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**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE SYNTACTIC AND
SEMANTIC FEATURES OF IDIOMS CONTAINING
WORDS DENOTING KITCHEN UTENSILS IN
ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE**

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

Even though there are many researches on idioms investigated and problems concerned, no research has been found on IKUs. With the image of kitchen utensils, the topic mentioned is really close to daily life and familiar with women, especially Vietnamese ones. These are the important reasons contributing to my decision of studying IKUs.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1. Aims

- Making a systematic description of English idioms containing words denoting kitchen utensils and Vietnamese idioms containing words denoting kitchen utensils.

- Identifying the similarities and differences between EIKUs and VIKUs in terms of the syntactic and semantic features.

1.2.2. Objectives

- Investigate the syntactic and semantic features of EIKUs and VIKUs.

- Find out the similarities and differences between EIKUs and VIKUs in syntactic and semantic aspects.

- Suggest some ideas for teaching and learning idioms containing words denoting kitchen utensils.

1.3. JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

A study of EIKUs and VIKUs is expected to make a small contribution to understanding and using idioms in general and IKUs

in particular. Moreover, the findings of a contrastive analysis of EIKUs and VIKUs will help learners of the two languages improve their syntactic and semantic knowledge of the field.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are the syntactic and semantic features of EIKUs and VIKUs?

- What are similarities and differences in EIKUs and VIKUs in terms of their syntactic and semantic features?

- What are some suggestions of the research for teaching, learning and translating EIKUs and VIKUs?

1.5. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is focused on making a contrastive analysis in terms of syntactic and semantic aspects. Structurally, it will investigate IKUs at the level of phrase and clause. Semantically, an investigation into the stylistic devices, semantic opacity and semantic fields of IKUs will be carried out. This study will not focus on cultural and pragmatic features of IKUs.

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Chapter 2 – Literature Review and Theoretical Background

Chapter 3 – Methods and Procedures

Chapter 4 – Findings and Discussions

Chapter 5 – Conclusions and Implications

Chapter 2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS STUDIES

In English, a considerable number of studies on idioms have been published. Most of authors such as Cruse D.A. with “*Lexical Semantics*” (1986); Collin V.H. with “*A Book of English Idioms*” (1972); L. Flavell with “*Dictionary of Idioms and their Origins*” (1994); etc. clearly mentioned idioms in various aspects through which users are able to perceive the difficulty in understanding idioms in term of syntax, semantics as well as the differences between idioms and other language units.

Besides, several Vietnamese researchers have paid attention to the study of idioms. “*Thành ngữ Tiếng Việt*” (1978) by Nguyễn Lực, Lương Văn Đăng is one of the earliest and most significant contributions on idioms in Vietnam. Next, idioms have also attracted many other Vietnamese researchers.

Up to now, there have been quite a lot of contrastive studies on the various aspects of English and Vietnamese idioms at Danang University. However, there have been no studies that deal with kitchen utensils. This is the reason why the study “*An investigation into Idioms Containing words denoting kitchen utensils in English and Vietnamese*” is conducted in an attempt to focus on the semantic and syntactic features of EIKUs and VIKUs.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Definition of Idioms

A definition given by Fromkin, V., Collins, S.P. and Blair, D.S. in the book “*An Introduction to Language*” (1990), is “fixed

phrases, consisting of more than one word, with meanings that can not be inferred from the meanings of the individual words”.

It can be seen that idioms can mean something different from what the words mean. Generally speaking, most of the authors showed that idiom is a group of words whose meaning cannot be understood from the meanings of individual words in it.

Hoàng Văn Hành defines in “*Kể Chuyện Thành Ngữ, Tục Ngữ*” (2002) that idioms are set expressions which are stable in their morpho – structure, complete and figurative in their meaning, used widely in daily communication, especially in speech.

However, with the aim of syntactic and semantic analysis of idioms in both English and Vietnamese, the study is mainly based on the definition given by Fromkin, Collins and Blair.

2.2.2. Idioms Containing Words Denoting Kitchen Utensils

Idioms containing words denoting kitchen utensils are the idioms containing words denoting kitchen utensils, kitchen tools or cooking utensils.

Table 2.1. Words Denoting Kitchen Utensils

English	Vietnamese
“pot”, “pan”, “cupboard”,	“bát”, “đũa”, “nồi”, “mâm”,
“glass”, “spoon”, “oven”, “cup”,	“chén”, “đọi”, “rế”, “niêu”,
“bowl”, “skillet”, “kettle”,	“dao”, “đĩa”, “nong”, “chum”,
“knife”, “tongs”, “bottle”,	“giàn”, “sàng”, “vung”, “giỏ”,
“scissors”, “fork”, “burner”,	“chảo”, “cối”, “chày”, “đèn”,
“barrel”, “hook”, “light”, “bag”,	“bình”, “thúng”, “mẹt”, “thót”,
“clock”, “box”, “basket”,	“chậu”, “hủ”, “lọ”, “cũ”,

“napkin”, “bucket”, “plate”, “mould”, “can”, “shelf”, “candle”, “table”	“nia”, “gáo”, “rõ”, “rá”
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2.2.3. Overview of Idiomatic Structures

Rosamund Moons states in his book “*Fixed Expression and Idioms in English*” (1998) that “there are enormous structural varieties of English idioms. But syntactically, they could be categorized into three main types:

2.2.3.1. Phrase idioms

(1) Noun phrase E.g. a basket case, a big pot

(2) Adjective phrase

E.g. sharp as a razor, fresh from the oven

(3) Modifiers, quantifiers

E.g. greasy spoon, with *both* barrels

(4) Adjunct, sub-modifiers

E.g. have had a glass *too much*; glass *half* full

2.2.3.2. Clause idioms (or subject-less clause patterns)

(1) Verb + complement E.g. Dig your own grave

(2) Verb + preposition E.g. Lie on the table

(3) Verb + participle E.g. Like shooting fish in a barrel

(4) Verb + direct object E.g. Lose your bottle

(5) Verb + direct object + complement

E.g. Keep the pot boiling

(6) Verb + indirect object + direct object

(7) Verb + indirect object + adjunct

2.2.3.3. Sentence idioms

Sentence idioms often include simple patterns, e.g. *The cupboard is bare* and complex patterns, e.g. *They broke the mould when they made sb* respectively.

2.2.4. Principal Features of Idioms

2.2.4.1. Syntactic Restriction and Stability

Although an idiom is semantically like a single word, it does not function like a single word. There are a great number of grammatical restrictions. A large number of idioms contain a verb and a noun, but although the verb may be placed in the past tense, the number of the noun can never be changed. Moreover, there are a lot of syntactic restrictions. Some idioms have passives, but others do not.

Obviously, the stability in both English and Vietnamese idioms is really high. D.A Cruse states in “*Lexical Semantics*” (1987) that “They typically resist interruption and re-ordering of parts”. Accordingly, it is impossible to omit, modify, replace or change the order of such constituents in idioms. It is obvious that these idioms don’t make proper sense if one of the constituents is replaced with any other words or their order is changed.

2.2.4.2. Semantic Ambiguity

A variety of idioms’ definitions show that idiom is a fixed group of words with a special meaning that cannot be understood from individual words in it. Moreover, most idioms may convey not only non-idiomatic meaning but idiomatic meaning as well. That leads to ambiguity in their meaning. However, language learners may

easily understand the idiom if it is used in combination with other sentences.

2.2.5. Idioms and Other Language Units

2.2.5.1. Idioms and Words

Generally speaking, the functions of words and idioms are broadly the same. Nonetheless, there are points of differences appearing in the characterization of words as information packages.

Table 2.2. Similarities and Differences between Idioms and Words

IDIOMS	WORDS
typically specific	either general or specific
generally imagist	may or may not be imagist
mainly non-literal	can be literal or non-literal

2.2.5.2. Idioms and Phrases

According to “*Longman Dictionary of language Teaching and Applied Linguistics*” (1987), “a phrase is a group of words which form a grammatical unit. A phrase does not contain a finite verb and does not have a subject-predicate structure. There are a number of types of phrases such as *noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, adverb phrases, and prepositional phrases.*

Table 2.3. Similarities and Differences between Idioms and Phrases

	IDIOMS	PHRASES
Similarities	have all types of phrases	have all types of phrases
Differences	Meaning: cannot be worked out from its separate parts	Meaning: free addition of the meanings of the words existing in the phrase

	tend to be frozen in form and do not readily enter into other combinations	changeable in form; readily enter into other combinations
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2.2.5.3. Idioms and Collocations

According to Cruse D.A in “*Lexical Semantics*” (1987), collocation is used to refer to consequences of lexical items which habitually co-occur, but which are nonetheless fully transparent in the sense that each lexical constituent is also a semantic constituent.

In brief, the differences and similarities idioms and phrases can be described in the following table.

Table 2.4. Similarities and Differences between Idioms and Collocations

	IDIOMS	COLLOCATIONS
Similarities	set expressions	set expressions
	ready-made units when using them in speaking and writing	ready-made units when using them in speaking and writing
Differences	stable in structure	restrictions on how words can be used together

2.2.5.4. Idioms and Proverbs

According to Vũ Ngọc Phan in “*Tục ngữ ca dao dân ca Việt nam*” (2005), “A proverb is a sentence that is complete in meaning by itself and expresses an idea, a comment, an experience, an ethics, a truth or a criticism.”

In “*Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary*” (2008), proverb is a short sentence, etc., usually known by many people, stating something commonly experienced or giving advice. From these definitions, it can be seen some similarities as well as differences between idioms and proverbs as follows:

Table 2.5. *Similarities and Differences between Idioms and Proverbs*

		IDIOMS	PROVERBS
Similarities		- stable in structures	- stable in structures
		- ready for reproduction	- ready for reproduction
Differences	Meaning	- express an incomplete idea of concepts	- express an complete idea of comment, experience, morality, justice or criticism
	Structure	- independent units	- dependent units
		- set phrases, parts of clauses	- complete clauses or sentences

2.2.6. The Meaning of Idioms and the Meaning of Words

Idioms have syntactic and semantic inseparability. The meaning of idioms cannot be determined by looking at the meaning of the component words. In other words it can be said that the meaning of an idiom is the meaning of one word.

2.2.7. Overview of Semantic Field

The meaning of a word can be identified by its semantic features. For example, *father* may have the following semantic features: [+human], [+male], [+mature], [+parental] and [+paternal].

Fromkin and Rodman [91, p.148-149] confirm that “the semantic properties of words determine what other words they can be combined with.”

2.3. SUMMARY

In short, this chapter has reviewed the theory of idioms and other previous studies related to idioms. Theories of idioms such as definition, overview of syntactic and semantic features, and similarities and differences between idioms and other language units such as words, collocations, idioms have been made clear in this chapter. In addition, the words denoting kitchen utensils in English and Vietnamese have been clearly listed. Briefly, what has been mentioned in this chapter is the theoretical background for discussing and finding IKUs in chapter 4.

Chapter 3

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

In order to set the goal of the research, quantitative and qualitative approaches will be carried out. Then, the collected data will be qualitatively analyzed, compared and generalized to highlight their characteristics.

3.2. RESEARCH METHODS

To find out the similarities and differences between the two languages in terms of the syntactic and semantic features of IKUs, it is essential to use such methods as *descriptive method*, *analytical method*, and *contrastive method*.

3.3. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

- Collecting EIKUs and VIKUs from novels, short stories, dictionaries and on the internet and finding examples in which they are used.

- Analyzing EIKUs and VIKUs in terms of their structures and classify them in the accordance with their semantic features.

- Finding out the similarities and the differences in the syntactic and semantic features of EIKUs and VIKUs.

- Putting forward some implications for teaching and learning idioms as well as making some suggestions for further research.

- Presenting the limitations of the study.

- Closing the study with References and Appendices – types of exercises, key and the lists of EKUs and VIKUs.

3.4. DESCRIPTION OF THE SAMPLE

In the study, I will handle about 400 IKUs (about half of them are in English and the same number in Vietnamese). Most of them are mainly collected from dictionaries, books, websites, newspapers, magazines in English and Vietnamese.

3.5. DATA COLLECTION

Firstly, the amount of EIKUs and VIKUs will be collected for analysis from various sources such as dictionaries, books, articles, magazines, and websites. Then all the collected idioms will be classified and put together in categories of different kitchen utensils so that it is easy to select for analysis. Secondly, all materials related to the theory of idioms are also used as a very necessary reference source. Last but not least, the collection of linguistic books in term of syntax, semantics, pragmatics as well as cultural materials.

3.6. DATA ANALYSIS

Syntactically, the idioms will be classified and analyzed in different categories of structure such as noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, preposition phrases and adverb phrases and sentences.

3.7. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

With regard to reliability, all the data quoted in this study are completely the same as the original materials with the clear information of authors, the name of publishers, the time, and place of publication as well as the page number of the extracted data.

As regards validity, this study is carried out under all required criteria in not only its form but also its content. To fulfill the scope of the study, all EIKUs and VIKUs are picked out from dictionaries, books, magazines, stories, etc.

Chapter 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF IKUS IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

4.1.1. Syntactic Features of EIKUs and VIKUs with Phrases and Structures

4.1.1.1. Phrase Structures

(i) Noun Phrases

In short, IKUs of noun phrase are used widely in English and Vietnamese, which can be summarized in table 4.1.

Table 4.1. Noun Phrase Structures of EIKUs and VIKUs

Noun phrase structures	English		Vietnamese	
	N	%	N	%
[1] (Article) + Noun + Noun	5	9.3	0	0.0
[2] (Article) + Adjective + Noun	10	18.5	0	0.0
[3] (Article) + (Adjective) + Noun + Preposition (of) + (Article) + Noun	15	27.9	0	0.0
[4] (Noun) + Noun + and + Noun	5	9.3	0	0.0
[5] (Article) + Noun + Present participle + (Article) + Noun + Adjective	1	1.8	0	0.0
[6] (Article) + Present participle + Noun + Pre	1	1.8	0	0.0
[7] (Article) + (Adjective) + Noun + Pre.P	9	16.6	0	0.0
[9] Noun + Adjective + Noun + Adjective	0	0.0	20	42.5
[10] NP + NP	0	0.0	20	42.5
[11] Noun + Verb + Noun + Verb	0	0.0	2	4.3
[12] Others	8	14.8	5	10.7
Total	54	100	47	100

(i) Verb Phrases

In general, like Vietnamese and English noun phrases of IKUs, idiomatic verb phrases are also popular in the two languages. This could be illustrated in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2. Verb Phrase Structures of English and Vietnamese IKUs

VP Structures	English		Vietnamese	
	N	%	N	%
[1] Verb + Noun/NP	22	22.7	7	6.5
[2] Verb + Pre.P	26	26.8	0	0.0
[3] Verb + NP + Pre.P	42	43.3	0	0.0
[4] Verb + Noun + Present Participle Phrase	2	2.0	0	0.0
[5] Verb + NP + Pre	1	1.0	0	0.0
[6] Verb + Noun/NP + Verb + Noun/NP	0	0.0	50	58.5
[7] Verb + Complement + Nhur + Noun/NP/Clause	0	0.0	12	12.8
[8] Verb + Noun/NP + Complement	0	0.0	5	5.3
[9] Verb + Adverb + Noun, (Verb) + Adverb + Noun	0	0.0	10	10.6
[10] Others	4	4.1	12	12.8
Total	97	100	89	100

(i) Adjective Phrases

Table 4.3. AdjP Structures of EIKUs and VIKUs

<i>AdjP Structures</i>	English		Vietnamese	
	N	%	N	%
[1] (as) + Adjective + as + NP	6	85.8	0	0.0
[2] Adjective + Noun/NP+ Adjective + Noun/NP	0	0.0	13	33.4
[3] Adjective + Nhur + Noun/NP	0	0.0	13	36.0
[4] Adjective + Nhur + Noun/NP+ Verb	0	0.0	4	10.2
[5] Nhur + Noun/NP+ Adjective	0	0.0	2	5.1
[6] Others	1	14.2	2	5.1
Total	7	100	38	100

(i) Prepositional Phrases

Table 4.4. PreP Structures of EIKUs and VIKUs

<i>PreP Structure</i>	English		Vietnamese	
	N	%	N	%
[1] Pre + NP	27	100	0	0.0
Total	27	100	0	0.0

4.1.1.2. Sentence Structures

(i) Simple Patterns

Generally, all the sentence structures of IKUs withdrawn from the study could be summarized as shown in the following table.

Table 4.5. Sentence Structures of EIKUs and VIKUs

Sentence Structures	English		Vietnamese	
	N	%	N	%
[1] Subject + Verb + Object	1	7.7	22	57.9
[2] Subject + Verb + Complement	7	53.8	10	26.3
[3] Adjunct + Subject + Verb + Object	1	7.7	0	0.0
[4] Subject + Verb + Object + Adjunct (PreP)	2	15.4	0	0.0
[5] Subject + Verb + Object + Subordinator + Subject + Verb + Object	1	7.7	0	0.0
[6] Subject + Verb + Complement/Object + (Coordinating Conjunction) + Subject + Verb + Complement/Object	1	7.7	3	7.9
[7] Others	0	0.0	3	7.9
Total	13	100	38	100

After analyzing in detail the syntactic features of about 400 EIKUs and VIKUs, the table below can give us a general view of the frequency of EIKUs and VIKUs in terms of syntactic features.

Table 4.6. A Summary of Frequency of EIKUs and VIKUs

<i>Syntactical analysis</i>	English		Vietnamese	
	N	%	N	%
<i>Noun Phrases</i>	54	27.1	47	21.0
<i>Verb phrases</i>	97	48.8	89	42.1
<i>Ajdiective phrases</i>	7	3.5	38	17.6

<i>Prepositional phrases</i>	27	13.6	0	0.0
<i>Simple sentences</i>	12	6.0	35	15.7
<i>Complex sentences</i>	1	0.5	0	0.0
<i>Compound sentences</i>	1	0.5	3	1.3
<i>Others</i>	0	0.0	5	2.3
Total	199	100	217	100

To make the table clearer and lively, let us take a look at the following chart.

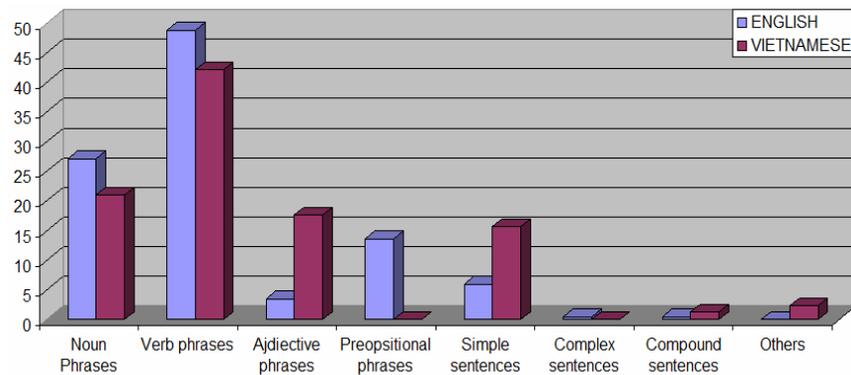


Chart 4.1. Frequency of EIKUs and VIKUs in Terms of Syntactic Features

4.1.1.3. Parallel Structures

4.1.1.4. Comparative Structures

4.1.1.5. Elliptical Structures

4.1.2. The Variation on the Form of VIKUs

Unlike English, Vietnamese is a language of onomatopoeia which does not have metamorphosis (singular, plural, past and

present form). Vietnamese, therefore, can vary both in lexical and phonetic terms.

4.1.3. Similarities and Differences between EIKUs and VIKUs in Syntactic Features

4.1.3.1. Similarities

Firstly, in phrase structures, both English and Vietnamese owns a number of idioms in certain grammatical groups of phrases such as noun phrases, verb phrases and adjective phrases.

Besides, EIKUs and VIKUs can also form in sentences with constituents such as subject, verb, object, complement and adjunct.

Lastly, the parallel structure is used frequently in both languages in form of noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, and prepositional phrase as well as sentence patterns for the desire of alliteration and rhythm in order to make speeches smoother.

4.1.3.2. Differences

The above discussion and summary of the syntactic features of IKUs in the table 4.6 show that not every idiom in English has their equivalent syntactic patterns in Vietnamese. Moreover, some patterns are similar and same in two languages but many ones are different from each other. It can be also seen that there are no idioms in the form of prepositional phrase complex sentences in Vietnamese. In comparison with English, Vietnamese idioms have more patterns in adjective phrases. What is more, the parallel structure is used more widely in Vietnamese IKUs than in English ones.

In contrast to English IKUs, many IKUs in Vietnamese convey similar or even the same meaning in spite of their different

word orders or only a different word in those idioms. One more difference is that to make speeches smoother and easier to remember, lots of VIKUs use the repetition of sound and rhythm which cannot be found out in English ones.

4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF EIKUs and VIKUs

4.2.1. The Meaning of EIKUs and VIKUs

As mentioned in previous chapters, the meaning of idioms cannot be inferred from the meanings of individual words, so it is the *semantic opacity of idioms* that makes the learners or translators of English as well as Vietnamese get into a lot of troubles. The degree of the troubles depends on the degree of semantic opacity of idioms.

4.2.2. Meaning Transfer in EIKUs and VIKUs

As mentioned above, the meaning of idioms can not be easily understood by their individual words because most of idioms have figurative meaning. Therefore, such meaning is mainly transferred through some stylistic devices.

4.2.2.1. Metaphor

4.2.2.2. Metonymy

4.2.2.3. Simile

4.2.2.4. Hyperbole

4.2.3. Semantic Fields of EIKUs and VIKUs

4.2.3.1. Behaviour

4.2.3.2. Personality

4.2.3.3. Success and Failure

4.2.3.4. Love and Marriage

4.2.3.5. Health and physical state

4.2.3.6. Family situation and family life

4.2.3.7. Mood/ Psychological state

4.2.3.8. Dangerous situation

4.2.3.9. Difficulty and Ease

4.2.3.10. Relationship

4.2.3.11. Time and space

4.2.3.12. Others

Beside the mentioned semantic fields, EIKUs and VIKUs more or less belong to some others such as *intelligence and unintelligence, profession or work, appearance, social status, and violence*.

Table 4.8. Number and Percentage of EIKUs and VIKUs Listed in Terms of Semantic Fields

<i>Semantic Features of EIKUs and VIKUs</i>	English		Vietnamese	
	N	(%)	N	(%)
Behaviour	31	15.7	43	19.2
Personality	13	6.5	27	12.1
Success and failure	42	21.1	20	9
Love and marriage	3	1.5	17	7.6
Health and physical state	22	11	14	6.3
Family situation and family life	5	2.6	18	8
Mood/ psychological state	11	5.2	12	5.5
Dangerous situation	5	2.6	10	4.5
Difficulty and ease	26	13	8	3.7
Relationship	13	6.6	15	6.7
Time and space	13	6.6	6	2.7

Others	15	7.6	27	14.7
Total	199	100	217	100

The following chart will provide clear percentage of all semantic fields of EIKUs and VIKUs.

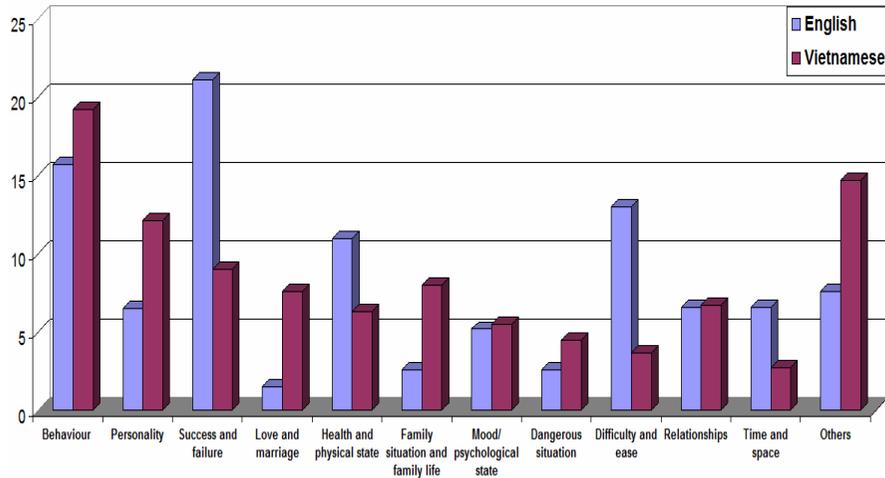


Chart 4.2. Frequency of EIKUs and VIKUs in Terms of Semantic Features

4.2.4. Similarities and Differences between EIKUs and VIKUs in Semantic Features

4.2.4.1. Similarities

Firstly, various stylistic devices such as metaphor, metonymy, simile and hyperbole are effectively employed by both English and Vietnamese to make IKUs more figurative and lively. *Secondly*, the same semantic fields such as behaviors, personality, success and failure, love and marriage, health, family situation and family life, mood/ psychological state, dangerous situation, difficulty and ease, relationships, and some others can be found in both English

and Vietnamese IKUs. *Thirdly*, it is obvious that not all English and Vietnamese IKUs are easy for us to understand from literal meanings or individual words. To guess their meanings correctly, users need to base on context and cultural background. *Lastly*, it is, however, really easy to understand literal and transparent meaning of some English and Vietnamese IKUs because its meaning can be made by associating its individual words' meaning especially idioms with comparative structures.

4.2.4.2. Differences

The first difference closely relates to the customs and habits. In the old Vietnamese society, women had no right to work out of their houses, so their main duty is to do housework, cook and serve all other members in the family. Up to now, those customs more or less exist in the modern society in Vietnam. In deed, beside the jobs outside houses, Vietnamese women also play a very important role in their family life at home. Therefore, it is possible to say that cooking is the most important duty for Vietnamese women.

The second difference lies in the fact that Vietnam is a poor agricultural country while English speaking countries are industrial ones with high living standards. The words used in idioms are usually influenced by wet rice culture such as *đũa, rế, đọi, mẹt, chum, chĩnh, lọ, etc.* whereas people from Britain use universal things in their idioms *tongs, cup, kettle, pot, etc.*

Moreover, it is wet rice agriculture with the image of bamboo that make kitchen utensils in Vietnam are quite different

from that Britain. Most of kitchen utensils are often made of bamboo, wood and clay and denote poor living conditions while it is hard to find any such utensils in Britain.

In summary, despite some above similarities in both languages, eastern society is quite different from western one in many fields. This leads to the fact that English and Vietnamese idioms still differ in terms of meaning as well as usage.

4.3. SUMMARY

Syntactically, the research based its syntactic analysis on the perspectives of Randolph Quirk & Sidney Greenbaum, Geoffrey Leech and Jan Svartvik who states the theory of five categories such as noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, adverb phrases and prepositional phrases. The findings showed that IKUs have four categories such as noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases and prepositional phrases.

Semantically, both EIKUs and VIKUs use stylistic devices such as simile, metaphor, metonymy and hyperbole as means of transferring the meanings. There are 11 semantic fields found in both EIKUs and VIKUs. They are *behaviour, personality, success and failure, love and marriage, health/physical state, family situation and family life, mood/ psychological state, dangerous situation, difficulty and ease, relationship, time and space* and *others*. Moreover, this chapter also gave us some main points about the similarities and differences between EIKUs and VIKUs.

Chapter 5

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSIONS

In term of syntactic features, IKUs investigated are under the phrasal and sentence structures. The phrasal structures are categorized into noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases and prepositional phrases in English. Similarly, Vietnamese idioms are in the structure of noun phrases, verb phrases and adjective phrases.

In terms of semantic features, semantic opacity is one of the most dominant characteristics. Most of the idioms' meaning is transferred through stylistic devices such as metaphor, metonymy, simile and hyperbole. In semantic fields, EIKUs and VIKUs are mainly presented in six semantic fields such as *behaviour, personality, success and failure, love and marriage, health, family situation and family life, mood/ psychological state, dangerous situation, difficulty and ease, relationship, time and space* and *others*.

Furthermore, the similarities and differences of syntactic features of English and Vietnamese IKUs is also mentioned.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS

5.2.1. Implications for teaching IKUs

Firstly, teachers should prepare themselves with the knowledge of idioms such as how they are formed or what they mean in each different context before they come to class. *Secondly*, it is the fact that learners of English tend to avoid using idioms which seem to be difficult to cope with. *Thirdly*, to understand the meaning of IKUs, learners are expected to have not only the basic knowledge of a language but also master the cultural characteristics of IKUs.

5.2.2. Implications for learning IKUs

5.3. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

5.4. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH