

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
UNIVERSITY OF DANANG**



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**AN INVESTIGATION INTO SYNTACTIC
AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF IDIOMS
DENOTING MONEY
(ENGLISH versus VIETNAMESE)**

Field: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Code: 60.22.15

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

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DANANG, 2011

The study has been completed at College of Foreign Languages,
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The thesis will be defended at the Examination Council for the M.A.
theses, University of Danang.

Time: 27th April, 2011

Venue: University of Danang

The original of this thesis is accessible for the purpose of reference at:

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

Learning new words of a language probably take learners a lot of time. However, words do not stand individually; they also come in expressions or in groups. Idioms are among the most common of these expressions. Every language in the world has large numbers of idioms. Being able to master idioms is almost essential for anyone who wants their English sound more native-like and less awkward. Mastering those tricky idioms will also help learners of English better understand native English. However, it is not an easy task because idioms constitute a unique part of the lexicon and are considered the most difficult part in vocabulary acquisition for both native learners and foreign language learners.

In our modern society nowadays, business plays a very important role in daily life. It is difficult to imagine business without money. After all, making money is the main goal of many businesses. Profits often determine a company's success. And companies must spend money and budget carefully to reach their business goals. Therefore, it is not surprising that money idioms are featured regularly in business conversations. Having knowledge about something relating to business in general and money in particular is essential for learners in our present society. Today money is considered one of the outstanding inventions of the entire history of humankind. Being able to understand and use idioms denoting money effectively is useful for anyone who wants to have better knowledge about business and economy.

Some idioms are easy to understand. However, others are too difficult to guess their meaning because they have no association with the origin of the individual words.

Not only the diversity in meanings idioms have, their syntactic structures are also complex. They may take many different forms or structures. They can have the forms of phrases such as noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, prepositional phrases or the forms of sentences such as simple sentences or compound sentences.

Being aware of the importance of idioms in learning language as well as in daily life, many researchers wrote many books about idioms. Idioms also attract interest of many Vietnamese researchers. Moreover, there are many dissertations by Vietnamese about idioms. They have analyzed the semantic and syntactic features of idioms denoting some topics such as human body parts, colors, animals, feelings, causes and effects, verbs of motion etc. However, up to now, the semantic and syntactic features of idioms denoting money have not been investigated. With the purpose to help learners of English understand more clearly about the semantic and syntactic features of idioms denoting money, the writer decides to do the research: *“An Investigation into Syntactic and Semantic Features of Idioms Denoting Money (English versus Vietnamese)”*.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1. Aims

The study is carried out with the aim to supply learners of English a basic knowledge about the semantic, syntactic features and cultural perspectives of idioms denoting money in comparison with Vietnamese ones. By examining these features of idioms denoting money in English and Vietnamese, learners can deeply understand

their structures, their literal and figurative meaning and their cultural characteristics.

It also helps learners of English improve their language skills in English teaching and translation.

1.2.2. Objectives

- This study is carried out:
- To identify and describe the semantic features of idioms denoting money in English and in Vietnamese.
- To identify and describe the syntactic features of idioms denoting money in English and in Vietnamese.
- To suggest some implications for Vietnamese people in teaching and learning idioms denoting money.

1.3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study focuses mainly on analyzing data collected from dictionaries and books in both languages: English and Vietnamese. Moreover, idioms are widely used by a large number of speakers so that they are also collected from short stories, newspapers, daily speeches, short novels and so on to have a better understanding about idioms in contexts. We focus on:

- Only idioms that have words about money and about money affairs, for example: “easy money” or “tiền vô như nước”.
- Idioms that do not have words about money but are about money affairs, for example: “bread and butter” or “của chày của nôi”.

Therefore, some idioms containing the word “money” but do not denote money such as “dollars to doughnuts” which means “a virtual certainty”; “for my money” which means “In my opinion”; “penny for your thoughts” which means “What are you thinking

about?”; “on the money” which means “exactly right” etc are beyond the scope of our thesis.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are syntactic features of idioms denoting money in English and Vietnamese?
2. What are semantic features of idioms denoting money in English and Vietnamese?
3. What are the similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese idioms denoting money?

1.5. JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

The study about the semantic and syntactic features of idioms denoting money will make a contribution to teaching and learning English. Thanks to this study, Vietnamese learners will have a clearer understanding about the meaning, syntactic structures of idioms denoting money both in English and in Vietnamese and can imply them better in learning and teaching English as well as in translation. And above all, with this better knowledge, they can make their communications more naturally, effectively and successfully in English.

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This study is divided into five chapters as follows:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Literature Review and Theoretical Background
- Chapter 3: Methodology and Procedure
- Chapter 4: Findings and Discussion
- Chapter 5: Conclusion -Implications - Limitations - Suggestions for Further Studies

CHAPTER 2
LITERATURE REVIEW
AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

For English dictionaries of idioms, there are some famous ones being collected and written by researchers such as “The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms” by Christine Ammer [28]. In this dictionary, the author lists idioms currently used in American English and arranges them into alphabetical categories. He also explains their meanings and clarifies them by examples. In “NTC’s English Idioms Dictionary”, Richard A. Spears and Betty Kirkpatrick [63] focus on the meaning, usage and appropriate contexts for each idiomatic phrase. They also provide definitions and two or more examples to clarify each idiom. The idioms are also arranged into alphabetical order. There are also many dictionaries of idioms such as “Oxford Learner’s Dictionary of English Idioms” by Helen Warren [39] which is comprehensive dictionary dealing with general idiomatic expressions in current English. Author also gives examples and explanations of unusual features of grammar and usage. “Oxford Dictionary of Idioms” by Judith Siefring [45] provides learners with updated idioms including clear explanations in typical contexts. “Cambridge Dictionary of American Idioms” by Paul Heacock [60] gives clear examples on each idiom as well as their origins etc.

For English books about idioms, there are some widely used by many learners of English such as “Idioms Organiser” by Jon Wright [44]. In this book, the author organizes idioms by metaphor,

topics and key words. He also provides some exercises for practicing idioms given in each lesson and then a revision. “Pocket English Idioms” by Jennifer Seidl & W. Mc Mordie [42] provides a list of 3,000 idioms with explanations and examples of use. It also gives out many exercises with answers. In “English Idioms in Use” by Michael McCarthy and Felicity O’Dell [49], there are 60 units of vocabulary references and practices including over 1,000 idioms. The book is divided into two parts. Idioms with explanations, examples and special notes about their usages are presented on the left-hand pages and exercises for practicing them are shown on the right-hand pages.

Idioms also attract the attention of many Vietnamese researchers. Nguyễn Lực, Lương Văn Đăng [13] are two authors who made a significant contribution in the field of Vietnamese idioms. They wrote “Thành ngữ Tiếng Việt” which is a collection of Vietnamese idioms arranged in alphabetical order with clear explanations and examples extracted from Vietnamese novels, newspapers and magazines. Recently, Nguyễn Lực has just published “Thành Ngữ Tiếng Việt” [12] in which a large amount of idioms, their variants are collected with examples originally extracted from novels, short stories, newspapers and magazines. Moreover, Nguyễn Trần Trụ who wrote “Thành ngữ tục ngữ lược giải” [17] explains meanings of the most common idioms and proverbs in such simple, clear ways that learners can use this book for consulting and reference purposes.

Vietnamese researchers also study, collect and write dictionaries of idioms. “Từ điển Thành ngữ tục ngữ Việt Nam” by

Đặng Hồng Chương [2] is a collection of idioms and proverbs with clear explanations and origins of the idioms. “Từ điển Thành ngữ Tục ngữ Việt Anh tường giải” by Bùi Phụng [1] displays the most popular Vietnamese idioms with similar ones in English so that it is easy for foreigners to understand, learn and use Vietnamese. “Sổ tay giải nghĩa Thành ngữ Tiếng Việt” by Nguyễn Đình Cao – Phan Thị Hồng Xuân [10] gives out very clear explanations for common Vietnamese idioms as well as practical examples. “Các thành ngữ Thương mại thường gặp trong tiếng Anh” by Lê Huy Liêm [8] provides learners with a collection of English idioms in business field. It gives learners clear explanations in Vietnamese with examples in English and translations of English examples into Vietnamese.

Finally, there are also many dissertations about idioms done by Vietnamese researchers who gave contrastive analyses on the various aspect of idioms such as “A Contrastive Analysis of English and Vietnamese Idioms Using the Terms of Human Body Parts” by Nguyễn Thị Hiệp [54], “Semantic Features of English and Vietnamese Idiomatic Verb Phrases” by Nguyễn Văn Long [57], “A Study of Idioms Containing Color Words in English and Vietnamese” by Nguyễn Thị Diệu Hào [53], “A Contrastive Analysis of Idioms Denoting Human Feelings in English and Vietnamese” by Võ Thanh Quyên [72], “A Study of Verbs of Earning and Spending Money in English versus Vietnamese” by Trần Thị Ngọc Phúc [69], “An Investigation into Syntactic and Semantic Features of English and Vietnamese Idioms Containing Verbs of Motion” by Nguyễn Thị

Phuong Thu [55], “An Investigation into Syntactic and Semantic Features of Idioms Denoting Causes and Results (English versus Vietnamese)” by Nguyễn Thị Thu Mai [56] etc. However, up to now there have been no studies relating to idioms denoting money. This dissertation is therefore entitled “*An Investigation into Syntactic and Semantic Features of Idioms Denoting Money (English versus Vietnamese)*” to investigate and to make a contrastive analysis about the syntactic and semantic features of idioms denoting money in English and Vietnamese.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Definition of Idioms

There are many definitions of idioms in English and Vietnamese. In English, according to Cambridge Dictionary of American Idioms [60], “*An idiom is a phrase whose meaning is different from the meanings of each word considered separately. These phrases have a fixed form – they usually cannot be changed – and they are often informal, but they can also be slang, rude slang, or even slightly formal*”.

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English [33] defines idiom as “*A phrase which means something different from the meanings of the separate words*”

“*An idiom is a group of words that has a special meaning. The meaning of the group of words is different from the meaning of individual words together*” [59, p.7].

D.A.Cruise [30, p.37] considers idiom as “an expression whose meaning cannot be inferred from the meanings of its parts”.

According to A.N.C. Odu [21, p.9] “*An idiom is a form of expression that is characteristic of a particular language; it is therefore usually impossible to translate an idiom literally into any foreign language*”.

There are also many definitions of idioms in Vietnamese.

According to Wikiquote [95], idioms are defined as “*những cụm từ mang nghĩa cố định (phần lớn không tạo thành câu hoàn chỉnh về mặt ngữ pháp) (không thể thay thế và sửa đổi về mặt ngôn từ) và độc lập riêng rẽ với từ ngữ hay hình ảnh mà thành ngữ sử dụng, thành ngữ thường được sử dụng trong việc tạo thành những câu nói hoàn chỉnh*”.

Nguyễn Hữu Quỳnh [11] states that idioms are “*cụm từ cố định có tính hoàn chỉnh về nghĩa, có sắc thái biểu cảm, có tính hình tượng và tính cụ thể*”.

Hoàng Văn Hành [7, p.31] regards idioms as “*một loại tổ hợp từ cố định, bền vững về hình thái – cấu trúc, hoàn chỉnh, bóng bẩy về ý nghĩa, được sử dụng rộng rãi trong giao tiếp thường ngày, đặc biệt là trong khẩu ngữ*”.

In conclusion, despite of the differences in expressing the definition of idioms, it could be seen that most authors share the same view that: *an idiom is a fixed expression whose meaning cannot be taken as a combination of the meanings of its component parts*.

2.2.2. Idioms Denoting Money

According to Wikipedia [102], “Money is any object that is generally accepted as *payment for goods and services* and repayment of *debts* in a given country or socio-economic context. The main functions of money are distinguished as: a *medium of exchange*; a *unit of account*; a *store of value*; and, occasionally, a *standard of*

deferred payment”. ”. Based on this definition of money; based on the theory of semantic fields in chapter 2 as well as the scope of the study which mentions on:

- Only idioms that have words about money and about money affairs, for example: “easy money” or “tiền vô như nước”.

- Idioms that do not have words about money but are about money affairs, for example: “bread and butter” or “của chìm của nổi”, in our thesis, idioms denoting money are collected and arranged into many semantic categories including *people’s financial circumstances; earning or making money; saving money; spending money; paying money; debt (money; buying or selling and miscellaneous*.

2.2.3 Features of Idioms

2.2.3.1. Conventionality

2.2.3.2. Inflexibility

2.2.3.3. Figuration

a. Metaphor

b. Hyperbole

c. Simile

2.2.4 Idioms and Other Related Language Units

2.2.4.1. Idioms and Phrases

2.2.4.2. Idioms and Collocations

2.2.4.3. Idioms and Proverbs

2.2.5. Overview of Phrase Structures

2.2.5.1. Noun Phrases

2.2.5.2. Verb Phrases

2.2.5.3. Adjective Phrases**2.2.5.4. Prepositional Phrases****2.2.6. Overview of Sentence Structures****2.2.6.1. Simple Sentences****Pattern [1]: SVA - Subject + Verb + Adverbial****Pattern [2]: SVC - Subject + Verb + Complement****Pattern [3]: SVO - Subject + Verb + Object****Pattern [4]: SVO - Subject + Verb + Object****Pattern [5]: SVOC - Subject + Verb + Object + Complement****Pattern [6]: SVOO - Subject + Verb + Object + Object****Pattern [7]: SV - Subject + Verb****2.2.6.2. Compound Sentences****2.2.7. Concepts of Semantic Fields**

The term Semantic field or Semantic domain is used alternatively for the term Lexical field or Lexical set.

David Crystal [29, p.104] pointed out that “a semantic field is a named area of meaning in which lexemes interrelate and define each other in specific ways”.

For example, the field of “object for sitting down on” comprises the lexemes: seat, throne, bench, chair, sofa... or “cooking” field is composed of lexemes like cook, boil, fry, roast, toast, bake etc

According to Geoffrey Finch [38, p.177], semantic field is an area of meaning containing words with related senses. Meanings of words cluster together to form fields of meaning, which in turn cluster into even larger fields until the entire language is encompassed.

So, for example, we can define a semantic field of “madness” containing words like insane, demented, batty, paranoid, schizophrenic, some of which are synonyms of mad, and other which are types of madness. This field belongs in ten within a larger one of mental states, which includes a wider selection of words. Or again, we can identify a semantic field of “running” including words such as sprinting, running, and jogging, which itself clusters into the field of human motion.

Semantic field (lexical field) is defined by Jack C. Richards & Richard Schmidt [41, p.305] as “the organization of related words and expressions into a system which shows their relationship to one another”.

For example, kinship terms such as father, mother, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, belong to a lexical field whose relevant features include generation, sex, membership of the father’s or mother’s side of the family...

2.2.8. The Relationship between Language and Culture

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURE

3.1. METHODOLOGY

The descriptive, analytical and contrastive methods are used for the contrastive analysis of English and Vietnamese idioms denoting money in which we hope to find out some implications for English teaching and learning.

Descriptive method is supposed to be the main method for the contrastive analysis. The analytical method is used to identify different groups of idioms denoting money based on their semantic features. Furthermore, the contrastive method will be used to find out the similarities and differences of idioms denoting money in term of syntactic, semantic aspects between the two languages.

Furthermore, a combination of qualitative and quantitative method is used to find out the relationship of semantic and syntactic features of idioms denoting money in English and Vietnamese.

3.2. RESEARCH PROCEDURE

- Collecting English and Vietnamese idioms denoting money from dictionaries, novels, short stories and find examples in which they are used.

- Analyze English and Vietnamese idioms denoting money in terms of structures using standard grammar in A University Grammar of English by Randolph Quirk & Sidney Greenbaum [60] and The Oxford English Grammar by Sidney Greenbaum [65] to classify them in accordance with their semantic features.

- Finding out the similarities and differences in structural and semantic mechanisms of English and Vietnamese idioms denoting money.

- Suggesting some implications for the teaching, learning and translating of English.

3.3. RESEARCH DESIGN

The study is designed in the descriptive, qualitative, quantitative and contrastive analysis approaches to describe, generalize, analyze, compare and contrast the semantic and syntactic features of idioms denoting money in English and Vietnamese.

3.4. DATA COLLECTION

The data used in the study is collected from dictionaries, books, websites or examples used in contexts in short stories, novels, magazines and newspaper in two languages – English and Vietnamese based on 337 samples of English and 193 samples of Vietnamese.

3.5. DATA ANALYSIS

- Qualitative method is used to collect, synthesize, analyze and classify the semantic and syntactic features of idioms denoting money.
- Quantitative method is used to list the frequency and distribution of English and Vietnamese idioms denoting money in term of syntactic features.
- Descriptive method is used to explore the linguistic features of idioms denoting money in term of syntactic, semantic and cultural aspects.
- Contrastive analysis method is used to find out the Vietnamese.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE IDIOMS DENOTING MONEY

4.1.1. Syntactic Glimpse at English and Vietnamese Idioms Denoting Money

4.1.2. Phrase Structures

4.1.2.1. Noun Phrases

English

Pattern [1] : Noun/Noun Phrase + Noun/Noun Phrase

Pattern [2] : Adjective/Adjective Phrase + Noun/Noun Phrase

Pattern [3]: Noun + Prep. + (Article) + Noun

Pattern [4]: Noun + conj. + Noun

Vietnamese

Pattern [1] : Noun/Noun Phrase + Noun/Noun Phrase

Pattern [2]: Noun + Adjective + Noun + Adjective

Pattern [3] : Noun/Noun Phrase + *như* + Noun/Noun Phrase

4.1.2.2. Verb Phrases

English

Pattern [5] : Verb + Noun/Noun Phrase

Pattern [6] : Verb + Preposition + Noun/Noun Phrase

Pattern [7] : Verb + Noun/Noun Phrase + Preposition/
Prepositional Phrase

Pattern [8]: Verb + someone/something + Noun / Noun Phrase

Pattern [9] : Verb + Adjective

Pattern [10] : Verb/Verb Phrase + *like* + Noun/Noun Phrase

Vietnamese

Pattern [5] : Verb + Noun/Noun Phrase + Verb + Noun/Noun
Phrase

Pattern [6] : Verb + Noun + Prepositional Phrase

Pattern [7] : Verb + Adjective + Verb + Adjective

Pattern [8] : Verb Phrase + Verb Phrase

Pattern [9] : Verb/Verb Phrase + *như/(không) bằng* + Noun/
Noun Phrase

4.1.2.3 Adjective Phrases

English

Pattern [11]: Adjective + *and* + Adjective

Pattern [12]: Adjective + Adjective

Pattern [13]: Adjective + Preposition/Prepositional Phrase

Pattern [14]: *as* + adjective + *as* + Noun/Noun Phrase

Vietnamese.

Pattern [10] : Adjective + *như* + Noun/Noun Phrase

Pattern [11] : Adjective + Noun/Noun Phrase, Adjective +
Noun/Noun Phrase

Pattern [12] : Adjective + Verb Phrase, Adjective + Verb
Phrase

4.1.2.4. Prepositional Phrases

English

Pattern [15] Preposition + Noun/Noun Phrase

4.1.3. Sentence Structures

4.1.3.1. Simple sentences

English

Pattern [16]: Subject + Verb

Pattern [17]: Subject + Verb + Complement

Pattern [18]: Subject + Verb + Adverbial

Pattern [19]: Subject + Verb + Object + Adverbial

Vietnamese

Pattern [13]: Subject + Verb + Complement

Pattern [14]: Subject + Verb + Object

4.1.3.2. Compound sentences

Pattern [15] Subject + Verb/Verb Phrase, Subject + Verb/Verb Phrase

4.1.2. The Parallel Structures of English and Vietnamese Idioms Denoting Money

4.1.2.1. Noun Phrases

4.1.2.2. Verb Phrases

4.1.2.3. Adjective Phrases

1. Ax + Ay
2. Ax + By
 - a. Sound repetition
 - b. Rhyming repetition

Table 4.6: A summary of Syntactic Features and Occurrences of English and Vietnamese Idioms Denoting Money

		English			Vietnamese		
		Patterns	No	%	Patterns	No	%
Phrase Structure	NP	[1] N/NP+ N/NP [2] Adj/AdjP+ N/NP [3] N+Prep+ (Art)+N [4] N + conj. + N	89	26.4	[1] N/NP + N/NP [2] N + Adj+ N +Adj [3] N/NP+ <i>nhu</i> + N/NP	41	21.2
	VP	[5] V + N/NP [6] V + Prep + N/NP [7] V+N/NP +Prep/PrepP [8]V+s.o./sth.+N/NP [9] V + Adj [10]V/VP+like+N/NP	180	53.4	[4] V + N/NP [5] V+N/NP +V +N/NP [6] V + N + PrepP [7] V+ Adj + V + Adj [8] VP+ VP	88	45.6

Table 4.6: A summary of Syntactic Features and Occurrences of English and Vietnamese Idioms Denoting Money

		English			Vietnamese		
		Patterns	No	%	Patterns	No	%
Sentence Structure					[9] V/VP+ <i>nhu</i> / (<i>không</i>) <i>bằng</i> + N/NP		
	AdjP	[11] Adj+ <i>and</i> + Adj [12] Adj + Adj [13] Adj+ Prep/PrepP [14] as+Adj+as+N/NP	26	7.7	[10] Adj + <i>nhu</i> +N/NP [11] Adj+N/NP, Adj+N/NP [12] Adj+ VP, Adj +VP	44	22.8
	Pre pP	[15] Prep + NP	35	10.4	X		
Sentence Structure	Simple sentences	[16] S + V [17] S + V + C [18] S + V + A [19] S + V + O + A		2.1	[13] S + V + C [14] S + V + O	8	4.1
	Compound	X			[15] S + V/VP, S + V/VP	12	6.2
Total			337	100	Total	193	100

4.1.3. Similarities and Differences of Syntactic Features of English and Vietnamese Idioms Denoting Money

4.1.3.1. Similarities

4.1.3.2. Differences

4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE IDIOMS DENOTING MONEY

4.2.1. Figuration

4.2.1.1. Metaphor

4.2.1.2. Hyperbole

4.2.1.3. Simile

4.2.2. Semantic Fields of English and Vietnamese Idioms Denoting Money

4.2.2.1. People's Financial Circumstances

4.2.2.2. Earning or Making Money

4.2.2.3. Saving Money

4.2.2.4. Spending Money

4.2.2.5. Paying Money

4.2.2.6. Buying- Selling

4.2.2.7. Debt (Money)

Table 4.7: Frequency of Semantic Fields of English and Vietnamese Idioms Denoting Money

English and Vietnamese Idioms denoting money		English		Vietnamese	
Figurative		No	%	No	%
	1	<i>People's financial circumstances</i>	80	23.7	71

Table 4.7: Frequency of Semantic Fields of English and Vietnamese Idioms Denoting Money

English and Vietnamese Idioms denoting money		English		Vietnamese	
2	<i>Earning or making money</i>	39	11.6	1	0.5
3	<i>Saving money</i>	6	1.8	13	6.7
4	<i>Spending money</i>	44	13.1	21	10.9
5	<i>Paying money</i>	103	30.6	6	3.1
6	<i>Buying – Selling</i>	20	5.9	70	36.3
7	<i>Debt (Money)</i>	7	2.1	7	3.6
8	<i>Others</i>	38	11.3	4	2.1
Total		337	100	193	100

4.2.3. Similarities and Differences in Semantic Features of English and Vietnamese Idioms Denoting Money

4.2.3.1. Similarities

4.2.3.2. Differences

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSION

Semantically, idioms in the corpus of this study express their meanings via semantic transfer means such as metaphor, hyperbole and simile. Especially, metaphor is used as the main stylistic device in most of idioms in English as well as in Vietnamese such as *pennies from heaven*, *moonlighting*, *money burns a hole in one's pocket*, *pay an arm and a leg*, *pay through the nose* etc and also *ném tiền qua cửa sổ*, *tiền trao cháo múc*, *ky cốp cho cốp nó xoi*, *buôn thúng bán bưng*, *tiền trao ra gà bắt lầy*, *tiền trả mạ nhỏ*, *ba cọc ba đồng* etc in Vietnamese. Hyperbole is used in some idioms such as *head over heels in debt*, *have money to burn* or *giàu nứt đố đổ vách*, *vắt cổ chày ra nước*, *tiền chảy bạc dòng* etc. Simile appears in some idioms such as *spend money like water*, *as phony as a three dollar bill*, *as sound as a dollar*, *as good as gold*, *as rich as Croesus*, *live like a king/prince* etc in English and *tiêu tiền như nước*, *nợ như chúa Chôm*, *rẻ như bèo*, *đất như vàng*, *đất như tôm tươi*, *buôn tàu buôn bè không bằng ăn dè hà tiện* etc in Vietnamese. Besides, the figurative and concrete characteristics of English and Vietnamese idioms denoting money are also presented in seven fields such as *people's financial circumstances*; *earning or making money*; *saving money*; *spending money*; *paying money*; *debt* and *buying/selling*. Moreover, we can also find out some similarities as well as differences in terms of semantic features of idioms denoting money.

Syntactically, idioms denoting money are analyzed under phrasal structures and sentence structures with the total of 19 patterns in English and 15 ones in Vietnamese. The phrasal structures are categorized into noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases and prepositional phrases with 15 patterns in English and 12 patterns in

Vietnamese. Sentence structures are presented in simple and compound sentences. There are 4 patterns in English and 2 patterns in Vietnamese in the structure of simple sentences and only one pattern of compound sentences in Vietnamese but no one in English. Besides, we also mention on the parallel structures of English and Vietnamese idioms denoting money in forms of noun phrases, verb phrases and adjective phrases. Apart from these, a summary of the similarities and differences of syntactic features of English and Vietnamese idioms denoting money is also provided.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS FOR LANGUAGE TEACHING

For learners of English, there may be some following suggestions. Firstly, to deal with various grammatical structures of idioms, a careful study should be conducted on them. Learners should have a general background on syntactic structures of idioms so that it is easier for them to understand idioms. Secondly, idioms should be better learnt in specific communicative contexts rather than learnt by heart. Learners can remember idioms through practicing them by putting them into specific and real situations so that their meanings become familiar at the beginning. Furthermore, learners should guess the meanings of the idioms before looking them up in the dictionary. Last but not least, learners should have a good knowledge of cultural features which include customs and habits, beliefs, concepts, attitudes etc. because a good background knowledge on a culture would be advantageous to learning idioms.

For teachers of English, the following suggestions should be considered in order to get a good teaching result.

Firstly, choosing which idioms to teach is a primary consideration since learners always wish to learn the idioms that will allow them to participate more fully in interactions with native

speakers. Since there are thousands of idioms in any language, people may want to devote attention to the most useful ones therefore choosing most useful and most frequent idioms is important to learners as well as teachers of English.

Secondly, teachers should help learners develop a habit of noticing idioms in everyday situations, including reading and listening. Learners can be asked to keep an idioms notebook; they can later share their examples in class and ask questions about the usages. Teachers can draw attention to new idioms by taking them into vocabulary-improving or reading activities. Teachers should also take advantages of authentic materials like on TV, in newspapers, magazines and modify them for classroom purposes based on the learners' levels. Moreover, teachers can help students be familiar with idioms by connecting the new information with something they already know and by making a picture in their minds. Imagination could do much to help remember new idioms.

Thirdly, teachers should be sensible in dealing with cultural differences to have more precise explanations for the learners.

Finally, teachers should encourage learners to use idioms in speaking and in writing particularly and in everyday communication generally.

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

5.3.1. Limitations of the Research

Despite considerable efforts of the researcher, certain limitations could be detected in this study due to time constraint and other unexpected factors. Firstly, the number of idioms denoting money in Vietnamese is relatively low in comparison with English ones. Secondly, in the thesis, stronger focus was put on English

idioms, metaphor and simile rather than Vietnamese ones as Vietnamese language is more figurative than English.

5.3.2. Suggestions for Further Studies

- Syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese proverbs denoting money.
- The stylistic devices of English and Vietnamese idioms.
- The stylistic devices of English and Vietnamese proverbs.
- The stylistic devices of English and Vietnamese idioms of comparison.