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**A STUDY OF LINGUISTIC FEATURES
OF IDIOMS EXPRESSING ANGER
IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE**

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**M.A. THESIS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

When studying a nation's language, we wish to apprehend it thoroughly and master it well. To reach these aims, people are not allowed to ignore their learning language's idioms that are defined by Palmer [30] as expressions whose meanings cannot be inferred from the meaning of its parts. In terms of language, an idiom is a combination of words. These words are taken from the general vocabulary of each language. Idioms are considered an interesting and popular phenomenon of every language. Idioms play an important role in all languages in general, in both English and Vietnamese in particular. Idioms add colour the language and make the communication more lively and interesting. Therefore, effective communication can not be achieved successfully without idioms.

Human feelings are very complicated as Fernando [12] said "*Emotions are internal and formless, language, in this case primarily idioms signifying internal states through images, gives emotions from and so empowers the language users to concretize the amorphous by bringing two different experiential gestalts into analogical correspondence*". People use various means of language to express their different feelings such as joy, grief, sorrow, fear, anger ... The idiom is one of the most popular means used to express these human feelings in daily communication such as "*hón hỏ như đượ vàng, lúng túng như gà mắc tóc, sợ sái mắt thần tài, nổi cả gai ốc*"... There have been some studies of *happiness* by Nguyễn Thị Vân Lam (2009) [24], of *human feelings* by Võ Thanh Quyên (2006)

[31] and the thesis entitled "Đổi chiếu thành ngữ chỉ trạng thái tâm lý trong tiếng Anh và tiếng Việt" by Lâm Thị Hòa Bình (2005) [44]. However, there has been hardly any research into the idioms expressing *anger* in English and Vietnamese in terms of syntactic and semantic features. Let's take the case of the idiom "*hit the ceiling*". In English, this idiom can not be translated literally words by words into Vietnamese. Meanwhile, this idiom is equivalent to such Vietnamese idiom as "*nổi trận lôi đình*". In this way, differences in idioms expressing *anger* could cause difficulties and problems for learners of English and Vietnamese as a foreign language.

Therefore, this contrastive analysis thesis of idioms expressing *anger* in English and Vietnamese is carried out to help cross-cultural communicators and learners of Vietnamese and English as a foreign language improve their understanding of idioms, avoid errors especially in translation and use them effectively as well.

1.2. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.3.1. Aims

1.3.2. Objectives

The study is intended to:

- Describe the syntactic and semantic features of English idioms expressing *anger*.
- Describe the syntactic and semantic features of Vietnamese idioms expressing *anger*.
- Make a comparison between English and Vietnamese idioms expressing *anger* with regard to syntactic and semantic features.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study is to answer the following questions:

1. What are the syntactic and semantic features of idioms expressing *anger* in English?
2. What are the syntactic and semantic features of idioms expressing *anger* in Vietnamese?
3. What are the similarities and dissimilarities in syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese idioms expressing *anger*?

1.5. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The study is organized into five chapters: Chapter 1 is the Introduction; Chapter 2 is the Literature Review and Theoretical Background; Chapter 3 is the Methods and Procedures; Chapter 4 is Findings and Discussions; Chapter 5 is the Conclusions and Implications.

CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

There have been a number of writers making investigations into idioms with different points of view and objectives. In English, there are some famous ones being collected and written by researchers such as “*The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms*” by Ammer, C. [1]. In “*NTC’s American Idioms Dictionary*”, Spears, R. and Kirkpatrick, B. [37] focus on the meaning, usage and appropriate contexts for each idiomatic phrase. Nguyễn Lực, Lương Văn Đăng [53] are two authors who made a significant contribution in the field of Vietnamese idioms. They wrote “*Thành ngữ Tiếng Việt*” which is a collection of Vietnamese idioms arranged in alphabetical order with clear explanations and examples extracted from Vietnamese novels, newspapers and magazines. Moreover, Nguyễn Trần Trụ who wrote “*Thành ngữ tục ngữ lược giải*” [59] explains meanings of the most common idioms and proverbs in such simple, clear ways that learners can use this book for consulting and reference purposes.

After that, it is the appearance of “*Từ điển thành ngữ tục ngữ Việt Nam*” by Đặng Hồng Chương [46], “*1575 Thành ngữ - Tục ngữ cần bàn thêm*” by Lê Gia [48] ... and a number of contrastive studies on the various aspects of idioms have been carried out in Danang University by Vietnamese researchers.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Definitions of Idioms

Idioms is a combination of stable words both in English and Vietnamese such as: *raise the roof, hit the ceiling, bầm gan tím ruột, giận cá chém thớt* ... There are many definitions of idioms in English and Vietnamese. In English, according to the Cambridge Dictionary of American Idioms [17], “*An idiom is a phrase whose meaning is different from the meanings of each word considered separately. These phrases have a fixed form – they usually cannot be changed – and they are often informal, but they can also be slang, rude slang, or even slightly formal*”.

Idioms make perfect examples of figurative language, in that the overall meaning of an idiom can not be predicted from the composition of the literal meanings of the constituent parts. For example, we can not predict that these idioms *up in arms* or *down in the mouth* mean *very angry*.

Idioms in both English and Vietnamese are structurally and lexically closely-combined phrases whose meanings are completely different from their component parts.

In general, idioms are the products of national culture and social life. They are conventionally lexicalized linguistic units and ready-made utterances. Structurally, idioms are fixed expressions; they don't permit the usual variability displaying in other contexts. From the semantic point of view, idioms must be interpreted in connection with the historical and cultural characteristics.

2.2.2. Idioms Denoting Speed

According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English (2005) [21], “*anger is the active feeling provoked against the agent, passion, rage, wrath, ire, hot displeasure*”. In the American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms (2001) [1], “*anger is a strong feeling of displeasure or hostility. In accordance with the above definitions, as is commonly understood, anger is used to express strong feeling of displeasure or hostility*”.

2.2.3. The Origins of Idioms

2.2.3.1. Idioms from Living Circumstances

2.2.3.2. Idioms from Historical Allusion

2.2.4. Typical Features of Idioms

2.2.4.1. Lexical Integrity and Structural Stability

2.2.4.2. Semantic Opacity

2.2.4.3. Stylistic Features

2.2.5. Idioms and Other Language Units

Idioms bear some syntactic and semantic resemblance with other phraseology units in the language, which sometimes cause some difficulties to distinguish this unit from the others. The confusion usually exists between idioms and phrases, collocations, proverbs and clichés.

2.2.5.1. Idioms and Phrases

2.2.5.2. Idioms and Collocations

2.2.5.3. Idioms and Proverbs

2.2.5.4. Idioms and Clichés

2.2.6. The Relationship of Language and Culture

2.2.6.1. The Relationship of Language and Culture

2.2.6.2. Relationship Between Idioms and Culture

2.2.7. Concluding Remarks

CHAPTER 3

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

3.1. RESEARCH METHODS

The study describes and compare the syntactic, semantic features of idioms expressing anger in English versus Vietnamese and then withdraw some implications for the teaching and learning of English and Vietnamese as a foreign language. In order to achieve these aims and objectives, the descriptive and comparative methods are utilized.

The descriptive method is used to describe in details the syntactic and semantic features through the examples of idioms expressing anger collected from referent books, stories, novels, dictionaries and Internet websites.

In addition, the comparative method could be used to identify the similarities and differences in the syntactic and semantic features of idioms expressing anger in English versus Vietnamese.

In short, with the combination of the descriptive and contrastive methods, syntactic and semantic similarities as well as differences of English and Vietnamese idioms expressing anger could be discovered.

3.2. DATA COLLECTION METHODS

3.3. DATA COLLECTION

3.4. DATA ANALYSIS

After collecting 400 idioms including 200 English idioms and 200 Vietnamese idioms expressing anger from English and Vietnamese grammar and literature books, novels, dictionaries and

English journals respectively, we categorize them into two main aspects: syntactic and semantic one.

Syntactically, the classification of the data is mainly based on the different structural categories, namely: noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, prepositional phrases and adverbial phrases...

Semantically, the classification is carried out on the basis of typical semantic features of idioms expressing anger in both languages.

3.5. PROCEDURES

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF IDIOMS EXPRESSING ANGER IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

4.1.1. Stylistic Characteristics of Idioms Expressing Anger in English and Vietnamese

4.1.1.1. Metaphor

It is found from the corpus that metaphor is mainly used in the meaning transfer of idioms expressing anger; for example: *in the heat of the moment*, *add fuel to the fire*, *hot under the collar*, *lose someone's cool*, *a storm in a teacup* ...

In Vietnamese, people also use idioms metaphorically to convey the meaning such as *đổ thêm dầu vào lửa*, *mặt nặng như chì*, *nổi trận lôi đình*, *nóng gáy*, *nóng mặt* ...

4.1.1.2. Metonymy

Metonymy is a figure of speech in which a thing or concept is not called by its own name, but by the name of something closely associated with that thing or concept.

Here are some examples of idioms expressing anger in English by the means of metonymy: *tức sôi máu*, *tức vỡ ruột*, *tức nổ đom đóm mắt*, *tức nổ con người*, *tức vỡ mặt*, *lòng sôi lên sùng sục*, etc.

In English, we also have idioms expressing anger with the use of metonymy such as *make someone's blood boil*, *reach boiling point*, *blow someone's stack*, *fly a barrage*, etc.

Metaphors and metonymies could be used in English and Vietnamese idioms expressing anger with many images of body parts.

There are 45 and 50 idioms in English and Vietnamese respectively containing words relating to these images.

Table 4.1 Metaphors and Metonymies in English and Vietnamese
Idioms Expressing Anger with Images of Body Parts

Parts of the Body	English		Vietnamese	
	Number of idioms	Percentage (%)	Number of idioms	Percentage (%)
Arm (cánh tay)	2	2	Ø	Ø
Blood (máu/tiết)	11	11	8	8
Ear (tai)	2	2	2	2
Face (mặt)	1	1	12	12
Finger (ngón tay)	2	2	Ø	Ø
Hair (tóc)	2	2	Ø	Ø
Head (đầu)	4	4	Ø	Ø
Eyelid (mi mắt)	1	1	Ø	Ø
Lip (lưỡi)	1	1	1	1
Mouth (miệng)	2	2	1	1
Neck (cổ)	3	3	Ø	Ø
Nerve (thần kinh)	2	2	Ø	Ø
Rip (xương sườn)	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø
Skin (da)	1	1	Ø	Ø
Teeth (răng)	4	4	1	1
Throat/gullet (họng)	2	2	2	2
Toes (ngón chân cái)	1	1	Ø	Ø
Tongue (lưỡi)	3	3	1	1
Bowel (ruột)	Ø	Ø	13	13
Chest (ngực)	Ø	Ø	1	1
Liver (gan)	Ø	Ø	12	12
Gall (mật)	Ø	Ø	1	1

4.1.1.3. Symmetry

This type of structure is quite rare in English idioms expressing anger; however, it is abundant in Vietnamese such as *bầm/tím, gan/ruột, (bầm gan tím ruột), trợn/nghiến, mắt/răng (trợn mắt nghiền răng), nặng/sa, mặt/mày (nặng mặt sa mày), cháy/bầm, ruột/gan (cháy ruột bầm gan), căm/ngứa, gan/tiết (căm gan ngứa tiết), phồng/trợn, mang/má (phồng mang trợn má), đeo/ngâm, sâu/túi (đeo sâu ngâm túi), ăn/nuốt, tươi/sống (ăn tươi nuốt sống), đỏ/tía, mặt/tai (đỏ mặt tía tai), etc.*

4.1.1.4. Simile

We can find out some examples of English idioms expressing anger using simile as a means of meaning transfer such as *as mad as a hornet, as red as a beetroot, angry as a bear, angry like a bear with a sore heat, like a red rag to a bull, etc.*

In Vietnamese, Vietnamese idioms expressing anger include *mắt như đống lửa, mặt đỏ như gấc chín, giãy lên như bị ong châm, tức như đấm bị bông, nóng như Trương Phi, nhin như nhin con sông, như dầu sôi lửa cháy, etc.*

4.1.2. Semantic Features of Idioms Expressing Anger in English and Vietnamese

4.1.2.1. Insanity

Table 4.3 Structures of Idioms Expressing Anger in English and Vietnamese in Insanity Field

ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
[1] Adj + N/ NP	[1] NP + như + NP
[2] V + (Art) + N	[2] V + NP
[3] V + NP	[3] V + N, V + N, V + N, V + N

[4] V + N + (Art) + N/ NP	[4] V + nhur + NP
[5] V + N/ NP + Prep	[5] V + N + V + N
[6] V + (Art) + N/ NP + V	[6] V + nhur + VP
[7] V + (Art) + N + P.P	[7] A + N + A + N
[8] V + N + Art + N/ NP + PP	[8] A + nhur + N / NP
[9] V + N + A	[9] A + VP
[10] V + and + V + PP	[10] A + A
[11] V + A	[11] Adv + VP
[12] (V) + PP	∅
[13] V + P/ PP + P/ PP	∅
[14] V + A + PP	∅
[15] V + A + To-inf + N	∅
[16] V + P + and + P	∅
[17] V + PP + Past P + PP	∅
[18] As + A + as+ (Art) + N	∅
[19] A + like + (Art) + N + PP	∅
[20] Like + Art + N/ NP + PP	∅
[21] Past P + PP	∅
[22] P + NP	∅
[23] P/ PP / PP/ P	∅
[24] S + Pred + O/ C	∅

4.1.2.2. Heat

Table 4.4 Structures of Idioms Expressing Anger in English and Vietnamese in Heat Field

ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
[25] V + Art + N/ NP	[12] A + N
[26] V + PP	[13] NP + V
[27] V + Prep + N	[14] N + A + A + N
[28] V + PP + Prep + N	[15] NP + nhur + NP
[29] A + PP	[16] A + N + A + N
[30] S + Pred	[17] A + NP
∅	[18] A + nhur + NP
∅	[19] S + Pred

4.1.2.3. Fire

Table 4.5 Structures of Idioms Expressing Anger in English and Vietnamese in Fire Field

ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
[31] V + Art + N/ NP	[20] N + nhur + VP
[32] V + A + Prep	[21] Nhur + N+ V + N + V
[33] V + N + Prep/ PP	[22] A + N + A + N
[34] As + A + as + A	∅

4.1.2.4. Hot Fluid in a Container

Table 4.6 Structures of Idioms Expressing Anger in English and Vietnamese in hot Fluid in a Container Field

ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
[35] A + N	[23] V + (Art) + N/ NP
[36] V + PP	[24] A + N + V + N

[37] V + NP + V	[25] A + VP
[38] V + NP + Prep	[26] S + VPred + Com
[39] VP + PP	∅
[40] V + A + Prep	∅
[41] Prep + NP	∅
[42] S + Pred	∅

4.1.2.5. Swearing

Table 4.7 Structures of Idioms Expressing Anger in English and Vietnamese in Swearing Field

ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
[43] (Art)+N+PP	[27] N + NP
[44] V + N/ NP	[28] N + V + N + V
[45] (Not)+V + Pro + Prep	[29] N + VP
[46] S + Pred	[30] N + A
∅	[31] S + VPred + Adv

4.1.2.6. Withstanding

Table 4.8 Structures of Idioms Expressing Anger in English Versus Vietnamese in Withstanding Field

ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
[47] Verb + Noun	[32] V + N
∅	[33] V + A + V + A
∅	[34] V + N + V + N
∅	[35] V + nhur + V + NP
∅	[36] S + Pred

4.1.2.7. Third suffering

Table 4.9 Structures of Idioms Expressing Anger in English Versus Vietnamese in Third Party Venting Field

ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
[48] V+ NP + PP	[37] V + N/ NP + V + N/ NP
∅	[38] V + N + V + N, V + N + V + N

4.2. SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE IDIOMS EXPRESSING ANGER

4.2.1. Similarities

4.2.1.1 Syntactic features

From the findings above, we could withdraw some similarities in syntactic features of idioms expressing anger in English and Vietnamese as follows:

From Table 4.11 (p. 90), we find out that both English and Vietnamese own a system of idioms expressing anger in certain phrase structures such as noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, prepositional phrases and adverb phrases as well as clause structures.

The structure of noun phrases are both used in idioms expressing anger in English and Vietnamese but they donot share the same structures, for example *(Art) + N + PP* in English and *N + NP* in Vietnamese.

Idioms expressing anger in the form of verb phrases are the most popular in both languages with a large number of examples collected in the corpus. In the structure of verb phrases, Verb is the main component; Noun Phrase and Prepositional Phrase are modifiers. As a result, there are some similar structures in English

and Vietnamese such as *Verb + Noun / NP, Verb + Noun / NP + Prep. P, Verb + Prep. P.*

In term of adjective phrases, the structure of *Adj + Prep. P* could be illustrated in both English and Vietnamese. Moreover, the structure of *Adj + as + Adj + N* or *As + Adj + as + Adj* are quite popular in both English and Vietnamese languages. In English and Vietnamese Adjective Phrase Patterns, adjective plays a decisive role in the meaning of an anger idiom.

Anger idioms in both languages are lexically fixed in different phrase structures: noun phrases, verb phrases and adjective phrases. In the two languages, these idioms appear to be correspondent to each other in terms of phrases.

+ In noun phrases

a son of a bitch : ***đồ chó đẻ***

+ In verb phrases

Make one's blood boil : ***làm ai tức sôi máu***

Raise the devil in someone : ***làm ai nổi tam bành***

Stir up a nest of hornets : ***chọc phải tổ ong***

+ In adjective phrases

Hot under the collar : ***đằng đằng sát khí***

Purple with rage : ***giận đỏ mặt tía tai***

In addition, there is similarity in the simile used in idioms expressing anger in the two languages. Let's consider some following examples:

Like a red rag to a bull

Like a bear with a sore head

Simile is even used frequently in Vietnamese:

Cay như ớt

Gắt như mắt tôm

Gầm như hổ đói

Giấy lên như đĩa phải vôi

Kêu như trời đánh

Mặt nặng như đá đeo

Nóng như Trương Phi

4.2.1.2. Semantic features

Firstly, Vietnamese and English idioms expressing anger are employed with the same semantic features related to insanity, heat, fire, hot fluid in a container, swearing, withstanding and third party venting.

Secondly, anger idioms are considered fixed expressions; however, as mentioned in the previous theoretical chapter, they are relatively fixed. In some cases, the change of the word in the same semantic field or the change of the order of the words in the idiom does not break its meaning at all. Both English and Vietnamese idioms expressing anger own many variants. For instance, in English, it is possible to use “touch” or “hit” in the idioms: touch a nerve, hit a nerve. Both of these idioms “touch a nerve, hit a nerve” have the same meaning. We could find some other similar idioms in the appendix like pull someone's chain / yank someone's chain; take the flak / get the flak ... In Vietnamese, there are some idioms which can be used with other verbs such as: giận chồng đánh con / giận chồng mắng con, giận cá chém thớt / giận cá vằm thớt, tức lộn ruột / tức nở ruột, cáu tiết / điên tiết ...

We could also find some other idioms expressing anger in insanity semantic field such as: hit the roof / hit the ceiling, angry as a bear / angry as a bull... In Vietnamese, the idiom “tức nỏ mắt” has nearly the same meaning with “tức nỏ con người”, in which “mắt” and “con người” refer to eyes, or “sôi máu” and “sôi tiết”, in which “máu” and “tiết” both refer to blood. There is no difference in the meaning between the above idioms .

Thirdly, it could be easy to understand literal and transparent meaning of an English and Vietnamese idiom expressing anger because its meaning can be made by associating its individual words' meaning under comparative structures.

Fourthly, idioms in general and idioms expressing anger in particular were created by native speakers, describing their life as well as their culture. Accordingly, in order to decode semantic mechanisms of English and Vietnamese idioms expressing anger, we often base on real-world situation, history allusion and cultural background. In addition, both English and Vietnamese idioms expressing anger use certain characters, things, concrete events to illustrate abstract ideas or phenomena by means of metaphorical metonymical devices in the fields of insanity, heat, fire, hot fluid in a container, swearing, withstanding and third party venting. The analysis above shows that the use of metaphors and metonymies appear to be common in both English and Vietnamese.

4.2.2. Differences

4.2.2.1. Syntactic Features

4.2.2.2. Semantic Features

Apart from sharing the common semantic features in common with Vietnamese idioms, English idioms expressing anger have their

own semantic feature because of the differences in the customs, historical and cultural backgrounds, religious belief and different geographical environment of Vietnam and the countries where English is used as the native language. Thus, there are some differences in forming idioms and the way idioms conveying their meanings. For example, a lot of classical fairy tales and historical allusion have laid the foundation for the formation of idioms in general and idioms expressing anger in particular. This is because English civilization is mainly originates from the civilization of ancient Greece and Rome in the Mediterranean. Vietnamese civilization, on the other hand, is traditionally agriculture - oriented. As a result, most of Vietnamese idioms come from human experience in agriculture such as đá thủng đụng nia, đâm bị thóc chọc bị gạo, mặt đỏ như gấc chín, tức như bò đá...

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSIONS

As mentioned in the previous chapters, the thesis has so far studied the linguistic features of idioms expressing anger in terms of syntactic and semantic aspects to show the inevitable close link between the superficial grammatical structure of idioms and their underlying semantic features. 400 idioms of this kind are collected, classified and analyzed. A contrastive analysis is carried out to find out both the similarities and differences in syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese idioms expressing anger. This is aimed at helping learners of English and Vietnamese as a foreign language understand and use these idioms properly and effectively in reality.

The study has revealed the following results:

Semantically, the meanings of all the collected anger idioms in English and Vietnamese could be expressed through such means as metaphor, metonymy and symmetry. Based on the functional grammar viewpoint, the researcher have investigated each semantic field based on superficial grammatical structures. In the light of this approach, idioms are analyzed in forms of phrasal structures and clause structures in relation to their semantic features. The phrasal structures could be categorized into noun phrases, verb phrases, prepositional phrases and adverbial phrases, Besides, idioms are also structured by clauses.

The differences in semantic and syntactic features of these idioms in English and Vietnamese could cause some problems to the

learners' Vietnamese and English learning English and Vietnamese as a foreign language. Therefore, from the result of the study, we would like to put forward some implications for the possible better language teaching and learning.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS

5.2.1. Implication for Learning Idioms Expressing Anger

There are differences of the culture between two countries: England belongs to the western culture while Vietnam belongs to the eastern one. So it is necessary for people to accumulate as much cultural background knowledge as possible. No matter when we learn English idioms or Vietnamese idioms, we must bear in mind that we are not only to learn idioms but also to learn their correspondent cultures. In practice, the most effective way to possess the cultural background knowledge of idioms is reading. We can read professional books about English and Vietnamese idioms and their sources. We can also read those books introducing British and Vietnamese cultures. In addition, if our learning is impeded by new idioms, we can resort to a dictionary for help. Furthermore, we can gain some knowledge about idioms by communicating with foreigners. In general, it is indispensable for us to have cultural background knowledge to help us have better understanding of idioms.

5.2.2. Implication for Teaching Idioms Expressing Anger

Firstly, idioms introduced to students should be suitable for the learners. For learners at a lower level, idioms should be listed in semantic fields, topics or key words. Of course, the explanation in terms of structure and meaning is indispensable in order to avoid

misunderstanding the figurative meaning. At advanced level, analyzing semantic mechanisms of idioms should be done so that learners can discover the figurative meaning of an idiom by themselves.

Secondly, teaching the history of how an idiom came into common usage is also helpful to learners and may provide clues to its present usage. For example, the English idioms *as hot as fire* and *purple with rage* could be equivalent to such Vietnamese idioms as *nóng như lửa* and *đỏ mặt tía tai*.

Thirdly, to understand the meaning of idioms, learners not only have the basic knowledge of a language but also master the cultural characteristics of idioms. Therefore, in order to teach idioms effectively, it is necessary to teach their cultural characteristics as well. Furthermore, students should have more opportunities to hear, read and use the expressions through types of exercises.

5.2.3. Implication for Translating Idioms Expressing Anger

Some translation tactics relating to literal translation and figurative translation could be given to help Vietnamese learners of English deal with idioms expressing anger. Translators should make great endeavor to retain the figurative image, rhetorical devices and cultural characteristics of the original idioms.

5.2.3.1. Literal Translation

5.2.3.2. Figurative Translation

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.3.1. Limitations

Firstly, this paper could not cover all constructions as well as meanings of idioms expressing anger under discussion due to the

limitation of time, lack of relevant materials relating to this topic in both English and Vietnamese. Secondly, the deficiency in the origin of idioms expressing anger is the factor affecting the semantic mechanism of these idioms.

5.3.2. Suggestions for Further Research

In this thesis, we have confined ourselves to the study of a humble part of syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese idioms expressing anger to find out their similarities and differences. As a result, many other aspects need to be studied in further researches. The following topics may be for further research:

- A study of idioms expressing anger in terms of pragmatic features in English and Vietnamese
- A cross-cultural study of idioms expressing mood and feelings