NGUYỄN THỊ HẢI YẾN

A STUDY OF LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF PROVERBS RELATED TO GAIN AND LOSS IN ENGLISH VERSUS VIETNAMESE

Study Field : THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
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MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES (A SUMMARY)

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Venue: University of Danang

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- Information Resources Centre, University of Danang.
CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

Nowadays, there are more than 5,000 living languages in the world, of which English is by far the most widely used. Approximately, 350 million people speak English as their first language. About the same number use it as a second language. It is the English language that is used as the language of aviation, international sport and pop music. It is also the English language that is used as an official language in 44 countries, and as the language of business, commerce and technology in many others. English is now an effective medium of international communication.

In Vietnam, English has long been regarded as a tool of international communication, and together with its rising importance, the need of learning English is becoming more and more urgent. It cannot be denied that all foreign learners in general and Vietnamese learners in particular desire to master English as the native speakers; however, they usually face a lot of difficulties that prevent them from gaining successful conversations. One of the reasons for these problems lies in the way people perceive and use proverbs.

Proverbs are considered to be special factors of a language’s vocabulary system because they reflect cultural special characteristics of each nation, including material and spiritual values. A lot of researchers, therefore, have long shown their interests in proverbs.

Proverbs are used to express ideas in figurative styles. They bring the vividness and richness to the speaker’s speeches; therefore, knowing how to use proverbs effectively in the right situations becomes essential.

It is really interesting to realize that there are a large number of
proverbs in both English and Vietnamese expressing gain and loss in humans’ life. Therefore, they have become a linguistic phenomenon that linguistic researchers cannot ignore.

Furthermore, in order to achieve the effective intercultural communicative purpose in the globalization age, we ourselves should be equipped with background knowledge of culture which is known as “the depository of knowledge, experience, beliefs, values, attitudes, meanings, social hierarchies, religion, notions of time, roles, spatial relationships, concepts of the universe and material objects and possessions acquired by a group of people in the course of generations” [17, p.8]. Obviously, studying proverbs of a nation, especially proverbs related to gain and loss is one of best ways to understand culture as well as people in that nation.

From the reasons mentioned above, the thesis “A Study of Linguistic Features of Proverbs Related to Gain and Loss in English Versus Vietnamese” is expected to be an interesting and helpful material for foreign language teachers and learners and for people who are interested in proverbs in both English and Vietnamese.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1. Aims

This research is aimed at:

- Finding out the similarities and differences in the linguistic features of proverbs relating to gain and loss in English and Vietnamese in terms of syntactic and semantic features. However, the stylistic devices of proverbs relating to gain and loss in English and Vietnamese are simultaneously presented in semantic section.

- Providing Vietnamese learners of English or English learners of Vietnamese with a basic knowledge of the field to enable them to
understand proverbs thoroughly, as well as to use them effectively and naturally in their learning of these two languages, particularly in the subjects of translation.

1.2.2. Objectives

This study attempts to achieve the following objectives:

- To list, describe and classify PsRG&L in English and Vietnamese.
- To investigate the syntactic and semantic features of PsRG&L in English and Vietnamese. Some types of stylistic devices are also presented to clarify the sense relations of figuration proverbs as mentioned above.
- To show the similarities and differences between EPsRG&L and VPsRG&L in terms of syntactic and semantic features.
- To suggest some ideas for teaching, learning and translating English proverbs into Vietnamese and vice versa.

1.3. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

With the purpose of doing a research into syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese PsRG&L, this study could help:

- Vietnamese learners of English and Vietnamese have useful and significant knowledge of PsRG&L in terms of syntactic and semantic features in English and Vietnamese.
- Vietnamese learners of English and Vietnamese use PsRG&L effectively and naturally in their learning process as well as in their daily life.
- To suggest some good implications for the better teaching and learning proverbs in English and Vietnamese.

1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Due to the time and resource constraints, my study is restricted to the investigation into PsRG&L in English and Vietnamese in terms
of syntactic and semantic features together with the cultural underlying reasons. Moreover, the study explores 150 proverbs in English and 150 proverbs in Vietnamese mainly collected from dictionaries, books and the Internet.

1.5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study is to answer the following questions:

(1) What are the syntactic and semantic features of PsRG&L in English and PsRG&L in Vietnamese?

(2) What are the similarities and differences of PsRG&L in English and Vietnamese in terms of syntactic and semantic features?

(3) What are the implications for teaching, learning and translation of proverbs to gain and loss?

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The thesis could consist of five chapters as presented below: Chapter 1- Introduction; Chapter 2- Literature Review; Chapter 3- Research Methods and Procedures; Chapter 4- Findings and Discussions and Chapter 5- Conclusions, Implications, Limitations, and Recommendations.

CHAPTER 2
LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. PREVIOUS RESEARCH

There have been a lot of researchers conducting investigations into proverbs in both English and Vietnamese. For English proverbs, the large number of scholars including Taylor [20], Ridout and Whiting [16], Norrick [13], Collis [2], Galperin [4] and so on have made great contribution to this field. However, based on different approaches and goals, their publications focus on one or another aspect
of proverbs. Generally, these linguists provide us with an overall picture of theoretical background of how to examine language in use.

In view of Vietnamese proverb studies, some elaborate works connected with proverbs have contributed to the knowledge of the field and one of the wholehearted authors we cannot miss is Chu Xuân Diên with the co-authors Lương Văn Đằng, Phương Tri [28]. The works receiving much attention from the public are Từ điển thành ngữ và tục ngữ Việt Nam (Nguyễn Lân, 1997), Tục ngữ ca dao dân ca Việt Nam (Vũ Ngọc Phan, 1998), Từ điển thành ngữ, tục ngữ Việt Nam (Vũ Đặng, Vũ Thúy Anh, Vũ Quang Hào, 2003) where the difference between idioms and proverbs is mentioned based on two criteria: content and grammatical structures, Tục ngữ Anh-Việt Việt-Anh thông dụng (2006) by Võ Thế Ngọc who collected and compiled some common English proverbs and the Vietnamese equivalents, and recently Thành ngữ tục ngữ tiếng Anh (2008) by Xuân Bá and Quang Minh which helps me a great deal in this study.

In addition, there have been so far some master theses in English on proverbs carried out by many Vietnamese people: Le Thị Mỹ Nhat [12], Dang Ngọc Cu [3], Trần Lê Nhi Tran [21] and Hoàng Kim Anh [1], Phan Thị Xuân Ha [5].

After examining the studies mentioned above, it could be seen that hardly a research into the linguistic features of proverbs relating to gain and loss in English versus Vietnamese has been so far carried out. It is this very reason that inspires me to devote myself to this study.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Overview of Proverbs

a. The Notions of Proverbs

One of the major concerns of paremiologists for centuries is how to have a comprehensive and accurate definition of proverbs,
simply because among the other verbal folklore genres (fairy tales, legends, jokes and riddles), proverbs are the most concise but not the simplest form. They fulfill the human need to summarize experiences and observations into reservoir of knowledge that provide ready-made comments on personal relationship and social affairs. In English, there are many scholars’ views about proverbs: Taylor [20], Honeck [7], Mieder [10] and so on. Mieder shows his attempt to define proverbs, expanding Gallacher’s opinion as follows: “Proverbs are concise traditional statements of apparent truths with currency among the folk. More elaborately stated, a proverb is a short, generally known sentence of the folk which contains wisdom, truth, morals, and traditional views in a metaphorical, fixed and memorizable form and which is handed down from generation to generation.” [10, p.42]

In Vietnamese the notion of proverbs is given in the Dictionary of Vietnamese Literary Terms by Lê Bá Hán, Trần Đình Sử, Nguyễn Khắc Phi [31, p.377] as “Proverbs is a genre of folklore literature, the basic function of which is to reflect accumulated experience, wisdom by pitchy saying, rhythmically and imaginatively expressed, easily remembered and communicated.” Nguyễn Đình Hùng [34, p.10] shares his own idea in which “A proverb is a fully-constituted sentence, expressing an idea completely to provide ready-made comments on social affairs, life experience, moral lessons, or facts of criticism”.

In sum, these short and general definitions certainly do not pay proper attention to numerous fascinating aspects of proverbs as formulaic and metaphorical texts and as regards their use, function, and meaning in varied contexts as well.

**b. Typical Features of Proverbs**

* Form and Structure

Proverbs are prefabricated units. They are usually short, pithy
and lapidary. And for the sake of memorability, proverbs tend to be alliterative. The structure of a proverb is normally fixed and not easy to break. Another feature in the structure of proverbs is the frequent use of many types of meaning transference such as metaphor and simile which shows the creativity of former generations as well as their original worldview.

* Content and Function

Regarding content, proverbs usually bear advice and moral lessons which have been drawn from the real experience of life of many generations.

c. Comprehension and Interpretation of Proverbs

Before applying proverbs in practice, it is of first priority to ascertain what each proverb means. If a person uses a proverb in a particular text without realizing its meaning, the expression could be used incorrectly and might cause some misunderstandings.

In addition, proverbs may contain more than one stylistic device and, in such a way, they become more impressive and effective, however, at the same time their meanings are harder to perceive. The same proverb used in different texts or situations can have more or less varying meanings. Moreover, the inner form of proverbs affected by the flow of time and historical development, which influenced the appearance of new interpretations and applications in situations differing from the traditionally intended ones.

d. Proverbs Relating to Gain and Loss

Gain and Loss related proverbs investigated in this thesis are proverbs which meet the notion of proverbs stated in section 2.2.1.1 and simultaneously contain words denoting Gain and Loss such as gain, loss, win, lose, come, go, throw, catch, nothing, everything, ect. in English and đó được, mất, thắng, thua, có, không, ect. in Vietnamese.
### 2.2.2. Proverbs and Other Language Units

#### a. Proverbs and Idioms

*Table 2.1: Similarities and Differences between Proverbs and Idioms*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PROVERBS</th>
<th>IDIOMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SIMILARITIES</strong></td>
<td>- Ready-made linguistic units</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Figurative meaning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DIFFERENCES</strong></td>
<td><strong>Syntactic</strong></td>
<td><strong>Semantic</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- sentence</td>
<td>- notion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- judgment</td>
<td>- nominalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- informative</td>
<td>- figurative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- didactic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### b. Proverbs and Famous Sayings

*Table 2.2: Similarities and Differences between Proverbs and Sayings*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PROVERBS</th>
<th>SAYINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SIMILARITIES</strong></td>
<td>- repeated sentences with rhythm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- independent units of communication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DIFFERENCES</strong></td>
<td><strong>Syntactic</strong></td>
<td><strong>Semantic</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- fixed form</td>
<td>- well-known or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>wise statements by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>famous people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- denoting advice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>or obvious truth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-observative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>statements without</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>didactic force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
c. Proverbs and Clichés

Table 2.3: Similarities and Differences between Proverbs and Clichés

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIMILARITIES</th>
<th>PROVERBS</th>
<th>CLICHÉS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- easily remembered formulaic structures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- figurative form</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syntactic</td>
<td>- brief sentence</td>
<td>- idea or phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semantic</td>
<td>- judgment</td>
<td>- notion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- informative</td>
<td>- naming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- winning recognition through frequent use</td>
<td>- losing vigor through frequent use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- packing didactic lesson</td>
<td>- no didactic lesson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2.3. Types of Sentences in English in Terms of Structure

a. Clause Elements

There are five clause elements syntactically defined: subject (S), verb (V), object (O), complement(C) and adverbial (A).

b. Simple Sentences

Trần Hữu Mạnh [37, p.389] stated that sentences could be analyzed in terms of S, V, O, C and A and the decisive factor on sentence types is the V.

- S + Vintransitive
- S + Vmonotransitive + O
- S + Vintransitive + C
- S + Vintensive + A
- S + Vditransitive + O + O
- S + Vcomplextransitive + O + C
- S + Vcomplextransitive + O + A
c. Compound Sentences (Coordination)
There are two kinds of coordination: *syndetic coordination*- when coordinators are present- and *asyndetic coordination*- when coordinators are absent.

d. Complex Sentences (Subordination)
* Adjective Clauses
* Norminal Clauses
* Adverbial clauses

e. Comparative Sentences
* Equational and Differentiating
* Enough and Too
* So... that and Such... that

f. Aphoristic Sentences
Aphoristic sentence is among other monor sentence types and can be found in many proverbs.

2.2.4. Types of Sentences in English in Terms of Syntactic Classes

a. Statements
b. Questions
c. Commands
d. Exclamations

2.2.5. Types of Sentences in Vietnamese in Terms of Structure

a. Sentence Elements
There are five clause elements syntactically defined: subject (S), verb (V), object (O), complement(C) and adverbial (A).

b. Simple Sentences
Trần Hữu Mạnh [37, p.388-389] concludes that in Vietnamese there are 7 patterns of simple sentences equivalent to those in English:
S + Vintransitive
S + Vmonotransitive + O
S + Vintransitive + C
S + Vintensive + A
S + Vditransitive + O + O
S + Vcomplextransitive + O + C
S + Vcomplextransitive + O + A

All of seven patterns above are with verbs. Besides, in Vietnamese there are also patterns without verbs. The predicators of these patterns are noun phrases (NP) or adjective phrases (Adj.P).

c. Compound Sentences
- Syndetic coordination – compound sentence whose two clauses are connected by conjunctions.
- Asyndetic coordination – compound sentence whose two clauses are not connected by conjunctions.

d. Complex Sentences
- Complex sentence containing the structure S-P which is a phrasal element.
- Complex sentence containing the structure S-P which is a sentential element.
- Complex sentence containing the structure S-P which is a subordinate clause.

e. Comparative Sentences
There are two kinds of comparisons: equational and differentiating.
- Equational comparison uses bằng, ngang, như,…
- Differentiating comparison uses hơn, kém,…
2.2.6. Types of Sentences in Vietnamese in Terms of Syntactic Classes
   a. Statements
   b. Questions
   c. Commands
   d. Exclamations

CHAPTER 3
RESEARCH METHODS AND PROCEDURES
In this chapter, we are primarily concerned with Research Methods, Sampling, Data Collection, Data Analysis, Instrumentation. The procedures of performing the research are also presented at the same time. The validity and reliability will be stated and justified at the end of this chapter.

3.1. RESEARCH METHODS
3.2. SAMPLING
3.3. DATA COLLECTION
3.5. INSTRUMENTATION
3.6. RESEARCH PROCEDURES
3.7. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

CHAPTER 4
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS
4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF EPsRG&L AND VPsRG&L
   4.1.1. Syntactic Features of English and Vietnamese PsRG&L in Terms of Structure
      a. Syntactic Features of English PsRG&L in Terms of Structure
### Table 4.5: Sentence Types of English PsRG&L

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence Types</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
<th>Distribution rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simple Sentences</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compound Sentences</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex Sentences</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Sentences</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aphoristic Sentences</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### b. Syntactic Features of Vietnamese PsRG&L in Terms of Structure

### Table 4.10: Sentence Types of Vietnamese PsRG&L

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence Types</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
<th>Distribution rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simple Sentences</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compound Sentences</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>65.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex Sentences</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Sentences</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### c. Similarities and Differences between English and Vietnamese PsRG&L in Terms of Structure

### Table 4.11: Comparison of Sentence Types between English and Vietnamese PsRG&L

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence Types</th>
<th><strong>ENGLISH</strong></th>
<th><strong>VIETNAMSE</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple Sentences</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compound Sentences</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex Sentences</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Sentences</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aphoristic Sentences</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* Similarities
- Generally, PsRG&L under study in both English and Vietnamese are constructed in simple, compound, complex and comparative sentences.
- Concerning complex sentences, both English and Vietnamese PsRG&L are found to have the second place of percentage.
- In terms of comparative sentences, both English and Vietnamese PsRG&L are found to have lowest percentage.
- Relating to the data of both English and Vietnamese comparative sentences, differentiating comparison is used more commonly than equational comparison.

* Differences
- In reference to simple sentences, English simple PsRG&L have higher percentage than Vietnamese ones. In addition, the sentence structure of English simple PsRG&L is of greater variety with 5 patterns (SV, SVA, SVC, SVO, SVOC) than Vietnamese simple PsRG&L with two patterns (SVC, SVO).
- Concerning compound sentences, the number of compound PsRG&L in English is far less than that of compound PsRG&L in Vietnamese. Moreover, English compound PsRG&L in form of syndetic coordination are more proverbs than in form of asyndetic coordination while only compound sentences without coordinators are found in Vietnamese samples with 98 proverbs at 100% and no Vietnamese PsRG&L are formed in compound sentences with coordinators.
- Relating to the data of complex sentences, English PsRG&L are more than Vietnamese ones. In addition, English PsRG&L are structured in all three kinds of clauses: adjective, nominal and
adverbial clauses while Vietnamese PsRG&L are formed in two kinds: nominal clauses (S-P functioning as sentential elements) and adverbial clauses (S-P functioning as subordinate clauses).

- As for comparative sentences, the number of comparative PsRG&L in English is nearly two times as many as Vietnamese ones.

From the differences mentioned above, it is easy to recognize that the culture of each country has an effect on their languages. Meanwhile Vietnamese people would like to use coordinators to connect members of sentences, English people would like to express simply and shortly their thoughts and ideas.

4.1.2. Syntactic Features of English and Vietnamese PsRG&L in Terms of Syntactic Classes

a. Syntactic Features of English PsRG&L in Terms of Syntactic Classes

Table 4.12: Distribution of Syntactic Classes in English PsRG&L

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syntactic Classes</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
<th>Distribution rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statements</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>87.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commands</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclamations</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. Syntactic Features of Vietnamese PsRG&L in Terms of Syntactic Classes

Table 4.13: Distribution of Syntactic Classes in Vietnamese PsRG&L

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syntactic Classes</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
<th>Distribution rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statements</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commands</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclamations</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
c. Similarities and Differences between English and Vietnamese PsRG&L in Terms of Syntactic Classes

Table 4.14: Comparison of Syntactic classes between English and Vietnamese PsRG&L

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syntactic Classes</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th></th>
<th>VIETNAMSES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statements</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>87.3%</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commands</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclamations</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Similarities*

Both dominating with 131 and 150 proverbs successively. This finding is in the same light as the assumption by Milner and Barley [13, p.32] who identify proverbs with statements or by Abrahams [13, p.32] who requires proverbs to be a full statement. Another finding in similarity is that exclamations and questions are existent neither in English PsRG&L nor Vietnamese ones.

*Differences*

One distinctive feature has been uncovered from the data interpretation above: English PsRG&L in commands are found in the source with 19 proverbs (12.7%) while no Vietnamese PsRG&L under study in commands form are found.
4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF EPsRG&L AND VPsRG&L

4.2.1. Semantic Fields of Proverbs Relating to Gain and Loss in English and Vietnamese

Table 4.15: Frequency of Semantic Fields of EPsRG&L and VPsRG&L

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semantic Fields</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>VIE T NAMSE S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour and Business</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life experience</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Relationship</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Relationship</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destiny</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characters</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Fields</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2.2. Stylistic Devices of Proverbs Relating to Gain and Loss in English and Vietnamese

Table 4.16: Frequency of Stylistic Devices in EPsRG&L and VPsRG&L

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stylistic Devices</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>VIE T NAMSE S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simile</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antithesis</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metaphor</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>81.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metonymy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperbole</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.2.3. Semantic Similarities and Differences of Proverbs Relating to Gain and Loss in English and Vietnamese

a. Similarities

It can be clearly seen that both English and Vietnamese own a large number of PsRG&L in their national treasure of folklore. These proverbs, in some way, not only provide us with a valuable bag of wisdom but also broaden our awareness of cultural value and life experience. Moreover, one of the most characteristic properties of PsRG&L in the two languages is also marked by the use of many similar stylistic devices such as metaphor, antithesis, hyperbole and simile. Thanks to these powerful expressive means, we can create proverbs with subtle nuances of meaning that no other means can attain. This also proves a fact that English as well as Vietnamese like to use figurative image to make their speech more persuasive. With regard to semantic of PsRG&L in English and Vietnamese, one can easily realize the phenomenon of the twofold application of meaning in most proverbs: the surface meaning of the proverbs and their figurative meaning embodied through the stylistic markers, just mentioned above.

In addition, it must be noted that English and Vietnamese people meet each other in thought in spite of the fact that they live far from each other. As a matter of fact, the formation as well as the way they generalize their idea in proverbs are identical. Another identical feature between EPsRG&L and VPsRG&L is that they both share the same semantic fields such as labour and business, life experience, family relationship, social relationship, education, destiny, money, characters and some other fields.
**b. Differences**

Although both English and Vietnamese people like to use stylistic devices in their proverbs to make their utterance more condensed and colourful, the frequency of these expressive means does not always occur correspondence with each other and the case of metonymy is an instance. We can find some metonymic proverbs in English. In contrast, there are no cases of metonymic proverbs in Vietnamese. This indicates that the difference is resulted from the habit of language use of each nation.

What is more, the differences between EPsRG&L and VPsRG&L are also revealed through the dissimilarities between cultural characteristics of the two nations. It is obvious that each country has its own civilization, national tradition, religious belief and life condition. These factors, to some extent, impose on their thought then produce different proverbs as an inevitable consequence.

Additionally, the semantic fields does not have the same numbers of PsRG&L in English and in Vietnamese. This is because different awareness of people in the two nations leads to the difference in describing objects or phenomenon in the objective world. That explains why the proverbs of the lexical fields such as social relationship, labour and business and money are used more commonly in Vietnamese than these in English.

**CHAPTER 5**

**CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1. CONCLUSIONS**

As mentioned in the first chapter, this thesis is aimed to deal with the syntactic and semantic features of PsRG&L in English and
Vietnamese. Syntactically, PsRG&L in the two languages are formed either in terms of structures or in terms of syntactic classes. Sentential structures are also categorized in simple, compound and complex sentences. In terms of syntactic classes, PsRG&L are grouped in statements, questions, commands and exclamations. In the form of sentence, simple sentences tend to occupy the largest number in the total of EPsRG&L and these simple ones distribute in 5 different patterns while in VPsRG&L there are two kinds of pattern frequently used. The symmetric structures of proverbs with four words in each half are used more popularly in VPsRG&L than in EPsRG&L. Thus it is easy for us to see the proverbs like these: Khổ tận, cam lai; Tiề trao, cháo múc; Đen bạc, đỏ tình; Mạnh dược, yêu thua. However, the proverbs with four words in EPsRG&L are less frequently used than the ones in Vietnamese.

Semantically, there are total of 9 groups semantic fields in both languages categorized. Through the process of investigation we have also discovered that most proverbs contain two simultaneous meaning at the same time: literal meaning and figurative meaning, so we sometimes find it difficult to understand the proverbs at the first sight. Basically, the figurative meaning or implied meaning of proverbs is usually conveyed through the expensive means such as metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole, simile, or metaphor. More interestingly, some Vietnamese proverbs have no equivalence in English or vice versa because of the cultural differences from countries to countries.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS

This thesis is hoped to be useful to be for not only teachers but also for learners of the two languages.
5.2.1. Implications for Teachers

From the results of the study, some implications for teaching are drawn out as follows:

- The syntactic features of PsRG&L in both English and Vietnamese are useful for teachers in teaching grammar, especially in teaching types of sentences. Thanks to the syntactic similarities between English and Vietnamese, teachers can help learners easily remember the structures. On the other hand, teachers are supposed to point out the syntactic differences between the two languages so that learners can distinguish and avoid making mistakes.

- The results of semantic features of PsRG&L in English and Vietnamese also contribute much in foreign teaching. Teachers are provided with two approaches of teaching meaning of proverbs. First of all, teachers can teach learners kinds of meanings of PsRG&L, i.e. teachers teach them whether a PRG&L has only literal meaning or only figurative meaning or both literal and figurative meaning, and then explain these kinds of meanings one by one. For the second approach, teachers can have educational lessons based on categories of PsRG&L in positive, negative, or positive-negative semantic types.

- Last but not least, based on the findings of semantic-syntactic characteristics of English and Vietnamese PsRG&L, teachers can help learners to find out Vietnamese equivalent PsRG&L for English ones and vice versa so that learners can understand and remember PsRG&L easily and quickly. This finding is also one of great help to learners in translating PsRG&L from English into Vietnamese and contrarily.

One example of teaching PsRG&L combining all above implications is as follows:
- Step 1: providing learners with kinds of sentences in English which are *simple, compound, complex, comparative* and *aphoristic*.

- Step 2: supplying two columns: column A consisting of the first part of proverbs and column B consisting of the second part of proverbs.

- Step 3: giving definitions or clues for each proverb.

- Step 4: asking learners to match one part in column A with another in column B to make a complete proverb which is correct grammatically and suitable with the definition given before.

From these exercises, learners will more easily remember proverbs syntactically and semantically. Moreover, teachers can ask learners to find out Vietnamese equivalent proverbs so that they can have a deep insight of proverbs relating to *gain and loss* in both languages.

**5.2.2. Implications for Learners**

Also, learners could benefit from studying proverbs in other language. First and foremost, the learning of proverbs could be a key element in the language acquisition process. Second, proverbs could provide a snapshot of other cultures which allows a more thorough understanding of both language and culture. Once we have obtained a profound knowledge of English proverbs, we could improve the mutual understanding in a conversation between us and our friends from English-speaking countries; thus, misunderstanding and communication breakdown could be avoided. Last but not least, learning the proverbs of the target language enables a better insight into authentic texts and helps us really enjoy our reading. It is really frustrating if we have to constantly stop and check for the meaning of a proverb that we come across in the process of reading an English novel in which a full range of idioms and proverbs is used. It is obvious that in this case the pre-learning of English proverbs is extremely beneficial to our achieving the full pleasure and understanding.
5.2.3. Implications for Translating Proverbs

As mentioned in the previous chapters, proverbs reflect the cultural features of each nation which are closely connected with its cultural tradition. In this thesis, some translation hints relating to literal translation and figurative translation could be given to help Vietnamese learners of English deal with PsRG&L.

 Literal Translation

Literal translation, also known as direct translation, is the transference of a text directly from one language into another language when the original version almost accords with the target language in the form of vocabulary and grammatical structure. The aim of literal translation is to preserve the national flavour of the source language proverbs, while not violating the linguistic principles of the target language. Many English proverbs could be translated in a literal way, for example, “Prevention is better than cure” could be literally translated into “Phòng bệnh hơn chữa bệnh”. It is a preferred version of translation because it fulfills the function of communicative translation yet retains the original flavour of the source proverb.

 Figurative Translation

Because of the influence of cultural factors, we cannot keep the literal meaning and imagery meaning of the source language. Therefore, translators should make a great effort to adjust the figurative image, rhetorical devices and the cultural characteristics of the original proverbs to fit those of the target language proverbs. Dealing with the figurative meaning of a proverb, we would like to suggest some approaches to the translation of PsRG&L:

+ Interpreting the denotative meaning of the given PsRG&L in the source language.
+ Clarifying the connotative meaning of the PsRG&L mentioned.
+ Elucidating or explaining the general meaning of the proverbs in the given context in terms of semantic features.
+ Finding the Vietnamese equivalent under the light of the cultural characteristics.

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

5.3.1. Limitations of the Study

Due to the restriction of this kind of proverbs- PsRG&L, only 300 samples in the two languages are collected. Moreover, because of the limited time, knowledge and references, the study can only examine some certain characteristics of English and Vietnamese PsRG&L such as the structures, syntactic classes, kinds of meanings and semantic types, so it has not reached the expected depth as it should.

5.3.2. Suggestions for Further Study

This thesis is an attempt to make a detailed analysis of syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese PsRG&L. Additionally, much of our effort has been made to point out the similarities and differences between two languages. However, within the limitation of time and materials, the study is by no means complete and still remains some aspects waiting investigation. We strongly suggest further studies on the following areas:

- A Study of Pragmatic and Cultural Aspects of Proverbs Related to Gain and Loss in English Versus Vietnamese.
- A Study of Linguistic Features of Comparison Proverbs Related to Gain and Loss in English Versus Vietnamese.