*

1. S + nghe lằm (intransitive)
2. S + nghe lằm (transitive) + object (NP)

Table 4.2 Summary of Grammatical Features of WRHs in Vietnamese

Verbs	Intransitive	Intransitive + adjunct	Monotransitive	Complex transitive
Nghe	+	+	+	-
Lắng nghe	+	+	+	-
Nghe lỏm	+	-	+	-
Nghe lằm/nằm	+	-	+	-

4.1.2.2. *Grammatical Features of IRHs in Vietnamese*

1. VERB + N/NP

Nghe hơi nỏi chỗ

2. VERB + PP

Để ngoài tai Bỏ ngoài tai

3. VERB + N/NP /VERB + N/NP

Nghe tai này ra tai kia

4. VERB + CLAUSE

Nghe gà hóa cuốc

4.1.3. *The Similarities Between WIRHs in English and Vietnamese in Terms of Grammatical Features*

Table 4.3 Summary of Grammatical Features of WRHs in English and Vietnamese

Syntactic features	English verbs	Vietnamese verbs
Intransitive	+	+
Intransitive + adjunct	+	+
Monotransitive	+	+
Complex - transitive	+	-

4.1.3.1. *The Similarities Between WRHs in English and Vietnamese*

Firstly, in terms of main syntactic functions most English and Vietnamese words related to hearing are verbs so they can be used to denote people's action, state or process.

Secondly, verbs related to hearing in two languages can be both transitive verbs and intransitive verbs.

Finally, verbs in each language can appear in a lot of structures as analysis above.

4.1.3.2. *The Similarities Between IRHs in English and Vietnamese*

Firstly, the most common feature of idioms related to hearing in English and Vietnamese is that most of the idioms are verbal idioms or semi-clause structures.

Secondly, both English and Vietnamese idioms mostly consist of common verbs followed by all types of words. It means that they are in the different forms and structures of the special combinations.

4.1.4. *The Differences Between WIRHs in English and Vietnamese in Terms of Grammatical Features*

4.1.4.1. *The Differences Between WRHs in English and Vietnamese*

Firstly, although verbs related to hearing in English and Vietnamese can be both transitive and intransitive, the number of them is not the same.

Table 4.4 The Number of Intransitive and Transitive Verbs.

Verbs	Number (percent)	
	Intransitive	Transitive
In English	347 (=59,52%)	236(= 40,48%)
In Vietnamese	246(=40,47%)	368 (=59,93%)

From the table, we can see that in English the number of intransitive verbs is much more than transitive verbs, whereas the number of transitive verbs is much more than the number of intransitive verbs in Vietnamese.

Secondly, English WRH can be a complex - transitive verb, but we do not have this kind of verb in Vietnamese.

Thirdly, the structure of the verbs in two languages is not completely similar. Vietnamese is an isolating language so we do not have an-ing verb forms or a to-infinitive verb form. However, English is an inflecting language so it has the type of non-finite verb.

Finally, besides the similarities above, verbs related to hearing in two languages have their own different structures.

4.1.4.2. The Differences Between IRHs in English and Vietnamese

Firstly, most English IRHs contain the word *ear* - the organ directly related to hearing. However, in Vietnamese besides *ear*, most idioms contain the verb *hear*.

Secondly, the presence of possessive pronoun *one's* in English verb phrase idioms is quite popular: *prick up one's ear*; *to keep one's ear open*, whereas in Vietnamese idioms the possessive pronouns are not often present because they are usually implicit in

the context. The non-define pronoun *one's* in English is replaced by a specific possessive pronoun towards which the action displayed by the idiom orientated.

Thirdly, apart from Vietnamese, English verbs are often used in different tenses. Therefore the verbal idioms in English can be used in different tenses

4.2. THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WIRHs IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE IN TERMS OF SEMANTIC FEATURES

4.2.1. Semantic Features of WIRHs in English

4.2.1.1. Meaning 1: Perceiving sound with the sense of hearing.

The English verbs and idioms used to express *the perceiving sound with the sense of hearing* are *hear*, *perceive*, *catch*, *to reach somebody's ears*.

4.2.1.2. Meaning 2: Listening attentively.

This meaning informs us about *listening attentively to sound*, including *listen*, *hear*, *hearken*, *lend an ear to*, *to be all ears*, *prick up ear*.

4.2.1.3. Meaning 3: Hearing without the knowledge of the speaker.

English verbs such as *overhear*, *eavesdrop* share the semantic features of hearing without the knowledge of the speaker.

4.2.1.4. Meaning 4: hearing unattentively or unclearly.

WIRHs have such marked meanings. With reference to the meaning of *hearing unattentively or unclearly*, we can use the verb *mishear* or idioms *to turn a deaf ear*, *to listen with half an ear*, *to go in one ear and out the other*.

Table 4.5 Semantic Features of WIRHs in English

No	Semantic category	Collocations
1	perceiving sound with the sense of hearing	<i>Hear</i> + N/NP <i>Hear</i> + somebody/something + V-ing <i>Hear</i> + somebody + V – infinitive <i>Hear</i> + ADV <i>Perceive</i> + somebody + V-ing <i>Perceive</i> + NP <i>Catch</i> +N/NP Something <i>reaches to one's ears</i>
2	listening attentively	<i>Listen</i> + to + somebody + V-ing <i>Listen</i> + to + N/NP <i>Listen</i> + to + ADV <i>Hear</i> + ADV <i>Hearken</i> + NP Somebody + <i>be all ears</i> Somebody + <i>lend his/her ear</i> Somebody + <i>prick up his/her ears</i>
3	hearing without the knowledge of the speaker	<i>Overhear</i> + someone + V-ing <i>Overhear</i> + NP <i>Eavesdrop</i> + on+ NP
4	hearing unattentively or unclearly	<i>Mishear</i> + NP Somebody + <i>turn a deaf ear</i> Somebody + <i>listen with half an ear</i> Something + <i>go in one ear and out the other</i>

4.2.2. Semantic Features of WIRHs in Vietnamese

4.2.2.1. Meaning 1: Perceiving sound with the sense of hearing.

Vietnamese verbs and idioms expressing this meaning are:
nghe, nghe thấy

4.2.2.2. Meaning 2: Listening attentively.

This group informs us about perceiving sound attentively, including *lắng nghe, lắng tai nghe, nghe, hóng chuyện, nghe ngóng*.

4.2.2.3. Meaning 3: Hearing without the knowledge of the speaker.

With this meaning we can use *nghe lỏm* or *nghe trộm*.

4.2.2.4. Meaning 4: Hearing unattentively or hearing unclearly

To express meaning of hearing unattentively or unclearly, Vietnamese people often use the following verbs and idioms: *nghe nhầm, nghe lầm, để ngoài tai, bỏ ngoài tai, nghe hơi nỏi chỗ, nghe gà hóa cuốc, vào tai này ra tai kia, mắt mù tai điếc*.

Table 4.6 Semantic Features of WIRHs in Vietnamese

No	Semantic category	Collocations
1	perceiving sound with the sense of hearing	<i>Nghe</i> + N/NP <i>Nghe</i> + sb/sth + verb <i>Nghe</i> + ADJ <i>Nghe thấy</i> + N/NP
2	listening attentively	<i>Lắng</i> + <i>nghe</i> <i>Lắng nghe</i> + sb/sth + verb ADJ + <i>Lắng nghe</i> <i>Lắng nghe</i> + ADJ <i>Nghe</i> + ADJ/ADJ + <i>Nghe</i> <i>Lắng tai nghe</i> + NP <i>Hóng</i> + <i>chuyện</i> <i>Nghe</i> + <i>ngóng</i> <i>Nghe ngóng</i> + NP
3	hearing without the knowledge of the speaker	<i>Nghe</i> + <i>lỏm</i> <i>Nghe</i> + <i>trộm</i>
4	hearing unattentively or unclearly	<i>Nghe</i> + <i>lầm/ nhầm</i> Somebody + <i>Để ngoài tai</i> Somebody + <i>Bỏ ngoài tai</i> Somebody + <i>Nghe hơi nỏi chỗ</i> Somebody + <i>Nghe gà hóa cuốc</i> Something + <i>Vào tai này ra tai kia</i>

4.2.3. The Similarities Between WIRHs in English and Vietnamese in Terms of Semantic Features

Table 4.7 Semantic Features of WIRHs in English and Vietnamese

Semantic category	Collocations	
	English	Vietnamese
perceiving sound with the sense of hearing	<i>Hear</i> + N/NP <i>Hear</i> + sb/sth + V-ing <i>Hear</i> + sb + V – infinitive <i>Hear</i> + ADV <i>Perceive</i> + somebody + V-ing <i>Perceive</i> + NP <i>Catch</i> +N/NP <i>Sth reaches to one's ears</i>	<i>Nghe</i> + N/NP <i>Nghe</i> + sb/sth + verb <i>Nghe</i> + ADJ <i>Nghe thấy</i> + N/NP
listening attentively	<i>Listen</i> + to + somebody + V-ing <i>Listen</i> + to + N/NP <i>Listen</i> + to + ADV <i>Hear</i> + ADV <i>Hearken</i> + NP Somebody + <i>be all ears</i> Somebody + <i>lend his/her ear</i> Somebody + <i>prick up his/her ears</i>	<i>Lắng</i> + <i>nghe</i> <i>Lắng nghe</i> + sb/sth + V ADJ + <i>Lắng nghe</i> <i>Lắng nghe</i> + ADJ <i>Nghe</i> + ADJ ADJ + <i>Nghe</i> <i>Lắng tai nghe</i> + NP <i>Hóng chuyện</i> <i>Nghe + ngóng</i> <i>Nghe ngóng</i> + NP
hearing without the knowledge of the speaker	<i>Overhear</i> + someone + V-ing <i>Overhear</i> + NP <i>Eavesdrop</i> + on+ NP	<i>Nghe</i> + <i>lôm</i> <i>Nghe</i> + <i>trộm</i>
hearing unattentively or unclearly	<i>Mishear</i> + NP Somebody + <i>turn a deaf ear</i> Somebody + <i>listen with half an ear</i> Something + <i>go in one ear and out the other</i>	<i>Nghe</i> + <i>lầm/ nhầm</i> Somebody + <i>đề ngoài tai</i> Somebody + <i>bỏ ngoài tai</i> Somebody + <i>nghe hơi nôi chỗ</i> Somebody + <i>nghe gà hóa cuốc</i> Something + <i>Vào tai này ra tai kia</i>

Firstly, the four meanings of hearing are expressed by many different words and idioms both in English and in Vietnamese. These words and idioms in both languages can be put into four groups of different meanings of hearing.

Secondly, WRHs in both languages can be simple words such as *hear*, *catch*, *perceive*, *listen* in English and *nghe* in Vietnamese.

Thirdly, WRHs in four meanings can combine with N or NP whose meanings relate to sounds.

Fourthly, the number of WRHs of the meaning 3 and meaning 4 in English and Vietnamese seems to be the most.

Table 4.8 WRHs in English and Vietnamese

Different meanings of hearing	English	Vietnamese
1. perceiving sound with the sense of hearing	Hear, perceive, catch	Nghe, nghe thấy,
2. listening attentively	Listen, hear, hearken	Lắng nghe, nghe, hóng chuyện, nghe ngóng
3. hearing without the knowledge of the speaker	Overhear, eavesdrop	Nghe lôm, nghe trộm
4. hearing unattentively or unclearly	Mishear	Nghe nhầm/lầm

Finally, some English verbs and Vietnamese verbs such as **hear** in English and **nghe** in Vietnamese can be used in more than one meaning because they have different collocations that help them to define different meanings.

4.2.4. The Differences Between WRHs in English and Vietnamese in Terms of Semantic Features

Firstly, there are four same meanings in two languages, but these meanings are expressed by different linguistic items. English WRHs can be both simple and derived verbs, whereas Vietnamese WRHs can be simple and compound verbs. For example, to express *listening attentively*, in English the simple verbs such as *listen*, *hearken* are used, whereas in Vietnamese there are no single verbs for the meaning. The simple verb “*nghe*” must be used with some phrases such as *chăm chú, kỹ, tập trung, kỹ, tập trung, mãi ...etc* to fulfill the meaning. Or to denote the meaning of *hearing without the knowledge of the speaker* in English we use derived words such as *overhear* or *mishear*, whereas in Vietnamese, besides single words a lot of compound words are used such as *nghe lỏm, nghe trộm*.

Secondly, in meaning 1 and meaning 2 English WRHs can collocate with adverbs or infinitive verbs, but Vietnamese WRHs cannot do like this. They can collocate with adjectives or adjectives collocate with verbs.

Thirdly, most Vietnamese WRHs in meaning 2 are compound verbs. They are the combination of two verbs. However, English verbs are simple verbs.

Fourthly, meaning can be express by derived verbs in English but compound verbs in Vietnamese. Vietnamese, connotative meaning is expressed so clearly by using some phrases such as *lỏm, trộm...* It can say that this is a typical feature of Vietnamese.

Finally, all idioms related to hearing in this study have different structures. However, English verbal idioms contain both

lexical verb and be verb(to be all ears). Vietnamese idioms only contain lexical verbs.

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSION

Hearing is the process of detecting and perceiving sounds by using ears. Both English and Vietnamese have different verbs and idioms to express that meaning. In chapter 4 we study the grammatical features and semantic features of verbs and idioms in English and Vietnamese. And after analysing we can draw out some conclusions as follows:

Firstly, in grammatical aspect, all WRHs in both languages are verbs. And except “*listen*” in English that is intransitive, the most verbs in the two languages are both transitive and intransitive. However the number of transitive and intransitive in two languages are not the same. Furthermore, English has complex-transitive verbs, but Vietnamese does not have this kind of verb.

Secondly, although in syntactic field all verbs can be followed by different structures, English verbs can be followed by an -ing verb form or a infinitive verb form. Vietnamese is an isolating language, therefore, we do not have these structures.

Thirdly, all idioms in English and Vietnamese are in the structure of verb phrases. In other words, they are all verbal idioms. Therefore, they have functions as verbs. However, English idioms has both lexical verb and be verb function as main verb in the phrases, Vietnamese idioms have only lexical verb. English idioms

can appear in different tenses. Vietnamese is a tenseless language, therefore, Vietnamese idioms are tenseless too.

Fourthly, semantically both English and Vietnamese WIRHs can be classified into 4 meanings based on the criteria of different manners of auditory perception.

Meaning 1: informs about the perceiving sound with sense of hearing.

Meaning 2: informs about listening attentively.

Meaning 3: informs about hearing without the knowledge of the speaker.

Meaning 4: informs about hearing unattentively or unclearly.

Moreover, in each meaning, a lot of words and idioms are used. Idioms are verbal idioms in both language, but English verbs can be simple and derived verbs, Vietnamese can be simple and compound verbs.

Some words can collocate with different words or phrases so they have different shades of meanings and they can be flexibly used in many different contexts. English verbs can collocate with nouns, noun phrase, a -ing form verb, a infinitive form verb, or adverb. Vietnamese verbs can collocate with nouns, noun phrase, or adj. English is an inflecting language, therefore, its faculty of combination is richer than Vietnamese's.

There are verbs that can use to denote different meanings such as "Hear" in English and "Nghe" in Vietnamese thanks to their different collocations.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS FOR TEACHING/ LEARNING VOCABULARY

As mentioned at the beginning of the study, a large numbers of English learners have a lot of difficulties when they acquire the biggest component of any language course – vocabulary. It is because vocabulary teaching and learning has not received the recognition it deserves in classroom. When teaching vocabulary, the teacher often wastes time by explanation and definition, and learners often learn new words by compiling page upon page of vocabulary lists with the translation in their mother- tongue. Or when they make a sentence in English they usually apply Vietnamese to interpreting English ones without paying attention to the differences in grammatical and semantic features between the two languages. It is clear that by this way learners have not known yet how to use vocabulary perfectly in different context and they have found difficult to turn the new vocabulary into their long-term memory. Therefore, basing on the study, we would like to suggest some useful ways of language learning and teaching.

In recent years, there are some new ways of teaching vocabulary. And we can see that teaching/learning vocabulary by family tree or lexical field and learning and teaching vocabulary in the specific context have been proved by the learners' success. Because they are provided with an increasing number of words so that they can make a happy choice of word for appropriate context. Thus, in order to understand and use WIRHs in English and Vietnamese, learners should be equipped with not only grammatical meaning and descriptive meanings of WIRHs, but also their components of meaning and their transference of meaning as well.

In addition, learners should be aware of the similarities and differences between the two languages. Without the awareness the learners are likely to use their mother-tongue structure to express ideas in foreign language.

Last but not least important, the ways of presenting the meaning and usage of a new item should be best to combine some ways rather than only one. The teacher can give concise definition, detailed description, context...and collocation. Besides, the use of topic – based presentation of vocabulary is really essential and arrange vocabulary into the topic is a useful task in teaching and learning vocabulary.

5.3. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study is a great effort to deal with not only grammatical features but also semantic features of WIRHs in English and Vietnamese. However, this effort cannot avoid shortcomings and still leaves much to be desired. Only some popular verbs and idioms related to hearing are studied, not all words and idioms in English and Vietnamese. In this paper, their pragmatic features are not analyzed.

Moreover, the materials supporting the thesis are so limited. Furthermore, the limitation of time and reference books as well as many constraints faced by the researcher make it impossible for the researcher to sufficient and more intensive focus on WIRHs.

5.4. SUGGESTION FOR FUTHER STUDY

This thesis has dealt with grammatical features and semantic features of words and idioms related to hearing in English and Vietnamese. However, there are some aspects that should be study to

have more profound and through look into WIRHs, the following points will be taken into consideration:

- Other words an idioms related to hearing in English and Vietnamese.
- Pragmatic features of WIRHs.