

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
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**AN INVESTIGATION INTO LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF  
ADJECTIVE AND VERB PHRASES USING WORDS OF  
BODY PARTS  
IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE**

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## Chapter 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Language is a means of communication and also an effective means to achieve one's goal in depicting a state-of-affairs vividly. In our daily life, we often experience a state of emotion and have an urgent need to express ourselves, maybe because of a natural demand to give vent to our feeling. We also have the need to depict some other persons' emotional or physiological state with effective language. Our portrayal of our own emotional state or even someone's physiological state needs to be close to the state-of-affairs and sharp enough to reach the hearer or reader's heart instantly. Therefore, it is necessary for us to use some certain pieces of language through some way so that our communication can work most effectively concerning the expression of our emotion and that of some others. In doing so, we may make use of the verb phrases and adjective phrases to expression various states of emotion.

In English language, there are a lot of adjective and verb phrases using the words of body parts which have high values of expressing through metaphor: *pissed out of one's head, get one's hands on somebody, have one's nose in a book, fed up to the back teeth...*

In Vietnamese language, the adjective and verb phrases using the words of body parts expressing feelings, physiological states impressively and picturesquely through hyperbole are found

numerous such as *buồn thúi ruột, sợ dựng tóc gáy, sợ mất mật, sợ tái mặt, sợ thót tim, giận bầm gan tím ruột, giận sôi máu ...*

Being a Vietnamese who is studying and teaching English, I wish to explore the linguistic features of the verb phrase and adjective phrases as body idioms expressing emotion. I also wish to share my language experience with colleagues and Vietnamese learners of English as well as foreigners studying Vietnamese through my research: "*An investigation into linguistic features of adjective and verb phrases using the words of body parts in English and Vietnamese*".

#### 1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

##### 1.2.1. Aims

- Examining the syntactic and semantic features of adjective and verb phrases as idioms using the words of body parts in expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese.

- Finding out the similarities and differences in adjective and verb phrases as idioms using the words of body parts in expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese.

- Making implications to teaching and learning adjective and verb phrases using the words of body parts in expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese.

##### 1.2.2. Objectives

- To describe the syntactic and semantic features of adjective and verb phrases as idioms using the words of body parts in expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese.

- To make a contrastive analysis of the syntactic and semantic features of adjective and verb phrases as idioms using the words of body parts in expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese.

- To put forward some implications to the teaching and learning of adjective and verb phrases using the words of body parts in expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese as well as the translation of these units.

### **1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

To achieve the objectives mentioned above, the study tries to seek the information for the following questions:

1) What are the syntactic features of adjective and verb phrases as idioms using the words of body parts in expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese?

2) What are the semantic features of adjective and verb phrases as idioms using the words of body parts in expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese?

3) What are the similarities and differences in the syntactic and semantic features of adjective and verb phrases using the words of body parts in expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese?

### **1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

This research focuses on investigating the syntactic and semantic features of adjective and verb phrases as idioms using the words of body parts in expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese. To facilitate the study the term body idioms expressing emotion is used to highlight the focus of study. The study is confined

to the examination of the formal characteristics such as the internal structure of the phrase in terms of X-bar construction. The discussion of the semantic mechanism of the body idioms expressing emotion will look into how concepts of emotion state and concepts of physical and physiological state are formed and how these concepts are cognitively linked in the conceptualization of the images of emotion.

### **1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The study is expected to provide the practical knowledge of the syntactic and semantic features of adjective and verb phrases as body idioms expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese. To this end, this study can help the Vietnamese learners of English and foreigners studying Vietnamese to improve their competence in using language, especially the adjective and verb phrases as body idioms in English and in Vietnamese concerning the choice of conceptual images.

### **1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

**Chapter 1: “Introduction”** deals with the statement of the problem, the aims and objectives, the scope, the research questions and the significance of the study.

**Chapter 2: “Literature review and theoretical background”**, briefly reviews the literature of prior studies related to the problem under investigation and some theoretical knowledge of body idioms expressing emotion.

**Chapter 3: “Methods and procedures”**, deals with the methodology and procedure of the study such as research design, sampling, data collection and data analysis.

**Chapter 4: “Finding and discussion”**, presents the result and discusses the findings of the study concerning the syntactic and semantic features of the verb phrases and adjective phrases as body idioms expressing emotion.

**Chapter 5: “Conclusions”**, makes a summary of the study and a brief restatement of the findings, provides some implications for teaching and learning English and Vietnamese as foreign languages, claiming some limitations and unsolved problems, and put forward some suggestions for further researches to the study.

## Chapter 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

Recently, there have been many researches done on idioms, especially idioms with human organs. Among their works, it is the Doctoral Thesis “Thành ngữ tiếng Anh và thành ngữ tiếng Việt có yếu tố chỉ bộ phận cơ thể người dưới góc nhìn của ngôn ngữ học tri nhận” written by Nguyen Ngoc Vu (2008) [34] that have influenced my study most. In this work, Nguyen Ngoc Vu analyses systematically semantic and cultural features of idioms with human organs in Vietnamese and English through conceptual metaphor but does not analyse the syntactic ones. Moreover, the language units which Nguyen Ngoc Vu chooses to analyse is complete idioms. In fact, I find that in language system of daily speeches in Vietnamese there are a lot of adjective and verb phrases using the words of body

parts which may not be idioms but have great rhetorical values such as: *ngủ thẳng cẳng, chạy cắm đầu, buồn thúi ruột, lười chầy thây...*

In addition, according to Dinh Trong Lac (1996) [23] in “99 phương tiện và biện pháp tu từ Tiếng Việt”, the above phrases are often used as one of rhetorical figures which is called hyperbole.

In this paper, I am going to study the syntactic and semantic features of adjective and verb phrases using the words of body parts in English and Vietnamese, which may be collocations, fixed phrases or idioms, although their rhetorical figures are metaphor or hyperbole.

#### 2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

##### 2.2.1. Phrases

A phrase is a group of words which form a constituent and so function as a single unit in the syntax of a sentence [37]. In this study, an adjective phrase refers to a phrase built upon an adjective, which functions as the head of that phrase [38]. A verb phrase is a syntactic structure composed of the predicative elements of a sentence and its function is to provide information about the subject of the sentence [39]. In the scope of this study, the verb phrases and the adjectives are chosen as fixed phrases (also set phrases).

##### 2.2.2. Idioms

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. There are estimated to be at least 25,000 idiomatic expressions in the English language.

### 2.2.3. Emotion

1) An emotion is usually caused by a person consciously or unconsciously evaluating an event as relevant to a concern (a goal) that is important; the emotion is felt as positive when a concern is advanced and negative when a concern is impeded.

2) The core of an emotion is readiness to act and the prompting of plans; an emotion gives priority for one or a few kinds of action to which it gives a sense of urgency – so it can interrupt, or compete with, alternative mental processes or actions. Different types of readiness create different outline relationships with others.

3) An emotion is usually experienced as a distinctive type of mental state, sometimes accompanied or followed by bodily changes, expressions, actions [10] (p. 96).

### 2.2.4. Metonymy

By Kövecses (1999) [8] “Metonymy is a cognitive process in which one conceptual entity, the vehicle [also often called the source...], provides mental access to another conceptual entity, the target, within the same cognitive model” (p. 21). This is a conceptual operation in which one entity, the vehicle, can be employed in order to identify another entity, the target, with which it is associated. For example, the expression a broken heart of a person represents an instance of metonymy: two entities are associated so that one entity (the broken heart) stands for the other (the negative emotion of a person).

### 2.2.5. Conceptual Metaphor Theory

The basic idea is that metaphor is essentially a relation between conceptual domains, whereby ways of talking about one domain (the ‘source domain’) can be applied to another domain (the ‘target domain’) by virtue of ‘correspondences’ between the two. Typically, the source domain is relatively familiar and conceptually well-structured, and the structures are used to articulate the target domain. In the case of well established metaphors, the correspondences are held to be permanently laid down in the cognitive system. By this theory, metaphor is not tied to particular linguistic expressions: a given conceptual metaphor can in principle underlie any number of metaphorical expressions, some of which may be conventionalised, others not.

### 2.2.6. Conceptual structure

Conceptual structure is organised by cross-domain mappings or correspondences between conceptual domains. Some of these mappings are due to pre-conceptual embodied experiences while others build on these experiences in order to form more complex conceptual structures. For instance, we can think and talk about the concept of *anger* in terms of the concept of physical state *fire*, as in *He made my blood boil*, where *boil* relates not literally to physical state but to the anger that I am experiencing. According to Conceptual Metaphor Theory, this is because the conceptual domain *anger* is conventionally structured and therefore understood in terms of the conceptual domain *fire*. Conceptual operations involving

mappings, such as conceptual metaphor, are known more generally as conceptual projection.

### **2.2.7. Cross-domain mappings**

Mappings of this kind persist in long-term memory and serve to structure one conceptual domain, the target domain, in terms of another domain, the source domain. Cross-domain mappings are held to provide one of the key ways in which the conceptual system is organised.

### **2.2.8. Metonymy and Metaphor in the process of conceptualization of the image of emotion**

In expressing emotion, metaphor and metonymy function with different role in shaping the conceptual meaning of body idioms and there are two noticeable things to view their relationship in the conceptualization process.

### **2.2.9. X-bar Theory**

As mentioned before, the description of the syntax of the verb phrase and adjective phrase will make use of X-bar theory to represent the internal structure of the construction. X-bar theory is a component of linguistic theories of Chomskian geanealogy which attempts to identify syntactic features presumably common to all those human languages that fit in a presupposed (1965) framework. It claims that among their phrasal categories, all those languages share certain structural similarities, including one known as the "X-bar".

An X-bar theoretic understanding of sentence structure is possible in a constituency-based grammar (= phrase structure

grammar) only; it is not possible in a dependency-based grammar (= dependency grammar).

The letter X is used to signify an arbitrary lexical category (part of speech); when analyzing a specific utterance, specific categories are assigned. Thus, the X may become an N for noun, a V for verb, an A for adjective, or a P for preposition.

## **2.3. SUMMARY**

This chapter has presented the prior research related to the issues of study in this thesis. The key concepts such as phrase and idiom have been presented along with the theories of metonymy and metaphor, X-bar theory which contribute to a descriptive framework to be used for the analysis of data of study.

## **Chapter 3**

### **METHODS AND PROCEDURES OF THE STUDY**

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

This study is descriptive work done in quantitative approach. The qualitative approach is used in describing and analyzing data to find out the distinctive features of adjective and verb phrases as body idioms expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese in term of their syntactic and semantic features.

#### **3.2. RESEARCH METHODS**

With the aim of finding out the similarities and differences in terms of the syntactic and semantic features of adjective and verb phrases in English and Vietnamese, it is necessary to execute this study with a contrastive analysis in 3 steps as follows.

First, the descriptive stage was to give a detailed description of some syntactic and semantic features of adjective and verb phrases as body idioms in English and Vietnamese.

Second, the juxtaposition stage was to set up the common platform for comparison. At this stage, the study tried to decide what should be compared with what.

Third, the comparison stage was to seek qualitative information about the syntactic and semantic features of body idioms expressing emotion.

### 3.3. SAMPLING

The samples of the study were the instances of verb phrases and adjective phrases as body idioms expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese. These were the fixed phrases that matched the definition of idioms expressing emotion using the nouns denoting body parts with idiomatic meaning. They were the ones that contained such names of body parts as *head, heart, blood, arms, bone, face, neck, teeth, feet, spine* in English and *mắt, cổ, đầu, họng, máu, gan, bụng, lòng, tim, ruột, tai, mắt, gáy, xương sống, sống lưng* in Vietnamese.

### 3.4. INSTRUMENTS OF STUDY

The study made use of the Search engine of Google Search to seek the instances of body idioms expressing emotion in form of verb phrases and adjective phrases on the internet. Then the observation was used to look for the qualitative information in terms of syntactic and semantic features.

### 3.5. PROCEDURES OF DATA COLLECTION

The study collected 100 samples of adjective and verb phrases using the words of body parts in English and 100 in Vietnamese from dictionaries and from articles, novels, short stories and websites of idioms in the internet for analysis.

The data were collected following these steps.

1) Setting up a descriptive framework for body idioms expressing emotion to be identified with typical features of a verb phrase and adjective phrase as idiomatic expressions;

2) Setting up an initial list of body idioms expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese in form of verb phrases and adjective phrases which served as a starting point to seek instances of body idioms;

3) Collecting sentences, phrases containing instances of body idioms expressing emotion in both languages from articles, books, novels, short stories, dictionaries in the internet;

4) Selecting observed instances of body idioms expressing emotion in different contexts of the texts from various sources as mentioned in section 3.2.1. which met the description and identification as mentioned above;

5) Building up the corpora of body idioms expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese. For each corpus, 100 English samples and 100 Vietnamese ones was determined as the population of the observed instances.

### 3.6. DATA ANALYSIS

After collecting instances of body idioms expressing emotion from English and Vietnamese books, novels, short stories and dictionaries, I grouped these instances of body idioms expressing emotion in terms of two main categories: syntactic and semantic features.

### 3.7. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

To ensure the reliability of the samples and the results of data collection and data analysis I followed the designed procedures of selecting the samples of body idioms expressing emotion as presented in the foregoing section. The consistency in the samples chosen and qualitative information was ensured with a set of criteria for sampling so that the instances under investigation were the intended ones for examination and was not the ones the qualitative results of which deviated from the descriptive framework mentioned in chapter 2.

## Chapter 4

### LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF

### VERB PHRASES AND ADJECTIVE PHRASES

### AS BODY IDIOMS

#### 4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF VERB PHRASE AND ADJECTIVE PHRASES AS BODY IDIOMS EXPRESSING EMOTION IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

In this section the syntactic features of verb phrases and adjective phrases as body idioms expressing emotion will start with

the representation of the internal structure of the idioms with the explicit verb and adjective naming the emotional states in which the verb and the adjective itself function as the head of the XP phrase. Then, the representation of the phrase structure will continue with XP phrase in which the noun naming the body functions as the head of the NP embedded in the verb phrase and adjective phrase.

#### 4.1.1. The representation of Head Verb and Head Adjective at Phrase structure level

The general position of the verb and adjective can be judged in two upper level units – phrase level and clause level. For the description of the syntactic position of the verb and adjective in the former I would like to start by making use of the X-bar theory as the reference point.

#### 4.1.2. The representation of Head Noun denoting body at Phrase structure level

In this pattern the Noun function as the Head in the Complement following the Head Verb or Adjective in the higher node of the XP construction, e.g.

#### 4.1.3. Semanto-Syntactic features of verb phrase and adjective phrases as body idioms expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese

As mentioned above, the representation of the internal structure of the verb phrases and adjectives expressing emotion in English and Vietnamese has just shown the combination of the constituents at different levels of the construction and pointed out the positions of the verb, adjective and noun as head of the XP construction. In fact, the representation of the internal structure of the



body idioms just shows the surface structure of the verb phrases and adjective phrases where the constituents are bound at certain nodes of the branching. For further details about how the syntactic components assume the syntactic slot to reflect the role of the components, we need to combine the syntactic knowledge with that of semantics of causativity to learn more about how each syntactic component behave in the construction.

## **4.2. THE SEMANTICS OF THE VERB PHRASES AND ADJECTIVE PHRASES AS BODY IDIOMS IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE**

This section presents the semantics of body idioms with the reference to their metaphorical and metonymic meanings in expressing emotion. As mentioned in section chapter Two, a descriptive framework based on theories of conceptual metaphor and metonymy is applied to analyze the semantic mechanism of body idioms in form of verb phrases and adjective phrases in English and Vietnamese.

### **4.2.1. Metonymic mechanism/basic image schemas of body idioms expressing emotion**

In this section the physiological domains where metonymy functions as a stand-for to relate the concepts in the source and target within the source domain are listed with the analysis of the linguistic expressions as evidence driven from a basic image schemata.

#### **4.2.1.1. BODY FOR CONTAINER**

In expressing a certain state of emotion, very often people refer to someone's body organ as a place of location where his/her emotion may emerge. By using figurative language of this way,

he/she may imply that his/her body organ functions as the container for the emotion to exist.

#### **4.2.1.2. BODY HEAT FOR ANGER/SHAME/ANXIETY**

As we all know, a state of anger may result in a physiological state that a person who experiences the anger may manifest. That is the growing heat that may lead to the experiencer's thirst or fever inside his/her body. This is the motivation for the language users to relate this physiological state to the physical state as heat or growing temperature that we can imagine when decoding these expressions.

#### **4.2.1.3. DROP OF TEMPERATURE IN BODY FOR FEAR/HESITATION**

In contrast with the increasing temperature in body that stands for negative emotion such as anger, shame, anxiety, a drop of temperature can stand for negative feeling as fear and hesitation. These are physiological states that a person may have when they suffer from these negative emotions. Such physiological manifestation as get cold feet can be clearly understood as one signal of the physical state of drop of temperature which in turn is metonymically conceptualized as the source to the target fear within the source domain of metonymic schema.

#### **4.2.1.4. BODY EXPANDING STANDS FOR EMOTION**

This section presents linguistic evidences of metonymic mapping from the concept of pressure in body to emotion. The existence of pressure in body may manifest in the increasing of pressure in a certain body organ that stands for a certain emotion.

This existence of pressure in body can be viewed through these following metonymic image schemas.

#### **4.2.2. Metaphoric mechanism/basic image schemas of body idioms expressing emotion**

As mentioned in section chapter Two, conceptual metaphor with its conceptual structure is organised by cross-domain mappings or correspondences between conceptual domains. This kind of mapping serves to structure one conceptual domain, the target domain, in terms of another domain, the source domain. Thanks to this cross-domain mapping, we can view one domain, for instance the domain of emotion in terms of another domain, for instance the domain of verticality or temperature.

##### **4.2.2.1. ANGER/EMBARRASMENT IS FIRE IN A BODILY ORGAN**

Let us begin with the conceptual metaphors for anger in English in terms of the physical and physiological states such as fire in a bodily organ and pressured gas in a container. As mentioned in the previous section of metonymic mapping, the conceptual structure of metonymy BODY HEAT STANDS FOR ANGER can give rise to the derived expressions such as make one's blood boil in English and làm sôi máu in Vietnamese. Here we will into how these expressions were used metaphorically basing on the conceptual structure of metaphor. This requires us to analyze how the concepts in the domains are mapped using the knowledge of mapping in highlighting domain of metonymy and cross-mapping between source and target

domain. This means metaphor and metonymy can make use or feed each other in the conceptualized structure.

##### **4.2.2.2. FEAR/ IS DROP OF TEMPERATURE IN BODILY ORGAN**

In daily life, it is normal and natural for a person's temperature to drop when he/she experiences a fear or scare. This can be viewed as a physiological state that a normal person may have on experiencing this kind of emotion. This physiological state can be manifested in language with such words naming the body organs as feet, blood, heart in English and gáy, sống lưng, xương sống, and words denoting the drop of temperature as cold in English and lạnh in Vietnamese.

##### **4.2.2.3. ANGER/ENXIETY IS PRESSURISED CONTAINER**

In some cases of metaphor the anger that a person experiences may result in a physiological state which is best described with the image of a pressurized container. In English, this physiological state can be expressed with word denoting the body organ vessel and the predicate burst denoting an explosion.

##### **4.2.2.4. HAPPINESS/PRIDE IS EXTENSION IN BODY BODILY ORGAN**

In some other cases of metaphor, the expression of happiness or pride can make use of the conceptualized image of the object increasing in size. This physiological state can be evidenced in Vietnamese with such expressions as “nở mày nở mặt” and “phồng mủi” whereas the corpus found none of the instances in English.

#### **4.2.2.5. SADNESS/WORRY IS DECAY OF BODILY ORGAN**

The last case of metaphor expressing emotion with body parts to be presented here is the conceptual image sadness/worry is decay of bodily organ. Again, this conceptual image may be absent in English because no instances of this case of metaphor was found for the corpus of study. On the contrary, instances of this metaphor were found numerous in Vietnamese.

### **4.3. SOME REMARKS ON THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF VERB PHRASES AND ADJECTIVES AS BODY IDIOMS EXPRESSING EMOTION IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE**

#### **4.3.1. Similarities in terms of Syntactic Features**

As presented in section 4.1. the verb phrases and the adjectives as body idioms expressing emotion have been examined using the X-bar theory. The analysis shows that verb phrases and adjectives in English and Vietnamese as body idioms are similar in these following properties:

- 1) They can have the construction of an XP where the verb or the adjective can be the head of the XP construction, e.g.
- 2) They can have the complement phrase with a complex branching where the verb phrase can be composed of three intermediate constituents, e.g.

#### **4.3.2. Differences in terms of Syntactic Features**

- 1) The verb and adjective as head denoting the physiological state

- 2) The optionality of the head verb/adjective denoting the physiological state

- 3) Combinability in Subordinate and Coordinative Constructions

#### **4.3.3. Similarities in terms of Semanto-Syntactic Features**

In view of causativity, both English and Vietnamese make use of the causative structure to express the cause of emotion or physiological states. In this structure, the participant roles are referred to in naming the function that each syntactic element assumes. In the comparison of body idioms in English and Vietnamese in term of this structure, we can notice the corresponding between the syntactic elements and their participant role.

#### **4.3.4. Similarities in terms of Semantic Features**

- 1) Concepts used in the Source Domain with Metonymy
- 2) Interaction of Metonymy and Metaphor in shaping the conceptual image of emotion Metonymy- based Metaphor

#### **4.3.5. Differences in terms of Semantic Features**

- 1) Transparency in the meaning of the components
- 2) Cultural perspectives in selecting concepts for source domain

## Chapter 5

### CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

#### 5.1. CONCLUSIONS

1) Regarding the similarities in syntax, English and Vietnamese employ verb phrases and adjective phrases with the verb and adjective as head of the XP construction in which the noun denoting the body organ is embedded in the complement. The verb phrase can have complex complement with complex branching consisting a noun denoting body organ and a verb or adjective as the resulting state.

2) Concerning the differences in syntax, Vietnamese make more use of verbs and adjectives as head naming physiological state or emotion as compared with English. Also, verbal and adjectival constructions in Vietnamese offer more optionality to omit or suppress the head verb or head adjective without altering the meaning of the construction. As compared, this optionality is absent in English. Additionally, verb phrases and adjectives as body idioms in Vietnamese can occur in form of coordinative construction whereas this ability of combination is absent in English.

3) With regard to the similarities in semanto-syntactic features, both English and Vietnamese make use of causative constructions to express the emotion in terms of the causing factor, the causative process, the cause and the resulting state as physiological state.

4) Relating to the similarities in semantics, both English and Vietnamese employ the concepts of body organ as the source to stand

for emotion or physiological state as target concept in metonymic mapping within the same domain. Moreover, the conceptualization of image of metaphor experiences the feeding relation on the metonymic basis.

5) In regard to the differences in semantics, the decoding and interpretation of body idioms is easier in Vietnamese due to the transparency in the meaning of the components whereas it is more difficult for deduction of the meaning in English due to its high idiomaticity. It seems that Vietnamese culture allows more nouns of body organs to be used in the linguistic evidence for the mapping from body organs to state of emotion.

#### 5.2. IMPLICATIONS TO THE TEACHING AND LEARNING

The findings from the contrastive analysis of verb phrase and adjective phrase as body idioms expressing emotion give clues to some suggestions to the teaching and learning English and Vietnamese as follows.

For the teachers, it is necessary to encourage the learner make use of the body idioms expressing emotion thanks to the indications obtained from the contrastive analysis of verb phrases and adjectives in English and Vietnamese. It is assumed that the learners hesitate to use body idioms in expressing emotion for the fact that these are highly idiomatic and fossilized. This is not the same as in Vietnamese where verb phrases and adjectives constructions are more versatile and flexible to allow the learners to modify the phrase with substitution and rearranging the order of the constituents or components in the constructions. However, in some aspect of

emotion with metonymy and metaphor, it is believed that some metaphorical images are universal for both English and Vietnamese and this allows the learners to make use of the linguistic expressions with body organs in the target language. The teacher should point out this to his/her students and provide a list of metaphor with mapping from source domain with body organs to different state of emotion in target domain.

As for the learners, they may feel comfortable and free to use body idioms expressing emotion in the native language. However, when they feel a need to depict a state of emotion in the target language, they restrict themselves to the expressions with modification as non-idiomatic phrases. One of the possible reasons is the safety to avoid mistake in using idioms. Another thing is maybe they are ignorant of the body idioms expressing emotion with high effectiveness. They may not know which body organ is used for the metonymic and metaphoric mapping from the source to the target domain. Therefore, providing the learners a list of metonymic mapping and metaphoric mapping with various body parts along with the physiological state and corresponding emotion state is necessary.

### **5.3. LIMITATION AND RECOMMENDATION**

The study has just touched the fringe of the issues of semantics of body idioms expressing emotion. The employment of the descriptive framework with X-bar theory, conceptual metonymy and metaphor has just allowed the candidate to analyze some cases of verb phrases and adjective phrase as body idioms. There are still

many other expressions to be explored and analyzed. Also, some other issues of semantics have not been dealt with yet.

It is suggested that in further researches the following issues will be looked into and analyzed to yield valuable information about

- The semantics of body idioms in terms of Force-Dynamics in English and Vietnamese;
- The representation of the internal structure of body idioms expressing emotions in terms Lexical Functional Grammar.