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**A STUDY OF SEMANTIC AND SYNTACTIC
FEATURES OF ENGLISH FAMOUS LOVE
SAYINGS AND THEIR VIETNAMESE TRANSLATION**

Study Field : THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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

INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

For a long time, communication is an essential part in our daily life. There are a lot of definitions of communication by many linguists. Devito [35] defined: “Communication refers to the act, by one or more persons, of sending and receiving messages that are distorted by noise, occur within a context, have some effect and provide some opportunity for feedback”. Or “communication is the transference of information, such as thoughts and messages, as contrasted with transportation, the transfer of goods and persons” [36]. Hornby (2009) [12] said: “Communication is the activity or process of expressing ideas and feelings or that of giving people information”.

In communication, we have a great deal of ways to express and exchange our thoughts, feelings, perceptions and experiences of reality or the world around us. They include languages, signs, gestures ... Among them, it is clear that language is the most effective and important mean.

Many people transfer express their innermost feelings, sentiments through idioms, folk songs, proverbs. They are anonymous but their works are stored and passed by tradition from one generation to another.

Besides, there is another means developed parallelly with the above means called *famous sayings* (FSs) or quotations. “They are drawn from novels, plays, poems, essays, speeches, films, radio and television broadcast, songs, advertisements and even book titles” [6, p. 4]. Normally, they are traced to a particular originator although they sometimes share some features in common with proverbs, catch - phrases and idioms in that they are widely known and used . For example, the quotation “A bad workman quarrels with his tools” (Vụng múa chê đất lếch) [20, p. 11] has become proverbial because of its widespread usage as it can be traced back to a particular originator meanwhile catch - phrases are also regarded as FSs or quotations that can be widely remembered or used but those phrases cannot be FSs or quotations for they cannot be traced back to their creator.

There is no doubt to say that every country, every language has a large number of FSs or quotations whose semantic and syntactic features are normally difficult for both

native and foreign learners to acquire.

Let's consider the following examples:

(1a) The man in love is born again. [49, p. 119]

(1b) Yêu làm người ta tái sinh thêm lần nữa.

(2a) A man finds himself seven years older the day after his marriage. [43, p. 85]

(2b) Sau ngày cưới, đàn ông cảm thấy mình già đi bảy tuổi.

In order to understand the meanings of these FSs or quotations, the readers not only have experience in love and its sweetness and bitterness but also understand the semantic and syntactic features and the underlying cultural features of *English famous love sayings (EFLSs) and their Vietnamese translation*. Otherwise, readers in general and learners of English as a foreign language in particular could get confused in learning English, especially in translation and literature.

There are a great deal of studies of FSs or quotations related to friendship, family, changes, success,... However, hardly any research has been carried out semantic and syntactic features of EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation. As a result, the thesis is carried out in order to help learners of English learn and communicate English better.

1.2. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

It cannot be denied that FSs or quotations are an important part in our daily communication as well as in the process of learning a foreign language. Unintentionally or intentionally, we have used them as a habit for conveying our intention, attitude and assessment which reflects the cultural features of the country. Accordingly, FSs or quotations are culture - bound. The lack of knowledge of linguistic features of the FSs or quotations could cause some problems to the understanding and translating these FSs to find out translated Vietnamese equivalent by translators and learners in both English and Vietnamese. This study of semantic and syntactic features of EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation could hence to some extent help learners have a good insight into their syntactic, semantic and cultural features, which is beneficial for translators and learners of the two languages.

1.3. AIMS OF THE STUDY

The study is aimed at:

- Finding out the semantic and syntactic features of EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation.

- Helping users of English and Vietnamese get access to FSs from different viewpoints and understand more about them and use them more effectively not only in communication but also in language teaching and learning.

- Finding out the similarities and differences between the semantic and syntactic features of EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation.

1.4. OBJECTIVES

The thesis is intended:

- To describe the semantic and syntactic features of EFLSs and Vietnamese translation of EFLSs .

- Compare the semantic and syntactic features of EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation.

1.5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In order to achieve the above aims and objectives, the following research questions could be put forward:

- What are the semantic and syntactic features of EFLSs and Vietnamese translation of EFLSs ?

- What are the similarities and differences in the semantic and syntactic features of EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation?

1.6. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Due to the time and resource constraints, my study is restricted to EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation in terms of semantic and syntactic features at sentence level.

1.7. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The thesis could consist of five chapters as presented below:

Chapter 1: Introduction - presents the reason why the topic is chosen, the justification, the aims, the objectives, the research questions, the scope and the organization of the study.

Chapter 2: Literature Review and Theoretical Background - is about the brief review of the previous studies. This chapter is also devoted to the presentation of the definitions, major features of EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation.

Chapter 3: Methodology - covers the aims and objectives of the thesis, the research design, the research methodology, the description of the samples and research procedure.

Chapter 4: Findings and Discussions - describes, analyzes and discusses EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation concerning semantic and syntactic features and cultural features.

Chapter 5: Conclusion - summarizes the major findings of the thesis along with the practical implications, the limitations of the study and the suggestions for further study.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

There is a number of great and useful dictionaries of quotations in English, and some of them have good reputations, for example: “John’s Dictionary of Quotation (first published in 1855, and revised and augmented in 1937, for its eleventh edition by Christopher and Louella), Jehiel’s Dictionary of Quotation (first published in 1881, and revised and enlarged in 1927 by Kate) and Mencken with “*A New Dictionary of Quotations (1962)*” [17, preface. p]. Through their studies, we could see the persuasiveness of FSs or quotations in written and spoken language.

Also, several Vietnamese researchers have paid attention to the study of FSs or quotations, among them are Le Ngoc Tu (2004), Thanh Vân, Nguyễn Duy Như (2004). Since then, there has been a great number of collections by Thanh Hương (2005), Bao Ngan (2005), Thien Kim (2005), Phan Mật (2006), Nguyễn Văn Hân (2006), Nguyen Van Ba (1999), Hoài Thương (1999), ...

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Translation Theory

Catford considers that “an operation performed on languages: a process of substituting a text in one language for a text in the another” [3, p. 1] is translation. There are many definitions of translation. The simplest one is the transfer of a text from the language A into language B. However, going through the time, this understanding has begun to become wider and deeper depending on the position of the researcher.

2.2.1.1. Translation Methods

Many people believe that translation procedures and translation methods are the same. However, I agree with Newmark (1982) when he mentions the difference between

translation procedures and translation methods. Newmark writes that, “While translation methods relate to the whole texts, translation procedures are used for sentences and the smaller units of languages”. He refers to the following methods of translation

2.2.1.2. Translation Procedures

As above mentioned, various types of equivalence occur on all levels of language, from word to text. Then we also have difference translation procedures that Newmark (1988) proposed:

(cited from the http://accurapid.com/journal/41_culture.htm)

2.2.1.3. Loss and Gain in Translation

Clearly, between SL and TL always exists a difference. Therefore, something could be lost or gained in the translation process as Bell [2, p. 6] confirms.

If we understand in a simple way, loss is the state of no longer having something or as much of something while gain is an increase in amount. [12]

In translation theory, if the text describes a situation which has elements peculiar to the topics related to their language area, there is an inevitable loss because of the transference rather than the substitution in translation process. [3, p. 16].

2.2.1.4. Loss and Gain in Meaning and Constructions

We all know that meaning is very important in translation particularly in total translation. Indeed, translation has often been defined with reference to meaning; a translation is said to “have the same meaning” [3, p. 35]

The definition of translation suggested above imply that producing the same meaning or message in the target language text as intended by the original author is the main purpose of a translator. The notion of the ‘sameness’ is often understood as an equivalent relation between the source and target text. This equivalent relation is generally regarded as the most outstanding feature of a translation quality.

2.2.2. Definitions of Famous Sayings and Famous Love Sayings

2.2.2.1. Definitions of Famous Sayings

Rampur [37] defined FSs or quotations: “Quotes are statements said by people regarding their inner feelings about any aspect of life such as love, hate, sorrow, friendship, relationships, and many other things that a person has to come across in his life. There are some quotes which do make us think how life is and what can be done to make it better.”

Another definition of FSs [41] could be:

FSs may simply be phrases which people who are famous said, they may be phrases that are commonly used by people who are not famous but are used frequently and are famous because they are so well known.

According to Nguyen Van Ba [43, p. 3]:

Every quotation can be an educational metaphor, an allusion of wisdom, a practical teaching, a typical case study of the past experience, a lesson of history or a philosophical idea. The quotations once imbued in our memory give us precious thoughts.

A convincing definition of FSs or quotations in Vietnamese could also be found in “*Danh ngôn thế giới tập 1*” [34, preface. p]:

Những tinh hoa, trí tuệ chắt lọc, đúc kết lâu đời, những trải nghiệm cuộc sống phong phú, sâu sắc, tích lũy qua bao thế hệ được diễn đạt bằng những câu ngắn gọn, ý nghĩa hàm súc, đan kết với nhau thành những chuỗi ‘hạt giống tâm hồn’ quý hiếm như đang chờ đợi bạn lựa chọn, gieo trồng cho ‘mảnh vườn trí tuệ’ của chính mình.

2.2.2.2. Definition of Love

Love is always an interesting theme for people. When loving, we can experience all feelings from happiness to misery. It is one of the most sophisticated issue for the mankind. Pascal said: “*The heart has its reasons, which reason does not know*”. [71]

That is the reason why no one can give the proper definition of love. No matter how you define it or feel it, love is the eternal truth in the history of mankind. “Love is patient, love is kind. It has no envy, nor it boasts itself and it is never proud. It rejoices over the evil and is the truth seeker. Love protects; preserves and hopes for the positive aspect of life” [39] or

Love is the greatest gift we can ever hope to give or receive. Love is the one thing that can overcome so many of the difficult times that we are faced with in life. Love is so powerful - it can turn frowns into smiles. It can help mend the most broken heart. It can even turn all of the ugliness in the world into the most beautiful portrait we could ever have the pleasure to behold. [38].

In daily life, love not only occurs between two people but also between more

than two individuals. It bonds them and connects them in a unified link of trust, intimacy and interdependence. It enhances the relationship and comforts the soul. However, many people still doubt about the existence of love in life. Some people say it is false and meaningless. Other says that it never exists, because there has been many instances of hatred and brutality in relationships.

In the past, the study of philosophy and religion has done many speculations on the phenomenon of love. But love has always ruled, in music, poetry, paintings, sculptor and literature. Psychology has also done lots of dissection to the essence of love, just like what biology, anthropology and neuroscience has also done to it. However, love is always a great issue which human beings always want to discover up to now.

2.2.2.3. Definition of Famous Love Sayings

The definition of FLSs could be approached as follows:

FLSs are simple phrases which famous people have said or the one that has been made popular by frequent use of people. You can impress your sweetheart with FLSs . You can use these on your desktop as wallpapers or send to your friends. Popular LSs will help you in expressing your love thoughts in a more presentable style” [40].

2.2.3. Major Features of Famous Sayings

2.2.3.1. Being A Popular Phenomenon in Every Language

In each language, the use of words, phrases or sentences... to express what happens around the world and human life is infinite and eternal. From time to time, they can convey emotions and feelings of the speakers of a language. So, FSs play an important role as a replacement whenever and wherever the demand comes in. There are, in fact, no languages that do not have any FSs.

For example:

(3a) The first duty of man is protecting his wife. [44, p. 92]

(3b) Một người đàn ông có bổn phận trước tiên là che chở cho vợ mình.

(4a) Life is a flower of which love is the honey. [48, p. 45]

(4b) Cuộc đời là bông hoa và ái tình là mật ngọt.

2.2.3.2. Having Fixed Syntactic Features

FSs have a fixed structure which cannot be changed.

Let's consider the FSs:

(5a) There is no ugly loves, nor handsome prisons. [46, p. 36]

(5b) Không có tình yêu xấu, cũng không có nhà tù đẹp.

In the above FLSs, we cannot substitute either “loves” or “prisons” by another word.

A small error in use of this FSs could make a big difference to the meaning and will often make it meaningless. The process of substitution, therefore is not allowed. Also, it is impossible to insert any word from the user’s intention.

2.2.3.3. *Being a Figurative Style*

“Figurative of languages, words, phrases,... used in a way that is different from the usual meaning, in order to create a particular mental picture.” [12]. Language originates from life and it reflects life. It is used to depict our life, from the general things to the particular things in reality. The stylistic devices such as metonymy, metaphor, symbolism, hyperbole, simile ... are used as the indispensable means for expressing feelings and phenomena taking place in daily life. FSs are a part of language, so they have these features.

2.2.3.4. *Cultural Features*

◆ *Concepts of Culture*

Culture derives from the Latin word “culture”, which means “cultivated materials” and “human cultivated nature”. Schusky, in “*Introducing Culture*” [24, p. 53] proposed a definition of the term culture as follows:

“Culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities, and habits acquired by man as a member of a society”.

◆ *Relation of Culture and Language*

The relationship between language and culture are closely related. Language is used to maintain and convey culture. Language could be viewed as a verbal expression of culture. Language provides us with many of the categories we use for expressing our thoughts, so it is therefore natural to assume that our thinking is influenced by the language which we use. The values and customs in the country we grow up in shape the way in which we think to a certain extent which in their thought are reflected through language.

2.2.4. Famous Sayings and Other Language Units

2.2.4.1. *Famous Sayings and Catch-Phrases*

“Catch-phrase is a popular phrase that is connected with the politician or entertainer who used it and make it famous” [13]. In Vietnamese, it means “khẩu hiệu” or “câu nói thông dụng”. It is sometimes not easy to recognize the difference between FSs and catch-phrases.

2.2.4.2. Famous Sayings Versus (Vs.) Idioms, Proverbs

There is no clear distinction between FSs and idioms, proverbs. Like FSs, idioms and proverbs are not flexible in structure and form. In other words, we cannot substitute their words and word orders. However, there are some differences between FSs and proverbs, idioms. Meanwhile, proverbs and idioms are ready-made units for reproduction. They are anonymous but what they said are used popularly in daily life. Idioms are related to phrases while proverbs to sentences. Therefore, the meanings of idioms are equivalent to those of phrases while the semantic features of proverbs concern these of sentences although both idioms and proverbs express judgments, estimates or confirmations about certain truths. Meanwhile, a proverb is defined as a short well-known sentence that states a general truth about life and gives advice. They refer to shared knowledge of rules governing social behavior or social norms.

2.2.5. Syntactic Structure

2.2.5.1. In English

According to Tran Huu Manh [16, p. 90], sentences may be simple, compound or complex. All these three kinds of sentences could be analyzed in terms of Subject (S), Verb (V), Object (O), Complement (C) and Adverbial (A) and the decisive factor on sentence types is the V.

2.2.5.1. In Vietnamese

a. Simple Sentences

Tran Huu Manh shows that there are, in Vietnamese, seven simple sentences structures and the decisive factor on sentence types determination is the V. He gives out the table of the verbs classification in English and Vietnamese [30, p. 163,164]

b. Compound Sentences

Compound sentences include hypotaxis and parataxis

There are 6 patterns of complex sentences:

- Subject is a Subject- Predicate Structure
- Predicate is a Subject- Predicate Structure

- Complement is a Subject- Predicate Structure
- Adjunct is a Subject- Predicate Structure
- Complex sentence is Passive Sentence
- Sub-element of Noun is embedded sentence.

2.3. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In general, in this chapter, we have presented the literature review and the theoretical background of the study. Especially, in the theoretical background, we have introduced translation theory, explain definitions related to the name of the thesis. Besides, this chapter has also mentioned major features of famous sayings. Lastly, syntactic features in English and Vietnamese have been introduced and presented at the end of this chapter. This chapter is a basis so that we could analyze and compare the syntactic and semantic features of EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation in the next chapter.

CHAPTER 3

METHOD AND PROCEDURE

3.1. RESEARCH METHODS

This thesis is aimed at investigating the syntactic and semantic features of EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation. In order to achieve the aims and objectives, descriptive and contrastive methods are used for the research. English is chosen as the source language and Vietnamese as the target one.

3.2. PROCEDURES

- Collecting samples: The main materials used in the study are collected from the major sources :

- The bilingual books
- The grammar books written by English and Vietnamese linguists
- The English - Vietnamese and Vietnamese - English dictionaries
- The Internet Webpages

- Classifying data: After being collected, EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation are classified in terms of syntactic and semantic features in details.

- Comparing these EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation.
- Discussing the findings.

3.3. DATA COLLECTION

The data collection is the most important step in any research. This procedure consists of two main stages. Firstly, a large number of English FLSs and their Vietnamese translation were collected in order to make the corpus of this thesis. Secondly, the collection of grammatical books and related literature were done to hold up the Chapter II. Books on grammar, syntax, semantics, and stylistic means are used for the need to set the theoretical basic for this thesis to be carried out.

3.4. DATA ANALYSIS

After collecting 200 EFLSs and their 200 Vietnamese translation from books, dictionaries or websites..., we categorize them into two main aspects: syntactic and semantic features.

The study is carried out basing on the qualitative and quantitative approach to find down the similarities and differences in syntactic and semantic features of EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH FAMOUS LOVE SAYINGS AND THEIR VIETNAMESE TRANSLATION

4.1.1 Positive Sides of love

Positive is defined in *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* is confident, effective/useful, sure/definite. In my opinion, beside the definition, positive in love also concludes the following sides

4.1.1.1 Love Making Life More Beautiful and Meaningful

4.1.1.2. Love not Being a Joke but Art

4.1.1.3. Love Being Acceptance and Sacrifice for Each Other

4.1.1.4. Love Being Voluntary not Compelling or Trading

4.1.1.5. Love not Distinguishing Age and Position

4.1.1.6. Love Being Respect Each Other

4.1.1.7. Time and Distance Making Love More Beautiful

4.1.1.8. Love Being Faithful

Table 4.1: Semantic Features of EFLSs and Their Vietnamese Translation in Positive Sides of Love

Semantic Features		N	%
Positive sides	Love Making Life More Beautiful and Meaningful	93	46.5
	Love not Being a Joke but Art	4	2.0
	Love Being Acceptance and Sacrifice for Each Other	21	10.5
	Love Being Voluntary not Compelling or Trading	3	1.5
	Love not Distinguishing Age and Position	23	11.5
	Love Being Respect each other	4	2
	Time and Distance Making Love More Beautiful	4	2.0
	Love Being Faithful	8	4.0
	Total	160	80.0

4.1.2. Negative Sides of love

In *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, negative is bad or harmful and not hopeful. In love, negative sides comprise the following sides

4.1.2.1. Love Being a Disappointment and Suffering

4.1.2.2. Love Being Jealousy and Hatred

4.1.2.3. Love and Money Being Hand in Hand

4.1.2.4. Man and Woman's View in Love Being Different

Table 4.2 Semantic Features of EFLSs and Their Vietnamese Translation in Negative Sides of Love

Semantic Features		N	%
Negative sides	Love Being a Disappointment and Suffering	18	9.0
	Love Being Jealousy and Hatred	12	6.0
	Love and Money Being Hand in Hand	2	1.0
	View of Man and Woman in Love Being Different	8	4.0
	Total	40	20.0

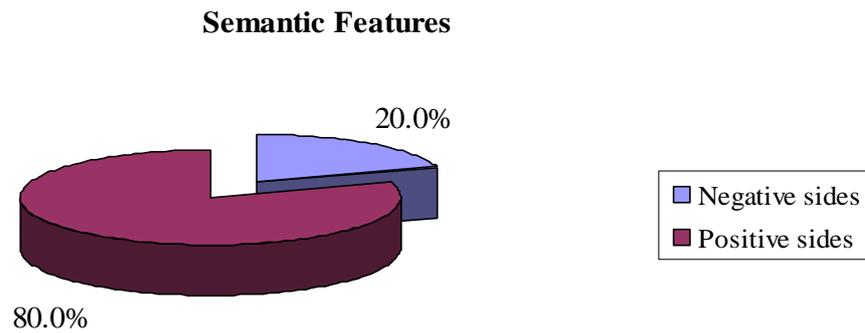


Chart 4.1: The Frequency of EFLSs and Their Vietnamese Translation in Semantic Features

4.2. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF FAMOUS LOVE SAYINGS AND THEIR VIETNAMESE TRANSLATION

4.2.1. Famous Love Sayings in Simple Sentences

- S + V Structure
- S + V + C Structure
- S + V + O Structure
- S + V + A Structure
- S + V + I.O + D.O Structure
- S + V + O + A Structure
- S + V + O + C Structure

Table 4.4: The Frequency of EFLSs and Their Vietnamese Translation in Simple Sentences

Syntactic Features		EFLSs		Their Vietnamese Translation	
		N	%	N	%
Simple Sentences	S + V	1	0.5	2	1.0
	S + V + C	59	29.5	62	31.0
	S + V + O	9	4.5	10	5.0
	S + V + A	5	2.5	3	1.5
	S + V + I.O + D.O	1	0.5	1	0.5
	S + V + O + A	5	2.5	3	1.5
	S + V + O + C	7	3.5	7	3.5
Total		87	43.5	88	44.0

4.2.2. Famous Love Sayings in Compound Sentences

- *Syndetic Co-ordination*
- *Asyndetic Co-ordination*

Table 4.5: The Frequency of EFLSs and Their Vietnamese Translation in Compound Sentences

Syntactic Features		EFLSs		Their Vietnamese Translation	
		N	%	N	%
Compound Sentences	Syndetic Coordinator	35	17.5	86	43.0
	Asyndetic Coordinator	20	10.0	18	9.0
Total number		48	24.0	104	52.0

4.2.3. Famous Love Sayings in Complex Sentences

■ *Adverbial Clauses*

- + Adverbial Clauses of Time
- + Adverbial Clauses of Place
- + Adverbial Clauses of Condition
- + Adverbial Clauses of Concession
- + Adverbial Clauses of Reason
- + Adverbial Clauses of Comparison

■ *Relative Clauses*

■ *Nominal Clauses*

Table 4.7: The Frequency of EFLSs in Complex Sentences

Syntactic Features		N	%
Complex Sentences	Nominal clauses	5	2.5
	Relative clauses	25	12.5
	Adverbial clauses	28	14.0
	Total	58	29.0

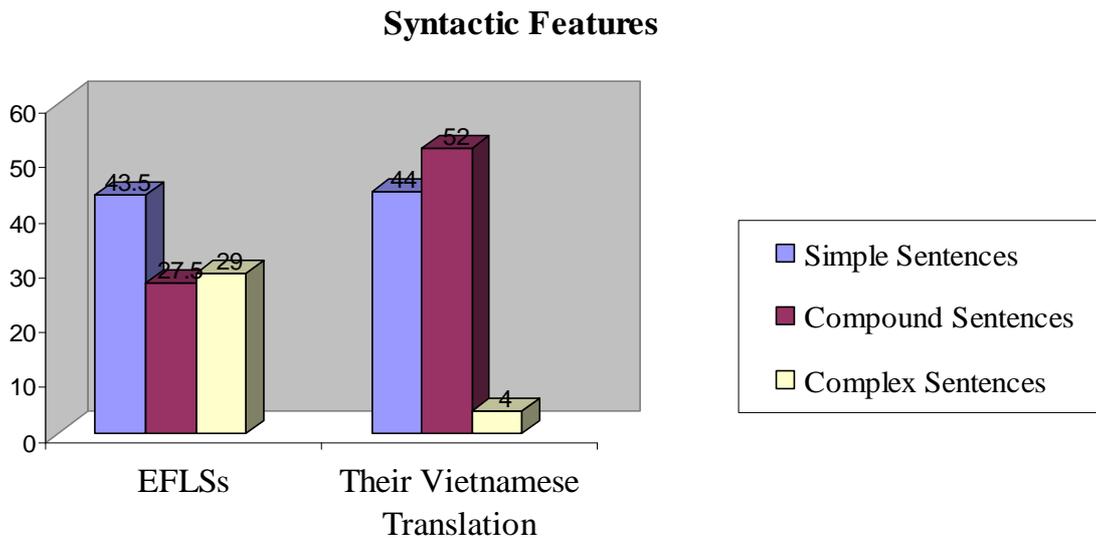


Chart 4.2: The Frequency of EFLSs and Their Vietnamese Translation in Syntactic Features

4.3. SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF EFLSs AND THEIR VIETNAMESE TRANSLATION

4.3.1. Semantic Similarities and Differences between EFLSs and Their Vietnamese Translation

4.3.1.1. Similarities

In general, EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation might be divided into two sides of meanings:

◆ *Positive Sides of Love*

Love in both EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation own positive sides. They include :

Love makes life more beautiful and meaningful

Love is not a jole but art

Love is acceptance and sacrifice for each other

Love is voluntary not compelling or trading

Love don't distinguish age and position

Love is respect each other

Time and distance make love more beautiful

Love is faithful

◆ *Negative Sides of Love* : They are divided into 4 scales

Love is a disappointment and suffering
 Love is jealousy and hatred
 Love and money are hand in hand
 Man and woman in love are different

4.3.1.2. Differences

As mentioned in the previous chapters, FLSs are created by native speakers. They describe their life as well as their cultural features. So, one of main features of FLSs is figurative.

Let's consider the following examples:

(93a) His *heart* runs away with his *head*. [46, p. 118]

(93b) *Tình cảm* của chàng chạy mất cùng *lý trí*.

« heart » means “trái tim”, and « head » means “cái đầu” but when they are translated into Vietnamese, they mean “tình cảm”, “lý trí”. To Vietnamese people, “heart” symbolizes “tình cảm” and “head” symbolizes “lý trí” and they often go together.

Or

(94a) My heart shall be my garden. [74]

(94b) Lòng em là khu vườn của anh.

In (94a), “heart” are converted into “lòng em” not “trái tim” as in (93a), it is caused by “my garden” at the end of the sentence.

(95a) Who loves a garden loves a greenhouse. [46, p.18]

(95b) Kẻ yêu vườn cây yêu cả chỗ ươm cây

“garden” and “greenhouse” is a metaphor. Vietnamese people have similar proverb:

“Yêu ai yêu cả đường đi
 Ghét nhau ghét cả tông chi họ hàng.”

Or

“Yêu nhau cau sáu bổ ba
 Ghét nhau cau sáu bổ ra làm mười.”

(96a) The heart has no wrinkles. [59]

(96b) Tình yêu không có tuổi.

“heart” and “wrinkle” in (96a) become “tình yêu” and “tuổi” in (96b). It is easy for Vietnamese people to accept and remember more than “Trái tim không có nếp nhăn.” as meaning of words in the sentence.

(97a) Life without love is like a tree without blossom and fruit. [70]

(97b) Cuộc sống không có tình yêu chẳng khác nào cây không có hoa và quả.

In (97a), writer uses comparison “Life without love” and “a tree without blossom and fruit” to express importance of love in our life.

However, these differences have no any influences to the meaning of sentences in EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation.

Certainly, there are other features and their Vietnamese translation, which are beyond the focus of this thesis.

4.3.2. Syntactic Similarities and Differences Between EFLSs and Their Vietnamese Translation

4.3.2.1. Similarities

Through all examples and their analysis, it is easy to recognize that both EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation own seven basic sentences structures and use V as a basic to analyze sentences. Both languages own 5 groups of verbs as listed in [30, p. 161-163].

Besides, as far as sentence structures concerned, all three main types of sentence structures are found in both EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation : simple sentences, compound sentences, complex sentences. In structures of simple sentences, S + V + C structure occupies the highest percentage. In structures of compound sentences, use of coordinators in order to combine two simple sentences is very popular in both languages.

In addition, another similarity between EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation is that compound sentences in both languages have parallel patterns.

For examples :

S + V + C // S + V + C

(98a) Love is the dawn of the marriage, and marriage is the sunset of love.

[44, p. 79]

(98b) Yêu là bình minh của đám cưới, và đám cưới là hoàng hôn của tình yêu.

In many cases, there is have no differences about sentences structures between EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation.

For examples:

(99a) Your love is the cornerstone of my existence.

S V C

[44, p. 17]

(99b) Tình yêu của em là nền móng của đời anh.

S V C

(100a) Regrets of love still create happiness.

S (A) V O

[44, p. 24]

(100b) Những luyến tiếc về tình yêu còn tạo nên hạnh phúc.

S V O

4.3.1.2. Differences

Besides above similarities, the study also points out some differences between EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation.

In many cases, there is considerable difference about sentences structures when translating FLSs from English into Vietnamese.

We have some examples as follows:

(101a) The happiness of my husband constitutes my gloire.

S V O

[44, p. 81]

(101b) Hạnh phúc của chồng tôi là vinh quang của tôi.

S V C

We can see that from S + V + O structure in English transfer to S + V + C in Vietnamese. Or

(102a) There can not be jealousy without love.

S V O

[44, p. 37)

(102b) Không yêu thì không ghen.

From S + V + C structure in English, it is transferred to a compound sentence (hypotaxis) in Vietnamese.

Or from structure of a complex sentence in English, it is changed into that of a compound sentence in Vietnamese as the following example:

(103a) *If* Satan could love, he would no longer be cruel.

[44, p. 32]

(103b) *Nếu* quỷ Sa Tăng biết yêu thương thì nó sẽ không độc ác nữa.

In this below example, from an adverbial clause in a complex sentence, it is also changed into a compound sentence.

(104a) *Where* there is love, there is life.

[71]

(104b) Ở đâu có tình yêu thì nơi đó có cuộc sống.

As mentioned, analysing sentences in English and Vietnamese based on verbs. On the other words, verbs decide structures and types of a sentence. Besides, loss and gain in meaning in the translating process is also a reason leading these difficulties. Another reason is that the culture of each country has an effect on differences in structures.

4.4. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In this chapter, we describe various syntactic and semantic features of EFLSs and present and analyze their Vietnamese translation. The result of study shows that there are great differences in sentence structures when translating EFLSs into Vietnamese. It is caused by changes in the translation process, maybe culture or habits of using languages of Vietnamese translators. It means that the translation process is a complicate process. Therefore, the learners and the translators of English may encounter a lot of difficulties in their translation process and they, as a result could commit unsuspected error. In order to solve the problem, I would like to offer to some implications presented in details in chapter 5.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSIONS

The aim of this study is to find the syntactic and semantic features of EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation. Basing on the detailed analysis and description of examples, we come to the following conclusions.

Syntactically, in the scope of the study, FLSs were analyzed are under the sentence structures: simple sentences, compound sentences and complex sentences. Through the study in syntax of FLSs, the researcher found that:

1. Firstly, in the structure of simple sentences, EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation present seven basic structures although they appear with a quite different rate.

a. S + V

b. S + V + C

c. S + V + O

d. S + V + A

e. S + V + I.O + D.O

f. S + V + O + A

g. S + V + O + C

2. Secondly, in structure of compound sentences, both use syndetic coordination and asyndetic coordination. Although the number is different but both of them use more syndetic-coordination than asyndetic- coordination.

3. Thirdly, in structure of complex sentences, adverbial clause, noun clause and adjective clause are used in English. However, their distribution rates are quite different from each type. For example, simple sentences used in EFLSs are the most popular whereas in their Vietnamese translation, the largest number belongs to compound sentences. Complex sentences in FLSs translated into Vietnamese use 3 kinds : Subject is a Subject- Predicate Structure, Complement is a Subject-Predicate Structure, Complex sentence is Passive Sentence.

Semantically, in respect of kinds of meanings, EFLSs as well as their Vietnamese translation have been analyzed with regard to many semantic features. After the analysis, the researcher has proved that EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation can be divided into two groups: positive sides of love and negative sides of love with regard to many different semantic features

Of course, accompanied with the semantic and syntactic features of EFLSs are their Vietnamese translation which have been presented.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS

5.2.1 Implications for Teaching and Learning EFLSs and Their Vietnamese Translation

As mentioned, the findings of this thesis are the syntactic and semantic features of EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation. Therefore, through the research, the learner can achieve the proper use of EFLSs.

EFLSs make up the large number in FLSs collection. EFLSs not only have literal meaning but also figurative meaning. So it is necessary for learners and teachers to accumulate as much cultural background knowledge as possible. No matter when we learn EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation, we must bear in mind that we are not only

to learn EFLSs but also to learn their correspondent cultures. In general, it is indispensable for us to have cultural background knowledge to help us have better understanding of FLSs.

Nowadays, learners have more needs to clearly understand and achieve meaning of FLSs in general and speak them fluently in particular. Therefore, the need for learning FLSs leads to the challenge of teaching them. It means that teachers should have a suitable teaching methods which is depend on level, age, situation... so that learners can understand FLSs easily.

Besides, learners not only have the basic knowledge of a language but also master the cultural characteristics of FLSs. The more we know about their cultural backgrounds, the better learners understand EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation. Therefore, to teach FLSs effectively, it is necessary to teach their cultural characteristics as well.

5.2.2. Implication for Translating EFLSs and Their Vietnamese Translation

Besides the above implications for teaching and learning EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation, I would like to offer some implications for translating EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation as presented below.

❖ Authentic Data

I have had a survey at a foreign language class at Quang nam university. In which, the learners are asked to translate some EFLSs into Vietnamese. The result shows that the learners have made some translation changes. Some of which could be presented and analyzed as the representative examples.

➤ *Changes in Syntax*

+ Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

(Người mình yêu luôn luôn đẹp.)

Translator changes the above sentence from S + V + C structure into S + V structure.

✓ *Suggested Translation: Vẻ đẹp nằm trong đôi mắt của kẻ si tình.*

+ Who loves a garden loves a greenhouse.

(Yêu nhau yêu cả đường đi.

Ghét nhau ghét cả tông chi họ hàng.)

From a complex in English, translator change it into two simple sentences. Translator use Vietnamese proverb, folk song in translation process.

✓ *Suggested Translation:* Kẻ yêu vườn cây yêu cả chỗ ươm cây.

➤ *Changes in Semantics*

+ Who love too much, hate in the like extreme.

(Yêu nhau con mắt liếc qua, ghét nhau ném đá vỡ đầu nhau ra.)

In Vietnamse sentence, “Con mắt liếc qua”, “ném đá vỡ đầu” aren’t mentioned in the EFLSs. Translator is influenced by music in translation process.

✓ *Suggested Translation:* Yêu quá thì hoá thù nhiều.

➤ *Changes in both Syntax and Semantics*

+ Regrets of love still create happiness.

(Tình chỉ đẹp khi còn dang dở.)

From a simple sentence, translator change into a compound sentence. Besides, the meaning is not same with the meaning in the source sentence. Here, translator is influenced by music while translating.

✓ *Suggested Translation:* Những luyến tiếc về tình yêu còn tạo nên hạnh phúc.

+ Love pleases but love offer has to hurt.

(Biết yêu là biết vui và biết buồn.)

S V C

Here, translator makes change in meaning of many words such as “please”, “hurt” in the sentence. Besides, sentence structure is changed. Translator inexactly understand the meaning of “please” and “hurt”.

✓ *Suggested Translation:* Tình yêu làm ta sung sướng và tình yêu cũng thường làm ta đau khổ.

As mentioned in the previous chapters, FSs reflect the cultural character of each nation and express people’s emotion as well as people’s life. Therefore, understanding FSs is the best way to thoroughly comprehend a certain language and deeply understanding the people speaking that language through cultural and historical features reflected by FSs. As a result, translation of FSs are not an easy task. Therefore, in translating, one of translators’ responsibilities is retaining the figurative image, rhetorical devices and cultural characteristics of the original FSs.

I agree with most of translation of Vietnamese translators. Their translation meet and satisfy differences in culture and language of each language. However, in some cases, writers don't translate very well as in the following examples:

(105a) The first duty of man is protecting his wife.

[44, p. 92]

(105b) Một người đàn ông trước tiên có bổn phận che chở cho vợ mình.

In my opinion, the above sentence should be translated: “Bổn phận hàng đầu của một người đàn ông là che chở cho vợ mình.” It is easy for Vietnamese people to accept than that of translator. In addition, way of the translation has the same order in vocabulary with the English sentence.

(106a) Love pleases but love often has to hurt.

[44, p. 35]

(106b) Tình yêu làm ta sung sướng và tình yêu cũng thường làm ta đau khổ.

We can recognize that in (106a), writer uses “but” that means “nhưng”, but in “106b”, Vietnamese translator changes the meaning into “và”. I think that this change is not good because “nhưng” could express the contrary two members of the sentence which “và” cannot do. (106b) should be translated as follows:

“Tình yêu làm ta sung sướng nhưng tình yêu cũng thường làm ta đau khổ.”

(107a) Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

[44, p. 35]

(107b) Vẻ đẹp không phải ở đôi má hồng của người thiếu nữ mà ở trong con mắt của kẻ si tình.

Sentence (107a) is a simple sentence but (107b) is a compound. Vietnamese translator adds many words in translation process but it is not necessary. In my opinion, this sentence should be translated : “Vẻ đẹp nằm trong đôi mắt của kẻ si tình.” It is simple and easy to remember.

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.3.1. Limitations

It is obvious that the research paper has brought about reference material in term of syntactic and semantic features of EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation. However, due to the limitation of time, reference materials, researcher's knowledge and some other limitations of the researcher make it impossible for the researcher to provide sufficient and intensive focus on EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation. Therefore, mistakes and shortcoming are unavoidable.

5.3.2. Suggestions for Further Research

This thesis has made a study of syntactic and semantic features of EFLSs and their Vietnamese translation. Therefore, the following aspects relating to EFLSs may be among further studies:

- Pragmatic features of metaphors of love in FSs.
- Examining metaphors of love in FSs.