

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
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**AN INVESTIGATION INTO LINGUISTIC FEATURES
OF ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE PROVERBS
DENOTING HUMAN BEHAVIOUR**

**Field: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1.RATIONALE

Language is considered the most popular means of human communication. The prosperity of language not only brings about the beauty of language but also deeply contributes to successful daily communication. The spheres of human life such as physical and emotional states, morality, behavior of human relationships and human experiences and so on are reflected truly and vividly through language forms. Proverb is one of the popular language phenomena.

Proverbs are complete sentences that summarize the experience of the people about nature, man and society. Compared to "folk wisdom", proverbs' natural intelligence is very rich, diverse and expressed in words brief, concise, and easy to remember with rich images and rhythms. Proverbs which have transcended down through generations are formed from real life, production and life struggle of the people. Almost every language in the world has large numbers of proverbs. Among them are English and Vietnamese proverbs denoting human behaviour. To acquire these proverbs is one of the most difficult tasks for both native learners and foreign language learners.

In considering "***Pay a man back in the same coin***", a listener who knows only the meaning of "pay", "man", "back" and "same coin" would be unable to reduce the expression's actual meaning which is "Treat others as others treat you" (*Đi với bút măc áo cà sa, đi với ma măc áo giấy*). In the other proverb, "***Roll my log and I will roll yours***" means almost the same as "***Ông măt chân giò, bà thò chai rượu***" or the proverb "***Speech is silver but silence is gold***",

whose Vietnamese equivalent is "***Một câu nhịn, chín câu lành***", means that silence often bring good things.

To learn English or Vietnamese, a person, therefore, needs to learn the words in that language, and how and when to use them. Actually, mastering the meaning and the ways the words structured in expressions or in sentences helps language learners benefit a lot in improving their language skills. Besides, cultural aspects also play a considerable role in decoding proverbs. Language learners will encounter lots of obstacles in their attempt to understand thoroughly and exactly unless they do not pay much attention to these cultural features.

Knowing the importance of proverbs in learning language as well as in the daily life, many researchers have studied them. While some have analyzed and categorized proverbs according to alphabetical arrangement, others have done research on analyzing their semantic and structural features and cultural meanings. Nevertheless, an investigation into linguistic features of proverbs denoting human behaviour (PHB) has not been dealt with up to now.

For these reasons, I decided to conduct the study entitled "*An investigation into linguistic features of English and Vietnamese proverbs denoting human behaviour*". I hope the findings of this study may help learners have more knowledge of proverbs so that they understand and use them perfectly in the daily life as well as in translation.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1. Aims

This study is designed to conduct an investigation into linguistic features of English and Vietnamese proverbs denoting

human behaviour. The research aims to help language learners of English and Vietnamese to effectively use the languages in communication.

1.2.2. Objectives

This paper is designed to aim at the following objectives:

- To identify and describe the syntactic, semantic and stylistic features of English and Vietnamese PHBs.
- To compare and contrast the features mentioned above in order to clarify the similarities and differences between these two languages.
- To suggest some implications for teaching, learning and translating English and Vietnamese.

1.3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is restricted to, the linguistic features of English and Vietnamese PHBs, namely grammatical structures, semantic fields and stylistic features of proverbs denoting human behaviour.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study attempts to answer the following questions:

1. What are the syntactic, semantic and stylistic features of English and Vietnamese PHBs?
2. What are the similarities and the differences between English and Vietnamese PHBs in terms of the above linguistic features?
3. What are some implications for teaching, learning and translating English and Vietnamese?

1.5. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study - *An investigation into linguistic features of English and Vietnamese proverbs denoting human behaviour* - is just

an attempt to examine certain aspects of proverbs in terms of syntactic, semantic and stylistic features. It is hoped to contribute to the process of teaching, learning and translating English when we have to deal with these proverbs, especially to help the Vietnamese learners or translators of English learn how to properly use proverbs and most importantly to become tactful cross-cultural communicators.

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: Conclusion, implications, limitations and suggestions.

Chapter 2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

In English, we have many books, dictionaries and websites on the Internet. For example, in "*The Oxford Dictionary of English Proverbs*" by William George Smith (1935), to each proverb he has appended illustrative quotations in chronological order. In "*English Proverbs Explained*" (1969), Ronald Ridout and Clifford Witting have arranged English proverbs in alphabetical order to make for ease of reference and have explained and illustrated them straightforwardly to make for ease of reading. In "*The Penguin Dictionary of Proverbs*" by Rosalind Fergusson (1983), the collection of over 6,000 proverbs from all nations and all ages is arranged in

different categories. Proverbs are carefully collected and categorized into alphabetical arrangement in "101 American-English Proverbs" by Harry Collis (1997), in the website "www.idioms-today.com", etc. Besides, a prominent proverb scholar in the United States is Wolfgang Mieder, who has written or edited over 50 books on the subject. Neal R. Norrick in "*How Proverbs mean*" (1985) analyzed proverbs semantically to know how proverbs mean.

In Vietnamese, a lot of forms of folk proverbs can be easily found in the works written in the Nom by great scholars such as *Quốc Âm Thi Tập* (Nguyễn Trãi, 15th century), *Hồng Đức Quốc Âm Thi Tập* (Lê Thánh Tông and co-authors, 15th century), *Bạch Vân Quốc Ngữ Thi Tập* (Nguyễn Bình Khiêm, 16th century), etc. After the August Revolution (1945), Lê Văn Hòe collected local proverbs in *Tục ngữ lược giải* (1952) and Vũ Ngọc Phan first published *Tục ngữ và dân ca Việt Nam* (1956). Since 1975, a lot of works have been done to make collections of Vietnamese proverbs such as *Tục Ngữ Việt Nam* by Chu Xuân Diên with co-authors Lương Văn Đang and Phương Tri (1975), *Văn học dân gian Việt Nam* by Dinh Gia Khanh and Võ Quang Nhơn (2002), etc.

At Danang University, proverbs are analyzed in the M.A thesis "An investigation into the metaphoric devices in English and Vietnamese animal proverbs" (2002) by Le Thi Nhat My and "A contrastive analysis on linguistic features of proverbs through parallelism (English versus Vietnamese)" by Dang Ngoc Cu (2003).

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Definition of Proverbs and PHBs

2.2.1.1. Definition of Proverbs

Mieder (1993) presents "A proverb is a short, generally known sentence of the folk which contains wisdom, truth, morals, and traditional views in a metaphorical, fixed and memorable form and which is handed down from generation to generation" (1993, p. 5 and 24).

As for Galperin I.R. (1971), proverbs are defined as "brief statements showing in condensed form the accumulated life experience of the community and serving as conventional practical symbols for abstract ideas. They are usually didactic and image bearing". [7, p. 179]

In "*Tục ngữ ca dao dân ca Việt Nam*" (2004), Vũ Ngọc Phan states that "*Tục ngữ là một câu tự nó diễn đạt trọn vẹn một ý, một nhận xét, một kinh nghiệm, một luân lý, có khi là một sự phê phán*"

With the aim of syntactic, semantic and stylistic analysis of proverbs in both English and Vietnamese, the study is mainly based on the definitions given by Galperin, Mieder and Norrick.

2.2.1.2. Definition of PHB

According to Wikipedia, "Behaviour refers to the actions and mannerisms made by organisms, systems, or artificial entities in conjunction with its environment, which includes the other systems or organisms around as well as the physical environment. It is the response of the system or organism to various stimuli or inputs, whether internal or external, conscious or subconscious, overt or covert, and voluntary or involuntary".

2.2.2. Characteristics of Proverbs

- A proverb is always articulated as a complete and comprehensive grammatically accurate statement.

▪ Proverbs are not pieces of language, but are pre-formulated and pre-fabricated generalized statements. They are therefore unalterable in their style and structure. As such, they neither need to be adapted to a given textual context nor do they require a specific textual surrounding to be fully comprehensible.

▪ Proverbs feature through a high name recognition, whereas the origin or the founder of a proverb is rarely ever known.

▪ Due to their simple sentence structure and metaphorical language, in which rhetorical figures such as alliterations, rhythm, rhyme, etc. frequently occur, proverbs are fairly easy to memorize and easily retrievable from memory.

▪ Against the background that many traditional proverbs draw upon a collective human experience or traditional wisdom they are often considered to be prescriptive as well as didactic reflecting some sort of moral teaching.

▪ Proverbs can, apart from containing diverse levels of idiomacy, “exhibit a kind of semantic indefiniteness because of their hetero situationality, poly-functionality, and poly-semanticity” (Mieder 1993, p. xi).

2.2.3. Proverbs and other language units

2.2.3.1. Proverbs and Sentences

Table 2.1. Similarities and Differences between Proverbs and Sentences

PROVERBS	SENTENCES
typically specific	either general or specific
mainly non-literal	mainly literal

2.2.3.2. Proverbs and Sayings

Table 2.2. Similarities and Differences between Proverbs and Sayings

	PROVERBS	SAYINGS
Similarities	- meaning: mainly characterized by brevity	
	- usually didactic and image bearing	
	- include themselves the some certain features of historical development and the culture of people	
Differences	express wise and complete ideas	express the description of something but do not give complete meanings
	can be used in neutral figurative meaning	characterized by limited usage in one or two nations who are near to each other geographically and in non-related languages
	the means of devices or pointing in speech	to prove any event or situation

2.2.3.3. Proverbs and Idioms

In general, the distinctions between proverbs can be summarized in table 2.1 below:

Table 2.3. Distinction between Proverbs and Idioms

	PROVERBS	IDIOMS
Similarities	stable in structure; ready for reproduction	
	reflecting the national characteristics	
Differences	Meaning	complete clauses or sentences set phrases, parts of clauses

	Structure	independent units	dependent units
		denoting judgments	denoting concepts
	Literacy function	- aesthetics - apprehension - education	- aesthetics

2.2.4. Overview of phrase structures

In this study, our analysis of PHBs is based on the definitions by Quirk et al. and Diệp Quang Ban and phrase structures are discussed in four groups: noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases and adverb phrases.

2.2.5. Overview of sentence structures

In this study, we analyze English and Vietnamese PHBs basing on the definition of Quirk et al.

2.2.6. Overview of semantic fields

The data collected show that there are seven semantic fields of PHBs: *parents and children, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, parents-in-law and children-in-law, neighbours, teachers and students and other relationships in society*.

2.2.7. Overview of stylistic fields

In this study, we discover alliteration, rhyme, repetition and parallelism in English and Vietnamese PHBs.

2.2.8. Summary

This study bases its syntactic, semantic and stylistic analysis on the perspectives of some authors such as Randolph Quirk, Sidney Greenbaum, David Crystal, Richard Schmidt, Jack C. Richards, I.R. Galperin, Vũ Ngọc Phan, Hoàng Văn Hành, Nguyễn Hòa, etc., whose

view points are complementary in making the picture of proverbs denoting human behaviour in terms of syntax, semantics and stylistics.

Chapter 3

METHOD AND PROCEDURES

3.1. RESEARCH METHODS

The study is carried out to describe and analyze the syntactic, semantic and stylistic features of English proverbs denoting human behaviour in comparison with Vietnamese ones. This is a quantitative and qualitative research based on the main methods, such as the descriptive and contrastive ones. English is chosen as the target language and Vietnamese serves as the source language.

3.2. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

3.2.1. Data collection

The samples taken from English and Vietnamese dictionaries, books, short stories and from the Internet consist of 240 English proverbs and 240 in Vietnamese for the corpus.

3.2.2. Data analysis

The research is carried out on the basis of the descriptive and contrastive methods.

3.3. DISCUSSION OF RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

3.4. SUMMARY

Chapter 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. Syntactic features of English and Vietnamese PHBs

4.1.1. English and Vietnamese PHBs with Phrase Structures

4.1.1.1. PHBs with noun phrases structures

The noun phrase structures of EPHBs and VPHBs are summarized in the following table.

Table 4.1 Noun Phrase Structures of EPHBs and VPHBs

English	Vietnamese
[1] (Art) + NP // (Art) + NP	[1] NP // NP
[2] Num + N // Num + N	[2] Num + N // Num + N
[3] NP + prep + NP	[3] N + (nào) // N + (ý)
None	[4] N + Adj // N + Adj
None	[5] N + V // N + V

4.1.1.2. PHBs with verb phrase structures

Table 4.2 Verb Phrase structures of EPHBs and VPHBs

English	Vietnamese
[4] V + N/NP // V + N/NP	[6] V + N/NP // V + N/NP
[5] Adv + V/VP//Adv + V/VP	[7] VP + Adv // VP + Adv
None	[8] V/VP + Adj//V/VP + Adj

4.1.1.3. PHBs with adjective phrase structures

Table 4.3 Adjective Phrase Structures of EPHBs and VPHBs

English	Vietnamese
[6] Adj+ V// Adj + V	[9] Adj+ V/VP // Adj + V/VP
[7] Adj+ AP // Adj + AP	[10] Adj+ AP // Adj + AP

4.1.1.4. PHBs with adverb phrase structures

Table 4.4 Adverb Phrase Structures of EPHBs and VPHBs

English	Vietnamese
[8] Adv + V // Adv + V	[11] Adv + V // Adv + V
[9] Adv + N // Adv + N	[12] Adv + N // Adv + N
[10] Adv + Adj // Adv + Adj	None

The following table summarizes the occurrence of phrase structures used in EPHBs and VPHBs.

Table 4.5 Statistical Summary of Phrase Structures of EPHBs and VPHBs

Phrase Structures	EPHBs		VPHBs	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
1. Noun Phrase	12	30.8	14	15.1
2. Verb Phrase	18	46.2	50	53.8
3. Adjective Phrase	6	15.4	20	21.4
4. Adverb Phrase	3	7.7	9	9.7
Total	39	100%	93	100%

4.1.2. English and Vietnamese PHBs with sentence structures

4.1.2.1. Simple sentences

a. In English

Generally, the entire sentence structures of EPHBs withdrawn from the study could be summarized as shown in Table 4.6

Table 4.6 Simple Sentence Structures of EPHBs

Simple Sentences	EPHBs	
	Occurrence	Rate
[11] SV	7	10
[12] SVA	7	10
[13] SVC	26	33.8
[14] SVO	22	28.7
[15] SVOA	5	6.5
[16] SVOC	6	7.8
[17] SVOO	4	5.2
Total	77	100%

b. In Vietnamese

The following table 4.7 gives us a general view of the frequency of Vietnamese PHBs in terms of syntactic features.

Table 4.7 Simple Sentence Structures of VPHBs

Simple Sentences	VPHBs	
	Occurrence	Rate
[13] SVA	8	14.8
[14] SVC	11	20.4
[15] SVO	25	46.3
[16] SVOC	10	18.5
Total	54	100%

The simple sentence structure EPHBs and VPHBs are summarized in the following table.

Table 4.8 Simple Sentence Structures of EPHBs and VPHBs

English	Vietnamese
[11] S + V	None
[12] S + V + A	[13] S + V + A
[13] S + V + C	[14] S + V + C
[14] S + V + O	[15] S + V + O
[15] S + V + O + A	None
[16] S + V + O + C	[16] S + V + O + C
[17] S + V + O + O	None

4.1.2.2. Compound sentences

a. In English

Table 4.9 Compound Sentence Structures of EPHBs

Compound Structures	EPHBs	
	Occurrence	Rate
Syndetic Coordination	7	87.5
Asyndetic Coordination	1	12.5
Total	8	100%

b. In Vietnamese

Table 4.10 Compound Sentence Structures of VPHBs

Compound Structures	VPHBs	
	Occurrence	Rate
Syndetic Coordination	0	0
Asyndetic Coordination	45	100
Total	45	100%

We have just analysed compound sentence structures of EPHBs and VPHBs. Below is their summary.

Table 4.11. Compound Sentence Structures of EPHBs and VPHBs

English	Vietnamese
None	[7] S + V // S + V
None	[18] S + V + O // S + V + O
[18] S + V + C	[19] S + V + C // S + V + C
None	[20] S + V + A // S + V + A
None	[21] S + V + O + O // S + V + O + O
None	[22] S + V + O + C // S + V + O + C
None	[23] S + V + O + A // S + V + O + A

4.1.2.3. Complex Sentences

a. In English

Table 4.12. Complex Sentence Structures of EPHBs

	EPHBs	
	Occurrence	Rate
Adjective clauses	33	55.9
Adverb clauses	20	33.9
Nominal clauses	6	10.2
Total	59	100%

b. In Vietnamese

Table 4.13. Complex Sentence Structures of VPHBs

Complex Sentences	VPHBs	
	Occurrence	Rate
[24] S [S + V] + V	15	50
[25] S + V [S + V]	9	30
[26] S + V + C [S + V]	6	20
Total	30	100%

4.1.2.4. Imperative Sentences

Both English and Vietnamese PHBs use imperative sentences in the form of positive and negative sentences whereas imperative structure with *let* is only appeared in EPHBs.

4.1.2.5. Comparative Sentences

a. In English

Table 4.14. Distribution Rate of English Comparative PHBs

Comparative Sentences	Occurrence	Distribution rate
To a lower degree	0	0
To the same degree	3	7
To a higher degree	41	93
Total	44	100%

b. In Vietnamese

Table 4.15. Distribution Rate of Vietnamese Comparative PHBs

Comparative Sentences	Occurrence	Distribution rate
To a lower degree: "không bằng" / "chẳng bằng"	3	10
To the same degree: "như" / "bằng"	20	67
To a higher degree "hơn" / "nhất"	7	23
Total	30	100%

Below is the summary of English and Vietnamese PHBs in syntactic features after analyzing them carefully.

Table 4.16. A summary of EPHBs and VPHBs in Syntactic Features

Phrases	English	Vietnamese
Noun Phrases	[1] (Art) + NP // (Art) + NP	[1] NP // NP
	[2] Num + N // Num + N	[2] Num + N // Num + N
	[3] NP + prep + NP	[3] N + (nào) // N + (ý)
	None	[4] N + Adj // N + Adj
	None	[5] N + V // N + V
Verb Phrases	[4] V + N/NP // V + N/NP	[6] V + N/NP // V + N/NP
	[5] Adv + V/VP // Adv + V/VP	[7] VP + Adv // VP + Adv
	None	[8] V/VP + Adj // V/VP + Adj
Adjective Phrases	[6] Adj+ V// Adj + V	[9] Adj+ V/VP // Adj + V/VP
	[7] Adj+ AP // Adj + AP	[10] Adj+ AP // Adj + AP

Adverb Phrases	[8] Adv + V // Adv + V	[11] Adv + V // Adv + V
	[9] Adv + N // Adv + N	[12] Adv + N // Adv + N
	[10] Adv + Adj // Adv + Adj	None
Simple sentences	[11] S + V	None
	[12] S + V + A	[13] S + V + A
	[13] S + V + C	[14] S + V + C
	[14] S + V + O	[15] S + V + O
	[15] S + V + O + A	None
	[16] S + V + O + C	[16] S + V + O + C
	[17] S + V + O + O	None
Compound sentences	None	[7] S + V // S + V
	None	[18] S + V + O // S + V + O
	[18] S + V + C	[19] S + V + C // S + V + C
	None	[20] S + V + A // S + V + A
	None	[21] S + V + O + O // S + V + O + O
	None	[22] S + V + O + C // S + V + O + C
	None	[23] S + V + O + A // S + V + O + A
Complex sentences	Adjective clauses	[24] S [S + V] + V
	Adverb clauses	[25] S + V [S + V]
	Nominal clauses	[26] S + V + C [S + V]
Imperative	Positive imperatives	Positive imperatives

sentences	Negative imperatives	Negative imperatives
	Imperatives with <i>let</i>	None
Comparative sentences	None	To a lower degree
	To the same degree	To the same degree
	To a higher degree	To a higher degree

4.1.3. Similarities and Differences between EPHBs and VPHBs in Syntactic Features

4.1.3.1. Similarities

Proverbs denoting human behaviour can also form in sentence structures such as simple sentences, compound sentences, complex sentences, imperative sentences and comparative sentences. There are more patterns of simple sentences have in both language among sentence structures in my data.

4.1.3.2. Differences

Firstly, more EPHBs are formed in the form of phrase structures than VPHBs. For example, there are no cases of proverbs in the pattern Adv + Adj // Adv + Adj in Vietnamese.

Secondly, there are more types of sentence structures in English than in Vietnamese. In the type of the simple sentence structure, VPHBs are only formed in 4 patterns: S + V + A, S + V + C, S + V + O and S + V + O + C while seven types of the simple sentence structure appear in EPHBs. Besides, only English proverbs denoting human behaviour have the imperative structure with *Let*. Furthermore, no EPHBs are found in the form of *to the lower degree* in my data.

4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE PHBS

4.2.1. Symbolic Characteristics of English and Vietnamese PHBs

Based on the characteristics of EPHBs and VPHBs, semantic fields in chapter 2 and the scope of the study in chapter 1, the proverbs selected include 240 samples in English and 240 ones in Vietnamese can be organized into the main categories in the following semantic fields.

4.2.2. Semantic Fields of English and Vietnamese PHBs

4.2.2.1. Parents and their children

4.2.2.2. Husbands and wives

4.2.2.3. Brothers and sisters

4.2.2.4. Parents-in-law and their children-in-law

4.2.2.5. Neighbours

4.2.2.6. Friends

4.2.2.7. Teachers and students

4.2.2.8. Other relationships in society

4.2.3. Similarities and Differences between EPHBs and VPHBs in Semantic Features

4.2.3.1. Similarities

Not only EPHBs but also VPHBs have literal meaning and figurative meaning discovered through simile, metaphor and hyperbole. In fact, simile, metaphor and hyperbole make proverbs denoting human behaviour more vivid and more colorful in the way to communicate with each other.

4.2.3.2. Differences

However, there are some differences in forming proverbs and the way proverbs convey their meanings because of the differences of the customs, historical and different geographical environment of

England and Vietnam. In Vietnam, the terms in proverbs are usually influenced by agricultural culture while the English use universal things in proverbs.

4.3. STYLISTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE PHBS

4.3.1. Symbolic Characteristics of English and Vietnamese PHBs

4.3.1.1. Alliteration

Apart from only a few rare initial sounds, all English and Vietnamese consonants present themselves in proverbs with great frequency.

4.3.1.2. Rhyme

Rhyme is another important phonetic SD in English and Vietnamese proverbs, taking up a lot more percentage compared to alliteration.

4.3.1.3. Repetition

Both EPHBs and VPHBs use repetition to express their meaning. However, Vietnamese proverbs own a kind of repetition so called synonymous repetition

4.3.1.4. Parallelism

The literary form of the large part of English and Vietnamese proverb is in the shape of single parallel couplets, where the two successive clauses or phrases of the couplet are similarly structured and are generally related to each other. However, parallel structure in Vietnamese proverbs sometimes consists of more than two phrases or clauses while English ones accounts for none of this facet.

4.3.1.5. Simile

A simile is a figure of speech involving a comparison between two unlike entities, designed to create an unusual, interesting, emotional or other effect and to attract the attention of the readers. Not only EPHBs but also VPHBs use a lot of similes to express their literal meaning and figurative meaning.

4.3.1.6. Metaphor

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2005) "as the most powerful means of creating images, metaphor is very popular in proverbs, which is a way of expression characterized as a folkway of figurative saying where the fondness of using reserved comparison is a priority. Metaphor is the imaginative use of a word or phrase to describe something else, to show that the two have the same qualities."

4.3.1.7. Hyperbole

One of the common figures of speech in English and Vietnamese proverbs is hyperbole. It is often confused with a simile or a metaphor because it often compares two objects. An exaggeration is one different feature between a hyperbole and a simile or a metaphor. It may be used to evoke strong feelings or create a strong impression, but is not meant to be taken literally.

4.3.2. Similarities and Differences between EPHBs and VPHBs in Stylistic Features

4.3.2.1. Similarities

After investigating and analyzing EPHBs and VPHBs in term of stylistic features, we can see that stylistic devices are clearly appeared in the two languages such as *Alliteration*, *Rhyme*, *Repetition* and *Parallelism*.

4.3.2.2. Differences

Some EPHBs use the expressions which do not have Vietnamese equivalents. Moreover, Vietnamese proverbs have the parallel structure of more than two phrases or clauses, but English ones do not.

4.4. SUMMARY

From our findings about the syntactic, semantic and stylistic features of PHBs in English and Vietnamese, the study can draw out a meaningful contrastive analysis of PHBs in the two languages.

Chapter 5

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSIONS

Syntactically, both English and Vietnamese proverbs are formed in the phrasal structures and sentential structures. First of all, both EPHBs and VPHBs show four main types of phrases such as noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases and adverb phrases. It is interesting that verb phrases constitute the most significant percentage in both languages among these types of phrase structures. Besides, these proverbs are also analyzed under the sentential structures: simple sentences, compound sentences, complex sentences, imperative sentences and comparative sentences.

Semantically, proverbs denoting human behaviour in the corpus of this study express their meanings via semantic transfer means. Apart from literal meaning and figurative meaning of PHBs, this thesis considers their positive and negative meaning in the ways human beings behave towards others

Stylistically, EPHBs and VPHBs are analyzed to find out similarities and differences in those by using stylistic devices such as *Alliteration, Rhyme, Repetition, Parallelism, Simile, Metaphor and Hyperbole*.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS

As for teachers, so as to teach PHBs effectively, teachers should, at first, prepare themselves with the knowledge of proverbs such as how they are formed or what they mean in each different context. Secondly, teachers should know more about the cultural backgrounds, which make them understand English and Vietnamese PHBs better. Lastly, teachers should encourage learners to use proverbs in general and PHBs in particular more frequently to improve learners' language ability.

As for learners, they should first learn and remember proverbs by putting them into specific and real situations so that their meanings become easier to understand in specific communicative contexts. Then, it is stylistic devices that motivate a proverb's meaning; therefore, learners should equip themselves with the knowledge of principles of meaning transfer so that they can understand not only proverbs' figurative meanings but literal ones as well. Finally, learners can also master proverbs by reading books regularly or communicating with native speakers.

As for translators, investigating linguistic features of EPHBs and VPHBs helps them a lot in translating proverbs. In brief, when translating English proverbs into Vietnamese, firstly we should understand the proverb's cultural connotation verily, which means that we have to put them into their contexts to find out their literal and figurative meaning exactly. Secondly, we should pay attention to

translate proverbs with precise words, short form, oral and popular style, etc. Finally, we should flexibly choose the proper translation method according to different situation and need and have to put them into their contexts to find out their literal and figurative meaning exactly. Only in this way, we can translate English proverbs precisely and faithfully.

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

5.3.1. Limitations

Proverbs denoting human behaviour take up a considerable part of the proverb collection. In this study, only 480 proverbs in the two languages are collected because of the shortage of the reference materials. It is obvious that there are limitations in my thesis.

- Some PHBs have not been analysed to find out not only their literal and figurative meaning but also their origins.
- Other stylistic devices have not been investigated in both English and Vietnamese PHBs such as rhythm, personification, antithesis, paradox, ellipsis.

5.3.2. Suggestions for Further Research

For the reasons above, further investigations into proverbs denoting human behaviour are still needed. Some suggestions for further studies include:

- An investigation into pragmatic features of English and Vietnamese proverbs denoting human behaviour.
- An investigation into cultural features of English and Vietnamese proverbs denoting human behaviour.