

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
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**COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS FEATURES OF
IDIOMS RELATED TO THE CONCEPT OF
“BLACK”, “WHITE” IN ENGLISH VERSUS
VIETNAMESE**

**M.A. THESIS OF ARTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
(SUMMARY)**

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

Nowadays, English is an international language and is spoken by people all over the world. It is English that is also used the most widely in political, scientific, technical, economic, trade activities and so on. In Vietnam, the role of this universal language becomes very important, especially, in the present period when Viet Nam economic reform is moving strongly towards a market economy, deeper integration into the global economy and official accession to WTO. In this situation, cross-cultural communication is important and to get an effective communication seems not to be easy and simple to participants. Most of idioms are in the figurative senses and in this way idioms are expressions which have a meaning that is not obvious from the individual words. So, it is necessary to study and understand the meaning, the structure and the use of idioms.

In fact, idioms relating to such colors as “Black”, “White” in English and Vietnamese are popular but the meaning of these idioms are different in English and in Vietnamese. For example, “Black” color is mostly considered as a bad thing or a negative meaning in Vietnamese: “**vận đen đui**”, “**đen như mực**”, “**đen như Qụa**”, “**đen như than**”, “**Ăn ở đen bạc**” or “White” color as in “**Tay trắng hoàn trắng tay**” ... but English idioms related to “Black” have a positive meaning or are considered as a good thing such as “**In the black**”: a person or organization is **in the black** meaning that they are financially sound, have a positive balance on their account and that they owe no money; **Black gold** refers to the black color and high

value of oil or **“in the black and white”**: something is very clear, nobody can deny something in the black and white. Although there are differences between idioms related to “Black”, “White” in English and in Vietnamese, much similarities also exist in these two different languages. This research is based on Contrastive Analysis to find out the similarities and differences of idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” in English versus Vietnamese under a Cognitive perspective. For these reasons, we have decided on this research titled **“Cognitive Linguistic Features of Idioms Related to the Concept of “Black”, “White” in English Versus Vietnamese”**.

1.2. AIMS OF THE STUDY

The study is aimed:

- To investigate the semantic and syntactic features and rhetorical devices of English and Vietnamese idioms related to “Black”, “White”.
- To help Vietnamese English learners and English Vietnamese learners understand the similarities and differences in “Black”, “White” idioms in English versus Vietnamese under cognitive viewpoint so that they can have better cross-cultural communication.

1.3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The study is to:

- Describe semantic and syntactic features and rhetorical devices of English and Vietnamese idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” on the viewpoint of cognitive linguistics.
- Compare semantic and syntactic features and rhetorical devices of English and Vietnamese idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” on the viewpoint of cognitive linguistics.

- Discover the underlying reasons for these similarities and differences of English and Vietnamese idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” under a cognitive perspective.

1.4. RESEARCH SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is restricted to deal with the followings:

- Describing and comparing semantic and syntactic features and rhetorical devices of English and Vietnamese idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” according to cognitive linguistic viewpoint.

- Discovering the similarities and dissimilarities of cognitive linguistic characteristics of English and Vietnamese idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White”.

1.5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study will find the answers to the following questions:

1. What are the semantic and syntactic features and rhetorical devices of idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” in English under the viewpoint of cognitive linguistics?

2. What are the semantic and syntactic features and rhetorical devices of idioms related to the concept of “đen”, “trắng” in Vietnamese under the viewpoint of cognitive linguistics?

3. What are the similarities and differences in semantic, syntactic, rhetorical features of English and Vietnamese idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” and their underlying reasons in relation to the cultural cognition of the English and Vietnamese?

1.6. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE STUDY

Because Vietnamese learners of English still meet many

difficulties in speaking, writing, understanding, communicating with others when they use idioms of color, a Cognitive Study on English and Vietnamese Color Idioms could be a contribution to the present knowledge of the field. Furthermore, they can get a deeper insight understanding into the cultural characteristics in both English and Vietnamese with the help of Cognition Linguistics – a modern school of Linguistics.

1.7. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This study consists of five chapters: Chapter 1 is the introduction to the research; chapter 2 covers the literature review and theoretical background; chapter 3 focuses on the method and procedure for carrying out this thesis; chapter 4 relates the discussions and findings; and chapter 5 gives the conclusions, implications, limitations and suggestions for further research.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

Friedrich and Hans-Jorg in “An introduction to Cognitive linguistics” [13], gives a definition of Cognitive linguistics as “Cognitive linguistics is an approach to language that is based on our experience of the world and the way we perceive and conceptualize it.” A group of editors from Mouton de Gruyter in “*Cognitive Linguistics: Current Applications and Future Perspectives*” [28] has also regarded cognitive linguistics as a cognitive science. Other cognitive linguists also study the cognitive linguistics that are Leonard with “*Toward a Cognitive Semantics*” [24]; Gardenfors, P and Allwood, J. (eds) [14] with “*Cognitive Semantics: Meaning and Cognition*” and Vyvyan Evans and Melanie Green [36] with “*Cognitive Linguistics: An Introduction*”. In Viet Nam, we take Lý Toàn Thắng in “Ngôn Ngữ Học Tri Nhận – Từ Lý Thuyết Đại Cương Đến Thực Tiễn Tiếng Việt” [62] into consideration. There have been many books, dictionaries, researches written about idioms up to now such as Jennifer & Mordie [35], Collins [6], Broukai [3], Cowie, Mackin & Mc Craig [7], Collies [5], White [37], Heacock [18].... Also, we take into consideration a large number of Vietnamese studies including Viện Ngôn Ngữ Học [67], Bùi Phụng [57], Trần Quang Mân [51], Lê Thành [60], Nguyễn Lực, Lương Văn Đăng [50], Vũ Dung, Vũ Thúy Anh, Vũ Quang Hào [40], Nguyễn Lâm [48], Trần Văn Thành, Nguyễn Thành Yên, Nguyễn Trung Tánh, Lê Huy Lâm [61]. Besides the above studies, Some M.A theses in Da Nang

University studied of words denoting colors and idioms relating to colors such as Mai Nguyễn Diệu Khoa [45], Nguyễn Thị Thu Sương [59], Trương Thanh Ngọc [54], in “Tập Chí Ngôn Ngữ” number on 12/2001, Trần Thị Thu Huyền has an essay dealing with “Hoa cỏ và màu sắc trong thành ngữ tiếng Anh và tiếng Việt”, Nguyễn Thị Diệu Hào [43]. Up to now, there has been hardly an M.A thesis which studies the semantic, syntax, rhetorical devices of idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” under a cognitive perspective.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Cognitive Linguistics

a. Cognitive Linguistic Viewpoint in the Study

Cognitive science firstly developed in America, therefore the number of cognitive linguists in the Western is remarkable. To have a right viewpoint in the thesis, we study many famous cognitive linguistics books of many famous cognitive linguists such as L. Janda in *Cognitive Linguistics* (2000); Vyvyan Evans and Melanie Green in *Cognitive Linguistics: An Introduction* [36]; Leonard with “*Toward a Cognitive Semantics*” [24]; Gardenfors, P and Allwood, J. (eds) [14] with “*Cognitive Semantics: Meaning and Cognition*”; Mouton de Gruyter in “*Cognitive Linguistics: Current Applications and Future Perspectives*” [28] and so on.

Although there have been lots of cognitive linguistic theories so far I certainly carry out this study basing on the cognitive viewpoints of professor Lý Toàn Thắng and Peter Gärdenfors as the major viewpoints of cognitive linguistics in English and in Vietnamese. From that we can find out the underlying reasons in the similarities and dissimilarities between English idioms and

Vietnamese idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White”.

b. Cognitive Semantic Meaning

In “*Cognitive Linguistics: Meaning and Cognition*”, Peter mentioned six tenets of Cognitive Semantics.

2.2.2. Definition of Idioms and Color Idioms

a. Definition of Idioms

b. Definition of Color Idioms

2.2.3. Main Features of Idioms

a. Idioms-A Popular Phenomenon in Every Language

b. Structural Features

c. Semantic Features

d. Rhetorical Devices

2.2.4. Idioms and Other Language Units

a. Idioms and Phrases

b. Idioms and Collocations

c. Idioms and Proverbs

2.2.5. The Concept of “Black”, “White” in English and in Vietnamese

a. Concept of “Black”

b. Concept of “White”

2.2.6. The Relationship of Language, Culture and Cognition

a. Concept of Culture

b. Concept of Language

c. The Relationship Between Language, Culture and Cognition

2.3. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In this chapter, we have presented a review of related literature and a theoretical background which shall form the basis for our study.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1. DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE

In this study, we work out 226 idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” in English and in Vietnamese.

3.2. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

3.2.1. Data Collection

The data collection is carried out mainly focusing on the Internet sources and from English and Vietnamese short stories, online newspapers, dictionaries, books.

3.2.2. Data Analysis

We describe, compare to find out the similarities and differences in idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” in terms of semantic features, syntactic features and rhetorical devices in the viewpoint of cognitive linguistics. Then, we give implications to the teaching, studying and translation of English idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White”.

3.3. INSTRUMENT FOR ANALYSIS

The description method is used to explore their linguistic features and find out how they work in terms of syntactic, semantic and rhetorical devices checklists and statistic tables to show quantitatively the contribution of idioms into each type.

3.4. RESEARCH METHODS

To find out the similarities and differences between the two languages in terms of the semantics, syntax, rhetorical and cognition of the idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White”, it is essential to use the following methods: descriptive method, and comparative method.

CHAPTER 4

DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS

4.1. SEMANTIC FEATURES, SYNTACTIC FEATURES AND RHETORICAL DEVICES OF ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE IDIOMS RELATED TO THE CONCEPT OF “BLACK”, “WHITE” UNDER COGNITIVE LINGUISTIC VIEWPOINT

4.1.1. Semantic Features of English and Vietnamese Idioms Related to the Concept of “Black”, “White”

I find out some semantic fields of English idioms and Vietnamese idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” as following: appearance; situations/ conditions; health; age; experience; locations/places; mood status; actions/ activities; bad destiny; good personality and bad personality.

All English idioms and Vietnamese idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” collected, I classify them into 4 types:

+ Type 1: an English idiom related to the concept of “Black”, “White” has equivalents in Vietnamese and vice versa.

+ Type 2: an English idiom related to the concept of “Black”, “White” has an equivalent in Vietnamese and vice versa.

+ Type 3: English idiom related to the concept of “Black”, “White” has Vietnamese idiom equivalent not related to the concept of “Black”, “White” and vice versa.

+ Type 4: Vietnamese idiom related to the concept of “Black”, “White” has no English equivalents related to the concept of “Black”, “White” and vice versa.

4.1.2. Syntactic Features of English and Vietnamese Idioms Related to the Concept of “Black”, “White”

English idioms and Vietnamese idioms can be found under the form of phrasal structures, namely noun phrases, verb phrases, Adjective phrases, Prepositional phrases. Apart from phrasal structures, I also analyze English idioms and Vietnamese idioms under the forms of sentence or clause.

4.1.3. Rhetorical Devices of English and Vietnamese Idioms Related to the Concept of “Black”, “White”

a. Simile

b. Metonymy

c. Metaphor

4.1.4. Semantic Fields, Syntactic Features and Rhetorical Devices of Idioms Related to the Concept of “Black”, “White” in English Versus Vietnamese

a. Syntactic Features and Rhetorical Devices of Idioms Expressing Appearance in English Versus Vietnamese

We find out the rhetorical device of simile of English idioms in this semantic field with the following syntactic structures:

[1] Adjective + Comparative Word (CW) + Noun Phrase

(as black as a skillet; as white as a sheet)

Similarly, with the rhetorical device of simile, there are many Vietnamese idioms with only one following structure:

[1] Adjective + Comparative Word (CW) + Noun Phrase

(đen như hạt nhãn; đen như cột nhà cháy; đen như cuốc; xanh như tàu lá)

Metaphor can be found out with one following structure in English and one Vietnamese idiom belongs to this rhetorical device:

[3] Adjective + Conjunction + Adjective (black and blue)

Let consider the following structure of idiom in Vietnamese:

[3] Noun + Adjective + Noun + Adjective (dân ngu khu đen)

Another rhetorical device of English idioms and Vietnamese idioms can be found in this semantic field is metonymy. There is only one English idiom with the following structure:

[4] Adjective + Noun (Black tie)

In comparison with English idioms, Vietnamese also own some idioms of metonymy in form of noun phrase and sentence as follow:

[5] Noun + Adjective + Noun + Adjective (má hồng răng đen)

b. Syntactic Features and Rhetorical Devices of Idioms Expressing Good Personality in English Versus Vietnamese

Rhetorical device of simile in English as following structures:

[5] Adj + CW + Adj (whiter than white)

In spite of the same meaning, the Vietnamese idioms have the rhetorical device of metaphor with the following structure:

[8] Adjective + Adjective (trinh bạch)

c. Syntactic Features and Rhetorical Devices of Idioms Expressing Bad Personality in English Versus Vietnamese

We can even find English idiom of simile device with the

following structure:

[6] Preposition + Article + Adjective + Noun

(of the blackest crimes)

The population of Vietnamese idioms and their structures can be found much more than those in English:

[9] Adjective + CW + Noun (bạc như vôi)

Under the viewpoint of Peter, we find out some cognitive models are primarily imaged – schematic transformed by metaphoric operation as follow:

[7] Verb phrase (say that black is white)

In comparison with English, the number of Vietnamese idioms of metaphor expressing bad personality is more various. Let consider the following structures:

[11] Verb + Adjective + Verb + Adjective (đổi trắng thay đen)

Let consider the following Vietnamese idioms with the following structures:

[18] Noun + Adjective (tâm địa đen tối)

d. Syntactic Features and Rhetorical Devices of Idioms Expressing Situations/ Conditions in English Versus Vietnamese

Firstly, we can find out English idioms of simile with the following structures:

[12] Verb + CW + Noun (worked like a black)

In comparison, there is only one Vietnamese idiom of simile with the following structure:

[21] Verb + CW + Noun + CW + Noun (làm việc như trâu như ngựa)

There are five English idioms of metaphor with the following

structures:

[17] Noun + V-ing + Noun + Adjective (the pot calling the kettle black)

Another common process is metonymy. Let consider the following structures of English idioms.

[19] Preposition + Article + Adjective (in the black)

Similarly, Vietnamese idioms also own some following structures:

[40] Noun + Adjective + Adverb + Adjective + Noun

(Tay trắng hoàn trắng tay)

e. Syntactic Features and Rhetorical Devices of Idioms Expressing Health in English Versus Vietnamese

We can seek and present only one English idiom and one in Vietnamese of metonymy expressing health condition.

[21] Clause+conjunction+clause

(Work won't kill, but worry will)

[42] Verb + Adjective + Noun, Verb + Adjective + Noun

(Buồn bạc râu, sầu bạc tóc)

f. Syntactic Features and Rhetorical Devices of Idioms Expressing Age in English Versus Vietnamese

English idioms of metonymy with the following structures:

[22] Preposition + Noun + preposition + Noun

(from the cradle to the grave)

With the semantic field of age, Vietnamese idioms with the following simile and metonymy:

Simile is expressed by the following structure:

[43] **Adjective + Noun + CW + Adjective** (bạch đầu như tân)

Metonymy can be found out through the following structures:

[44] **Noun + Adjective + Noun + Adjective** (Tóc bạc răng long)

g. Syntactic Features and Rhetorical Devices of Idioms Expressing Experience in English Versus Vietnamese

Firstly, let consider English idioms of metaphor with the following structure:

[23] **Adjective + preposition + Noun, Adjective + Preposition + Noun** (Lucky at cards, unlucky in love)

In comparison, Vietnamese idioms have the following structures:

[45] **Adjective + Noun + Adjective + Noun**

(Đỏ tình thì đen bạc; Đen bạc thì đen tình)

Another rhetorical device of Vietnamese idioms expressing experience is metonymy with the following structures:

[47] **Noun phrase + Predicate**

(trâu trắng đi đâu mất mùa đến đấy)

h. Syntactic Features and Rhetorical Devices of Idioms Expressing Locations/ Places in English Versus Vietnamese

The rhetorical device of metonymy of English idioms have two following structures:

[24] **Article + Adjective + Noun** (black spot)

Contrary to English idioms, the structures of Vietnamese idioms are very various. Let consider the following structures.

[51] **Noun + Adjective** (xã hội đen)

i. Syntactic Features and Rhetorical Devices of Idioms Expressing Mood Status in English Versus Vietnamese

English idioms have the rhetorical device of metaphor with the following structure:

[26] Article + Adjective + Noun (a black look)

In Vietnamese, some idioms bear metaphor with some following structures:

[54] Noun + Adjective (Ngày đen đui)

Simile can also be found out in this semantic field of Vietnamese idiom with the structure as follow:

[55] Adjective + CW + Noun (chán như con gián)

k. Syntactic Features and Rhetorical Devices of Idioms Expressing Actions/Activities in English Versus Vietnamese

All of English idioms expressing actions/activities are metaphor with the following structures:

[27] (Article) + Adjective + Noun (a black mailer)

l. Syntactic Features and Rhetorical Devices of Idioms Expressing Bad Destiny in English Versus Vietnamese

Vietnamese idioms of metaphor with the following structure:

[62] Adjective + Noun + Adjective + Noun (bạc mệnh)

**Table 4.1. A Summary of Idioms Related to the Concept of “black”,
“white” in English versus Vietnamese**

	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
Appearance	[1] Adj + CW + NP	[1] Adjective + CW + Noun
	[2] CW + Adj + CW + NP	[2] Adjective + Noun + Noun
	[3] Adj + Conjunction + Adj	[3] Noun + Adjective + Noun + Adjective
	[4] Adj + N	[4] Adjective + Noun + Adjective + Noun
	Ø	[5] Noun + Adjective + Noun + Adjective
	Ø	[6] Noun + Adjective
	Ø	[7] Sentence
Good personality	[5] Adj + CW + Adj	[8] Adjective + Adjective
Bad personality	[6] Preposition + Article + Adjective + Noun	[9] Adjective + CW + Noun
	[7] Verb Phrase	[10] Clause + Clause
	[8] Ø	[11] Verb + Adjective + Verb + Adjective
	[9] Article + Adjective + Noun	[12] Adjective + Noun + Adjective + Noun
	[10] Ø	[13] Adjective + Adjective
	[11] Ø	[14] Noun + Zero Word + Noun
	Ø	[15] Verb Phrase
	Ø	[16] Noun + Adjective
	Ø	[17] Adjective + Noun

	∅	[18] Noun + Adjective
	∅	[19] Adjective + Noun + Adverb + Verb + Noun
	∅	[20] Verb + Noun + Verb + Noun
Situations/ Conditions	[12] Verb + CW + Noun	[21] Verb + CW + Noun + CW + Noun
	[13] Adjective + CW + Noun	[22] Noun + Adjective + Noun + Adjective
	[14] Preposition + Adjective + Conjunction + Adjective	[23] Noun + Adjective
	[15] Article + Adjective + Noun	[24] Adjective + Adjective
	[16] Verb + Adjective	[25] Verb + Verb
	[17] Noun + V-ing + Noun + Adjective	[26] Verb + Preposition + Noun
	[18] Adjective + Conjunction + Adjective	[27] Adjective + Noun
	[19] Preposition + Article + Adjective	[28] Adjective + Noun
	[20] Article + Adjective + Noun	[29] Adjective + Noun + Adjective + Noun
	∅	[30] Verb + Adjective + Verb + Adjective
	∅	[31] Noun + Verb + Noun
	∅	[32] Noun + Noun
	∅	[33] Verb + Adjective + Verb + Adjective
	∅	[34] Adjective + Noun + Verb + Noun
	∅	[35] Noun + Adjective + Verb
	∅	[36] Noun + Adjective + Noun + Adjective
	∅	[37] Adjective + Noun + Verb + Noun
	∅	[38] Noun + Adjective

Health	∅	[39] Noun + Adjective + Adverb + Adjective + Noun
	∅	[40] Adjective + Noun + Preposition + Noun
	[21] Clause + Conjunction + Clause	[41] Verb + Adjective + Noun, Verb + Adjective + Noun
Age	[22] Preposition + Noun + Preposition + Noun	[42] Adjective + Noun + CW + Adjective
	∅	[43] Noun + Adjective + Noun + Adjective
Experience	[23] Adjective + Preposition + Noun, Adjective + Preposition + Noun	[44] Adjective + Noun + Adjective + Noun
	∅	[45] Verb + Noun + Adjective + Noun
	∅	[46] Noun Phrase + Predicate
	∅	[47] Noun + Adjective + linking verb, Noun + Adjective + linking verb
	∅	[48] Adjective + Noun + Preposition + Adjective
	∅	[49] Adjective + Noun + Adverb + Verb + Noun + Adjective
Locations/ Places	[24] Article + Adjective + Noun	[50] Noun + Adjective
	[25] Preposition + Pronoun + Adjective + Noun	[51] Verb + Preposition + Noun + Adjective
	∅	[52] Adverb + Adjective + Verb + Noun + Adjective
Mod d statu s	[26] Article + Adjective + Noun	[53] Noun + Adjective

	∅	[54] Adjective + CW + Noun
Actions/ Activities	[27] Article + Adjective + Noun	[55] Noun + Adjective
	[28] To infinitive + Pronoun + Noun	[56] Noun Phrase
	[29] Adjective + Noun	[57] Verb + Noun
	[30] Article + Adjective + Noun	[58] Verb Phrase
	∅	[59] Adverb + Verb + Noun
	∅	[60] Verb + Noun
Bad destiny	∅	[61] Adjective + Noun + Adjective + Noun
	∅	[62] Adjective + Noun
	∅	[63] Noun + Adjective

Table 4.2. A Statistic Summary of Syntactic Features of Idioms Related to the Concept of “Black”, “White” in English Versus Vietnamese

English and Vietnamese Idioms Related to the Concept of “Black”, “White”			English		Vietnamese	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Syntactical Analysis	Phrasal Structures	Adjective Phrases	60	60%	46	37%
		Noun Phrases	26	26%	53	42%
		Verb Phrases	7	7%	15	12%
		Prepositional Phrases	6	6%	2	2%
	Sentence/ Clause structures		1	1%	10	8%
Total			100	100%	126	100%

Table 4.3. Frequency of Semantic Fields of Idioms Related to the Concept of “Black”, “White” in English Versus Vietnamese

Idioms Related to the Concept of “Black”, “White” in English Versus Vietnamese			English		Vietnamese	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Semantic Fields	1	Appearance	43	43%	39	30.9%
	2	Good personality	1	1%	2	1.5%
	3	Bad personality	5	5%	14	11.1%
	4	Situations/ Conditions	24	24%	29	23%
	5	Health	1	1%	1	0.8%
	6	Age	1	1%	3	2.4%
	7	Experience	2	2%	7	5.5%
	8	Locations/Places	7	7%	10	8%
	9	Mood status	6	6%	6	4.8%
	10	Actions/ activities	10	10%	12	9.6%
	11	Bad destiny	0	0%	3	2.4%
Total Number			100	100%	126	100%

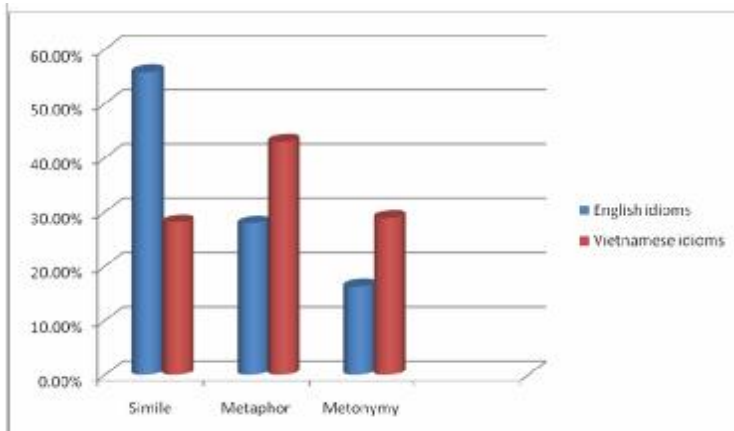


Chart 4.1. Frequency of Rhetorical Devices of Idioms Related to the Concept of “Black”, “White” in English Versus Vietnamese

4.2. SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE IDIOMS RELATED TO THE CONCEPT OF “BLACK”, “WHITE” UNDER COGNITIVE PERSPECTIVE

4.2.1. Similarities

4.2.2. Differences

4.3. CONCLUDING REMARKS

In this chapter, linguistic patterns meaning in English and Vietnamese idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” are described, discussed and analyzed to find out and explain the similarities and dissimilarities in term of semantic, syntactic and rhetorical devices under the viewpoint of cognitive linguistic. Some cultural features reflected in idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” are clarified.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSIONS

226 idioms in English and Vietnamese are collected and analyzed to find out the similarities and differences in semantic, syntactic features and rhetorical devices under the cognitive linguistic viewpoint.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING, TEACHING AND TRANSLATING

5.2.1. Implications for Learning Idioms Related to the Concept of “Black”, “White” in English and in Vietnamese

The most important thing for learners to get a better understanding idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” is to identify the literal and figurative meanings of these idioms.

On the other hand, the learners should equip themselves with the knowledge of cultural background as much as possible. They should study the origins of the idioms explained clearly by cognitive perspectives.

5.2.2. Implications for Teaching Idioms Related to the Concept of “Black”, “White” in English Versus Vietnamese

Firstly, idioms introduced to students should be suitable for the learners. They should be listed in semantic fields, topic or key words.

Secondly, we should divide idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” in English and in Vietnamese into negative meaning and positive meaning.

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.

Last but not least, the teacher should decide the idioms that are common so that students have opportunity to practice through some types of exercises.

5.2.3. Implication for Translating Idioms Related to the Concept of “Black”, “White” in English Versus Vietnamese

a. Literal Translation

It is a preferred version of translation because it fulfills the function of communicative translation yet retains the original flavor of the source idiom, for instance: **as black as a skillet, as black as coal, as white as snow** could be literal translated into **đen như dĩa chảo, đen như than, trắng như tuyết.**

b. Figurative Translation

+ Interpreting the denotative meaning of the given idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” in the source language.

+ Clarifying the connotative of the idiom mentioned.

+ Explaining the general meaning of the idiom in the given context in term of semantic features.

+ Finding the Vietnamese equivalent under the light of the semantic mechanisms that have been discussed.

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

5.3.1 . Limitations

The limitation of time, lack of relevant materials relating to this

topic in both English and Vietnamese; the factor affecting the semantic mechanism of these idioms.

5.3.2. Suggestions for Further Research

Many other aspects need to be studied in further researches. For example, the research of the idioms related to the concept of “Black”, “White” in English versus Vietnamese may be carried out in term of Pragmatic features under the viewpoint of cognitive perspectives.