

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

UNIVERSITY OF DANANG

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**AN INVESTIGATION INTO  
LINGUISTIC FEATURES  
OF MONEY RELATED PROVERBS  
IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE**

Field: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Code: 60.22.15

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

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. RATIONALE

One of the best and the most effective ways to share, store and transmit information and experiences from generations to generations is through proverbs. Proverbs, in general, are expressions of hope, fatalism, cynicism and consolation, but for money related proverbs (MRPs), they mainly express the cynicism which educate at all times and offer learning for all ages.

MRPs are frequently used in the daily life. However, their structures are quite different from those of normal sentences; also their meanings are more complicated, which partly render the speakers of two languages to master and use them correctly in the real life. Therefore, the study of syntactic features as well as semantic ones of MRPs is necessary for the learners of two languages to use their mother tongue and their foreign language as well.

For the above-mentioned reasons, I have chosen to carry out the thesis: *“An Investigation into Linguistic Features of Money Related Proverbs in English and Vietnamese”*.

#### 1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

##### 1.2.1. Aims of the Study

This thesis aims to study the syntactic and semantic characteristics of MRPs in English and Vietnamese as well as discover similarities and differences of these features between the two languages.

##### 1.2.2. Objectives of the Study

- To investigate the syntactic and semantic characteristics of MRPs in English and in Vietnamese.

- To find out the differences and similarities between MRPs in English and MRPs in Vietnamese in terms of syntax and semantics.

- To suggest some implications for teaching, learning and translating MRPs from English into Vietnamese and vice versus.

#### 1.3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The thesis is restricted to the syntactic and semantic features of only MRPs in English and those in Vietnamese to find out the similarities and differences in term of syntax and semantics as well as their implications.

#### 1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the syntactic and semantic features of MRPs in English and in Vietnamese?
2. What are the similarities and differences between MRPs in English and Vietnamese in terms of syntax and semantics?
3. What are the implications for teaching, learning and translating of MRPs in English and in Vietnamese?

#### 1.5. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Literature Review and Theoretical Background

Chapter 3: Methods and Procedures

Chapter 4: Findings and Discussion

Chapter 5: Conclusions and Implications

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1. PREVIOUS RESEARCHES RELATED TO THE STUDY

Under the heading of proverbs, many linguists such as Kuskovskaya [6], Manser [8], Simpson and Speake [15], Lê Đình Bích

and Trầ Quỳnh Dân [22] and Bùi Phụng [42] and so on have dealt with a wide range of proverbs listed according to their alphabetical or their semantic fields with or without meaning explanation.

In Vietnamese, proverbs has drawn much attention of many researchers such as Việt Chương [25], Vũ Dung, Vũ Thúy Anh, Vũ Quang Hào [29], Nguyễn Đức Dương [30], Mã Giang Lân [35], Ôn Như Nguyễn Văn Ngọc [38], and Vũ Ngọc Phan [41].

Besides, there have been many theses of Vietnamese learners about proverbs in English such as [2], [4], [11], and [18].

However, no research in Vietnam has discussed MRPs in English and Vietnamese in terms of syntax and semantics in detail.

## 2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.2.1. Notion of Proverbs

#### 2.2.1.1. Notion of Proverbs in English

*Proverbs are short sentences of the folk which express wisdom, truth, morals, traditional views or experiences in metaphorical, fixed, colloquial and memorizable form.*

#### 2.2.1.2. Notion of Proverbs in Vietnamese

*A proverb is a short, usually rhymed sentence that is complete in meaning by itself and expresses wisdom, experiences, morals, ethics, truth or criticisms.*

### 2.2.2. Proverbs and Idioms

Vũ Mạnh Trường [19, p.96] said: “*Very often there arises the problem of distinguishing between proverbs and idioms. A perfect solution is hardly possible since there are many borderline cases between them*”. Therefore, to guarantee the objectiveness of the data, 300 samples are collected from reliable dictionaries, books and websites and are acknowledged as proverbs.

### 2.2.3. Notion of MRPs

MRPs are proverbs which meet the notion of proverbs stated in section 2.2.1 and contain words denoting money such as *money, coin, dollar, penny, pound*, etc. in English and *đồng bạc, đồng tiền, nén bạc, đồng, quan, tiền*, etc. in Vietnamese.

### 2.2.4. Types of Sentences in English in Terms of Structure

#### 2.2.4.1. Clause Elements

According to Quirk and Greenbaum [13, p.169-170], there are 5 clause elements syntactically defined: subject (S), verb (V), object (O), complement (C) and adverbial (A).

#### 2.2.4.2. Simple Sentences

Quirk and Greenbaum [13, p.165] defines simple sentence is a sentence that consisting of only one clause. The clause patterns of simple sentences are correspondent to the seven clause types: 1. SV, 2. SVA, 3. SVO, 4. SVC, 5. SVOA, 6. SVOO, 7. SVOC.

#### 2.2.4.3. Compound Sentences (Coordination)

According to Quirk [14, p. 987-988], a compound sentence consists of two or more coordinated main clauses. Two kinds of coordinations are: *syndetic coordination* and *asyndetic coordination*.

#### 2.2.4.4. Complex Sentences (Subordination)

According to Quirk [14, p.987-988], a complex sentence has one or more subordinate clauses functioning as an element of the sentence. Three kinds of subordinate clauses are *adjective clauses, nominal clauses* and *adverbial clauses*.

#### 2.2.4.5. Comparative sentences

Quirk and Greenbaum [13, p.329] mentioned comparative sentences by means of a ‘*comp-element*’ which identifies the

comparison as *equational* or *differentiating*. Also, there are comparative constructions with *enough*, *too*, *so... (that)*, and *such... (that)*.

#### **2.2.4.6. Aphoristic Sentences**

Aphoristic sentence is among other minor sentence types and can be found in many proverbs [13, p.203]. These all have the balancing of the two equivalent constructions against each other.

### **2.2.5. Types of Sentences in English in Terms of Syntactic Classes**

#### **2.2.5.1. Statements**

Statements are sentences in which the subject is always present and generally precedes the verbs [13, p.190]:

#### **2.2.5.2. Questions**

Questions are sentences marked by the placing of the operator in front of the subject. Besides, there are two minor types [13, p.198 – 199]: *exclamatory questions* and *rhetorical questions*.

#### **2.2.5.3. Commands**

Commands are sentences normally having no overt grammatical subject, and whose verb is in the imperative mood [13, p.190]

#### **2.2.5.4. Exclamations**

Exclamations have an initial phrase introduced by *what/ how*, without inversion of subject and operator [13, p.190].

### **2.2.6. Types of Sentences in Vietnamese in Terms of Structure**

#### **2.2.6.1. Sentence Elements**

Basic sentence elements in Vietnamese are: S, V, O, C, A. This is supported by Trần Hữu Mạnh [37, p.389] who states that sentences in every languages can be separated into S, V, O, C and A.

#### **2.2.6.2. Simple Sentences**

Trần Hữu Mạnh [37, p.388-389] states that Vietnamese has 7 patterns of simple sentences equivalent to those in English: 1. SV, 2. SVA, 3. SVO, 4. SVC, 5. SVOA, 6. SVOO, 7. SVOC.

Besides, in Vietnamese there are also patterns without verbs. The predicators of these patterns are noun phrases (NP) or adjective phrases. (Adj. P): 1. S + NP, 2. S + Adj. P.

#### **2.2.6.3. Compound Sentences**

According to Nguyễn Văn Hào and Hoàng Xuân Tâm [31, p.303], a compound sentence is a sentence constructed from two or more than two clauses based on their coordinating relation. Compound sentences can be connected by conjunctions (*syndetic coordination*) or not be connected by conjunctions (*asyndetic coordination*).

#### **2.2.6.4. Complex sentences**

Nguyễn Văn Hào and Hoàng Xuân Tâm [31, p.298-302] classify complex sentences into three kinds: *Complex sentence containing S-P as a phrasal element*; *complex sentence containing S-P as a sentential element* and *complex sentence containing S-P as a subordinate clause*.

#### **2.2.6.5. Comparative sentences**

*A comparative sentence is a sentence which contains components showing the comparison between things according to certain scales (equational or differentiating).*

### **2.2.7. Types of Sentences in Vietnamese in Terms of Syntactic Classes**

#### **2.2.7.1. Statements**

Statements don't have the tokens of questions, commands and exclamations.

### 2.2.7.2. Questions

A question contains interrogative words: *ai, gì, nào, đâu, mấy, sao, bao giờ, ...* and/ or has such particles as *à, u, hả, ...* at the end.

### 2.2.7.3. Commands

A command: (1) contains *hãy, chớ, đừng* and the subject of *hãy, chớ, đừng* is always in the second or the first plural personal pronouns, (2) can be added *hãy, chớ, đừng* after the above pronouns.

### 2.2.7.4. Exclamations

An exclamation is a sentence expressing feeling. It has such words as *thay, biết bao, xiết bao* at the end.

## 2.2.8. Semantic Characteristics of English Proverbs

### 2.2.8.1. Kinds of Meanings of English MRPs

Norricks [12, p.1-2] states a proverb may be said to be literal (“*like father, like son*”) or figurative (“*No rose without a thorn*”)

### 2.2.8.2. Meaning of English MRPs

Some proverbs are intended to persuade and teach people. Some other proverbs reveal and criticize the dark side of the ages or society. Additionally, proverbs spread experiences and knowledge.

## 2.2.9. Semantic Characteristics of Vietnamese Proverbs

### 2.2.9.1. Kinds of Meanings of Vietnamese MRPs

According to Nguyễn Xuân Đức [48], there are proverbs just having literal meaning (*May hơn khôn.*), those just having figurative meaning (*Gieo gió, gặt bão.*) and those having both literal and figurative meanings (*Tre non dễ uốn.*)

### 2.2.9.2. Meaning of Vietnamese MRPs

Nguyễn Nghĩa Dân [27, p.68] states that Vietnamese proverbs mention *money* as functions of circulation and exchange. However, it has negative influences to human and social relations.

## 2.3. SUMMARY

### CHAPTER 3

#### METHODS AND PROCEDURES

### 3.1. RESEARCH METHODS

We carry out our investigation based on the combination of several methods, namely *qualitative, quantitative, statistics, descriptive, analytic, synthetic, comparative, contrastive, deductive* and *inductive*.

### 3.2. DATA COLLECTION

Subject for this thesis is MRPs collected from dictionaries, books and websites both in English and Vietnamese.

### 3.3. DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLES

150 English MRPs and 150 Vietnamese ones containing words denoting money are chosen for investigation.

### 3.4. DATA ANALYSIS

MRPs in English and Vietnamese are analyzed in terms of *syntactic features, semantic features* and a comparison of English and Vietnamese MRPs is drawn out.

### 3.5. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

The procedures for the study will be as follows: Collecting and classifying data, analyzing data, comparing and contrasting, putting forward some implications for teaching, learning, translating and giving suggestions for further researches.

### 3.6. VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY

### CHAPTER 4

#### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1. SYNTACTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE MRPs

#### 4.1.1. Syntactic Characteristics of English and Vietnamese MRPs in Terms of Structure

##### 4.1.1.1. Syntactic Characteristics of English MRPs in Terms of Structure

###### a. English MRPs in Simple Sentences

Among seven basic patterns of simple sentences with verbs, English MRPs cover six ones. No English MRPs are constituted by pattern SVOO or constituted without verbs.

**Table 4.1. Distribution of Patterns of English Simple MRPs**

English Simple MRPs	Patterns of Simple MRPs	Occurrence	Distribution rate
Simple MRPs with verbs	S V	5	7%
	S V A	8	11.1%
	S V C	26	36.1%
	S V O	23	31.9%
	S V O A	6	8.3%
	S V O C	4	5.6%
	S V O O	0	0%
Simple MRPs without verbs	S + NP	0	0%
	S + Adj.P	0	0%
<b>Total</b>		<b>72</b>	<b>100%</b>

###### b. English MRPs in Compound Sentences

English compound MRPs in *syndetic coordination* are twice as many as those in *asyndetic one*, which is shown in table 4.2.

**Table 4.2. Distribution of English Compound MRPs**

Types of English Compound MRPs	Occurrence	Distribution rate
Syndetic coordination	12	66.7%
Asyndetic coordination	6	33.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100%</b>

###### c. English MRPs in Complex Sentences

English complex MRPs are formed in *adjective, nominal* and *adverbial clauses* in which *adverbial* ones predominate the others.

**Table 4.3. Distribution of English Complex MRPs**

Types of Subordinate Clauses	Occurrence	Distribution rate
Adjective Clauses	10	26.3%
Nominal Clauses	10	26.3%
Adverbial Clauses	18	47.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100%</b>

###### d. English MRPs in Comparative Sentences

In comparative construction, only *differentiating* can be found in English data.

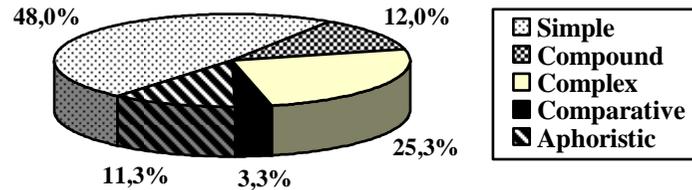
**Table 4.4. Distribution of English Comparative MRPs**

English Comparative MRPs	Occurrence	Distribution rate
Equational comparison	0	0 %
Differentiating comparison	5	100 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>

###### e. English MRPs in Aphoristic Sentences

Besides well-formed MRPs, there are ones belonging to aphoristic sentences considered as irregular sentences.

From the corpus analysis, the frequency of occurrence of sentence types of English MRPs is shown in chart 4.1.



**Chart 4.1. Percentage of Sentence Types of English MRPs**

#### 4.1.1.2. Syntactic Characteristics of Vietnamese MRPs in Terms of Structure

##### a. Vietnamese MRPs in Simple Sentences

Of the seven simple patterns with verb, Vietnamese MRPs cover only two, SVC and SVO. Besides, Vietnamese ones are formed without verb in structures of S+NP and S+Adj.P. No Vietnamese MRPs are formed in patterns of SV, SVA, SVOA, SVOO and SVOC.

**Table 4.5. Distribution of Patterns of Vietnamese Simple MRPs**

Vietnamese Simple MRPs	Patterns of Simple MRPs	Occurrence	Distribution rate
Simple MRPs with verbs	S V	0	0%
	S V A	0	0%
	S V C	5	20.8%
	S V O	12	50%
	S V O A	0	0%
	S V O C	0	0%
	S V O O	0	0%
Simple MRPs without verbs	S + NP	5	20.8%
	S + Adj.P	2	8.4%
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>100%</b>

##### b. Vietnamese MRPs in Compound Sentences

Among Vietnamese compound MRPs under investigation, *asyndetic* MRPs are much more than *syndetic* ones.

**Table 4.6. Distribution of Vietnamese Compound MRPs**

Vietnamese Compound MRPs	Occurrence	Distribution rate
Syndetic coordination	2	2.2%
Asyndetic coordination	90	97.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100%</b>

##### c. Vietnamese MRPs in Complex Sentences

There are three kinds of complex sentences: (1) complex sentences containing S-P as a phrasal element (2) complex sentences containing S-P as a sentential element (3) complex sentences containing S-P as a subordinate clause. However, in 150 Vietnamese proverbs, only complex sentences types (2) and (3) are found.

**Table 4.7. Distribution of Vietnamese Complex MRPs**

Vietnamese Complex MRPs	Occurrence	Distribution rate
S-P is a phrasal element	0	0%
S-P is a sentential element	2	22.2%
S-P is a subordinate clause	7	77.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100%</b>

##### d. Vietnamese MRPs in Comparative Sentences

Comparative sentences show the comparison between things according to scale of *equational* or *differentiating* comparison. Both these two types are found in Vietnamese MRPs. However, the number of Vietnamese MRPs in equational comparison is more than three times as high as that of Vietnamese ones in differentiating comparison.

**Table 4.8. Distribution of Vietnamese Comparative MRPs**

Vietnamese Comparative MRPs	Occurrence	Distribution rate
Equational	19	76%
Differentiating	6	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

From Vietnamese corpus analysis, we reckon up the frequency of occurrence of sentence types of Vietnamese MRPs

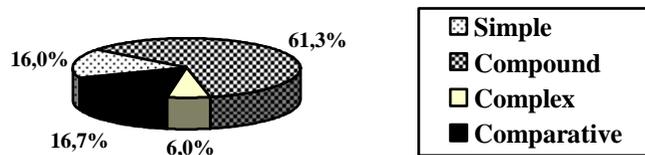
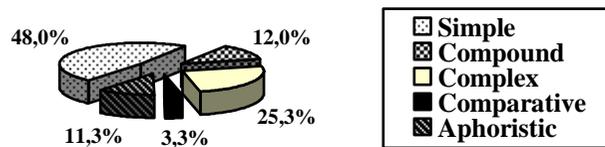


Chart 4.2. Percentage of Sentence Types of Vietnamese MRPs

#### 4.1.1.3. Similarities and Differences between English and Vietnamese MRPs in Term of Structure

##### In English



##### In Vietnamese

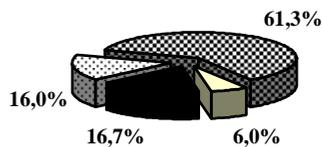


Chart 4.3. Comparison of Sentence Types between English and Vietnamese MRPs

##### a. Similarities

Generally, English and Vietnamese MRPs are constructed in *simple, compound, complex, and comparative sentences* (chart 4.3). Particularly, there are some similarities in each type of sentences.

- In terms of *simple sentences*, the patterns SVO and SVC are found in both English and Vietnamese MRPs with high percentage.
- Relating to *compound sentences*, English and Vietnamese MRPs are formed with and without coordinators.
- As for *comparative sentences*, differentiating comparison is found in MRPs in both languages with nearly the same number.

##### b. Differences

All-in-all, *aphoristic* sentences are present in English MRPs but absent in Vietnamese ones. In addition, *simple sentences* are used the most commonly in English MRPs while *compound sentences* dominate the others in Vietnamese ones. In particular, differences between each type of sentences are shown as follows:

- In reference to *simple sentences*, first, English simple MRPs are much more than Vietnamese ones. Secondly, all of English simple MRPs are formed with verbs while Vietnamese simple ones are formed with verbs and without verbs. Finally, among seven patterns with verbs, English MRPs cover six out of seven (SV, SVA, SVC, SVO, SVOA, SVOC) while Vietnamese MRPs just cover two (SVO, SVC).

- In regards with *compound sentences*, the number of English compound MRPs is far less than that of Vietnamese ones. Another difference lies in the employment of coordinators in English and Vietnamese MRPs. The frequency of coordinators in the former is much higher than that in the latter. English compound MRPs in

syndetic coordination (12 proverbs) are more than ones in asyndetic coordination (6 proverbs) whereas Vietnamese asyndetic compound MRPs (90 proverbs) are much more than syndetic ones (2 proverbs).

- In the data of *complex sentences*, English MRPs is over four times as many as Vietnamese ones. Moreover, English MRPs are formed by *adjective*, *nominal* and *adverbial* clauses whereas Vietnamese MRPs are constituted by *nominal* and *adverbial* clauses.

- As for *comparative sentences*, only differentiating comparison is found in English MRPs while both differentiating and equational are found in Vietnamese ones

#### 4.1.2. Syntactic Characteristics of English and Vietnamese MRPs in Terms of Syntactic Classes

##### 4.1.2.1. Syntactic Characteristics of English MRPs in Terms of Syntactic Classes

Three out of four syntactic classes, *statements*, *commands*, and *questions* are found in the English data.

##### 4.1.2.2. Syntactic Characteristics of Vietnamese MRPs in Term of Syntactic Classes

Only two out of four syntactic classes are found in Vietnamese data: *statements* and *commands*.

##### 4.1.2.3. Similarities and Differences between English and Vietnamese MRPs in Term of Syntactic Classes

###### a. Similarities

English and Vietnamese MRPs in form of *statements* are dominating, and no MRPs under study are in *exclamations*, which is demonstrated in table 4.11.

**Table 4.11. Comparison of Syntactic Classes between English and Vietnamese MRPs**

Syntactic Classes	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Distribution rate	Occurrence	Distribution rate
Statements	129	86%	145	96.7%
Commands	19	12.7%	5	3.3%
Questions	2	1.3%	0	0%
Exclamations	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

###### b. Differences

English MRPs are formed in *statements*, *commands* and *questions* whereas Vietnamese MRPs are not structured in *questions*. Also, English MRPs in *commands* are nearly four times as many as Vietnamese ones.

#### 4.2.1. Semantic Characteristics Based on Kinds of Meanings

##### 4.2.1.1. Semantic Characteristics of English MRPs Based on Kinds of Meanings

English MRPs under study are grouped into three kinds of meanings: Literal, Figurative, and Literal-Figurative.

##### 4.2.1.2. Semantic characteristics of Vietnamese MRPs Based on Kinds of Meanings

Vietnamese MRPs under study are grouped into three kinds of meanings: Literal, Figurative, and Literal-Figurative.

##### 4.2.1.3. Similarities and Differences between English and Vietnamese MRPs in Terms of Kinds of Meanings

**Table 4.14. Comparison of Kinds of Meanings between English and Vietnamese MRPs**

Kinds of Meanings	English MRPs		Vietnamese MRPs	
	Occurrence	Distribution Rate	Occurrence	Distribution Rate
Literal	9	6%	4	2.7%
Figurative	37	24.7%	23	15.3%
Literal-Figurative	104	69.3%	123	82%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

*a. Similarities*

Firstly, both English and Vietnamese MRPs are classified into (1) literal meaning, (2) figurative meaning, and (3) literal-figurative meanings. Secondly, type (3) takes up the most percentage in the two languages with 69.3% in English and 82% in Vietnamese. Finally, the least one belongs to those of literal meaning.

*b. Differences*

English MRPs having only literal meaning and only figurative meaning are more than Vietnamese ones with 9 and 37 proverbs in English and 4 and 23 proverbs in Vietnamese successively. However, for group of literal-figurative meaning, the result is reversed (104 MRPs in English and 123 in Vietnamese).

**4.2.2. Semantic Characteristics Based on Semantic Fields**

**4.2.2.1. Semantic Characteristics of English MRPs Based on Semantic Fields**

English MRPs are categorized into three major semantic fields: *positive*, *negative* and *positive-negative meanings*.

**Table 4.15. Distribution of Semantic Fields of English MRPs**

Semantic Fields of English MRPs			Occurrence	Distribution Rate
<b>Positive</b>			6	4%
<b>Negative</b>	To people	Pains and sorrows	4	18%
		Friends and enemies	7	
		Worries	2	
	To society	Negative society	10	
		Evils	4	
<b>Positive-Negative</b>	Bipolar		36	78%
	Neutral		81	
<b>Total</b>			<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**4.2.2.2. Semantic Characteristics of Vietnamese MRPs**

**Based on Semantic Fields**

Vietnamese MRPs are also grouped into three major semantic fields: *positive*, *negative* and *positive-negative meaning*.

**Table 4.16. Distribution of Semantic Fields of Vietnamese MRPs**

Semantic Fields of Vietnamese MRPs			Occurrence	Distribution Rate
<b>Positive</b>			23	15.3%
<b>Negative</b>	To people	Human relations	8	30%
		Family relations	6	
	To society	Negative society	30	
		Evils	1	
<b>Positive-Negative</b>	Bipolar		11	54.7%
	Neutral		71	
<b>Total</b>			<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 4.2.2.3. Similarities and Differences between English and Vietnamese MRPs Based on Semantic Fields

The comparison of semantic fields between English and Vietnamese MRPs are summarized in table 4.17.

**Table 4.17. Comparison of Semantic Fields between English and Vietnamese MRPs**

Semantic Fields	Occurrence	Distribution Rate	Occurrence	Distribution Rate
Positive	6	4%	23	15.3%
Negative	27	18%	45	30%
Positive-Negative	117	78%	82	54.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

##### a. Similarities

First, both in English and Vietnamese MRPs, the ranks of the three semantic fields are the same: (1<sup>st</sup>) positive-negative meaning; (2<sup>nd</sup>) negative meaning, and (3<sup>rd</sup>) positive meaning (table 4.17). Secondly, all of MRPs belonging to bipolar meaning in the two languages express the power of money. Next, in terms of negative meaning, MRPs expressing negative influences of money to people and society are found in both sources. Finally, MRPs indicating negative influences to society are classified into two groups: money controls everything in a society negatively and money makes evils (table 4.15 and table 4.16).

##### b. Differences

As for negative influence of money to people, in English, money not only brings people pains, sorrows and worries, but it also makes one lose friends and get enemies while in Vietnamese,

money destroys the human relations and family relations (table 4.15 and table 4.16). This major difference may be explained by the difference in the two cultures. Vietnamese adopt a community culture in which the human relations are important and complicated while English fetishize individualism which allows people to do things in their own way without considering other people. Therefore, Vietnamese MRPs focus influences of money to those human relations so as to educate people and keep them conscious to maintain good relations whereas English MRPs centre on influences of money to one individual.

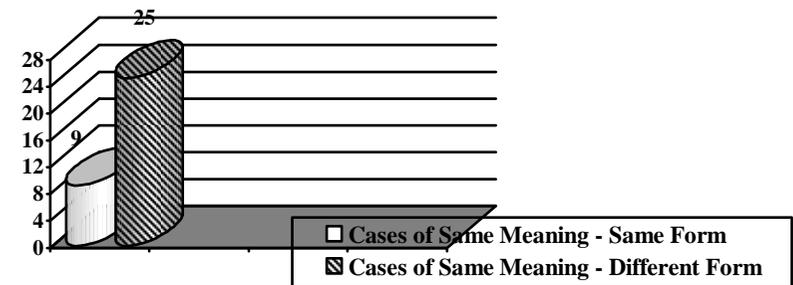
### 4.3. SYNTACTIC-SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF MRPS IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

#### 4.3.1. Same Meaning-Same Form

This group includes MRPs in English and Vietnamese having equivalent meaning expressed by similar structure (chart 4.4).

#### 4.3.2. Same Meaning-Different Form

This group contains MRPs English and Vietnamese having equivalent meaning indicated by different structure (chart 4.4).



**Chart 4.4. Cases of English and Vietnamese MRPs Having Same Meaning – Same Form and Same Meaning – Different Form**

### 4.3.3. Different Meaning-Different Form

Within 300 MRPs under study, 104 English MRPs and 111 Vietnamese ones are not equivalent in meaning.

## 4.4. SUMMARY

### CHAPTER 5

## CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

### 5.1. CONCLUSIONS

“*An investigation into linguistic features of money related proverbs in English and Vietnamese*” is a study carried out to shed some light on the syntactic and semantic features of MRPs in English and Vietnamese. Then, comparison and contrast in these features is conducted to find out similarities and differences between the two languages. This thesis is also aimed to make a contribution to the theoretical studies of proverbs in general and proverbs relating to money in English and Vietnamese in particular.

To answer the research questions, the study is firmly based on the theories of Norrick [12], Quirk and Greenbaum [13] in English as well as of Diệp Quang Ban [19], Nguyễn Văn Hào and Hoàng Xuân Tâm [31], Nguyễn Văn Hiệp [32] and Nguyễn Xuân Đức [48] in Vietnamese. Analyzing 300 samples of MRPs in English and Vietnamese, we gained interesting results as follows:

In terms of *structure*, both English and Vietnamese MRPs are formed by four kinds of sentences: *simple*, *compound*, *complex*, and *comparative*. However, *aphoristic* is present in English MRPs, but absent in Vietnamese ones. Besides, simple sentences are dominant in English MRPs whereas compound sentences are used the most frequently in forming Vietnamese ones.

As regards *syntactic classes*, of four syntactic classes, only three (*statements*, *commands* and *questions*) are used in forming English MRPs and two (*statements* and *commands*) in Vietnamese ones. What's more, *statements* dominate other classes in both English and Vietnamese and no MRPs in the two languages are formulated in *exclamations*.

In reference to *kinds of meanings*, English and Vietnamese MRPs are classified into three kinds of meanings: *literal*, *figurative*, and *literal-figurative meanings*. Although the frequency of each kind of meaning in English and Vietnamese is quite different, in general, of the three kinds, the literal-figurative takes up the most percentage in the two languages and the least one belongs to those of literal meaning.

In terms of *semantic fields*, both in English and Vietnamese MRPs, the ranks of three semantic fields are the same: (1<sup>st</sup>) *positive-negative*, (2<sup>nd</sup>) *negative* and (3<sup>rd</sup>) *positive*. Relating to negative meaning, MRPs in English and Vietnamese have their similarities and differences as well. To society, English and Vietnamese MRPs are classified into two groups: money controls everything in a society negatively and money makes evils. However, to people, in English, money brings people pains, sorrows, worries, and makes one lose friends, get enemies whereas in Vietnamese, money destroys the human relations in society and badly influences the relationships among members in families.

Finally, in terms of *semantics-syntax*, within 300 MRPs both in English and Vietnamese, nearly one third of MRPs in English have their Vietnamese MRPs in equivalence with the same structure or

different structures and vice versa. 104 English MRPs and 111 Vietnamese ones are not equivalent in meaning.

## 5.2. IMPLICATIONS

This thesis is hoped to be useful for not only teachers but also for learners of the two languages.

### *To teachers:*

From the results of the study, some implications for teaching are drawn out as follows:

- The syntactic features of MRPs in both English and Vietnamese are useful for teachers in teaching sentence types.

- Thanks to the semantic features of MRPs in English and Vietnamese, teachers are provided with two approaches of teaching meaning of proverbs. First, teachers can teach learners kinds of meanings of MRPs. Secondly, teachers can teach learners educational lessons based on positive, negative, or positive-negative semantic fields of MRPs.

- Last but not least, based on the results of semantic-syntactic findings of English and Vietnamese MRPs, teachers can help learners understand and remember MRPs easily and quickly. This finding is also of great help to learners in translating MRPs from English in Vietnamese and contrarily. One example of teaching MRPs which combines all the above implications is as follows:

- Step 1: providing learners with kinds of sentences which are *simple, compound, complex, comparative* and *aphoristic*.

- Step 2: supplying column A consisting of the first part of proverbs and column B containing the second part of proverbs

- Step 3: giving definition or clues for each proverb

- Step 4: asking learners to match one part in A with another in B to make a complete proverb which is correct grammatically and suitable with the definition given before.

From these exercises, learners will more easily remember MRPs in English and Vietnamese syntactically and semantically.

### *To learners:*

Also, this study will be much beneficial to learners of both languages. They not only learn its grammar rules and meanings of proverbs, they also know the differences in cultures and values are embedded in the way people use their language.

## 5.3. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Due to the restriction of this kind of proverbs – MRPs, only 300 samples in the two languages are collected. Moreover, because of the limited time, knowledge and references, the study can only examine syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese MRPs, so it has not reached the expected depth as it should.

## 5.4. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Due to the limitation of time and materials, the study is by no means complete and still remains some other aspects awaiting investigation. We strongly suggest further studies on the following areas:

- An investigation into the pragmatic features of English and Vietnamese MRPs.

- An investigation into the cultural features of English and Vietnamese MRPs.

- An investigation into English and Vietnamese MRPs in advertising.

- An investigation into English and Vietnamese MRPs in headlines and slogans.