

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
UNIVERSITY OF DANANG

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**AN INVESTIGATION INTO LINGUISTIC  
FEATURES OF SPORTS EXPRESSIONS USED  
METAPHORICALLY AND IDIOMATICALLY  
IN NON-SPORT SITUATIONS  
(ENGLISH VERSUS VIETNAMESE)**

**Subject Area : The English Language**

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**M.A. THESIS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**(A SUMMARY)**

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1. RATIONALE**

Idioms and metaphors play a very important role in sports languages. However, in order to comprehend an expression used metaphorically and idiomatically used in non-sports situations is not an easy task at all due to many reasons. They are collection of sports expressions that got their start from various sports. Some are only used in the game of their origin, but many others are widely used in everyday life.

I have found that learning to analyze and interpret the sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically in non-sports situations is not an easy task for foreign and Vietnamese commentators, readers. Awareness of the meaning of everyday situations' sports language used metaphorically and idiomatically will not only help readers get a better understanding of implied meanings of sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically, but also provide some necessary strategies in their communication. I also hope you find the sports expressions used in non-sport situations both entertaining and informative. All these things have aroused my interest in researching the topic :“An Investigation into the Linguistic Features of Sports Expressions Used Metaphorically and Idiomatically in Non-sports Situations, English versus Vietnamese.” Hopefully, this study will give me a deeper understanding on sports

expressions in English and Vietnamese used metaphorically and idiomatically and their using in every aspect of human lives.

#### **1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

##### **1.2.1. Aims**

- To examine sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically in non-sports situations in English and Vietnamese and to conduct a contrastive analysis of them in both languages.
- Improve the knowledge and ability of using successfully sports metaphorical and idiomatic expressions used in non-sports situations in teaching and learning of English foreign languages.

##### **1.2.2. Objectives**

- To identify, describe and compare the types of sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically in non-sports situations in English and Vietnamese.
- To describe the lexical, syntactic, semantic features.
- To compare and contrast clarify their similarities and differences in terms of lexical, syntactic, semantic aspects.

#### **1.3. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE STUDY**

I should think that it is necessary for learners of English to be introduced to the use of stylistic devices and especially to be guided the way to investigate the linguistic features of sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically in non-sports situations. However, due to the limited scope of this research, I would like to focus on the semantic and syntactic mechanisms of sports

expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically in non-sports situations, English versus Vietnamese.

The findings of this study will be able to give Vietnamese and English learners valuable experience of how to understanding and using sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically in non-sports situations, then to learn more effectively.

#### 1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study will observe and describe some commonly used types of means of sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically in non-sports situations in English and Vietnamese. The metaphorical and idiomatic sports expressions will be analyzed in lexical, syntactic and semantic aspects basing on cognitive process.

#### 1.5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In this study, the following questions will be used as a basis:

(i) Which are the commonly used types of sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically in non-sports situations in English and Vietnamese?

(ii) What are the typical characteristics of sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically in terms of lexical, syntactic and semantics and cognitive process?

(iii) How similar and different are the sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically English and Vietnamese?

#### 1.6. ORGANIZATION OF STUDY

Chapter 1 – “The Introduction”

Chapter 2 – “Literature Review and Theoretical Background”

Chapter 3 – “Method and Procedure”

Chapter 4 – “Findings and Discussions”

Chapter 5 – “The Conclusion”

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1. REVIEW OF PRIOR STUDIES

Reddy [35] maintained that our language-spoken everyday is mainly metaphoric. Lackoff and Johnson [23] have also suggested that they are problems not only in language but also in the human conceptual system. Sweetser [42] says that even the ordinary words we use in our everyday lives contain conceptual metaphors that we can isolate by looking into their etymologies. Max [15] account of metaphor, known as the so called Interaction Theory because it is an elaboration and progression in Ivor Richard's view of metaphor as an "metaphor of two thoughts" [36].

**Palmer**, who wrote "*Semantics*" (1990), defines idioms as consequences of words whose meanings can not be predicted from the meanings of the words themselves.

Trần Hữu Mạnh [8], in a Vietnamese article in the Journal of Social Science (The National University of Ha Noi) listed metaphor and idiom among cases of minus (-) compositionality and stated the cultural properties of their uses within language communities.

However, so far no reported research has been found on the contrastive analysis of metaphor and idiom in sport expressions used

metaphorically and idiomatically in non-sport situations in English and Vietnamese, hence my present research paper.

## 2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.2.1. Metaphor

#### 2.2.1.1. Definition

A metaphor is considered a comparison between two things, which are basically quite different without using *like* or *as*. It is transference of one object's characteristics onto another. However, it is not to be confused with simile, metonymy, personification, allusion, and antonomasia.

Lakoff and Johnson [23] said that metaphors play an important role in defining our everyday realities: "Most of our ordinary conceptual system is metaphorical nature". *Structural metaphors*: is a conventional metaphor in which one concept is understood and expressed in terms of another structured, sharply defined concept.

(1) *Oriental metaphors*: is a metaphor in which concepts are spatially related to each other, as in the following ways:

(2) *Ontological metaphors*: an ontological metaphor is a metaphor in which an abstraction, such as an activity, emotion, or idea, is represented as something concrete, such as an object, substance, container, or person.

#### 2.2.1.2. Conceptual Metaphor

##### a. Definition

In cognitive linguistics, metaphor is defined as understanding one conceptual domain in terms of another conceptual domain.

### b. Mapping

There are two main types of conceptual domains used in conceptual metaphors:

**Source domain**: the conceptual domain from which we draw metaphor expressions.

**Target domain**: the conceptual domain that we try to understand.

### 2.2.2. Idiom

#### 2.2.2.1. Definition

Idiom is an expression, word, or phrase that has a figurative meaning that is comprehended in regard to a common use of that expression that is separate from the literal meaning or definition of the words of which it is made.

#### 2.2.2.2. Background

In the English expression *to kick the bucket*, a listener knowing only the meanings of **kick** and **bucket** would be unable to deduce the expression's true meaning: to die.

Some idioms, in contrast, are "transparent idioms": much of their meaning does get through if they are taken (or translated) literally.

Another category of idioms is a word having several meanings, sometimes simultaneously, sometimes discerned from the context of its usage.

Idioms tend to confuse those unfamiliar with them; students of a new language must learn its idiomatic expressions as vocabulary.

## 2.3. DEFINITION OF TERMS

### 2.3.1. Metaphor

According to Crystal in *Dictionary of language and languages* [25]: A semantic mapping from one conceptual domain to another, often using anomalous or deviant language.

According to Richards, Platt, and Weber in *Longman Dictionary of Applied Linguistics* [17]: A word or phrase which is used for special effect, and which does not have its usual or literal meaning.

Common examples of metaphor include "the Internet is an information *superhighway*" as a living metaphor and "I am *open* to suggestions" as a dead metaphor.

### 2.3.2. Conceptual Metaphor

#### 2.3.2.1. Concept

According to cognitive linguistics' view, a concept is a cognitive category. Therefore, it is something that exists in the speaker's mind, "the components of thought" Lakoff [31, p. 4], and is an outcome of the mental classifying process in which we categorize "the physical, social and psychological world into different entities" Johansen [33, p. 11) so as to perceive and react in accordance to the signals generated by our conceptual systems.

#### 2.3.2.2. Conceptual System

A conceptual system is the interrelated collection of single concepts. The world may be conceptualized in different ways by different people or communities, leading to various worldviews.

However, usually we do not realize the existence of such conceptual systems.

#### 2.3.2.3. Conceptual Metaphor

A conceptual metaphor is "a metaphor that exists in the mind of a speaker, and may thus be unconscious". A brief and convenient way to represent this mapping is the following: TARGET DOMAIN IS SOURCE DOMAIN, called a conceptual metaphor. According to cognitive semantics theory, these sentences are viewed as a few of the many linguistic expressions which are the manifestations of the unified conceptual metaphor LIFE IS CHESS. Our knowledge about chess is mapped onto knowledge about life.

To put it simple, "the essence of metaphor is understanding and experiencing one kind of thing in terms of another" Lakoff & Johnson (1980), [27, p. 5].

#### 2.3.3. Idioms

+ According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary [35]: A group of words whose meaning is different from the meanings of the individual words

+ According to Fromkin, Collins and Blair in the book "*An Introduction to Language*", idioms are defined as "*fixed phrases, consisting of more than one word, with meanings that can not be inferred from the meanings of the individual words.*" [16, p.23]

+ In the contrastive analysis, the definition of idiom in Vietnamese is drawn in "Thành Ngữ Học Tiếng Việt" [60] by Hoàng Văn Hành. Idioms are defined: "Thành ngữ là một tổ hợp từ cố định, bền vững về hình thái câu trúc, hoàn chỉnh, bóng bẩy về ý nghĩa, được sử dụng

rộng rãi trong giao tiếp thường ngày.” (“*Idioms are set expressions which are stable in morpho-structure, complete and figurative in meaning, used widely in daily communication*”)

+ In the opinion of cognitive linguistics, idioms are products from the concept of the human world.

#### **2.3.4. Metaphors in Idioms**

Metaphors in idioms are idioms built on the basis of describing an event, a phenomenon with the phrase, but expressed a metaphorical sense. In terms of nature, a metaphor is also a comparison, but this is an implicit comparison, the word compared is not present. Surface structure of the idiom does not reflect the practical meaning. That is the reasonable basis to identify a definition of “**preliminary level**” and then it is recognized and understood the practical meaning of idioms.

### **CHAPTER 3**

#### **METHODS AND PROCEDURES**

##### **3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN**

+ Chapter 4 of the paper will collect, classify in terms of metaphor and idiom, namely- the use of sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically in non-sports situations available in both English and Vietnamese. The paper will systematically enumerate the syntactic and semantic features of these specific uses of metaphor and idiom which are largely based on the association of similarities of entities concerned. In the main sports expressions used metaphorically in some fields include politics, economics, society,

culture, education, religions, etc. There will be analyses of specific cases of English and Vietnamese sports language. The different types of idiomatic expressions in English and Vietnamese, listing a number of common cases of sports idioms that originated from the sport of boxing, originated from the sports of football, wrestling, gambling, horse-racing, fishing, and so on.

+ In the specific cases, analyses will be made of the linguistic and cultural properties of the sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically in non-sports situations in both English and Vietnamese language in contrast.

##### **3.2. RESEARCH METHOD AND PROCEDURE**

1. *Collecting and classifying data*
2. *Investigating the use of sports metaphor and idiom in the above everyday conversations and language in human lives.*
3. *Analyzing data*
4. *Putting forward some implications for the teaching and learning of sports language used metaphorically and idiomatically in non-sports situations.*

### **CHAPTER 4**

#### **DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

##### **4.1. SPORT EXPRESSIONS USED METAPHORICALLY IN NON-SPORT SITUATIONS IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE**

###### **4.1.1. Semantic Features of Sport Expressions Used Metaphorically in English and Vietnamese**

Sports metaphorical expressions used in non-sports situations in English are presented and analyzed through the linguistic theory of "Conceptual Metaphors" by Lakoff and Johnson [23].

We have just discussed and analyzed the examples of metaphorical expressions in both English and Vietnamese sport language in the conceptual framework of the cognitive view. We have presented the metaphorical patterns showing the structural mapping between the source model and target model. The analysis has shown that both English and Vietnamese share almost all the ways in which the speakers of two language perceive and conceptualize sports in terms of [POLITICS], [ECONOMICS], [SOCIETY], [NEWS], [RELIGIONS], [LAW], [CULTURE], [EDUCATION]. Furthermore, we can find that both English and Vietnamese sports expressions have used metaphorically very often in the everyday life so that they can make the language of conversations more interesting, address the viewers and listeners on an emotional level, and make the actions in the everyday life more exciting. Another important result to be found by the analysis is that these metaphorical expressions belong to the above different models. The model [POLITICS] is the most popular one. We can say that the language of sports, in every kind of sports - is turned into politics, political regime, political science, external and internal political situation. So an ordinary general or presidential election becomes a race, a relay or a sprint by means of language.

#### **4.1.2. Lexical features of sport expressions used metaphorically in English and Vietnamese**

From the analysis in section 4.1.1, metaphorical expressions in sport languages in both English and Vietnamese can be classified into three distinctive categories: nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Among these, the use of nouns as metaphors is the most widespread. Metaphorical nouns are seen to have every function of a typical noun element, they stand as subjects, objects and complements in the sentences. However, the application of metaphorical nouns as subject are the most widespread.

Ex: Tuy nhiên, **cuộc chạy đua** giành hai ghế còn lại giữa Croatia - Cộng hòa Séc và Costa Rica - Cộng hòa Dominica vẫn còn tiếp tục

Ex: This **game** assumes that there is a direct correlation between tax rates and revenues

After analyzing the Lexical features of English and Vietnamese metaphor in sport language, we found that metaphors of nouns, verbs and adjectives are used commonly in both languages. In generally speaking, two languages share the similarity of lexical features in the sport metaphors.

#### **4.1.3. Summary**

After analyzing the Lexical features of English and Vietnamese metaphor in sport language, we found that metaphors of nouns, verbs and adjectives are used commonly in both languages. In generally speaking, two languages share the similarity of lexical features in the sport metaphors.

**Table 4.1.** *Metaphorical expressions belong to the target model "POLITICS" in English and Vietnamese*

English	Vietnamese
Jim Connaughton explained "This is a <b>marathon</b> "	Tuy nhiên, <b>cuộc chạy đua</b> giành hai ghế còn lại
Possible to <b>knock out</b> your opponent before he <b>knocks you out</b> .	Nhưng một thực tế hiển nhiên: tất cả đều <b>ngã ngựa</b> trên đấu trường VN.
Looking for the latest news about the election? This site is really <b>the race</b> for the White House.	Một cái chết kéo theo nhiều "cái chết" mới. Và <b>cuộc chạy đua</b> vào chức chủ tịch bắt đầu!
The last few weeks down the <b>home stretch</b> it is vital to have as much campaign money left.	Bầu cử Tổng thống Pháp: <b>Chặng cuối</b> của <b>cuộc đua</b>
- "Don't ask me. <b>The ball is in your court</b> now".	Cầm chắc <b>quả bóng</b> chiến thắng trong tay
"I'm going to <b>sprint</b> to the finish," he likes to say.	McCain, Obama và <b>chặng đua nước rút</b> cuối cùng
The Democrats struggled <b>down to the wire</b> to choose their candidate.	"... nhưng một điểm ở <b>phút 89</b> thì lại khác".
Napolitano: Congress Keeps <b>Moving The Goalposts</b> On	Ông tuyên bố: "Chúng ta <b>đá quả bóng</b> cho họ. Nhưng bằng cách

Immigration Reform.	nào?
It's not been <b>plain sailing</b> for Germany's governing coalition.	Nhưng sẽ không dễ dàng và <b>quả bóng được chuyền</b> vào chân ai
Texas Gov. George W. Bush, is seen as the Republican <b>front-runner</b> for the 2000 presidential campaign	Strauss-Kahn, người đang <b>đ dẫn đầu trong cuộc chạy đua</b> tranh cử Tổng thống Pháp

**Table 4.2.** *Metaphorical expressions belong to the target model "ECONOMICS" in English and Vietnamese*

English	Vietnamese
Economics after the crisis – a 4.5 hours <b>marathon</b> worth enduring.	Trung Quốc bỏ xa hơn trong <b>cuộc đua</b> kinh tế ở khu vực và toàn cầu.
You have to keep your eye on <b>the ball</b> in business.	Vậy Ấn Độ cần phải làm gì để <b>quả bóng</b> kinh tế không xì hơi?
This <b>game</b> assumes that there is a direct correlation between tax rates and revenues	<b>Trò chơi</b> chính trị và những nguy cơ kinh tế ở Hoa Kỳ
...at a single question— whether teams should <b>punt</b> or <b>kick</b> the football on fourth down.	các DN Việt Nam hiện chưa có sự đoàn kết và có những lúc đã <b>sút bóng vào gôn nhà</b> .
"Vietnamese logistics companies operates incoherently and <b>loses</b>	Đây không phải lần đầu tiên chuyện <b>"thua ngay trên sân</b>

<b>right on their home field!"</b>	<b>nhà"</b> được báo động đỏ, ...
Both India and China rank among the <b>front runners</b> of global economy and are among the world's most diverse nations.	Bộ trưởng Tài chính Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam hiện được coi là một trong những <b>người dẫn đầu trong cuộc đua</b> vào chiếc ghế Tổng giám đốc.

*Table 4.3. Metaphorical expressions belong to the target model "NEWS" in English and Vietnamese*

<b>English</b>	<b>Vietnamese</b>
I am afraid tonight, owing to the rain we have had in this island of Springs, I am batting on rather a <b>sticky wicket</b> .	Bài báo “Sự thật về chuyện một người dân mua 120 tấn lúa để làm việc thiện” khiến một vài tờ báo bị “ <b>viết vẹt</b> ”.
Robert Pelton said. "It hit us <b>out of left field</b> . It's disappointing that one of your own could do "	các nam ca sỹ chưa nổi tiếng với những <b>trận cầu nảy lửa</b> thì đã phải hứng chịu nhiều tranh cãi
I have fought the good fight. I have <b>completed the race</b> . I have kept the faith.	Và câu trả lời của Thiên là không ai cả. Thiên đang <b>chạy đua</b> với chính mình.
GOTV still matters, so hopefully Hochul and her campaign are <b>sprinting</b> to the finish.	Ông Nguyễn Đình Hải, Phó tổng giám đốc cho biết, đây là thời điểm Lilama <b>chạy nước rút</b> để

	hoàn thành các phần việc còn lại
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## **4.2. SPORT EXPRESSIONS USED IDIOMATICALLY IN NON-SPORT SITUATIONS IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE**

### **4.2.1. Types of idiomatic expressions in English and Vietnamese**

Within each category the sport or game is described and a schematic drawing of the field on which it is played is included to enhance understanding. Sports and games are further grouped into categories such as "Team Sports Idioms", or "Hunting, Shooting and Western", which include idioms basic to activities and sports associated with the settling and expansion of the United States, and finally, Games Idioms, those phrases associated with cards and gambling. Phrases and idioms including words such as "ball", "game" and "play" which are general to many sports and games are found in the section, Idioms inherent to American English Sports and Games.

*4.2.1.1. Expressions originated in the sport of football*

*4.2.1.2. Expressions originated in the sport of bowling*

*4.2.1.3. Expressions originated in the sport of wrestling*

*4.2.1.4. Expressions originated in the sport of gambling*

*4.2.1.5. Expressions originated in the sport of fishing*

*4.2.1.6. Expressions originated in the sport of horse-racing*

*4.2.1.7. Expressions originated in the sport of basketball*

*4.2.1.8. Summary*

We have mentioned some commonly used types of idiom in English and Vietnamese sport language. We can see that both

English and Vietnamese nearly have the categorization of idiomatic expressions in common.

#### 4.2.2. The syntactic features of idiomatic expressions in English and Vietnamese

##### 4.2.2.1. Syntactic functions of idiomatic expressions as NP

After we analyze the types of idioms in 4.2.1, we found that the use of NP as idioms is the most widespread in English and Vietnamese sport language. Idiomatic NPs of the language used stand as subjects, objects in the sentences.

##### a/ The idiomatic NP functioning as a subject

(1) However, the scoring was low, and the **quarterbacks** performed as expected, with McCain completing some excellently thrown passes only to have others blocked by Obama.

##### b/ The idiomatic NP functioning as an object

(2) Barack Obama's campaign announced this afternoon that it will put a **full-court press** on Florida.

(3) hàng ngũ Đảng viên, cán bộ cao cấp tại Hà Nội đang chơi **Ván Bài Lật Ngựa** hay chơi **trò cờ gian bạc lận**.

##### c/ The idiomatic NP functioning as an object in prepositional phrase

(4) Iraq is **Down and Out** in Baghdad and Basra?

##### 4.2.2.2. Syntactic patterns of NP as idiomatic expressions

We found that the modifiers including in noun phrase of idiomatic expressions are necessary not only for the syntactic features but for the implied meaning of an utterance. For the reason above, this paper will consider the kind of modifiers which precede

and follow the head noun and those modifiers are known as pre-modification and post-modification.

We can see clearly that most of English idiomatic expressions from 4.2.1. cover the following types concerning the constituents that stand before the head noun as follows.

- THE **art** + N **singular**

Ex: **Royal Wedding Watch: The Front-Runner for Kate's Lady-in-Waiting**

- THE **art** + N **plural**

Ex: The Odds **Are Increasing That Microsoft's Business Will Collapse.**

- THE art Adj pre part N proper name N

Ex: Such is life in the lengthy process of an American presidential election, the truly **U.S.** marathon event for candidates and voters alike.

- ALL + N plural

Ex: "Arson investigators sifted through the rubble of an Airdrie Stud barn today, but failed to determine the cause of a fire that killed 15 thoroughbred broodmares and yearlings Saturday night. The horses were worth more than \$1 million, according to Brereton Jones, owner of the 3,000-acre (12 km<sup>2</sup>) stud farm. 'We do not have any reason to believe it was arson, but you just want to be sure you cover all the bases,' he said".

- THE **art** Adj **attributive** N **singular**

Ex: In fact, on-demand applications are the whole '**nother** **ballgame** - which is why personally I try to avoid the popular

phrase software as a service (SaaS) since I feel it's a phrase that's born of the 'nothing changes' mindset.

- **QUANTIFIER + N plural**

Ex: Hitchens admits to drinking heavily; in 2003 he wrote that his daily intake of alcohol was enough "to kill or stun the average mule", noting that many great writers "did some of their finest work when blotto, smashed, polluted, shitfaced, squiffy, whiffled, and three sheets to the wind".

- **QUANTIFIER + Adj attributive N plural**

Ex: It's Whole New Ball games for Obama who not only succeeded in getting the voters to move that way, too, but now he's actually got a Congress that fits his core more closely.

- **QUANTIFIER + Adj pp + N plural**

Ex: Movie review: "Gnomeo & Juliet" is no great Shakes.

- **THE art N singular OF PHRASE post-modifier**

Ex: I believe the captain is the voice of the club towards the outside, and is one of the leaders of the team.

- **ADJ colour N singular**

Ex1: James K. Polk was the first dark horse, winning the Democratic nomination in 1844 on the 9th ballot.

Ex2: The £10m signing from Tottenham Hotspur dispatched Steed Malbranque's cross with a brilliant far-post header in the fifth minute to give new Black Cats manager Steve Bruce a winning start to his reign.

- **ADJ attribute N mass**

Ex: There is a reason he is the current president and it is not just because of his Daddy or money - I think he makes a pretty solid cleanup hitter for the Republican Party and brought home the points made during the previous 4 days of the convention.

*Table 4.4.: Common syntactic patterns of NPs as sport expressions used idiomatically in English and Vietnamese*

CONSTITUENTS	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
QUANTIFIER + N	It's a <b>Whole New Ball game</b> for Obama.	các nam ca sỹ chưa nổi tiếng với <b>những trận cầu</b> nảy lửa ...
CARDINAL + N	...when blotto, smashed, polluted, shitfaced, squiffy, whiffled, and <b>three sheets to the wind</b> ".	...Mẹ Maria, để Mẹ giúp cứu cho không chỉ <b>một bàn thua trông thấy</b> , mà cả sự sống đời đời.

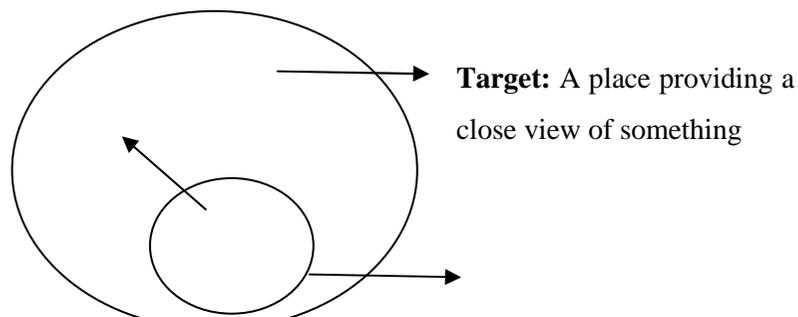
Semantically, let's have a look again at what has been analyzed. Here, we find that English and Vietnamese share almost the same ways of producing idiomatic expressions which originate from the metonymic relations based on conceptual notions such as origin from the sport of football, sport of boxing, sport of wrestling, and so on...

**4.2.3. The semantic features of idiomatic expressions in English and Vietnamese**

The semantic features of idiomatic expressions are all reorganized through the process of meaning transference. For the

model of cognitive linguistics, idiom is regarded as a type of conceptual mapping. So, at the semantic level, we should examine the idiomatic expressions as a structure of conceptual mapping from one conceptual domain (called the source) to another conceptual domain (called the target). According to this model, idiom is seen as a mapping within a single schema where one entity in a schema is taken as standing for another entity in the same schema or for the schema as a whole. Basing on Ruiz de Mendoza's research, idiom is best described according to two parameters: (a) the nature of the relationship between the source and target domains, and (b) the kind of mapping process involved. Regarding the former, we argue that idiom is always based on a domain-subdomain relationship, where the main domain is referred to as the *matrix domain*, and that only two basic types of idiom can be distinguished: *source-in-target idioms* and *target-in-source idioms*. In the first case (source-in-target idiom), it is the source of the idiom is a subdomain of the target. In the second case (target-in-source idiom), on the other hand, it is the target that becomes a subdomain of the source

(159) As one of the longest serving MPs, who first entered parliament in 1970 - a year before George Osborne's birth, Clarke has had a **ringside seat** over the past four decades during the Tories' troubled history with U-turns. [73]



**Source:** ringside seat

Figure 4.1: Source- in- target idiom of Example 159

(160) Kinh nghiệm cho thấy, chị em nên là “hậu vệ rắn”, có chiến thuật “phòng thủ” từ xa trong mọi tình huống.

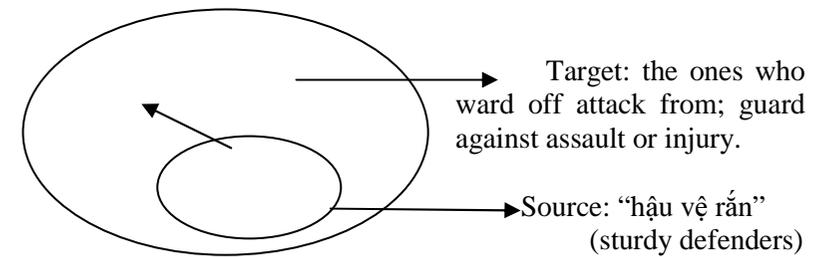


Figure 4.2: Source- in- target idiom of Example 160

From what we present and analyze in Section 4.2 , we can see that almost all of the idiomatic expressions in both English and Vietnamese sport language are noun phrases NPs. NPs as idiomatic expressions in both English and Vietnamese have pre-modification and post- modification. We easily find similar constituent elements of NPs such as quantifiers, adjectives and cardinals.

Table 4.5. Common syntactic patterns of NPs as metonymic expressions in English and Vietnamese

QUANTIFIER + N	Many clubs will be inquiring about his coming January	Cả nhà thi đấu Vân Đồn như nghệt thờ
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CARDINAL + N	<b>Two experienced centre-backs</b> in Curtis Davies and Carlos Cuellar.	<b>Một tiền đạo nội</b> cạnh tranh trong danh sách Vua phá lưới là chuyện khá xa lạ.
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Semantically, let's have a look again at what has been analyzed in section 4.2.3. Here, we find that English and Vietnamese share almost the same ways of producing idiomatic expressions which originate from the idiomatic relations based on conceptual notions. And maybe we have no big surprise for this because for us human being, we often call something salient which are close to and represented in our thought in the source domain and target domain. In addition, with the idiomatic framework in cognitive view shown in 4.2.3, we can find that both English and Vietnamese share nearly all the ICMs in two categories of source-in target and target-in source.

**CHAPTER 5**

**CONCLUSION-IMPLICATIONS-RECOMMENDATIONS**

**5.1. CONCLUSION**

My thesis is about an investigation into linguistic features of sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically in non-sports situations in English and Vietnamese dividing into four chapters.

From what has been analyzed and presented in the foregoing chapters about describing, analyzing and focusing on conceptual metaphors in sports expressions used metaphorically and

idiomatically in non-sports situations in English and Vietnamese, the writer draws some conclusions about the metaphors of these languages and then put forward some implications to the English teaching and learning.

As a study in the light of cognitive linguistics, the paper has to adopt and mention some of the prior works of many scholars in the field, as well as the relevant theories invented by those, in the Literature Review.

Aiming at finding the most correct and the deepest answer to the research questions of the study, I have dealt with the sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically in different aspects: lexical, syntactical and semantic features and all of them are analyzed in cognitive view.

After doing the analysis of the sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically in English and Vietnamese, we can find that both languages share in common almost the characteristics in the aspects of lexical, syntax and semantics. Furthermore, the analysis also helps us to find out that the sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically play an important role in the language of human. Using sports expressions used metaphorically is obviously a very popular measure to make the everyday language of mankind of both languages more interesting, to address the speakers and the listener on an emotional level, and to make the action show in the everyday conversations to be more exciting and more lively. Concerning the uses of sports expressions used idiomatically, we

recognize that idioms are matters of sports expressions originated in the sport of football, sport of wrestling, sport of boxing and the like. These substitutions provide the elegant variation in speech and writing without obvious appearance to alter meaning much. So, we can conclude that the sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically are considered as an integral part of the language of mankind in English and Vietnamese.

## **5.2. FURTHER IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OF CONCERNING THE USE OF SPORTS EXPRESSIONS USED METAPHORICALLY & IDIOMATICALLY**

Concerning the uses of the sports expressions used metaphorically, we can see that Vietnamese and English share nearly almost all of the ICMs in the representation of the conceptual structures and the representation of those ICMs in language. In the two languages the learners can have at their disposal linguistic means to express the mapping relations between the entity in the source domain and entity in the target domain. Also, the way the addressee's attention to be directed to the desired target is similar in the two languages according to the principles of cognitive salience. With the reason above, we suggest that this necessary knowledge should be provided to the Vietnamese learners of English as well as the need of using metonymic expressions is concerned. With knowledge about the ICMs and the language resources to express the sports expressions used idiomatically in English and Vietnamese, learners can perform and use the language transfer confidently. Regarding to

the referential function of the sports expressions used idiomatically in English and Vietnamese, it maybe help the learners a lot in moving from what was said to related proposition containing the intended referent.

More specially, idiom reflects deeper applications of cultural properties in language usage. We may notice greater and more sophisticated uses of English and Vietnamese metonymies and analyzed above and possibly in other areas of language usage (in politics, economics, education, health care, etc...) which leaves us more specific analyses when considering cases.

## **5.3. LIMITATION OF THE THESIS AND FURTHER STUDY**

For better insight into the sports expressions used metaphorically and idiomatically in English and Vietnamese, the following issues should be further studied:

- Metaphorical expressions should be seen and analyzed in other types of conceptual metaphor - orientational metaphors and ontological metaphors.
- Metaphorical sporting idioms.
- Cross-cultural studies of metaphor and idiom in sport language should be conducted.
- Other fields study should also be made in further studies as well.