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NGUYỄN THỊ MỘNG CÀM

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO
ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE IDIOMS
RELATED TO LOVE AND
MARRIAGE**

Field: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

When we mention language, we cannot underestimate the important role of idioms. Along with the language development of human society, the idiom was gradually formed, used as a common communication tool. Besides, idioms have helped us know how to behave towards other and to form a sound character in our life.

What is more, idioms reflect certain cultural traditions and depict the national character. Idioms are often confusing because the meaning of the whole group of words taken together has little, often nothing, to do with the meanings of the words taken one by one.

As we all know, non-native speakers of English can face difficulty in using and understanding idioms especially idioms related to love and marriage because the way to express love and marriage between English and Vietnamese are quite different. We are interested in the way English and Vietnamese people use idioms related to love and marriage to satisfy their own emotion in daily communication. Here and there, there has not been any study mentioned the idioms related to love and marriage.

For these reasons above, I take *Idioms related to Love and Marriage (ILM)* as the topic of my research with the consideration of the Syntactic and Semantic Features of both the English and Vietnamese Languages with the desire that language learners can achieve correct comprehension of idioms in general and idioms related to love and marriage in particular as well as improve their understanding of idioms and use them effectively.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.2.1. Aims of the Study

The study is carried out with the aim to investigate the syntactic, stylistic and semantic features of love and marriage idioms in English and Vietnamese and find out the similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese love and marriage in the two aspects mentioned. In addition, the result of study can be applied to language teaching and translating.

1.2.2. Objectives of the Study

With the aims mentioned the objectives of this research are:

- To identify and describe syntactic, stylistic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese idioms related to love and marriage.
- To find out the differences and similarities of English and Vietnamese idioms relating love and marriage in terms of syntax, stylistics and semantics.
- To suggest solutions enabling Vietnamese students of English to use appropriate idioms relating love and marriage in their speaking, translating and writing.

1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study attempts to answer the following questions:

1. What are syntactic, stylistic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese idioms related love and marriage?
2. What are similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese idioms related to love and marriage in terms of syntax and semantics?

1.4. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

With the aim of making a study on the syntactic and semantic features of idioms related to love and marriage in English and Vietnamese, the study will provide Vietnamese learner of English with the majesty of how to use this kind of idioms in a flexible way.

1.5. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This research was restricted to English and Vietnamese idioms related to love and marriage. The thesis focuses mainly on selecting and analyzing the idioms in both languages in terms of syntactic, stylistic and semantic features of idioms related to love and marriage.

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The research includes five chapters: Chapter 1 (Introduction), Chapter 2 (Literature Review and Theoretical Background), Chapter 3 (Research Design and Methodology), Chapter 4 (Findings and Discussion) and Chapter 5 (Conclusions and Implications).

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEOTICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. PREVIOUS STUDIES RELATED TO THE RESEARCH

In English, there are many linguists such as Cowie, Mackin and Mc Caig[8], Cruse[9], Palmer[22], Whitford and Dixon [29], Seiddli [28] and Broukal [5].

In Vietnamese, idioms have been also an interesting field for linguists. They are: Hoàng Văn Hành [38], Nguyễn Như Ý, Nguyễn Văn Khang, Mai Xuân Thành [49] and so on.

At Univerity of Danang, there are several research papers that have some relationship with various aspects of idioms. Phạm Thị Tố Như (1998), Nguyễn Hoàng Trà My (2011), Nguyễn Thị Phương Thu (2008) and so on.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Definition of Idioms

In the definition of Hornby [1995, p.589], idioms is “a phrase or sentence whose meanng is not clear from the meaning of its individual words and which must be leant as a whole unit”.

In Vietnamese, Hoàng Văn Hành [37, p.25] defined that “idioms are set expressions which are stable in morpho _ structure, complete and figurative in meaning, used widely in daily communication.”

From these above definitions, we can recognize that idioms is “*a word, a phrase, a set expression*” or “*fixed phrase*” whose meaning does not concern the meaning of the individual words in the expression.

2.2.2. Definition of Idioms Related to Love and Marriage

Idioms related to love and marriage is idioms expressing a strong feeling and a deep affection for a member of the opposite sex and the state of being married of human being.

2.2.3. Principal Features of Idioms

2.2.3.1. Syntactic Restriction and Stability

There is a high stability in idioms in both English and Vietnamese. An idiom has at least two constituents which are often firmed together. The users cannot add any word in an idiom according to their intention.

2.2.3.2. *Semantic Ambiguity*

Grains and Redman [1986, p.45] and Amevela[2000, p.37] have considered semantic opacity or semantic ambiguity as one of the salient features of idioms.

2.2.3.3. *Stylistic Devices*

In fact, there are stylistic devices which can use some main principles of meaning transfer such as metarphor, metonymy, simile, hyperole.

2.2.4. *Idiom and Other 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 and Clause Structures*

2.2.5.1. *Phrase Structures*

Greenbaum (2002) defined “the technical term phrase is used even if there is only one word _ the main word alone”.

a. *Noun Phrases*

A noun phrase is introduced by the determiners which have three classes: pre-determiner, centre determiners and post determiner.

b. *Verb Phrases*

“The typical structure of the verb phrase consists of a main verb preceded optionally by a maximum of four auxiliary verbs. The four belong to different subclasses of auxiliaries.” [27, p.53]

c. *Adjective Phrases*

“The main word in an adjective phrase is an adjective. Modifiers qualify in some respect what is denoted by the adjective,

and they are optional. The pre-modifier comes before the adjective and the post-modifier comes after it.” [27, p.67].

d. *Adverb Phrases*

“The main word in an adverb phrase is an adverb. They may be preceded by premodifiers and (less commonly) followed by postmodifier.”[28, p.69]

e. *Prepositional Phrases*

The preposition phrase has two parts: the preposition and the complement. Prepositional phrases have three functions:

- Post-modifier of a noun
- Post-modifier of an adjectives:.
- Adverbial

2.2.5.2. *Clause Structures*

Jacob [2003, p.49] considered a clause as “a construction with one phrase constituent, a phrase bearing the predicate relation.” Đoàn Minh (2001, p.101] stated that “a clause is a part of a sentence that usually has the Subject and the Predicate of its own.”

In this study, we based on the definition of Quirk et al [1985, 42] to analyze LMIs. According to him, clauses consist of more than one phrase.

2.3. **SUMMARY**

Additionally, this chapter also presented the general notions of idioms, idiom related to love and marriage.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

- 3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN
- 3.2. RESEARCH METHODS
- 3.3. DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE AND POPULATION
- 3.4. INSTRUMENTATION
- 3.5. DATA COLLECTION
- 3.6. DATA ANALYSIS
- 3.7. RESEARCH PROCEDURES
- 3.8. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY
- 3.9. SUMMARY

This chapter gives an overview of how to carry out the research. In research design we dealt with two main approaches namely the qualitative and the quantitative. During the process of researching, major methods such as descriptive method, analytical method and contrastive analysis method were used. With different purposes at different stage, we collected and analysed LMIs to find out the similarities and the differences in structural and semantic features of English and Vietnamese LMIs. Idioms for the study were collected and selected carefully from reliable sources to make the study reliable and valid. The data were analyzed based on the theoretical background presented in chapter 2.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

- 4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE IDIOMS RELATED TO LOVE AND MARRIAGE

4.1.1. Phrase Structures

4.1.1.1. Noun Phrases

a. In English

- [1] (Art) + A + N
- [2] (Art) + N + N
- [3] (Art) + N + PP

b. In Vietnamese

- [1] Num + N // Num + N
- [2] N + N / N + N
- [3] N + A / N + A
- [4] N/NP + N/NP
- [5] N + V / N + V
- [6] N/NP + V

4.1.1.2. Verb Phrases

a. In English

- [4] V + N/NP
- [5] V + N/NP + P/PP
- [6] V + PP
- [7] V + Adv + PP
- [8] V + Adv
- [10] V + N + PP + PP

b. In Vietnamese

[5] V + N / NP

[6] V + N // V + N

4.1.1.3. Adjective Phrases

a. In English

[11] A + PP / A + PP

[12] A + PP

[13] (Comp – element) + A + Comp – element + N

[14] Past Participle + Prep / PP

b. In Vietnamese

[7] A + Comp – element + VP

[8] A + N / A + N

4.1.1.4. Prepositional Phrases

a. In English

[15] Prep + N/NP

[16] Prep + N + PP

b. In Vietnamese

[9] Prep + N + VP

4.1.2. Clause Structures

[17] S + V + A

[18] S + V + O

[19] S + V / V + C

b. In Vietnamese

[10] S + V + O

[11] Comp – element + S + V + O

4.1.3 Parallel Structures

Parallel structure (contrary idiom) is the most popular one in Vietnamese. The most outstanding character of this structure is the correspondence among components and words that establish idioms.

4.1.4. Comparative Structures

The structures of comparison idioms related to love and marriage have the following patterns “comp-element -A- comp-element - B” in English and “Nhr + B” in Vietnamese.

The comparative markers show a correlation in comparison. They may be “as...as...” in English and “nhr” in Vietnamese.

Table 4.7: A Statistical Summary of Syntactic Features of English and Vietnamese Idioms Related to Love and Marriage

English and Vietnamese Idioms Related to Love and Marriage			English		Vietnamese	
			Occurrence	%	Occurrence	%
Syntactic Analysis	Phrase Structures	Noun Phrases	26	20.0	71	54.6
		Verb Phrases	83	63.8	38	29.2
		Adjective Phrases	14	10.7	12	9.23
		Prepositional Phrases	4	3.08	1	0.78
	Clause Structures		3	2.30	8	6.15
Total			130	100	130	100

4.1.5. Similarities and Differences in Syntactic Features of English and Vietnamese ILM

4.1.5.1. Similarities

We find that both English and Vietnamese own a system of idioms in certain grammatical groups, called noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, prepositional phrases and clauses.

4.1.5.2. Differences

Among the samples investigated, there is variety of phrasal patterns in English idioms. On the contrary, Vietnamese idioms have a fewer.

The parallel construction is much more numerous in Vietnamese ILM than English ILM. With the aims of creating rhythm, Vietnamese idioms related to love and marriage used some of the ways to form idioms such as repeated theme, intermittent repeated rhythm and alliteration. In verb phrasal type, the structures of ILM in English are more than in Vietnamese with 5 versus 2. In the forms of noun phrases, EILM include 3 types of constructions whereas Vietnamese ones have 6 constructions.

4.2. STYLISTIC DEVICES IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE ILM

4.2.1. Metaphor

(4.59) *When did you two decide to tie the knot?*

(Hai người quyết định khi nào thì *tổ chức đám cưới* đây?)

[40, p.132]

(4.61) *Thế sẽ đi tìm Phú, sẽ trở về với Phú, **gwong võ lại lành**, về việc đó Thế không hề dọ dự.*

[49, p.317]

4.2.2. Metonymy

(4.63) *Tình nghĩa vợ chồng là nghĩa **đầu gối tay ấp**. Chị Châm có thương tôi thì thương cho trót.* [49, p.263]

(4.65) *She is always hoping to find **Mr.Right** but so far she hasn't had any luck.* [6, p.253]

(Cô ấy luôn hi vọng sẽ tìm được *người đàn ông lý tưởng* nhưng cô ấy vẫn chưa gặp được vận may.)

4.2.3. Hyperbole

(4.67) *Vợ con là chuyện cả đời mà anh cứ **vợ nắm vợ mớ** như thế thì không hay đâu.* [49, p.658]

4.2.4. Simile

(4.68) *Gái có **chồng như gông đeo cổ***

Gái không chồng như phản gỗ long lanh. (Ca dao)

4.2.5. Symmetry

(4.71) *Hai người thủ thỉ tâm sự với nhau, **đêm ngắn tình dài làm sao kể xiết**.* [49, p.613]

Table 4.8: Frequency of Stylistic Devices in English and Vietnamese ILM

STYLISTIC DEVICES	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurency	%	Occurency	%
1 Metaphor	65	50	54	41.54
2 Metonymy	52	40	43	33.08
3 Simile	01	0.77	11	8.46
4 Hyperbole	08	6.16	13	10.00
5 Symmetry	04	3.07	09	6.92
Total	130	100	130	100

[40, p.1044]

The table above reveals the occurrence of 5 stylistic devices used in both English and Vietnamese ILM.

4.3. SEMANTIC FIELDS OF ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE IDIOMS RELATED TO LOVE AND MARRIAGE

4.3.1. Love

4.3.1.1. Passion

a. In English

(4.73)The first time she saw him it was **love at first sight** and she knew that she wanted to marry him. [51]
(Phút ban đầu mà cô ấy gặp anh ta là **tình yêu sét đánh** và cô ấy biết là mình muốn làm vợ anh ấy.)

b. In Vietnamese

(4.75)Tiếng sáo của Thương thổi thì không phải nói, lắm cô ở vùng đống quân nghe cứ **say như điệu đổ**. [49, p.146]

4.3.1.2. Harmony

a. In English

(4.77) The lovers walked along the river bank, **hand in hand**. [40, p.392]

(Những đôi tình nhân **nắm tay nhau** đi dạo trên sông)

b. In Vietnamese

(4.79) Hai người **tâm đầu ý hợp** thì một túp lều tranh cũng là tổ ấm. Ngược lại, dù cuộc sống có trong biệt thự thì cũng là mặt trời và mặt trăng. [60]

4.3.1.3. Vows

a. In English

(4.80)They **exchanged vows** on a beautiful island. [55]

(Họ đã **tổ chức đám cưới** trên một hòn đảo tuyệt đẹp)

b. In Vietnamese

(4.81) Nào ai **hẹn ngọc thề vàng** phòng không vò vớ
Nào kẻ nguyên non chỉ bề trắng bạc bơ vơ [49, p.324]

4.3.1.4. Failure

a. In English

(4.84)Sue says **her heart has broken** too many time and she won't let herself fall in love again. [51]

b. In Vietnamese

(4.87)Trăm ngàn gửi lạy tình quân
Tơ duyên ngắn ngủi chỉ ngắn ấy thôi. [Ng.Du,T.Kiều]

4.3.1.5. Foolishness

a. In English

(4.89) My son and his girlfriend have decided to get married in the spring. I don't think that wise, since they won't have enough money saved by then to set up house. But then, **one cannot love and be wise**. [61]

(Con trai tôi và người yêu của nó đã quyết định cưới nhau vào mùa xuân. Tôi nghĩ điều này thật ngớ ngẩn vì chúng nó không có tiền tiết kiệm để sống chung với nhau. Đúng là **khi con người ta yêu thì người ta đâu có suy tính**.)

b. In Vietnamese

(4.90) Úi dà! **Khôn ba năm đại một giờ**. Con gái hờ hớ ra thế đi ngày đi đêm kè kè bên cạnh người ta thế. Lửa gần rom lâu ngày phải bén. [49, p.352]

[55]

4.3.1.6. Choice

a. In English

- (4.91) *I'm not going to get married in a hurry – I'm waiting for Mr.Rightto come along.* [51]
(Tôi sẽ không lấy chồng vội – bao giờ gặp ý **trung nhân** hăng hay)

b. In Vietnamese

- (4.92) Chẳng hiểu mày còn mong gì nữa. Chúng tao năm mơ cũng không được người như ông Sinh. Cần thận rồi **già kén kẹn hom.** [39, p.145]

4.3.2.1. Agreement

a. In English

- ((4.95) They've been courting for a long time. I think it's time they **tyed the knot.**" [51]
(Họ đã tìm hiểu nhau một thời gian dài. Tôi nghĩ đã đến lúc họ **tổ chức lễ cưới**)

b. In Vietnamese

- (4.93) Cô giáo trẻ đã từng sợ “Việt cộng” đó nay lại **kết tóc xe tơ** với một “Việt cộng” chính cống. [49, p.343]

4.3.2.2. Loyalty and Betrayal

a. In English

- (4.98) I have asked a great deal of my wife in the way of hardships and sacrifice in order to further my ambitions, but she has been **as true as steel** to me throughout and has never complained. [8, p.30]

(Tôi có hỏi vợ tôi về sức chịu đựng và lòng hi sinh cho ước vọng lớn của tôi nhưng vợ tôi không hề phàn nàn mà vẫn **thủy chung son sắt** với tôi)

- (4.99) The man **walked out** on his wife and their small baby and went to live with someone else. [51]
(Anh ta đã **bỏ vợ con mình** và đến sống với người khác)

b. In Vietnamese

- (4.100) Ý ngược nhìn một ngôi sao, ngậm ngùi tưởng tượng ra vợ y đang ôm con ngồi ở ngưỡng cửa, lặng lẽ và buồn rầu **như đá Vọng Phu.** [49, p.486]
(4.101) Ông ấy cưới cô Ba, cô Mơ ấy, cái Mơ đáng lẽ lấy anh cu Đích ấy nhưng người ta **tham vàng bỏ ngãi**, đi lấy ông lão bằng tuổi bố rồi. [49, p.568]

4.3.2.3. Happiness and Sadness

a. In English

- (4.102) The couple always seemed happy together and seemed **to be made for each other.**" [51]
(Hai vợ chồng họ luôn hạnh phúc bên nhau và **yêu thương** nhau)
(4.103) "They're in love but they're always arguing. They **have a very stormy relationship.**" [51]
(Họ yêu nhau nhưng mà cứ cãi nhau hoài. Cuộc hôn nhân của họ chẳng **êm ả** chút nào)

b. In Vietnamese

- (4.104) Các con bây giờ đã nên vợ nên chồng, bố mẹ chỉ mong hai con lúc nào cũng **chồng hòa vợ thuận**, đừng có tiếng bác tiếng chì. [49, p.153]

(4.105) Chẳng biết đi đâu. Tôi thấy có người nói: hình như **com chủ lành, canh chủ ngọt**, anh chồng phụ bạc gì chẳng biết, chị vợ ở không nổi, bé con đi đâu mất rồi. [49, p.192]

4.3.2.4. Types

a. In English

(4.106) They know that others their age view their relationship as **living in sin**. [7, p.377]

(Họ biết rằng những người khác xem mối quan hệ của họ chỉ là một cuộc **hôn nhân không giá thú** mà thôi.)

b. In Vietnamese

(4.107) Chúng tôi là **chồng cưới vợ cheo** có phải là **chồng đường vợ sá** đâu mà mọi người dị nghị.

4.3.2.5. Dependence and Independence

a. In English

(4.109) She has the best-paid job and she also **wears the pants** in the family. [7, p.297]

(Chị ấy chẳng những có thu nhập cao mà còn **lo thu xếp công việc gia đình nữa**.)

b. In Vietnamese

(4.110) Các bà này giờ **có chồng như ngựa có cương** không thể thoải mái như bọn em được. [49, p.520]

4.3.2.6. Separation

Separation is also expressed clearly in English and Vietnamese ILM.

a. In English

(4.109) Rick and I **parted company** a long time ago and I'm seeing someone else now. [7, p.74]

(Rick và tôi **xa nhau** đã lâu rồi bây giờ tôi sẽ hẹn hò với người khác)

b. In Vietnamese

(4.113) Ngao ngán nhẽ **chàng Ngưu, ả Chức**

Cảnh phu thê sao khéo nhẽ nực cười. [Dân ca Thanh Hóa]

4.3.2.7. Forgiveness

a. In English

(4.114) They separated after the argument but soon got back together and **make up**. [51]

(Chúng tôi đã chia tay nhau sau cuộc cãi vã ấy nhưng bây giờ chúng tôi đã quay về và **tha thứ** cho nhau.)

[49, p.152] Vietnamese

(4.116) Hình như sau bao nhiêu thử thách, mắt mắt chị mới nhận ra được những giá trị đích thực của tình yêu. Chị càng thấm thía hơn bao giờ hết. Hạnh phúc như **gương vỡ lại lành**...

[49, p.520]

Table 4.9: Frequency of Semantic Fields of English and Vietnamese ILM

English and Vietnamese ILM		English		Vietnamese		
		Occurrence	%	Occurrence	%	
Semantic Features of English and Vietnamese ILM	LOVE	Passion	25	20.83	27	22.41
		Harmony	10	8.33	1	0.83
		Vows	2	1.67	3	2.49
		Failure	2	1.67	2	1.67
		Choice	5	4.17	3	2.49
		Foolishness	1	0.83	1	0.83
	MARRIAGE	Agreement	36	30	24	20.4
		Happiness & Sadness	15	12.5	12	9.96
		Loyal & Betryal	7	0.58	25	20.83
		Types	4	3.33	9	7.47
		Dependence & Independence	1	0.83	4	3.33
		Separation	5	4.17	6	5.01
		Forgiveness	5	4.17	1	0.83
		Others	2	1.67	3	4.15
Total Number		130	100	130	100	

Table 4.9 shows that there is a significant statistical difference between English and Vietnamese idioms in terms of their preference in semantic categories.

4.3.3. Similarities and Difference in Semantic Features of English and Vietnamese

4.3.3.1. Similarities

In general, idioms are stably organized. They are unities which cannot be separated into smaller parts semantically. What is more, both English and Vietnamese idioms related to love and marriage are used for the same semantic fields about love as the passion, the harmony, vows, failure, choice, foolishness. Besides, the semantic fields about marriage include the agreement, the happiness and sadness, the loyalty and betrayal, type, dependence and independence, separation and the forgiveness.

4.3.3.2. Differences

There are many differences between English and Vietnamese in the customs, historical and cultural backgrounds, religious belief and geographical environment. Semantically, there are some different points between English and Vietnamese idioms related to love and marriage. In Vietnamese, there are some idioms mentioning marriage but use to advice for people. For example, *Chồng tới vợ lui*, *Chồng như đó vợ như nom*, *Phận gái chữ Tòng*.

Directly and naturally, some characters in fairy tale as well as the image of Christian church appear in idioms of English. For example, *Mr Right*, *to walk down the aisle together*. Another difference between English and Vietnamese idioms is the number of idioms relating to independence and dependence.

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSIONS

The thesis involves the contrastive study of the syntactic, semantic features and stylistic devices in order to find out the similarities and difference of English ILM and Vietnamese ILM. After investigating this, I come to the following conclusions.

Syntactically, analyzed idioms are in phrasal structures and clause structures. The phrasal structures are categorized into noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, and prepositional phrases. In which, the verb phrase idioms are the most popular in English with 63.84% versus 29.23% in Vietnamese. Moreover, the noun phrase idioms dominate in Vietnamese with 54.61% versus 20% in English. The adjective phrase idioms are also popular in English accounting for 10.78% approximate 9.23% in Vietnamese of this pattern. The prepositional phrase idioms account for 3.08% in English, whereas, there is only 0.78% in Vietnamese. Additionally, the clause pattern used in English and Vietnamese are not similar. They have only a few in common: S + V + A, S + V + O, S + V / S + V, Comp – element + S + V + O. Besides, we can group English and Vietnamese ILM into parallel structure and comparative structure.

Semantically, the meaning of all idioms in the corpus is expressed through semantic transfer devices such as metaphor, metonymy, simile, hyperbole and symmetry. In fact, ILMs in English and Vietnamese are constructed on describing events and phenomenon by means of metaphor such as *to carry a torch for someone*, *to tie the knot* in English and *gương vỡ lại lành*, *chồng chửi vợ nem*, *ván đã đóng thuyền*, *giữa đường đứt gánh* in Vietnamese, by

means of hyperbole such as *a match made in heaven*, *to love somebody to death*, *to be on the rocks*, *to break someone's heart* in English and *chồng nắm vợ mỏ*, *đêm nằm năm ở*, *kết duyên Tân Tàn*. We have some example of simile in Vietnamese such as *Như đá Vọng Phu*, *như mặt trăng mặt trời*... in English are *as true as steel*. Along with the semantic transfer devices, the concrete characteristic of both languages are presented in the fields of love and marriage. The semantic fields of love is divided into passion, harmony, vows, failure, choice and foolishness. Besides, the semantic fields of marriage include agreement, happiness and sadness, loyalty and betrayal, dependence and independence, type, separation, and forgiveness.

In the last chapter of the thesis, the research has attempted to give some suggestions for the Vietnamese teachers as well as learners in teaching and learning English and Vietnamese idioms in general and ILMs in particular with the hope that they can master their meanings and use them better and more effectively in translating, teaching and in learning language.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS

Eric Zorn stated that “You can't buy time and save it, common idioms notwithstanding. You can only spend it.” In fact, idioms make language more interesting and vibrant. It not only reflects human experience and bases on occurring situations but also demonstrates human behaviour, habits or tradition in a country. Therefore, a good knowledge of idioms can help teachers as well as learners to increase the efficiency in teaching and learning idioms.

As for learning, students should be offered the context to enhance interpretation of idioms. Learning English ILM in meaningful contexts is more effective than learning isolated items through memorization and drilling. Besides, learners should employ knowledge about history, culture and customs...related to the idioms in the process of dealing with English ILM. In other words, learners should realize the usefulness and necessity of learning and applying idioms and English ILM because using English ILM appropriately in communication inspires confidence in students and language users.

As for teaching, teachers should provide helpful information stimulated interest of students to learn voluntarily and effectively when they discover the beauty and the attraction covered in the language they are approaching. Teachers should select the EILM that are frequently encountered in target language and the ones that do not own too many special problems with vocabulary and grammar. Idioms should be taught in contexts, not in isolation and authentic materials should be used to teach idioms. Teachers can simply go over a list of English idioms and their definitions or explanations. Besides, teachers should present idioms along with examples in contexts, for example, in the conversation in which the meaning of idioms is explained. Then, teachers can ask the learner to guess the meaning of idioms and correct if necessary. EILM should be classified into categories such as ILM about passion, harmony, agreement, happiness and sadness...

As for translating, to have a good translational equivalent of ILM, English learners should be aware of cultural elements that have a great influence on idioms in general and ILM in particular.

Moreover, when translating the learners should know about major methods such as semantic translation method, communicative translation method and use different techniques like using a similar idiom or using a similar idiom but different form, or using non-idiomatic phrases, or using omission and so on.

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

The thesis investigates syntactic features, semantic features and stylistic devices of English and Vietnamese idioms related to Love and Marriage. Although the best efforts of the research, it is obvious that there are some certain limitations. Firstly, only 240 samples in the two languages are collected because of the shortage of time and the reference materials. Secondly, most of samples are from dictionaries, only a small part of the sample from novels, stories and magazines.

Some suggestions for further study:

-An Investigation into Pragmatic Aspects of English and Vietnamese Idioms Related to Love and Marriage.

-An Investigation into the Culture Features of Idioms related to Love and Marriage (English versus Vietnamese).