AN INVESTIGATION INTO SYNTACTIC AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE PROVERBS EXPRESSED IN RELATIONAL IDENTIFYING PROCESSES

Field: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Code: 60.22.15

MASTER THESIS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

(A SUMMARY)

Danang – 2012
The study has been completed at College of Foreign languages, University of Danang

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This thesis was defended at the Examination Council for the M.A. thesis, University of Danang.
Time: 28/10/2012
Venue: University of Danang

The original of this thesis is accessible for the purpose of reference at: - Library of the College of Foreign languages, University of Danang - The Information Resources Center, University of Danang.
CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE
Under the light of functional grammar, language is used more effectively in daily life of people. In my opinion, all aspects of language should be discovered through functional grammar in order that learners can use the language more flexibly and effectively. This prompted me to make a decision on choosing functional grammar as the area of study for my M.A thesis. One aspect out of many new and interesting ones of functional grammar that is taken consideration is transitivity system-main processes. Particularly, my concentration is on Relational processes – Relational Identifying Processes (RIPs).

Proverbs play an essential role in giving emotionality, expressiveness to the speech. When studying a foreign language, in order to apprehend thoroughly and master it well, every learner are not allowed to skip proverbs which make an indispensable component of a language and are often used in daily life communication.

Third, the occurrence proportion of the proverbs expressed in RIPs is high in two languages. Moreover, semantically and syntactically, there are not only the similarities but also some differences in the way that RIPs express in English proverbs and Vietnamese proverbs, which were by no means mentioned in the previous theses. Therefore, I find it necessary to do research with the topic “An Investigation into Syntactic and Semantic Features of English and Vietnamese Proverbs Expressed in Relational Identifying Processes”

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH:
1.2.1. Aims: This thesis aims to study the syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese proverbs expressed in RIPs and drawing the similarities as well as differences between English and Vietnamese proverbs expressed in RIPs.

1.2.2. Objectives: The study is expected to make a comparison of the semantic features and syntactic features of English and Vietnamese proverbs expressed in RIPs to find out some similarities and differences in English and Vietnamese proverbs in the RIPs form and to introduce to English learners and teachers a new approach to proverbs in English and in Vietnamese.

1.3. JUSTIFICATION OF STUDY
Under the light of Functional Grammar, the English and Vietnamese proverbs expressed in RIP are analyzed in detail, then the similarities and
diffences between two languages are indicated; therefore, the research can be used as a good reference for language teachers and students.

1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study will not cover all fields relating to proverbs but just attempt to examine English and Vietnamese proverbs expressed in RIPs. The study is obviously concerned with the syntactic and semantic features of 321 English proverbs and 291 Vietnamese proverbs which are in the RIPs form. The study also concentrates on comparisons of these proverbs in the two languages.

1.5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What is the nature of RIPs in English and Vietnamese proverbs?
2. What are the similarities and differences in RIPs of English and Vietnamese proverbs?
3. What are the similarities and differences of the syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese proverbs expressed in RIPs?
4. What contribution does the study make to the teaching and learning English as foreign language in Vietnam?

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY:

Chapter 1: Introduction
Chapter 2: Literature Review and Theoretical Background
Chapter 3: Methods and Procedures
Chapter 4: Findings and discussion
Chapter 5: Conclusion

CHAPTER 2
LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

transitivity, making an analysis on the choice of various processes in the ‘nuclear transitivity and circumstantial one’.

Referring to proverbs, up to now, there have been many books and dictionaries on proverbs which are only limited to explain the meanings as well as the equivalents in other languages. Smith [24], Mieder [16], Võ Như Cầu, Bùi Phượng [44]. The works which receive much attention from the public are Từ điển thành ngữ tục ngữ ca dao Việt Nam, quyền thương, Việt Chương [35]; Từ điển thành ngữ tục ngữ ca dao Việt Nam, quyền hạ, Việt Chương [36]; Tục ngữ Việt Nam, Chu Xuân Diên [37] and Khảo luận tục ngữ Việt Nam, Triệu Nguyên [41].

Some master theses relating to the various aspects of proverbs have been carried out at The University of Danang such as [5], [1]. Some studies are put under the light of functional grammar such as [13], [27] and [28].

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. The concepts of Functional Grammar:

2.2.1.1. Grammar and meaning

For Halliday, Language is “a system of meaning”. This is to say that when people use language, their language acts are the expression of meaning. From this point of view, the grammar becomes a study of how meanings are built up through the use of words and other forms of linguistics such as tone and emphasis.

2.2.1.2. Language and context

Our ability to deduce context from the text is one way in which language and context are interrelated. Our equally highly developed ability to predict language from context provides further evidence of the language context relationship.

He has suggested that there are three aspects in any situation that have linguistic consequences: field, mode and tenor.

2.2.1.3. Meta-functions of language

We have seen that any item of language may have three meta-functions: experiential function, interpersonal function and textual function in which the experiential meta-function - the central focus of the study will be emphasized. The three meta-functions are summarized in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meta-function types</th>
<th>Corresponding position of Clause</th>
<th>Corresponding functional structures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experiential</td>
<td>Clause as representation</td>
<td>Identified+process+identifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal</td>
<td>Clause as exchange</td>
<td>Mood+Residue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2.1.4. The grammar of experiential meaning: Transitivity

In analyzing transitivity structure in a clause we are concerned with describing three aspects of the clause:

- Selection of a process
- Selection of participants
- The selection of circumstance:

a. Process, participant and circumstance: realization

There are three components of what Halliday calls a transitivity process:

i. Relational identifying processes
ii. Participants in the processes
iii. Circumstances associated with the processes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of element</th>
<th>Typically realized by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i. Process</td>
<td>Verbal group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. Participant</td>
<td>Nominal group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii. Circumstance</td>
<td>Adverbial group and prepositional phrase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. Process types and associated participants

The three major types of processes are the material, mental and relational and there are three minor processes ones- the behavioral, verbal and existential. The six types of them together with associated participants are illustrated in table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process type</th>
<th>Nuclear participants</th>
<th>Example(participants in bold)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Actor, Goal</td>
<td>She made the coffee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental</td>
<td>Sensor, Phenomenon</td>
<td>She saw the car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relational</td>
<td>Carrier, Attribute</td>
<td>Maggie was strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Token, Value</td>
<td>Maggie was our leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ attributive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ identifying</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral</td>
<td>Behaver</td>
<td>She laughed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal</td>
<td>Sayer</td>
<td>She replied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existential</td>
<td>Existent</td>
<td>There was a beautiful princess</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Major types of process

Material process

Mental processes

Relational processes: There are two main types: Relational Attributive and Relational Identifying which is the main of the study.

Identifying: “a” is the identify of x
Attributive: “a” is an attribute of x

Relational processes usually involve the “be” verb and are manifested in three following subtypes:

“X is A” (Intensive)
“X is at A” (Circumstantial)
“X has A” (Possessive)

In the Attributive mode, a quality, classification or descriptive epithet (Attributive) is assigned to a participant (Carrier). The Carrier is always realized by a noun or a nominal group.

Semantically, an Identifying clause is not about ascribing, but defining. Grammatically, defining involves two participants: Identified (that stands for what is being defined) and Identifier (which defines). All identifying clauses are reversible and can form passive. The following example is illustrated for this:

[2.21] Tomorrow is the tenth.                     [11; p.121]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identified</th>
<th>Process: relational intensive</th>
<th>Identifier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tomorrow</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>the tenth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[2.21] The tenth is tomorrow.                    [11; p.121]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identified</th>
<th>Process: relational intensive</th>
<th>Identifier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The tenth</td>
<td>is</td>
<td>tomorrow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[2.22] Mr Garrick played Hamlet.                         [11; p.116]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identified</th>
<th>Process: relational intensive</th>
<th>Identifier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Garrick</td>
<td>played</td>
<td>Hamlet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[2.23] Hamlet was played by Mr Garrick                   [11; p.116]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identified</th>
<th>Process: relational intensive</th>
<th>Identifier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamlet</td>
<td>was played</td>
<td>by Mr Garrick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minor processes

Behavioral processes

Verbal processes:

Existential processes
c. Circumstances

Circumstances are realized by adverbial groups and prepositional phrases. The principal types of circumstantial element in English are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPES</th>
<th>SPECIFIC CATEGORIES (subtypes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>Duration, distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Time, place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cause</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manner</td>
<td>Means, quality, comparison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accompaniment</td>
<td>Reason, purpose, behalf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2.2. Proverbs

2.2.2.1. Definition of “Proverb”

Simpson and Speake [23; p.1]: “A proverb is a traditional saying which offers advice or presents a moral in a short and pithy manner”.

Pham Văn Bình [32; p.7-10]: “A proverb is a complete sentence expressing an idea of comment, of experience, of morality, of justice or of criticism drawn from the human life”.

In this thesis, the researcher takes the definition of proverb as follows: “in terms of form, a proverb is a complete sentence with a short form, and in terms of content, a proverb expresses an idea, a piece of advice, a comment, a truth, an experience or a criticism”.

2.2.2.2. Definition of “Proverb expressed in Relational Identifying processes (RIPs)

Proverbs expressed in Relational Identifying Processes (RIPs) are the proverbs expressed in the framework of Relational Identifying processes given by Halliday as follows:

- Intensive : x is a
- Circumstantial : x is at a
- Possessive : x has a

CHAPTER 3
METHODS AND PROCEDURES

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN
3.2. RESEARCH METHODS
The study is designed in the quantitative and qualitative research which is based on the following methods: Searching method, exploratory method, description and analysis and the method of contrastive analysis.

3.3. DATA COLLECTION

About 321 English and 291 Vietnamese proverbs are extracted from dictionaries, books, websites or examples used in context in English and Vietnamese to study in the thesis.

3.4. DATA ANALYSIS

321 English and 291 Vietnamese proverbs expressed in RIPS will be analyzed in terms of syntactic and semantic features, then a comparison of English and Vietnamese proverbs expressed in RIPS are also given.

3.5. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

To ensure high reliability and validity, the study strictly follows the research design. Moreover, the collection of data is based on the popular materials which are reliable.

CHAPTER 4
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 THE FRAMEWORK OF ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE PROVERBS EXPRESSED IN RIPS

4.1.1. The classification of RIPS

To clarify how these types are expressed in proverbs, we look through process verbs in the following English and Vietnamese proverbs

[4.1] A bargain is a bargain. [8; p.5]
[4.2] Debt is the worst poverty. [8; p.48]
[4.3] Cowardice is mother of cruelty. [8; p.45]
[4.4] A good face is a letter of recommendation. [8; p.11]
[4.5] A friend in need is a friend indeed. [8; p.9]
[4.6] A hero is a man who is afraid to run away. [50; p.7]
[4.7] Hell for women is old age. [8; p.85]
[4.8] A trapped cat becomes a lion. [50; p.15]
[4.9] Silence gives consent. [8; p.140]
[4.10] The tilling shows the tiller. [8; p.157]
[4.11] Many a little make a mickle. [8; p.108]
[4.12] Precaution is better than repentance. [8; p.133]
[4.13] A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. [8; p.5]
[4.14] The darkest hour is that before the dawn. [50; p.124]
[4.15] Honor follows those who flee from it. [50; p.71]
[4.16] Wine is the master’s, but the goodness is the drawer’s. [49; p.18]
[4.17] A good dog deserves a good bone.  
[4.18] Such tree, such fruit.

**Vietnamese:**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Intensive</th>
<th>Circumstantial</th>
<th>Possessive</th>
<th>Total occurrence of RIP three subtypes in Proverbs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In English</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Vietnamese</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Therefore, a typical RIP in English proverb and in Vietnamese proverbs may be structured respectively as follows:

(Circumstance) + Identified + Process: Relational Identifying + Identifier + (Circumstance).

(CC) + BĐNT + QT + ĐNT + (CC)

Process, Identified and Identifier in English as well as BĐNT, QT and ĐNT in Vietnamese are the main components of the RIP structures expressed in proverbs. These three ones are the main study of the research.

4.2. A COMPARISON OF RIPS IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE PROVERBS

4.2.1 A comparison of processes in English and Vietnamese Proverbs

4.2.1.1. Intensive Process:
The process verbs in the intensive subtype can be divided into 4 smaller and more specific groups:

Process of explanation: be, mean, give, bring, and tell.
Process of comprising: form, make.
Process of changing: turn, become.
Process of symbolization: show, justify, reveal, and prove
Process of comparing: mean, be.

Let us follow the examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identifier</th>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Identified</th>
<th>Identified verb</th>
<th>Identified phrase</th>
<th>[Page]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[4.40]</td>
<td>Silence</td>
<td>gives</td>
<td>consent.</td>
<td>[8; p.140]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pr. explanation</td>
<td>Identifier</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[4.38]</td>
<td>A trapped cat</td>
<td>becomes</td>
<td>a lion.</td>
<td>[50; p.15]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pr. changing</td>
<td>Identifier</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[4.45]</td>
<td>The tilling</td>
<td>shows</td>
<td>the tiller.</td>
<td>[8; p.157]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pr. symbolization</td>
<td>Identifier</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[4.48]</td>
<td>A single bamboo</td>
<td>can’t form</td>
<td>a row.</td>
<td>[8; p.18]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pr. comprising</td>
<td>Identifier</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[4.49]</td>
<td>One year seeding</td>
<td>means</td>
<td>seven years weeding.</td>
<td>[50]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pr. comparing</td>
<td>Interpreter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Vietnamese:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identifier</th>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Identified</th>
<th>Identified verb</th>
<th>Identified phrase</th>
<th>[Page]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[4.50]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vợ chồng con thêm một con</td>
<td>thành</td>
<td>бон.</td>
<td>[8; p.256]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BĐNT</td>
<td>QT: QHS (Pr. Comprising)</td>
<td>ĐNT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[4.51]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Con trâu</td>
<td>là</td>
<td>đầu cơ nghiệp.</td>
<td>[37; p.209]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BĐNT</td>
<td>QT: QHS (Pr. Explanation)</td>
<td>ĐNT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[4.52]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mèo già</td>
<td>hóa</td>
<td>cáo.</td>
<td>[8; p.230]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BĐNT</td>
<td>QT:QHS (Pr. Changing)</td>
<td>ĐNT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 4.2.1.2. Circumstantial Process:

In the circumstantial mode, the circumstance takes the form of relationship between two entities; one entity is related to another by a feature of time or place or manner, etc. This pattern may be organized semantically in either of two ways including circumstance as participants and circumstantial as process.

When Circumstance is expressed through the participants

- **The darkest hour** is that before the dawn.  
  [4.57] The darkest hour is that before the dawn.  
  [50; p.124]

- **Wine** is the master’s, but the goodness is the drawer’s.  
  [4.65] Wine is the master’s, but the goodness is the drawer’s.  
  [49; p.18]

- **Business** comes before pleasure  
  [4.60] Business comes before pleasure  
  [8; p.41]

- **A ragged coat** may cover an honest man  
  [4.62] A ragged coat may cover an honest man  
  [8; p.17]

- **Cái cày** dâi trước con trâu  
  [4.63] Cái cày dâi trước con trâu  
  [8; p.200]

- **Chằng cái dại nào** gióng cái dại nào  
  [4.64] Chằng cái dại nào gióng cái dại nào  
  [8; p.202]

### 4.2.1.3. Possessive Process:

In English, possessive process encodes meanings of ownership and possession between clausal participants. In identifying possessive process, possession may again be expressed either through the participants or through the process.

- **Wine** is the master’s, but the goodness is the drawer’s.  
  [4.65] Wine is the master’s, but the goodness is the drawer’s.  
  [49; p.18]

- **Đồng một** của người, **đồng mười** của ta.  
  [4.66] Đồng một của người, đồng mười của ta.  
  [35; p.536]

- **A good dog** deserves a good bone.  
  [4.67] A good dog deserves a good bone.  
  [8; p.10]
4.2.1.4. The circumstance and the negative form of Relational Identifying processes.

In some cases, the processes in English and Vietnamese proverbs are preceded by circumstances.

[4.69] An ass will always be an ass. \[8; p.27\]
[4.71] Cổt khi vân là cổt khi. \[8; p.208\]

The negative form sometimes appears in English proverbs with RIPs.

[4.75] Trăm sao chăng bằng một trắng. \[36; p.659\]
[4.73] Two wrong do not make a right. \[8; p.176\]

4.2.2. A comparison of Participants in English and Vietnamese Proverbs

4.2.2.1. The ways by which Participants are realized in English and Vietnamese Proverbs

The participants in English proverbs expressed in RIPs may be realized through: “A noun indicates an abstract thing of the common notion; superlative adjective or adjective indicating the absolute meaning: only, first; definite article “the” or possessive adjective; indefinite noun indicating a concrete thing; infinitive group; nominal clause indicating an affair; prepositional phrase”. The similar features are found in Vietnamese proverbs expressed in RIPs. However, participants in Vietnamese are not realized in the prepositional phrase and in case of indicating affairs, participants are often “subject-predicate clauses” instead of a nominal clause as in English.

4.2.2.2. The reversibility of identifier and Identified in English and in Vietnamese

Reversibility is a way to distinguish Relational Identifying processes from Relational Attributive processes. Referring to the verb “be”, the reversibility is carried out in the structure “A + be + B → B + be + A”. As for “the other verbs”, the reversibility is carried out by changing the clause from active into passive voice.

4.2.2.3. Token and Value

Semantically, Token and Value is two functions attributed to the participants - Identified and Identifier - in the Relational Identifying clauses in difference cases. In proverbs, Token is the same as Subject which is one of two participants and the other is Value.

4.2.3. Syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese Proverbs expressed in RIPs:

4.2.3.1. Intensive process

Pattern 1 \( A + be + A \) (tautology)
Pattern 2  \[ A + \text{be} + B \ (A, \ B \text{ are realized by the superlative adjectives forms}) \]

[4.117] Debt is the **worst** poverty.  [8; p.48]
[4.120] The apples on the other side of the wall are the **sweetest**.  [8; p.147]
[4.121] The **shortest** answer is doing.  [50; p.132]
[4.123] The **farthest** way about is the **nearest** way home.  [8; p.151]

The superlative forms are shown in Vietnamese proverbs in the following examples:

[4.131] Nhạt trong là nước giếng Hội, **nhạt béo nhất bùi** là cá rô phi.  [37; p.216]
[4.133] **Thứ nhất** thì gổ vàng tâm, **thứ nhì** gổ nghiêm, **thứ ba** bạch dàn.  [37; p.208]
[4.135] Nhạt cần thân, **nhì** cần lần.

Pattern 3  \[ A + \text{be} + B \ (\text{relative word} + \text{of} + \text{noun}) \]

[4.150] Failure is the **mother** of success.  [8; p.63]
[4.153] Sách sẽ là **mẹ** sức khỏe.  [37; p.228]

Pattern 4  \[ A + \text{be} + B \ (\text{noun}_1 + \text{of} + \text{noun}_2) \]

[4.163] Nước m.string là cua trời.  [37; p.197]
[4.158] Doubt is the beginning, not the end of wisdom.  [50; p.44]

Pattern 5  \[ A + \text{be} + B \ (A, \ B \text{ includes the same thing}) \]

[4.166] Everybody’s business is nobody’s business.  [8; p.61]

Pattern 6  \[ A \ (\text{the defined thing}) + \text{be} + B \ (\text{the definition}) \]

[4.173] A hero **is** a man who is afraid to run away.  [50; p.7]
[4.174] Home is where you hang your hat.  [50; p.71]

Pattern 7  \[ A + \text{be} + B \]

[4.175] Death is the grand leveler.  [8; p.47]
[4.176] Hell for women is old age.  [8; p.85]
Pattern 8  
**A + process of changing + B**

[4.178] With time and patience, the leaf of the mulberry becomes satin.  
[8; p.188]

[37; p.270]

Pattern 9  
**A + process of symbolization + B**

[4.182] The work shows the workman.  
[8; p.159]

[37; p.204]

Pattern 10  
**A + process of comprising + B**

[4.192] Many a small makes a great.  
[8; p.108]

[8; p.18]

[4.196] Vỏ chong son thém moet con thành bón.  
[8; p.256]

[8; p.231]

Pattern 11  
**A + process of comparing + B**

[4.199] Old men are twice children.  
[49; p.97]

[8; p.188]

[4.205] Better the foot slip than the tongue.  
[8; p.38]

[4.207] The laborer is worth of his hire.  
[8; p.153]

[37; p.271]

[35; p.773]

[37; p.279]

[4.219] Bạc vàng cho vay không bằng trong tay có nghề.  
[35; p.112]

4.2.3.2. Circumstantial Processes

In the circumstantial mode, the circumstance takes the form of relationship between two entities; one entity is related to another by a feature of time or place or manner, etc. This pattern may be organized semantically in either of two ways including circumstance as participants and circumstantial as process.

Circumstance as participant

Pattern 12  
**A + be + B (A and B are Circumstances)**
Every day is not Sunday. [8; p.58]

The darkest hour is just before dawn. [50; p.124]

Hai mươi mặt Lê Lai hai mươi hai Lê Lợi. [37; p.285]

A fool’s tongue runs before his wit. [8; p.9]

Chăng cái đại nào giống cái đại nào [8; p.202]

4.2.3.3. Possessive Processes

In English, possessive process encodes meanings of ownership and possession between clausal participants. In identifying possessive process, possession may again be expressed either through the participants or through the process.

Possessive as participant

Wine the is master’s, but the goodness is the drawer’s
A good dog deserves a good bone. [8; p.10]

The relevant structure of this in Vietnamese is “SHT + nào, BSHT ấy”.

All these patterns will be again summarized in the table 4.8 below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sutypes</th>
<th>Patterns of RIPS expressed in Proverbs</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Vietnamese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INT.</td>
<td><strong>Pr. explanation</strong> A + be + A (tautology)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A + be + B (A, B are realized by the superlative forms adjective)</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A + be + B (relative word + of + noun)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A + be + B (noun1 + of + noun2)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A + be + B (A and B include the same thing)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A (the defined thing) + be + B (the definition)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A + be + B</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Pr. changing</strong> A + process of changing + B</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Pr. comprising</strong> A + process of comprising + B</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Pr. symbolizati</strong> A + process of symbolizati + B</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Pr. comparing</strong> A + process of comparing + B</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIR.</td>
<td>A + be + B (A, B are circumstance)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A + process of circumstance + B</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSSESSION</td>
<td>A(possessed) + be + B(possessor)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A + process of possession + B</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 4.8. The patterns of RIPS in English and Vietnamese proverbs*
CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

5.1. CONCLUSIONS

The ultimate goal of this study is to comparing the syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese proverbs expressed in RIPv in order to find out the similarities and differences between two languages. In order to achieve these goals, the researcher carries out an investigation into RIPv in English and Vietnamese proverbs. The findings gained from the analysis of 321 English proverbs and 291 Vietnamese proverbs in the data allow the researcher to come to the following remarks.

1. The fundamental framework of RIPv in English and Vietnamese proverbs is structurally similar to each other. Three potential components appearing mostly in RIPv to put together to form the structure: Identifier + process + Identified. Additionally, the presence of circumstance is not potential in the two languages. The components of RIPv can be structured as: (Circumstance) + Identified + Process: relational identifying + Identifier + (Circumstance).

2. RIPv in English and Vietnamese proverbs are basically divided into three subtypes: Intensive (X is A); Circumstantial (X is at A); possessive (X has A).

3. The processes in English and Vietnamese proverbs can be classified into three types: intensive process, circumstantial process and possessive process. Each type of process is differently expressed in proverbs.

   For the intensive process, the verb “be” in English and “là/thì” in Vietnamese are popularly used to feature the process. Beside the intensive verb “be”, some other processes verbs such as “make, show, justify, bring, prove, reveal, tell, turn, become, give, mean, and form” in English and “thành, hóa, làm, nó ra, ra và thì/là” in Vietnamese are also involved in. All these verbs are divided into five specific groups: process of explanation, process of changing, process of comprising, process of symbolization and process of comparing. In additional the comparative form “be better than” and “be worthy of” in English and “bảng, hon, thua, không bảng” in Vietnamese are semantically considered as a special cases ranked in the process of comparing in the intensive process.

   For the circumstance subtype, the verb “be” in English and “thì là” in Vietnamese are also used in case of circumstance as participant; if circumstance as process, the circumstantial processes utilized in English include “follow, come before, come after, run before and bring forth and cover” and in Vietnamese those are “đặt trước, giống”.
For the possession processes, the verbs “be” in English and “thì/là” in Vietnamese are employed in case of possession as participant. If possession as process, the verb “deserve and hold” are utilized to encode the possessive process in English proverbs and no possessive process are found in Vietnamese proverbs.

4. The participants – Identifier and Identified – in English and Vietnamese proverbs with identifying clauses have a lot of similarities and no much difference.

a. The ways by which the participants are realized in both English proverbs and Vietnamese proverbs may be
   A noun indicating an abstract thing of the common notion
   A superlative adjective or adjective indicating the absolute meaning such as only, first
   A definite article “the” or possessive adjective
   An indefinite noun indicating a concrete thing
   An infinitive group indicating an event

   Besides, in order to indicate an affair, while the participants in Vietnamese are realized by a subject-predicate clause, those in Vietnamese are a nominal clause. The participant in English proverbs may be a prepositional phrase whereas such the situation is not found in the participants of Vietnamese proverbs.

b. The position of Identifier and Identified can be reversible in both languages. For the verb be and some linking verbs such as become, turn in English and thì/là, hóa, thành in Vietnamese, Identifier and Identified change only positions for each other. The reversibility of the other verbs is made in voice.

c. Referring to two functions Token and Value in English and Vietnamese proverbs. The voice of the identifying relational clauses with the process verbs is active, then the subject is the Token, the remaining is the Value

5. In English and Vietnamese proverbs, the different ways in combination of three main components –Identified, Process and Identifier create the fixed structures in proverbs. In the process of studying, we have found the 16 typical patterns of structure. These structures are often used in proverbs because of the semantic features of proverbs.

   Pattern 1: A + be + A (tautology).
   Pattern 2: A + be + B (A, B are realized by the superlative adjectives form).
   Pattern 3: A (a thing) + be + B (relative word + of + a thing).
   Pattern 4: A + be + B (noun 1 + of + noun 2).
   Pattern 5: A + be + B (A, B includes the same thing).
**Pattern 6:** A (the defined thing) + be + B (the definition).
**Pattern 7:** A + be + B.
**Pattern 8:** A + process of changing + B.
**Pattern 9:** A + process of symbolization + B.
**Pattern 10:** A + process of comprising + B.
**Pattern 11:** A + process of comparing + B.
**Pattern 12:** A + be + B (A and B are Circumstances).
**Pattern 13:** A + process of circumstance + B.
**Pattern 14:** A (possessed) + be + B (possessor)
**Pattern 15:** A (possessor) + process of possession + B (possessed)
**Pattern 16:** Such + A (possessor), such + B (possessed)

### 5.2. IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

Proverbs reflect the ancestor’s experience in many aspects of life such as agriculture, labor, weather and show people’s wisdom. Possessing a good knowledge can help learners to enhance the efficiency of verbal communication. The appropriate use of proverbs in communication show one’s profound knowledge and great language capability.

The number of proverbs expressed in RPs is considerable. Thus, if learners are taught the syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese proverbs expressed in RPs, they can understand and remember a large number of proverbs better and longer. In addition, learners would gain some cultural knowledge through learning proverbs under the light of F.G because the words and the structure chosen by producer of proverbs reveals how they perceive and experience what is going on in the world.

The study provides learner an interesting and new method to approach the proverbs, draw them to proverbs analysis based on function and meaning.

To some extent, the study provides teachers some findings that help them teach proverbs effectively. The teacher should introduce to students the framework of RPs and RPs in proverbs and then supply them with the typical structures of RPs in proverbs and their semantic features, to help learners to understand clearly and remember the proverbs of this kind longer and use them effectively.

### 5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

#### 5.3.1. Limitations of the thesis

Because of the shortage of time, reference materials and limited knowledge of the researcher; the study has got certain restrictions. First, because the limited number of proverbs is selected for analysis; only 16 patterns of RIP were discovered in proverbs. Second, due to the limited
knowledge; some aspects of semantic features of proverbs of RIPs have not deeply explained in the study.

Relational Identifying Processes are popularly used in written discourse but my investigation is limited in proverbs.

**5.3.2. Suggestions for further researches**

Due to the insufficiency of the study, I realize that it is necessary to offer some suggestions for further research:

An investigation into Relational Identifying Processes expressed in poems, songs and other kinds.