

**BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
ĐẠI HỌC ĐÀ NẴNG

NGUYỄN THỊ PHƯƠNG

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO WORDS AND
EXPRESSIONS DENOTING TIME IN ENGLISH
VERSUS VIETNAMESE:
A COGNITIVE SEMANTICS PERSPECTIVE**

**Field: The English Language
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

This thesis is intended as a tutorial for the study of how time is expressed in natural languages. Temporality, for example, is reflected in the lexical meaning of verbs, in grammatical marking of tense and aspect, in time adverbials, in special particles. Much attention has been paid to the expressions used to encode temporal information, which range from prepositional phrases (e.g., *before the dawn*), verb suffixes (e.g., “-ed.” in the English regular simple past) to noun phrases (e.g. *this late afternoon*).

1.2. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE STUDY

Hopefully, doing a research of time expressions will be a contribution to the present recognition of the field. In addition, the findings of classification of semantics as well as descriptions of expressions of time under the aspect of cognitive linguistics will be expected as great benefits for Vietnamese learners of English.

1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.3.1. Aims

The study is aiming at:

Through the cognitive semantics analysis of time expressions in English and Vietnamese, this study is aimed at comparing and contrasting areas of time expressions in order to clarify similarities and differences in the way the Vietnamese and the English apply the expressions of time.

1.3.2. Objectives

In order to achieve these aims, main objectives are focused on

- To identify, describe and compare the types of time expressions quoted from artistic texts, political texts of Vietnamese and English writers and poets, some situation communication in daily life.
- To describe the syntactic and semantic structures of time expressions in English and Vietnamese.
- To find out the similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese in this field.
- To suggest some implications for using time expressions successfully.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

To achieve the aims and objectives mentioned above, the following research questions should be answered:

1. What are semantic features of time expressions in English and Vietnamese?
2. How can time be expressed in English and Vietnamese?
3. What are the similarities and differences of time expressions in English and Vietnamese?

1.5. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

By analyzing the semantic structure of temporal relations as expressed by the English and Vietnamese I will propose a theory of how linguistic temporal meaning is organized in human cognition. I will concentrate on the analysis of the syntactic, semantic structure of time expressions quoted from artistic texts, political texts of Vietnamese and English writers and poets, some situation communication in daily life.

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This study is organized in 5 chapters as follows:

Chapter 1, Introduction, lays the ground for the study of semantics of words and expressions denoting time. I first give a brief description of my study, stating the rationale, justification of the thesis, aims and objectives, research questions as well as scope. Organization of the study is also mentioned in this section.

Chapter 2, Review Literature, reviews previous studies on the matter of time. The review helps form the theoretical background for the study.

Chapter 3, Method and Procedure, describes the methodology used in the study, including the aims, the research question of the study, the data collection method, the data collection instrument, data collecting procedures and the subjects of the study.

Chapter 4, Findings and Discussion, describes the results of contrastive analysis presenting discussing similarities and differences in how to express time by the English and the Vietnamese.

Chapter 5, Conclusion, offers the overview of major findings and suggestions for further research beyond limitation of the study.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of time has been studied and discussed in various books and papers by a great number of linguists. In this thesis, the article has focused to research, describe the expressions of time in Vietnamese and English language under the aspects of cognitive linguistics. To do this, the article has dealt with several theoretical bases of time cognition, the relationship of the meaning of space and time and set up the picture of time semantics with its six specific semantic kinds; from these issues, we can figure out about the socially conventional, cultural motif picture of time in Vietnamese community.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Cognitive Linguistics

Cognitive Linguistics is cognitive in the same way that cognitive psychology is: by assuming that our interaction with the world is mediated through informational structures in the mind. It is more specific than cognitive psychology, however, by focusing on natural language as a means for organizing, processing, and conveying that information. Language, then, is seen as a repository of world knowledge, a structured collection of meaningful categories that help us deal with new experiences and store information about old ones.

2.2.2 Concepts

2.2.2.1 Definition of Concept

Concept is the general idea or meaning which is associated with a word or symbol in a person's mind. Concepts are the abstract meanings, which words and other linguistic items represent.

2.2.2.2 The structure of the concept

Structure of concept usually includes two components: *concept profile* and *concept base*.

2.2.2.3 Kinds of concepts

The researchers of language have many different opinions on the classification of concept; they can be divided into three groups:

- Concept group refers to the scope of historical personality, national organizations.
- Concept group refers to geographic names.
- Concept group belongs to the spiritual life and human emotion.

2.2.3 Prototype

On discussing about prototype, Barbara Lewandowska and Tomaszczyk, in the article "*Polysemy, prototypes, and radial categories*", stated that:

- Prototypical categories cannot be defined by means of a single set of criteria (necessary and sufficient) attributes.
- Prototypical categories exhibit a family resemblance structure, or more generally, their semantic structure takes the form of a radial set of clustered and overlapping meanings.
- Prototypical categories are blurred at the edges.

2.2.4 Conceptual Metaphor

Metaphors as linguistic expressions are possible precisely because there are metaphors in a person's conceptual system. Therefore, whenever in this book we speak of metaphors, such as ARGUMENT IS WAR, it should be understood that metaphor means metaphorical concept. (7, p.6). Raymond W. Gibbs emphasized the relationship between metaphor and thought as follows: “*Metaphor is not simply an ornamental aspect of language, but a fundamental scheme by which people conceptualize the world and their own activities*”. [4, p.3].

2.2.5 Metaphorical Models of Time

2.2.5.1 The origins of the experience of temporality

2.2.5.2 The basic metaphorical models of TIME

a. The Time Orientation metaphor

b. The Moving Time metaphors

c. The Time Is a Changer metaphor

d. The Time Is Substance metaphor

e. The Moving Observer or Time's Landscape metaphor

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURES

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Quantitative and qualitative methods are both used in this paper with priorities given to the quantitative to interpret and induce the data collected from English and Vietnamese materials. In addition, such methods as descriptive, analytic, comparative and contrastive are also utilized to describe and analyze, to compare and contrast the database so as to bring out similarities and differences in expressing time by the English and the Vietnamese.

3.2. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

3.2.1. Data Collection

Language factors described in this thesis mainly quoted from artistic text, political commentary text of Vietnamese and English writers and poets. The collection ensures that the data include variants in each language in terms of objective findings.

3.2.2. Data Analysis

The steps involved in the study are as follows:

- Collecting samples of words denoting time from the Web corpus and some dictionaries (English – English, English – Vietnamese, Vietnamese – English, and Vietnamese).
- Finding out similar meaning from the examples of the Web corpus with those in dictionaries, and English and American stories and novels as well.

- Providing the description of words and expressions of time in terms of meaning to find out common as well as distinctive semantic features of them.
- Classifying the meaning of the words and expressions of time according to their categories of semantic features.
- Comparing words and expressions of time in English and its Vietnamese equivalents to find out how expressions of time is interpreted.
- Discovering cultural features of time expressions in English and its Vietnamese equivalents.
- Drawing conclusions on semantics, and cultural characteristics of the words denoting time.
- Putting forwards some implications for teaching, learning and translating work and further researches.

3.3. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

Analyzing and contrasting semantic, syntactic and cultural characteristics of the words and expressions of time in English and in Vietnamese require collecting corpora of literature works and Web corpus to be studied.

CHAPTER 4

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF TIME EXPRESSIONS IN ENGLISH

4.1.1. Temporal prepositions

- **“at”**: this space direction is transferred the meaning using for immediate moment such as: *at seven o'clock, at noon, at the moment, at the present.*
- **“on”**: this space direction is transferred the meaning used to describe time section such as: *on Sunday, on my birthday, on this day.*
- **“in”**: this space direction is transferred the meaning used to show time section or time period such as: *in a second, in a minute, in a week, in April, in summer, in 2012...* Together with “in” means time, English uses others as: *for, during, within, when, while.*
- **“before”**: this space direction is transferred the meaning used to indicate time section or time period which happens before a point of fixed time as: *before eight o'clock (trước 8 giờ), before this time, before tomorrow afternoon, etc...*
- **“after”**: like *before*, this space direction is transferred the meaning used to indicate time section or a period of time which happens after a point of fixed time as: *after eight o'clock (sau tám giờ), after this time, after tomorrow afternoon, etc...*
- **“from ... to..., from... till/until”**: This space direction refers to a transfer the meaning that the period or extended period as *from 8 am to 8 pm (từ 8 giờ sáng đến 8 giờ tối), from Monday till Wednesday, from Monday until Wednesday.*

- “**through**”: This space direction refers to a time period or extended period, such as *through the night* (*suốt đêm*).

4.1.2. Temporal adverbials

4.1.2.1. Forms

English has essentially the following three types of temporal adverbials:

- A. Simple temporal adverbials: *now, then, soon, often, seldom, just.*
- B. Morphologically compound adverbials: *today, afterwards, sometimes, slowly.*
- C. Syntactically compound adverbials.

4.1.2.2. Functions

- + Temporal adverbials of position
- + Temporal adverbials of duration
- + Temporal adverbials of frequency
- + Temporal adverbials of contrast

4.1.2.3. Interaction

4.1.3 Discourse principles

The research on the expression of time suffers from a one-sided bias towards singular events. Adverbials (*then, while ..., before ..., for about two seconds*) are more useful, but one of the mightiest devices is to follow certain “strategies” on how to decompose the entire event into smaller sub-events and to report them in a certain order.

4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF TIME EXPRESSIONS IN VIETNAMESE

4.2.1 Temporal prepositions

- *The united relationship*: in Vietnamese, this relationship is reflected in the common words to denote both the space used to denote significance of time.

- *The relationship between original meaning and the derivative meaning*:

- *The integration relationship*:

In Vietnamese, the integration relationship also shows that: the words with space meaning contain the sense of time and vice versa. For example: the word "*mãi*" in verse:

“Nước đi đi *mãi* không về cùng non.” [Tản Đà - Nguyễn Khắc Hiếu]

+ Speaking of activities take place that extends until the end of space.

+ Speaking of activities take place that extends until the end of time.

4.2.2. Temporal Adjuncts

This thesis is not intended to discuss about nature of grammar, how to call the name of the words mentioned above. The thesis accepts a point of view about language with traditional nature as follows: words like *đã, đang, sẽ, xong, rồi* ... **is** defined as temporal adjuncts in this thesis. Also, within the limits of the thesis, we only consider these adjuncts with their time meaning.

Here are some examples:

- Expressing the past meaning:
 - c. - *Mày mới* mua gương bao giờ thế?
- *Con vừa mới* mua ở chợ. [Học Phi] [past]
- Expressing the present meaning:

b. Thế hệ ngày nay *đang* sống trong thời đại cách mạng của giai cấp vô sản. [Lê Duẩn] [present]

- Expressing the future meaning:

g. Một thiên đàng sắp mở cửa. [Võ Quảng] [future]

4.2.3 Temporal predicates

The predicates are surveyed here including: passive predicates such as: *được, bị, phải, trót*, modal predicates such as: *muốn, toan, định, chực, có thể, không thể, nên, cần, phải, dám, trót, suýt, etc...* some of feeling predicates such as: *mong (trông mong), mong mỗi, mong muốn, ước, ước ao, ước nguyện, ước muốn, mơ ước, khát khao, etc...*; exist predicates such as: *sinh, mất*.

4.2.3.1 Passive predicate groups: *được bị, phải, trót*

In Vietnamese, the situation is different. Passive predicates are "signs" indicate the state of affair occurring in present or past, but due to a significant *endurance*, receive something has happened, in some cases, they themselves also show the meaning that denote the state of affair happened in the past. In other words, the predicates can be a "sign" indicating state of affair happened in the past time.

- **bị**: Cánh tay nhà em *bị* trói chặt quá, không thể cầm bút ký được.

[Ngô Tất Tố]

—————▶ (đã bị trói)

4.2.3.2 *Modal predicate groups: muốn, toan, nên, định, chực, cần, thềm vào, phải, dám, thà, suýt, có thể, không thể.*

In terms of semantics, these modal predicates have the sense of denoting psychological state which is still in thinking, in the estimate, so they have an impact on events behind us and will happen in the future.

For example:

- a. Ta *muốn* về quê nội
 Ta *muốn* trở lại tuổi thơ
 Ta *muốn* nằm trên mảnh đất ông cha
 Nghe mưa đập cành tre, nghe mưa rơi tàu lá

[Lê Anh Xuân]

(\longrightarrow \blacktriangleright muốn sẽ ...)

4.2.3.3 Speaking Predicates, Feeling Predicates in Vietnamese such as: *mong* (*trông mong*), *mong mỏi*, *mong muốn*, *ước*, *ước ao*, *ước nguyện*, *ước muốn*, *mơ ước*, *khát khao*, *chúc*, *hứa*, *thề*, *nguyện*, *cậy* (*nhờ cậy*), *nhất định*,... They also have meaning denoting psychological state in thinking, estimation, therefore, they impact on the events behind them and happen in future time.

For example:

Tôi hi vọng là anh đến sớm.

(\longrightarrow \blacktriangleright sẽ đến sớm)

4.2.3.4 Some exist predicates (such as: *sinh*, *mất*), they themselves have the meaning denoting state of affair happened in the past. In other words, these predicates are capable of “sign” showing the situation occurred in the past tense.

For example:

a. - Anh *sinh* ở đâu?

- Tôi *sinh* ra ở Hà Nội.

b. Bố mẹ nàng *chết* sớm. Nàng ra tỉnh ở với một bà cô đã già.

[Vũ Bằng]

4.2.4 Temporal adverbials

Temporal adverb, adverbial phrases are also the words to "mark" time. These are the words: *tuần trước, tháng sau, ngày mai, dạo nọ, lúc này, hồi đó, etc...* In Vietnamese and English, the adverbs of time are the words to help for the reader, the listener easily determine the time of the event. Trần Trọng Kim, Bùi Kỳ, Phạm Duy Khiêm stated that Vietnamese verbs as well as other part of speech, they do not change the form. Therefore, "*When people want to perform a job doing in the present, past or future, they use adverbs ...*". However, the determination of time of current, past or future of the event must also base on the position of speaker of time (the observer). Here are a few examples:

*** Present event:**

- *Dạo này, đêm Cà Mau, gió mưa cứ tầm tã.* [Anh Đức]

*** Past event:**

- *Hồi ấy hấn hai mươi.* [Nam Cao]

*** Future event:**

- *Rồi mai đây, giữa một buổi xuân đào*

Ta sẽ tới ru mình trong vịnh bạc. [Tố Hữu]

4.2.5 Temporal pronouns

Temporal pronouns are surveyed here including:

+ Pronouns identify time: (bây giờ, giờ, bấy giờ, bao giờ).

+ Pronouns used to ask for time: (*bao giờ*).

4.2.5.a. Pronouns identify time in conversational language

- **bây giờ** (**giờ**: used in conversational language): the current time period at speaking time. For example:

a. *Bây giờ* bận mới hỏi dào

Vườn hồng đã có lối vào hay chưa? [ca dao]

b. *Giờ* ta đi vận động anh em phu cũ nuôi các gia đình anh em phu mới.

[Võ Huy Tâm]

- **bây giờ**: * a certain time in the past or future

+ The time factor shows the situation occurs in the future. For example:

a. Làm cho rõ mặt phi thường

Bây giờ ta sẽ rước nàng nghi gia. [Nguyễn Du]

+ The time factor shows the situation occurs in the past. For example:

b. *Bây giờ* có thần Đê Lai thuộc giòng giống Thần Nông đưa em gái là Âu Cơ sang thăm đất Lạc. [Truyện Sự tích một trăm trứng-VH lớp 10]

- **bao giờ**:

- With sense: *lúc nàocũng...*, *bao giờ* used as time factor showing situation which extends from past to present. For example:

a...., *bao giờ* câu chuyện của lũ trẻ bên kia cũng làm cho bà lão bên này lên tiếng. [Nguyễn Thi]

- In supposed sentence, with sense as *khi nào mà...*, *bao giờ* used as time factor showing situation happens in indifferent future. For example:

b. *Bao giờ* trở lại đồng Bương Cấn

Về núi Sài Sơn ngó lúa vàng

Sông Đáy chậm nguồn qua Phủ Quốc

Sáo diều khua khoát thổi đêm trăng. [Quang Dũng]

4.2.3.b. Pronouns identify time in question

- **bao giờ**: In this type of question *bao giờ* // S-V, the move *bao giờ* from the position before S-V structure to position after S-V structure is not

required by pressing strongly on the meaning of *bao giờ* that required by expressing the meaning opposition of time: the future >< past.

The time of the affair in these cases is indifferent. For example:

a. Đến *bao giờ* anh được đứng cùng em

Trước biển lớn cuộc đời thương cảm ấy? [Vũ Quần Phương]

[Future]

b. Anh đi Hà Nội *bao giờ*? [Past]

4.2.6 Temporal particles:

Temporal particles are surveyed including: *nghe, à nghe, nhé, cho mà xem, cho biết tay, đã, gì mà lắm thế*. Particles: *nghe, à nghe, nhé* have meaning as a requirement, a “sign” shows the situation has not happened, it means that the situation will happen in the future. Particles: *cho mà xem, cho biết tay* emphasize a not good impact, suffering an event is going to happen or threaten so it is a “sign” showing the event in the sentence has not happened. It will happen in the future. Particle: *đã* shows the event has just mentioned need to complete before doing another work so it means making the event in the utterance has not happened, it will happen in the future. Particle phrase: *gì mà lắm thế* shows the attitude complaint, reproach, unacceptability about something in present, at the speaking time.

a. Ông sắp ơi, cho tôi cắt cỏ *nghe!* [Nguyễn Thi]

b. Cô Loan, cô vào đây uống nước, ăn trà *đã*. [Nhật Linh]

c. Bà Lí xung tiết:

- Ăn *gì mà lắm thế*. [Nguyễn Công Hoan]

4.3 TEMPORAL METAPHOR IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

Because metaphor is a tool to understand our world and ourselves, it is also associated with poetic metaphors constituting an important way through which we understand the meaning of life, especially the relationship between time with man. In limitation of time, the thesis focused on analyzing metaphor THỜI GIAN LÀ CON NGƯỜI (TIME IS A PERSON), namely the base time metaphor that we often talk about, including: THỜI GIAN LÀ KẸ CẮP (TIME IS THIEF), THỜI GIAN LÀ THẦN CHẾT (TIME IS A REAPER), THỜI GIAN LÀ KẸ ĂN THỊT NGƯỜI (TIME IS A DEVOURER), THỜI GIAN LÀ KẸ HỦY DIỆT (TIME IS A DESTROYER), THỜI GIAN LÀ NGƯỜI ĐÁNH GIÁ (TIME IS AN EVALUATOR), THỜI GIAN LÀ KẸ SĂN ĐUỔI (TIME IS A PURSUER), THỜI GIAN LÀ NGƯỜI CHẠY ĐUỔI (TIME IS A RUNNER), THỜI GIAN LÀ TÁC NHÂN LÀM ĐỔI THAY (TIME IS A CHANGER). In the comparison in poetry Vietnamese and English poetry, this is the way that people experience from objective reality to be awareness themselves. Through this analysis, we find that, although each poet, writer mentioned to the problem of time in different aspects, but all of them are towards the closely relationship between man and time: the relationship of a vast, infinite period with the short time of human life. Since then, remind them feel a helpless before the unintentional, grim time, time has gone without coming back and since then there are verses about regret of time. Motif regret of time is universal nature motifs appearing mostly in the poetry of all human beings. Thing to notice is due to the time metaphor device in the literature that people partly know about the world, including the material world and the spiritual world. At the same time, thanks to the association and imagination on the similarities between the world of images, between the visible world and the invisible world (here is time)

that *time metaphor* in literary be able to make the "invisible" becomes "visible" by means of language.

4.4 SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE TIME EXPRESSIONS

4.4.1 Similarities

In both English and Vietnamese, the speakers use linguistic forms e.g., temporal adverbs, prepositional phrases, particles to make reference to time. Both English and Vietnamese use conceptual metaphor in literary works.

4.4.2 Differences

Like other languages, both English and Vietnamese have grammatical devices, lexical items, constructions and fixed expressions referring to time. However, there are many differences between the two languages not only in the means of expressing temporal meanings but also the locations of situations in time.

The findings of this study reveal a number of differences between English and Vietnamese in the expression of time and time-relationship. These differences are to be found both in the degree of importance one particular device plays in one or other language, and in the lack of elements in one language which correspond to certain elements in the other.

In English, the main verb in a major sentence is always time-oriented, while every Vietnamese verb is noncommittal as regards time. On the basis of form, English has a two-time verb system, whereas Vietnamese has a one-time system, with the time identified by the context and/or by time expressions.

In Vietnamese, time expressions constitute the main device for orienting predications with respect to time. In English, time expressions are only one of the devices used for time-reference; the use of different verb forms is an even more important device for orienting predications to one or another kind of time.

Similarly, while English uses “*will*” to show later time time-relationship with respect to the present time, and “*would*” to show later time time-relationship with respect to an identified past time, Vietnamese uses only the one auxiliary “*sẽ*” for both such kind of reference.

Vietnamese verb forms also differ from English verb forms in that they do not show aspect. In English, there are two kinds of aspect: (1) intrusive aspect, expressed by an expanded (or progressive) verb-cluster, for reference to part of an event, and (2) inclusive aspect, for reference to an event as a whole, expressed by a non-expanded (or simple) verb-cluster.

In English, tenses – as a grammatical device – play an important role in time expressions e.g, verb forms (started, starts, will start) while in Vietnamese, Vietnamese speakers use no grammatical devices to relate

the time of action or event to the time of utterance. They mainly rely on lexical items e.g, adverbs (tuần trước, ngày mai, hôm nay) for time expressions. Vietnamese is a non-inflectional language; its verbs remain unchanged in form.

English has more means of expressing and locating situations in time than Vietnamese does. While English speakers can make use of grammatical devices or lexical items or the combination of grammatical devices and lexical items for time expressions, Vietnamese speakers use lexical devices as the only means of expressing time. Although Vietnamese has fewer means of time expressions in number, Vietnamese speakers can express as many various temporal meanings as English speakers do through its lexical items.

In English, the combination of both grammatical devices and lexical devices is the commonest expression of time.

4.5 SUMMARY

In short, categories of time are a matter of very large and complex; this category is expressed very different in all languages, which are different type as well as the same type.

In brief, a contrastive study of the two cultures in terms of cognitive aspect may result in deeper understanding of differences in communication between Vietnamese and Westerners. This chapter mentioned differences in communication between Vietnamese and

Westerners and attempted to seek cultural interpretations for the differences.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSION

In general, categories of time is a very large and complex matter, much more, this category is very different expression in both languages which are different forms as well as the same type.

The ultimate purpose of the thesis was to find out about a matter of time, the time in English comparing with Vietnamese under the perspective of cognitive linguistics. Therefore, to accomplish this, the thesis with the task of finding out about the basics of cognitive linguistic theory, which related to the thesis such as cognitive problems, cognitive processes, the concepts, prototype, conceptual metaphor. The thesis listed and described how English and Vietnamese use words denoting time as well as the expressions of time through language in terms of perspective of cognitive linguistics. In addition, the thesis learned about the metaphor of time in works of literature, which, shaped somewhat about time picture of social convention nature, culture nature, nature motifs of the Vietnamese community.

We need to see that the expressions of time are very plentiful and very different. Expressions of time are easily spotted and marked but sometimes some expressions are difficult to observe, hard to find and mark. This is also a very large impact on the description.

Therefore, the first thing that we need to do in Chapter One was to present the rationale of the study and state what the study is aim at. Also, the research questions, scope of the study and methods of the study are included.

The Chapter Two of the paper has provided a review of related previous studies, fundamental and essential theoretical preliminaries concerning the subject under consideration which serve as the basic foundation of data analysis and findings discussion in the following chapters. Hence, the Chapter has attempted to investigate the function of semantics as well as cognitive problems; cognitive processes, the concepts, prototype, and conceptual metaphor are mentioned.

While Chapter Three is designed to describe the methods and procedures of the paper, Chapter Four presents the findings of the research where the semantic, description of words and expressions denoting time are in focus. Also, the conceptual metaphor of time are discussed in this chapter.

Semantically, the thesis established the relationship between space meaning and time meaning based on space conceptual metaphor. Through the analyzing this relationship, we can see that the thinking of time of man related to the thinking of the movement of space. In other words, the meaning of time starts from source of space meaning.

Furthermore, in terms of linguistic psychology, extract time related to other attributes such as: physical time, psychological time, science time or called Polytechnic time, time metaphor.

Time is also a problem that the cognitive linguistics is concerned. In the field of research, the time is not the time period, marking, the ways of objective cognition but always be aware, also be processed through the

prism of the native speakers with behavior of a subject while communicating, associated with a certain culture.

The same general direction in understanding the meaning of time of utterances on the basis of the characteristics of Vietnamese, the thesis mainly taken characteristic of the description, identification of time in a number of Vietnamese words under the perspective of cognitive linguistics with the hope of contributing to determine the issue of the time in Vietnamese, explaining the similarities, difference in the position to identify the time in English when compared with English simultaneously contributing to learn on semantic picture of time, language of time in Vietnamese, especially conceptual metaphor of time in works of literature.

Last but not least, in the last chapter of the paper, the research has attempted to give some suggestions for teaching and learning language with the hope that they can help learners of English and Vietnamese achieve the best use possible and improve their writing and speaking when using time in both languages.

5.2. SOME LIMITATIONS OF THE THESIS

Within the scope of this paper, we have dealt with some basic knowledge of importance of expressions of time in terms of cognitive linguistics. I only concentrate on studying to concepts of time based on the theory of cognitive linguistics, from which to learn about the time events in utterances of the Vietnamese comparing with English. At the same time, the thesis also tries to research on issues metaphor of time in Vietnamese literature in comparison with the foreign literature. Also, the lack of time and reference materials makes it impossible for me to

provide sufficient and intensive focus on linguistic features of time expressions in the two languages. I hope that my study on the contrastive analysis of English and Vietnamese equivalents can help other learners and I myself know how to use English expressions of time correctly and profoundly. Moreover, this study also helps us to improve the language competence in order to avoid mistakes and have a deep understanding about the expressions of time as well.

5.3 IMPLICATION FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Teaching and learning English, to some people, is an easy task, but to some others, it is really a hard-solving problem. The reason for any difficulties facing these people can be various, may be they lack a “natural ability” or they do not have suitable methods for teaching and learning. Generally, speaking and writing English about expressions of time are not the same as its Vietnamese equivalents, so for students, they must be aware of the structures and know how to use English words denoting time for different purposes. Therefore, a lot of practice is needed to master in order to be successful and effective in using English. Besides, mistakes are inevitable during the learning process. However, those mistakes are not strange, the important thing is that students can find the causes of those mistakes to correct them and try their utmost to avoid them.

5.4 SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

There are some aspects that have not been dealt with within this framework, calling for further investigation:

- The spatial and temporal meanings of English and Vietnamese.
- A study on discourse-pragmatic principles for temporal reference in Vietnamese and English equivalents.
- The structure of time language, meaning and temporal cognition in English versus Vietnamese.