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**AN INVESTIGATION INTO
SYNTACTIC AND SEMANTIC FEATURES**

OF ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

PROVERBS DENOTING WEATHER

**Field: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
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M.A. THESIS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

(A SUMMARY)

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1. 1. RATIONALE

Weather together with its ever-changing nature has drawn the attention of people around the world because it can alter human life. Therefore, PDW are used for forecasting weather changes and showing weather's influence on human life such as its influence on production and human health. However, PDW are usually based on someone's observations in one location and not on scientific studies, they are not always true for all time in all places. Hence, it is obvious that learners find it difficult to understand and use PDW appropriately. For the above reasons, I choose to do research on the topic "*An Investigation into Syntactic and Semantic Features of English and Vietnamese Proverbs Denoting Weather*".

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

1.2.1. Aims

This study aims at showing the syntactic and semantic features of EPDW and VPDW, drawing the similarities and differences between them and helping learners use PDW effectively.

1.2.2. Objectives

The objectives of this study are to point out the similarities and differences between EPDW and VPDW in terms of their syntactic and semantic features and to put forward some suggestions for teaching EPDW to Vietnamese learners.

1.3. JUSTIFICATION OF STUDY

A study on syntactic and semantic features of EPDW and VPDW will make some contributions to a better understanding and more efficient use of PDW by Vietnamese learners of English.

1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is carried out to investigate syntactic and semantic features of EPDW and VPDW. We almost do not mention pragmatic and cultural features of PDW in this study.

1.5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the syntactic and semantic features of EPDW and VPDW?
2. What are the similarities and differences between EPDW and VPDW in terms of syntactic and semantic features?
3. What are some possible suggestions for teaching EPDW to Vietnamese learners of English?

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Literature review and theoretical background

Chapter 3: Research design and methodology

Chapter 4: Findings and discussion

Chapter 5: Conclusion and Implications

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

Mieder [16] gives the definitions of proverbs and presents the classification of proverbs into various themes including numerous proverbial sub-groups and explores their occurrence in oral tradition folk arts or literature in context.

Phạm Văn Bình [29] not only provides the readers with the characteristics of Vietnamese proverbs in terms of syntactic and

semantic features but also introduces the Vietnamese proverbs with their synonyms and their English synonyms to make them clearer.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1 Definitions of Terms

2.2.1.1 Definitions of “Proverb”

Simpson and Speake [24, p.1] postulates in the introductory remarks the following definition: “A proverb is a traditional saying which offers advice or presents a moral in a short and pithy manner”.

According to Phạm Văn Bình [29, p.7-10] “A proverb is a complete sentence expressing an idea of comment, of experience, of morality, of justice or of criticism drawn from the human life.”

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

Table 2.1: Similarities and Differences between Idioms and Proverbs

Similarities and Differences		Proverbs	Idioms
Similarities	Unreproductive language units		
Differences	Syntactically	+ short sentences	+ phrases or word groups
	Semantically	+ assertive-information + expressing comments, advices, experiences or criticisms	+ Notion-nominalization + mostly denoting figurative meaning

2.2.1.2 Definition of “Proverbs Denoting Weather”

The term “Proverbs Denoting Weather” can be defined as: *Proverbs Denoting Weather is a kind of proverbs that represents the conditions in the air above the Earth such as wind, rain or temperature, especially at a particular time over a particular area.*

2.2.2 The syntactic structure

2.2.2.1 English sentence types

a. Simple sentences

A simple sentence, according to Quirk et al. [21, p.719], consists of a single independent clause and there are seven clause types: SVA, SVC, SVO, SVOA, SVOC, SVOO and SV.

b. Compound sentences

A compound sentence [21, p.987] consists of two or more coordinated main clauses; the clauses of a compound sentence provide classic instances of a paratactic relationship that is they have equivalent function.

c. Complex sentences

A complex sentence [21, p.987] is like a simple sentence in that it consists of only one main clause, but unlike a simple sentence it has one or more subordinate clauses functioning as an element of the sentence.

d. Irregular sentences

d1. Aphoristic sentences

The aphoristic sentence structure is found in many proverbs. The common structural feature is the balancing of two equivalent constructions against each other.

d2. Abbreviated sentences

They are usually used with the omission of *there is, it is* or a form of the verb *be*.

2.2.2.2. Vietnamese sentence types

According to Nguyễn Văn Hiệp [33, p.22], there are three types of sentence structures in Vietnamese.

a. Simple sentences

A simple sentence consists of only one main clause. There are five main clauses: SV, SVO, SVC, SVOO and SVOC

b. Compound sentences

A compound sentence consists of two or more Subject - Predicate structures which are not included in each other and can be analyzed into two or more coordinate clauses.

c. Complex sentences

A complex sentence is a kind of simple sentence, the elements of which can be expanded into a Subject - Predicate structure. A complex sentence consists of one main clause and at least one subordinate clause. This subordinate clause is the expansion of any element of the main clause.

2.2.3 Semantic Fields

Semantic field is a set of interrelated senses based on a conceptual field or spectrum. [9, p. 125]

Semantic field (lexical field) is defined by Richards and Schmidt [22] as “*the organization of related words and expressions into a system which shows their relationship to one another.*”

2.3 SUMMARY

CHAPTER 3

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

The study is based on the combination of qualitative and quantitative research designs.

3.2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research is conducted based on the combination of both descriptive and contrastive methods.

3.3 SAMPLES

Samples are collected based on 4 criteria:

- + The samples have to be proverbs.
- + The samples are proverbs that express the prediction of weather conditions and show weather's influence on human life.
- + The samples are proverbs that denote weather.
- + The sources from which the samples are picked up have to be reliable ones.

3.4 DATA COLLECTION

The data used in this study were collected randomly from English and Vietnamese dictionaries of proverbs, books and websites on the internet.

3.5 DATA ANALYSIS

Two hundreds PDW of each language were described and analyzed to find out the similarities and differences in terms of their syntactic and semantic features.

3.6 RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

The data are collected from materials which are reliable. The results of the research are withdrawn from serious scientific works with accurate statistics set out from the analysis of evidence, not being driven by the set results.

3.7. SUMMARY

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF EPDW AND VPDW

4.1.1. EPDW and VPDW with Simple Sentences

4.1.1.1. EPDW with Simple Sentences

[1] SVA

(4.1) Bees (S) will not swarm (V) before a near storm (A). [13, p.41]

[2] SVC

(4.2) Cloudy mornings (S) turn to (V) clear evenings (C). [13, p.103]

[3] SVO

(4.4) A gaudy morning (S) bodes (V) a wet afternoon (O). [3, p.396]

[4] SVOA

(4.6) A red Sun (S) has (v) water (O) in his eye (A). [10, p.431]

[5] SVOC

(4.7) An evening gray and a morning red (S) will send (V) the shepherd (O) wet to bed (C). [49, p. 437]

[6] SVOO

(4.8) June damp and warm (S) does (V) the farmer (O) no harm (O). [13, p. 311]

[7] SV

(4.9) A late spring (S) never deceives (V). [49, p. 430]

4.1.1.2. VPDW with Simple Sentences

[1] SVC

(4.10) Tháng bảy nước (S) chảy (V) qua bờ (C). [32, p.551]

[2] SVO

(4.11) Nắng ui ui (S) thui (V) chết người (O). [27, p.115]

[3] SV

(4.12) Mưa tháng sáu (S) máu rồng (V). [36, p.265]

4.1.2 EPDW and VPDW with Compound Sentences

4.1.2.1 EPDW with Compound Sentences

a. *Syndetic Coordination*(4.14) The north wind doth blow *and* we shall have snow. [14, p.205]b. *Asyndetic Coordination*

(4.16) North-west wind brings a short storm. A north-east wind brings a long storm. [13, p.631]

4.1.2.2. VPDW with Compound Sentences

a. *Coordination compound*

In this type of sentences, focal head particle “thì” is used, which makes the strong impression on hearers.

(4.17) Ác tẩm thì ráo,// sáo tẩm thì mưa. [32, p.13]

Focal head particle “thì” is frequently omitted in many PDW.

(4.18) Móng dài/ trời lụt,// móng cụt/ trời mưa. [32, p.439]b. *Subordination compound*(4.22) Thâm đông trồng bắc, hễ nực thì mưa. [36, p.372]

Correlative subordinators are rarely used in VPDW. They are often omitted in many proverbs

(4.24) Đá đổ mồ hôi,/ mưa trôi đầy đồng. [32, p. 222]

4.1.3 EPDW and VPDW with Complex Sentences

4.1.3.1. EPDW with Complex Sentences

a. *Nominal Clauses*(4.26) When the leaves show their undersides, *be very sure that rain betides*. [13, p.332](4.29) Evening gray and morning red
Make the shepherd *hang his head*. [49, p.437]b. *Adverbial clauses*

(4.30) *When the wind is in the west, the weather is at the best.*
[13, p.631]

(4.31) *If bees get out in February, the next day will be windy and rainy.*
[13, p.195]

In some sentences which contains the optative subjunctive used to express a wish.

(4.32) *If Saint Paul's day be fair and clear, it will betide a happy year.*
[23, p.281]

c. Comment Clauses

(4.33) *If the Sun goes pale to bed 'Twill rain tomorrow, it is said.*
[49, p.436]

4.1.3.2 VPDW with Complex Sentences

[1] Subject is a Subject - Predicate structure

(4.34) *Kiến dọn tổ thời mưa.*
[32, p.385]

[2] Complement is a Subject - Predicate structure

(4.35) *Trời mưa giông được đồng lúa trổ.*
[33, p.173]

4.1.4. EPDW and VPDW with irregular sentences

4.1.4.1. EPDW with irregular sentences

[1] Aphoristic sentences

a. This pattern is dealt with under proportional clauses.

(4.36) *The higher the clouds the better the weather.*
[13, p.103]

(The higher the clouds are, the better the weather is.)

b. Both parts are verbless

(4.39) *So many mists in March, so many frosts in May.*
[13, p.219]

[2] Abbreviated sentences

(4.40) *Evening red and morning gray, two sure signs of one fine day.*
[49, p. 437]

(Evening red and morning gray are two sure signs of one fine day.)

4.1.4.2. VPDW with irregular sentences

No VPDW with irregular sentences can be found in my data.

4.1.5. Similarities and Differences between EPDW and VPDW in Term of Syntax

Table 4.9: A Summary of Syntactic Features of EPDW and VPDW

Syntactic Features		EPDW	VPDW
1. Simple sentences	SVA	+	-
	SVC	+	+
	SVO	+	+
	SVOA	+	-
	SVOC	+	-
	SVOO	+	-
	SV	+	+
2. Compound sentences		+	+
3. Complex sentences		+	+
4. Irregular sentences		+	-

4.1.5.1. Similarities

It is clear from the above contrastive analysis that three main types of sentences such as simple sentences, compound sentences and complex sentences are used in both EPDW and VPDW. In simple sentences three types clause SV, SVC and SVO are also employed, and the type clause SVO occurs more commonly in both languages.

4.1.5.2. Differences

Firstly, EPDW occur in all seven types of English simple sentences. However, VPDW occur only in SV, SVC and SVO type clauses, and other type clauses such as SVOO and SVOC can not be seen in VPDW.

Secondly, most of VPDW can be found in compound sentence, which illustrates the structural parallelism in Vietnamese proverbs. Thus, the compound sentence takes up the largest in VPDW and the complex sentence is opposite. Moreover, the large number of VPDW with compound sentence which have two or more than two clauses demonstrate that the majority of VPDW are used with parallel structures, which proves the tendency of Vietnamese people to make their proverbs smooth to hear and easy to remember.

Finally, EPDW occur in all four types of sentences: simple sentences, compound sentences, complex sentences and irregular sentences, whereas VPDW only use three main types of sentences. Irregular sentences cannot be found in VPDW in my data.

4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF EPDW AND VPDW

Table 4.10: Frequency of Semantic Fields of EPDW and VPDW

Semantic Fields	EPDW		VPDW	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1. Predicting weather conditions	158	79%	150	75%
2. Weather's influence on human life	42	21%	50	25%
Total	200	100%	200	100%

4.2.1. Predicting Weather Conditions

4.2.1.1. Means of Predicting Weather Conditions

Table 4.11: Means of Predicting Weather Conditions in EPDW and VPDW

Means of Predicting Weather Conditions	EPDW		VPDW	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Natural phenomena	103	65.2%	70	46.7%
Animals' behaviors	19	12.0%	38	25.3%
Vegetative reactions	4	2.5%	13	8.7%
Time	29	18.4%	23	15.3%
Other fields	3	1.9%	6	4.0%
Total	158	100%	150	100%

a. Natural Phenomena

+ Clouds

Clouds are good indicators of what weather may be in the near future. Based on the direction of the cloud, its color, its sharp and its height..., people predict a wet day or a dry day.

(4.41) *When the clouds of the morn to the west fly away, you may conclude on a settled, fair day.* [13, p.103]

(4.44) *Vàng mây thời gió, đỏ mây thời mưa.* [27, p.163]

+ Winds

The direction of the winds can be observed to foretell the weather conditions.

(4.50) *The north wind doth blow and we shall have snow.* [14, p.205]

(4.51) *When the wind is in the East, 'tis neither good for man nor beast.* [14, p.297]

Conversely, a westerly wind is the opposite of an easterly wind, it indicates fair or clear weather. For instance:

(4.52) *The wind in the west*, suits everyone best. [49, p. 441]

However, according to VPDW, winds from the east often precede rainy or stormy weather.

(4.53) *Mùa nức gió Đông* thì đồng đầy nước. [36, p. 262]

+ *Moon-Sun*

The ring that forms around the sun or moon, the colour of the Moon or the Sun and the appearance of the sun on special days indicate weather prognostication.

(4.54) *When round the moon there is a burr*, the weather will be cold and rough. [13, p.393]

(4.55) *Trăng quầng* thì hạn, *trăng tán* thì mưa. [32, p.557]

(4.58) Không mưa thì gió khi *mặt trời đỏ như son*. [32, p.383]

+ Stars

The number of the stars on the sky as well as their twinkling can be observed to forecast weather conditions.

(4.62) *When the stars begin to huddle*, the earth will soon become a puddle. [49, p.440]

(4.64) *Trời sắp nắng sao tỏ*, *trời sắp mưa sao mờ*. [32, p.588]

+ Lightning and thunder

Lightning and thunder are also signs of weather. When the lightning appears, it indicates a coming rain.

(4.65) *Chớp đằng đông*, mua dây mà tát. [32, p.148]

(4.66) *Chớp thừng chớp chèo*, chãng bão thì mưa. [32, p.148]

(4.68) *Thunder in December* presages fine weather. [13, p.135]

However, the appearance of thunders before the rain indicates that it probably will not rain.

(4.69) *Sấm trước* chước mưa. [27, p.135]

+ Sky

The colour of the sky and the shapes of the cloud in the sky indicate the coming weather conditions.

(4.71) *Red sky at nigh*, shepherd's delight. *Red sky in the morning*, shepherd's warning. [23, p.270]

(4.72) *Ráng vàng* thời nắng, *ráng trắng* thời mưa. [27, p.133]

+ Rainbows

People can resort to the appearance, the colour, the length and the height of the rainbows to predict coming weather.

(4.75) *A rainbow at morn* is a sign of a storm, *a rainbow at night* is a shepherd's delight. [13, p.481]

(4.79) *Mống vàng* thì nắng, *mống trắng* thì mưa. [32, p.439]

+ *Snow-Frost- Fog-Mist-Dew*

Frost, especially white frost, is one of great indicators of weather both in English and Vietnamese.

(4.80) Three *white frosts* bring rain. [13, p.224]

(4.82) *Sương muối là mặt đất*, ai có thóc đem phơi. [32, p.540]

Conversely, snow is also one of the indicators of weather, but it is rarely used in EPDW and it can not be found in VPDW.

(4.86) *If February give much snow*, a fine summer it doth foreshow. [13, p.196]

+ Rain

The origin of the rain indicates how the weather will be.

(4.88) *Rain from the south* prevents the drought, but rain from the west is always best. [13, p.480]

(4.89) *Con đằng đông* vừa trông vừa chạy. [32, p.189]

(4.90) *Con đằng nam* vừa làm vừa chơi. [32, p.189]

There are some differences about weather conditions between EPDW and VPDW: in English, the rain that comes from the south is likely to rain heavily, but in Vietnamese, the rain that come from the south will not occur.

+ Storm

Based on the time when a storm occurs and how it appears, people can predict how that storm will be.

(4.91) *The sudden storm* lasts not three hours. [13, p.554]

(4.92) Nửa đêm ba ngày, nửa ngày một cũ. [32, p.481]

b. Animals' Behaviours

Many PDW are drawn from observation of the behaviour of animals, birds, fish, reptiles and insects for forecasting how the weather would be.

(4.94) When *ducks are driving through the burn*, that night the weather takes a turn. [13, p.161]

(4.101) If *bees stay at home*, rain will soon come. If they fly away, fine will be the day. [13, p.41]

(4.103) *Ong vò vẽ làm tổ bụi gai, hễ thấp ất lụt lớn, cao thời nắng to.* [34, p.118]

(4.106) *Kiến cánh vỡ tổ bay ra, bão táp mưa sa gần tới.* [32, p.385]

c. Vegetative reactions

Plants can help people forecast wet or dry weather.

(4.109) When *the leaves show their undersides*, be very sure that rain betides. [13, p.332]

(4.113) *Cỏ gà loang lổ, trời đổ mưa ngay.* [32, p.157]

d. Time

It is clear that the weather condition can be predicted based on time that it occurs or by the weather at another time.

(4.115) *Rain before seven, fine before eleven.* [14, p.231]

(4.119) *Tháng ba bà già chết công.* [27, p.143]

e. Other fields

It is possible to recognize that many things around us can be observed to foretell the coming weather such as sound, smoke, etc.

(4.125) When *the smoke goes west*, good weather is past; when the smoke goes east, good weather comes next. [13, p.534]

(4.128) *Đá đổ mỏ hôi, mưa trôi đầy đồng.* [32, p.222]

4.2.1.2. Weather Conditions

[1] *Rainy*: having or bringing a lot of rain.

(4.129) When clouds appear like rocks and towers, the Earth is refreshed by frequent *showers*. [49, p.442]

(4.132) *Mây kéo ngược, nước tràn bờ.* [32, p.431]

[2] *Sunny*: with a lot of bright light from the sun.

(4.135) If the sun shines on Easter Day, it *shines* on Whit Sunday. [13, p.165]

(4.136) *Mây xanh thì nắng, mây trắng thì mưa.* [32, p.431]

[3] *Fair*: bright and rainless, not too strong wind and blows in the right direction.

(4.140) Evening red and morning gray, two sure signs of *one fine day*. [49, p.437]

(4.141) *Bồ câu bay cao báo thời tiết tốt.* [32, p.76]

[4] *Foul*: a very bad weather with strong winds and rain.

(4.143) When the wind is in the East, '*tis neither good for man nor beast*. [14, p.297]

(4.144) *Thâm Đông, hồng Tây, dựng mây; Ai ơi ở lại ba ngày hãy đi.* [27, p.145]

[5] *Windy*: with a lot of wind

- (4.146) If the sun shine the 21st of January, there shall be *store of wind* that year. [13, p.307]
- (4.149) Vòng rập mưa rào, vòng cao *gió táp*. [32, p.606]
[6] *Snowy- frosty*: covered with snow or frost.
- (4.151) Clear Moon, *frost* soon. [49, p.439]
- (4.153) The north wind doth blow and we shall have *snow*. [14, p.205]
- (4.154) Mùa đông mưa dầm gió bắc, Mùa hè mưa to gió lớn. Mùa thu *ương sa nắng gắt*. [27, p.111]
[7] *Stormy*: with strong winds and heavy rain or snow.
- (4.155) As the days grow longer, *the storms grow stronger*. [13, p.131]
- (4.157) Kiến cánh vỡ tổ bay ra, *bão táp* mưa sa gần tới. [32, p.385]
[8] *Thunder*: with the loud noise that follows a flash of lightning.
- (4.159) Fog in March, *thunder* in July. [13, p.371]
- (4.161) Tháng mười *sấm rập*, tháng chạp *sấm động*. [27, p.143]
[9] *Dry*: not wet, damp or sticky; without water or moisture.
- (4.162) A wet June makes a *dry September*. [13, p.311]
- (4.164) Quạ tắm thì *ráo*, sáo tắm thì *mưa*. [27, p. 131]
[10] *Wet*: covered or soaked with water.
- (4.166) If the Sun in red should set, the next day surely will be *wet*. [13, p.558]
- (4.167) Gió bắc thì *hanh*, gió nồm thì *ám*. [32, p.329]
[11] *Flood*: with a amount of water covering an area that is usually dry.
- (4.169) Two full moons in a month bring on a *flood*. [13, p.393]
- (4.170) Cầu vòng móng cụt, không *lụt* thì *bão*. [32, p.105]

- [12] *Drought*: with a period of continuous dry weather.
- (4.172) North and south, *the sign of drought*, East and west, the sign of blast. [13, p.103]
- (4.174) Trăng quầng thì *hạn*, trăng tán thì *mưa*. [32, p.557]
[13] *Cold*: having a lower than usual temperature has a temperature lower than the human body.
- (4.175) A warm January, a *cold May*. [13, p.307]
- (4.177) Gió bắc hiu hiu, *sếu kêu* thì *rét*. [27, p.81]
[14] *Warm*: at a fairly high temperature in a way that is pleasant, rather than being hot or cold.
- (4.179) If frogs make a noise in the time of cold rain, *warm* dry weather will follow. [13, p.224]
However, no VPDW can be found in this semantic field.
[15] *Cloudy*: covered with clouds; with a lot of clouds.
- (4.181) When eager bites the thirsty flea, *clouds* and rain you sure shall see. [13, p.206]
No proverb about cloudy weather exists in VPDW.
In conclusion, most of weather conditions in EPDW can be found in VPDW, except warm and cloudy weather conditions.

Table 4.13: Weather Conditions in English and Vietnamese PDW

English PDW	Vietnamese PDW
[1] Rainy	[1] Rainy
[2] Sunny	[2] Sunny
[3] Fair	[3] Fair
[4] Foul	[4] Foul
[5] Windy	[5] Windy
[6] Snowy	[6] Snowy
[7] Stormy	[7] Stormy

[8] Thunder	[8] Thunder
[9] Dry	[9] Dry
[10] Wet	[10] Wet
[11] Flood	[11] Flood
[12] Drought	[12] Drought
[13] Cold	[13] Cold
[14] Warm	
[15] Cloudy	
Other fields	

4.2.2. PDW Showing Weather's Influence on Human Life

Table 4.14: PDW Showing Weather's Influence on Human Life

Weather's Influence	EPDW		VPDW	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1. On production	41	95.3%	46	92%
2. On human health	2	4.7%	4	8%
Total	43	100%	50	100%

4.2.2.1. Weather's Influence on Production

[1] Good

(4.183) April showers bring forth May flowers. [23, p.11]

(4.186) Nắng tốt dưa, mưa tốt lúa. [32, p.455]

[2] Bad

(4.190) January wet, no wine you get. [49, p.430]

(4.193) Mông tám tháng tám không mưa, bỏ cả cày bừa mà nhỏ lúa đi. [27, p.106]

4.2.2.2. Weather's Influence on Human Health

[1] Good

(4.194) Drought never bred dearth in England. [14, p.68]

No VPDW can be found in my data

[2] Bad

(4.195) A green winter makes a fat churchyard. [14, p.112]

(4.197) Rét tháng ba bà già chết công. [27, p.143]

4.2.3. Similarities and Differences between EPDW and VPDW in Terms of Semantics

4.2.3.1. Similarities

Through the examples and their analyses, it can be realized that both EPDW and VPDW are used to predict weather and to show the influence of weather on human life. However, the majority of PDW of both languages are used to predict weather conditions. It is possible to recognize that EPDW and VPDW based on the same means of predicting weather such as: *natural phenomenon, animals' behaviours, vegetative reactions and time* to foretell the weather. Natural phenomena are commonly observed to forecast weather in both languages. Moreover, PDW of both languages approach to the same thirteen weather conditions: *rainy, sunny, fair, foul, cold, windy, snowy/ foggy, stormy, thunder, dry, wet, flood and drought*, and rainy weather occur more popularly both in English and Vietnamese. More interestingly, some EPDW have Vietnamese equivalents.

1. Rain before seven, fine before eleven. [14, p.231]

Sáng mưa, trưa tạnh. [27, p.135]

2. When black snails on the road you see, then on the morrow rain will be. [13, p.535]

Đương nắng có rắn rảo bò, ngày mai là có nước mưa đầy đồng. [32, p.286]

3. If red the Sun begin his race, expect that rain will fall apace.

[49, p.485]

Không mưa thì gió khi mặt trời đỏ như son. [32, p.383]

4.2.3.2. Differences

In spite of the fact that EPDW and VPDW share a lot of proverbs with the same semantic fields, there are some weather conditions that cannot be found in VPDW data such as: warm and cloudy weather conditions.

What is more, although both EPDW and VPDW resort to the same signs to predict weather, the weather conditions predicted are completely different between countries. For examples:

In English: *If frogs make a noise in the time of cold rain, warm dry weather will follow.* [13, p. 224]

In Vietnamese: *Con ếch kêu lấm điếc tai, mưa thì sắp sửa chẳng sai chút nào.* [32, p. 176]

4.3 SUMMARY

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSIONS

In terms of syntactic features, there are more differences than similarities between EPDW and VPDW.

Firstly, EPDW display four sentence types: simple sentences, compound sentences, complex sentences and irregular sentences; meanwhile, there are only three sentence types used in VPDW: simple sentences, compound sentences and complex sentences; irregular sentences cannot be found in VPDW in my data.

Secondly, there is a great difference between the distribution rate of EPDW and VPDW. Complex sentences used in EPDW are the most popular whereas in VPDW, this type of sentence is the least and the number of simple sentences in English is far higher than that of in Vietnamese. In contrast, the highest percentage in VPDW is compound sentences, which is more numerous than this type of sentence in English.

In terms of semantic features, the thesis deals with the two major semantic fields: predicting weather conditions and the influence of weather conditions on human life.

Firstly, PDW used to predict weather conditions are divided into two groups: means of predicting weather conditions and the weather conditions predicted.

As regards PDW related to means of predicting weather conditions, I have found that both the English and Vietnamese show four groups of means such as: natural phenomena, animals' behaviors, vegetative reactions and time to forecast the weather. It is possible to prove that the English and the Vietnamese, to a certain extent, sometimes observe and predict weather in the same way. EPDW and VPDW are almost observed based on natural phenomena to foretell weather, so this group takes up the highest percentage with more than a half of all in English and nearly a half in Vietnamese. Meanwhile, *vegetative reactions* takes up the lowest percentage both in English and Vietnamese. Based on the same means of predicting weather, the weather conditions that are predicted in English and Vietnamese PDW are different.

With regard to PDW showing weather conditions, there are total 15 groups of semantic fields categorized in both languages:

rainy, sunny, fair, foul, cold, warm, windy, cloudy, snowy/ foggy, stormy, thunder, dry, wet, flood and drought. EPDW occur all 15 groups but in VPDW *warm* and *cloudy* groups cannot be found. More interestingly, rainy weather is one of the popular weather conditions which commonly occur in both EPDW and VPDW. However, some weather conditions are more in this language but less in the other, for example: *sunny* and *flood* rarely occur in EPDW but they appear more frequently in VPDW. In contrast, *snowy weather* is quite popular in EPDW, only one proverb can be found in VPDW. Additionally, some EPDW have Vietnamese equivalents. However, the weather conditions are different although some EPDW and VPDW are based on the same signs.

Secondly, weather's influence on human life is divided into two parts: weather's influence on production and weather's influence on human health.

As regards weather's influence on production, there is a similarity between EPDW and VPDW good influence of weather on production outweighs the bad one.

Regarding weather's influence on human health in English, the number of good influence and bad influence are equal with only one proverb. Meanwhile, VPDW only reflect bad influence on human health. Good influence cannot be found in VPDW.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS

To some extent, the study provides teachers some findings that help them teach EPDW effectively. Teachers should introduce learners to types of sentences used in EPDW, especially irregular sentences, to help learners understand and use EPDW effectively. Moreover, teachers should raise the learners' awareness of the

importance of using PDW in communication so that they are eager to learn and use them in speaking, reading, writing and translation.

For learners, a good knowledge of proverbs as well as PDW will help them communicate better and effectively. Learners should gain some basic cultural knowledge through learning PDW, which plays an important role in cross-cultural communication.

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

5.3.1. Limitations of the thesis

The researcher gains some similarities and differences in syntactic and semantic features of EPDW and VPDW which express the prediction of weather conditions and show weather's influence on human life.

The study has got certain restrictions: Firstly, due to a limited number of samples selected for analysis, this study cannot cover all constructions as well as characteristics of proverbs denoting weather in English and in Vietnamese. Secondly, aspects of culture used to explain some different elements between the two languages are not deeply mentioned.

5.3.2. Suggestions for further researches

1. An Investigation into English and Vietnamese Proverbs Containing Words Denoting Weather.
2. An Investigation into Culture Features of English and Vietnamese Proverbs Denoting Weather.