MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
UNIVERSITY OF DANANG

NGUYỄN THỊ SINH TỐ

AN INVESTIGATION INTO SEMANTIC AND SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS DESCRIBING "RAIN, WIND, WAVE, SUNSHINE AND CLOUD" IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

Field : The English Language
Code : 60.22.15

MASTER THESIS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
(A SUMMARY)

Supervisor: TRẦN QUANG HẢI, Ph. D.

Da Nang - 2011

The study has been completed at
the College of Foreign Languages, Danang University

Supervisor : Trần Quang Hải, Ph. D.

Examiner 1: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phan Văn Hòa

Examiner 2: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Trần Văn Phước

The thesis was defensed to the dissertation board
Time : September 30th, 2011
Venue : University of Quang Trung

The origin of the thesis is accessible of purpose of reference at:
- *The College of Foreign Language Library, Danang University*
- *Danang University Information Resources Centre*

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

It is undeniable that it would be impossible for human beings to maintain life if there were not nature. Natural phenomena which are part of nature have a great impact on our life. They play an important role in our life.

It is usual that weather is chosen to be the topic to open a new contact or new conversation in English. In my survey in daily conversation and literacy, among natural phenomena, RWWSC are the most common in our life because RWWSC are chosen to be talked and described more often than the others. Take an example of describing the state of "heavy rain", the English can employ a lot of phrases *" heavy rain", "hard rain","drenching rain","torrential rain" or "driving rain* and to express the same idea, Vietnamese people have many phrases such as *"mưa xối xả, mưa như trút nước, mưa ầm ầm, mưa lớn, mưa nặng hạt","mưa như cầm chĩnh mà đổ"*. Obviously, the same idea is conveyed in different descriptions.

Many Vietnamese learners meet obstacles when they deal with words and expressions describing the five natural phenomena in English. English learners also have the same difficulties when they want to describe RWWSC.

The thesis is expected to help the readers to realize the similarities and differences in syntactic and semantic features of WERWWSC in English and Vietnamese. Moreover, the study hopefully makes a certain contribution in assisting learners to develop their language skills in general and to broaden learners' vocabulary stock about nature in particular.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1 Aims

This thesis is a study of syntactic and semantic features of WERWWSC English and Vietnamese. This thesis is expected to help Vietnamese learners as well as English learners be aware of the differences and similarities in syntactic and semantic features of WERWWSC in English and Vietnamese.

1.2.2 Objectives

This thesis is expected to find out how the five phenomena are described in English and Vietnamese, to investigate syntactic and semantic features of WERWWSC in English and Vietnamese and to find out and explain the similarities and differences in syntactic and semantic features of WERWWSC in English and Vietnamese.

1.3. THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Noun phrases describing RWWSC in the two languages are chosen to be discussed and analyzed. The data collected for this thesis is selected from about 25 novels and short stories in English and Vietnamese.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How are the five natural phenomena RWWSC described in English and Vietnamese?

- What are syntactic and semantic features of WERWWSC in English and Vietnamese?

- What are similarities and differences in syntactic and semantic features of WERWWSC in English and Vietnamese?What implications does the research bring for teaching and learning?

1.5 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The study concludes five chapters:

CHAPTER 2
LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL
BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

To do the research on the related topic, I found the thesis of Dang Thi Bich Huong [8], (Da Nang college of foreign languages). She studied on *English and Vietnamese idioms containing words denoting weather.*

In addition, in the study *"A study of metaphoric meanings of words denoting weather in English and Vietnamese"*, Huynh Thi Anh Chi [3] investigated the metaphoric meanings of the words *"hot, cold, warm, cool, cloud, storm"* in English and *"nóng, lạnh, ấm, mát, mây, bão"* in Vietnamese.

2.2 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1 Theories of Meaning

- The referential (or denotational) theory

- The ideational or mentalistic theory

- The behaviourist theory

- The meaning-is-use theory

- The verificationist theory

- The truth – conditional theory

2.2.2 Semantic Features

We identify the meaning of a word by its semantic features (semantic properties). It is acceptable that the meaning of an expression can be viewed as a combination of features

Different words may share the same semantic feature. In other words, the same semantic feature can be found in many different words.

The same semantic feature can occur in words of different parts of speech. In other words, words of different parts of speech may share the same semantic feature.

2.2.3 Components of Word-meaning

There are four major components of word-meaning: They are denotative meaning, connotative meaning, structural/ associative meaning and categorical meaning.

2.2.4 Semantic Fields

Semantic field is a set of interrelated senses based on a conceptual field or spectrum. Words can be grouped either thematically or ideographically [6, p.126].

2.2.5 Collocation

A collocation is two or more words that often go together. These combinations just sound "right" to native English speakers, who use them all the time. On the other hand, other combinations may be unnatural and just sound "wrong".

2.2.6 Definition and Structures of Noun Phrases

2.2.6.1 English Noun Phrases

Pre - modification + head + Post- modification

2.2.6.2 Vietnamese Noun Phrases

Phần phụ trước + phần trung tâm + phần phụ sau
(Pre-modifier)   (Head)   (Post-modifier)

2.2.7 The Relationship between Language and Culture

Yule [16, p.216] affirms that culture is considered as "socially acquired knowledge". This is the kind of knowledge that we initially acquire without concious awareness. We developed awareness of our knowledge, and hence of our culture, only after having developed language.

Claire [10] claims that language is the principal means whereby we can conduct our social lives.

- *Language expresses cultural reality.*

- *Language embodies cultural reality*

- *Language symbolizes cultural reality*

CHAPTER 3
METHODS AND PROCEDURES

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

To carry out the thesis, we apply the two main methods which are qualitative and quantitative methods.

3.2 RESEARCH METHODS

To carry out the research, we apply the main following methods: descriptive, analytical and synthetical method, comparative and contrastive analysis, inductive approach.

3.3 RESEARCH PROCEDURES

3.4 DATA COLLECTION

A collection of WERWWSC is picked out from different kinds of materials such as short stories, novels, dictionaries and websites in the two languages.

3.5 DATA ANALYSIS

On the basis of the theoretical background, different kinds of materials mentioned above were read and data was picked out. The most notable WERWWSC, especially NPs that describe RWWSC in the two languages are chosen to be the examples for the thesis.

3.6 RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

A lot of books on previous linguistics studies which are highly appreciated are used for this study. Moreover, data is collected from well- known literacy works. We can assure that all the examples quoted are exactly the same as they appear in their original sources.

CHAPTER 4
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF WERWWSC IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

4.1.1 Syntactic Features of WERWWSC in English

4.1.1.1 Syntactic Features of Words and Expressions Describing "Rain" in English

a. Structures of NPs Describing "Rain"

[1] (Art) + N

[2] (Art) + Adj + N

[3] (Art) + N + N

[4] (Art) + Adj +N + Adv

[5] (Art) + Adj+ N +PP

[6] (Art) +Adj + N + clause

b. Kinds of Adjectives in NPs Describing "Rain"

4.1.1.2 Syntactic Features of Words and Expressions

Describing "Wind" in English

a. Structures of NPs Describing "Wind"

[1] (Art) + N

[2] (Art) + Adj + N

[3] (Art) + N + N

[4] (Art) + Adj +N + Adv

[5] (Art) + Adj+ N +PP

[6] (Art) +Adj + N + clause

b. Kinds of Adjectives in NPs Describing "Wind"

4.1.1.3 Syntactic Features of Words and Expressions

Describing "Wave" in English

a. Structures of NPs Describing "Wave"

[1] (Art) + N

[2] (Art) + Adj + N

[3] (Art) + N + N

[4] (Art) + Adj +N + Adv

[5] (Art) + Adj+ N +PP

[6] (Art) +Adj + N + clause

b. Kinds of Adjectives in NPs Describing "Wave"

4.1.1.4 Syntactic Features of Words and Expressions

Describing "Sunshine" in English

a. Structures of NPs Describing "Sunshine"

b. Kinds of Adjectives in NPs Describing "Sunshine"

[1] (Art) + N

[2] (Art) + Adj + N

[3] (Art) + N + N

[4] (Art) + Adj +N + Adv

[5] (Art) + Adj+ N +PP

[6] (Art) +Adj + N + clause

4.1.1.5 Syntactic Features of Words and Expressions

Describing "Cloud" in English

a. Structures of NPs Describing "Cloud"

[1] (Art) + N

[2] (Art) + Adj + N

[3] (Art) + N + N

[4] (Art) + Adj +N + Adv

[5] (Art) + Adj+ N +PP

[6] (Art) +Adj + N + clause

b. Kinds of Adjectives in NPs Describing "Cloud"

4.1.2 Syntactic Features of WERWWSC in Vietnamese

4.1.2.1 Syntactic Features of Words and Expressions

Describing "Rain" in Vietnamese

a. Structures of NPs Describing "Rain"

[1] (Art, quantifier) + N

[2] (Art, quantifier) + N + N

[3] (Art, quantifier) + N + Adj P

[4] (Art, quantifier) + N + Adj + PP

[5] (Art, quantifier) + N + V

b. Kinds of Adjectives in NPs Describing "Rain"

4.1.2.2 Syntactic Features of Words and Expressions

Describing "Wind" in Vietnamese

a. Structures of NPs Describing "Wind"

[1] (Art, quantifier) + N

[2] (Art, quantifier) + N + N

[3] (Art, quantifier) + N + Adj P

[4] (Art, quantifier) + N + Adj + PP

[5] (Art, quantifier) + N + V

b. Kinds of Adjectives in NPs Describing "Wind"

4.1.2.3 Syntactic Features of Words and Expressions

Describing "Wave" in Vietnamese

a. Structures of NPs Describing "Wave"

[1] (Art, quantifier) + N

[2] (Art, quantifier) + N + N

[3] (Art, quantifier) + N + Adj P

[4] (Art, quantifier) + N + Adj + PP

[5] (Art, quantifier) + N + V

b. Kinds of Adjectives in NPs Describing "Wave"

4.1.2.4 Syntactic Features of Words and Expressions

Describing "Sunshine" in Vietnamese

a. Structures of NPs Describing "Sunshine"

[1] (Art, quantifier) + N

[2] (Art, quantifier) + N + N

[3] (Art, quantifier) + N + Adj P

[4] (Art, quantifier) + N + Adj + PP

[5] (Art, quantifier) + N + V

b. Kinds of Adjectives in NPs Describing "Sunshine"

4.1.2.5 Syntactic Features of Words and Expressions

Describing "Cloud" in Vietnamese

a. Structures of NPs Describing "Cloud"

[1] (Art, quantifier) + N

[2] (Art, quantifier) + N + N

[3] (Art, quantifier) + N + Adj P

[4] (Art, quantifier) + N + Adj + PP

[5] (Art, quantifier) + N + V

b. Kinds of Adjectives in NPs Describing "Cloud"

4.1.3 Similarities and Differences in Syntactic Features of WERWWSC in English and Vietnamese.

4.1.3.1 Similariries

From the investigation, it is found that WERWWSC in the two languages are in forms of NPs which have modifiers and a noun. The components of NPs in the two languages include three constituents which are pre-modifier, head and post-modifier.

4.1.3.2 Differences

The difference lies in the elements of pre-modifier and post – modifier.

Not only different in phrasal structures in the two languages, adjectives in NPs describing RWWSC are found different in syntactic features.

Table 4.21 The Summary of Noun Phrase Structures of English

and Vietnamese

ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE
[1] (Art) + N	[1] (Art, quantifier) + N
[2] (Art) + Adj + N	[2] (Art, quantifier) + N + N
[3] (Art) + N + N	[3] (Art, quantifier)+ N+Adj P
[4] (Art) +Adj +N + Adv	[4] (Art, quantifier)+ N + Adj + PP
[5] (Art) + Adj + N + PP	[5] (Art, quantifier) + N + V
[6] (Art) +(Adj) + N + clause	

4.2 SEMANTIC FEATURES OF WERWWSC IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

4.2.1 Semantic Features of Words and Expressions Describing "Rain" in English

4.2.1.1 Sorts of "Rain"

a. Words Denoting Time Collocate with "Rain"

b. Words Denoting Place Collocate with "Rain"

c. Words and Expressions Denoting Other Kinds of "Rain"

4.2.1.2 Words and Expressions Describing Degree of "Rain"

a. Heavy rain

a_1. Nouns Denoting "Heavy Rain"

"Downpour, rainstorm, cloudburst, deluge" are common nouns that denote "heavy rain".

a_2. Adjectives Describing "Heavy Rain"

"Heavy, driving, pelting, pounding, thick, pouring, hard, lashing, drenching and torrential" are the most common adjectives used to indicate "heavy rain".

b. Continuous Rain

The words that denote "continuous rain" include ***"continuous, constant, settled, incessant, persistent"***.

c. Light Rain

c_1. Nouns Denoting "Light Rain"

Here we have noun ***"drizzle"*** which means light rain falling in fine drops.

c_2. Adjectives Describing "Light Rain"

Adjectives that are used to describe "light rain" encompass ***"drizzling, fine, gentle, light, soft"***.

4.2.1.3 Words and Expressions Describing Other Properties of "Rain"

Adjectives denoting weather condition can collocate with "rain" to describe other properties of rain. For example "***cold rain, chilly rain, chill rain***".

4.2.2 Semantic Features of Words and Expressions Describing "Rain" in Vietnamese

4.2.2.1 Sorts of "Rain"

a. Words Denoting Time Collocate with "Rain"

(4.87) *Trên một khu đất ở ngoài cửa tiền, đầu người lố nhố như một đám nấm sau trận **mưa xuân**, kẻ lách ra, người cố chen vào, không biết họ xem cái gì.* [79, p.186]

b. Words Denoting Place Collocate with "Rain"

One interesting point that should be noticed here is that words denoting place can collocate with the word *"mưa"*. For example "***mưa rừng, mưa nguồn, mưa Trường Sơn***".

c. Words and Expressions Denoting Other Kinds of "Rain"

Words and expressions denoting other kinds of rain in Vietnamese include "***mưa gió, mưa đá, mưa bão, mưa giông, mưa tuyết***".

4.2.2.2 Words and Expressions Describing Degree of "Rain"

a. Heavy rain

a_1. Nouns Denoting "Heavy Rain"

Here we have the three nouns that are widely used to denote "heavy rain". They are ***"mưa rào" "mưa lũ"*** and ***"mưa nặng hạt"***.

a_2. Adjectives Describing "Heavy Rain"

In addition to nouns, plenty of adjectives can combine with "mưa" to denote the state of "heavy rain". They include ***"to, lớn, xối xả, tầm tã, dữ dội, ồ ạt, ào ào, mạnh như thác đổ"***

b. Continuous rain

b₁. Nouns Denoting "Continuous Rain"

"Mưa ngâu" and "**mưa dầm"** are the two nouns that are typically used to refer to "continuous rain"

b₂. Adjectives Denoting "Continuous Rain"

The adjectives "**triền miên, rả rích, dai dẳng"** are known as words following "mưa" to describe "continuous rain".

c. Light Rain

c₁. Nouns Denoting "Light Rain"

"Mưa phùn, mưa bụi (mưa thâm), mưa rươi, mưa bóng mây, mưa sương, mưa bay" all are nouns that denote "light rain".

c₂. Adjectives Describing "Light Rain"

In the source of this research, the adjectives **"nhẹ, nhỏ, lất phất, lâm thâm, lấm tấm, lắc rắc, lác đác"** are found with high frequency of occurrence.

(4.121)*Chúng tôi ra khỏi rạp khi trời vẫn còn **mưa nhẹ**.* [61, p.43]

4.2.2.3 Words and Expressions Describing Other Properties of "Rain"

It is obvious that most of the words describing other properties of rain in Vietnamese are adjectives denoting the state of "coldness". They include **"rét, giá lạnh, lạnh, mát mẻ"**

4.2.3 Semantic Features of Words and Expressions Describing "Wind" in English

4.2.3.1 Sorts of "Wind"

a. Words Denoting Directions Collocate with "Wind".

It is interesting to find that in English, a large number of words denoting directions can collocate with "wind". For example, "***easterly wind** , **west wind** , **southerly wind**, **north wind"***

b. Words Denoting Time Collocate with "Wind"

The English combine the word "wind" with words denoting time like "**night, May, January"**. Moreover, the English use the words indicating four seasons in the year such as *"**autumn, winter, summer, spring"*** to combine with "wind".

c. Words Denoting Place Collocate with "Wind"

We come across the compound noun *"sea-breeze"* which denotes the breeze blowing from the sea.

d. Words and Expressions Denoting Other Sorts of "Wind"

4.2.3.2 Words and Expressions Describing Degree of "Wind"

a. Strong Wind

a₁. Nouns Describing "Strong Wind"

"Cyclone, hurricane, squall, gale, whirlwind" are the words that share a common meaning. All of these words denote "strong wind".

a₂. Adjectives Describing "Strong Wind"

It is clear that there are a variety of adjectives describing "strong wind" in English. The adjectives found in the data are **"strong, high, harsh, fierce, stiff, violent, mighty, brutal, hard, stormy, boisterous, howling, moaning, roaring, rising, blustery"**

b. Light Wind

b₁. Noun Denoting "Light Wind"

Noun describing "light wind" is "breeze".

b₂. Adjectives Describing "Light Wind"

The adjectives **"light, slight, soft, gentle, faint"** can be pre-modifiers and collocated with "wind' to describe "light wind".

4.2.3.3 Words and Expressions Describing Other Properties of "Wind"

The adjectives denoting the state of "coldness"of wind include *"icy, biting, bitter, chill, chilly, wintry, cutting, wintry, frosty, keen, cold"*. *"Cool"* and *"brisk"* are used to describe the cool state of wind. Moreover, *"warm, damp and hot"* can combine with the word "wind".

4.2.4 Semantic Features of Words and Expressions Describing "Wind" in Vietnamese.

4.2.4.1 Sorts of "Wind"

a. Words Denoting Directions Collocate with "Gió"

For example, *"gió đông, gió tây, gió nam, gió bắc, gió mùa Đông Bắc, gió mùa Tây nam"*

b. Words Denoting Place Collocate with "Gió"

For example, *"gió Lào, gió biển, gió rừng, gió sông, gió đồng, gió thung lũng, gió sông"*.

c. Words Denoting Time Collocate with "Gió"

Besides the words that we presented above, words denoting time are also used to collocate with the word "gió". For example, *"gió xuân, gió chiều, gió đêm"*.

d. Words Denoting Other Sorts of "Wind"

"Gió nồm, *gió lùa*, *gió mùa*, *gió chướng*, *gió mậu dịch, gió going, gió máy, gió mưa, gió độc"*.

4.2.4.2 Words and Expressions Describing Degree of "Wind"

a. Strong Wind

a_1. Nouns Denoting "Strong Wind"

To denote strong wind, we have a lot of nouns such as *"gió lốc" (gió cuốn)*, *"gió bão"* (stormy wind), *"gió xoáy"* (huricance), *"gió giật"* (squall), *"gió cuồng"* (cuồng phong) (huricance).

a_2. Adjectives Describing "Strong Wind"

In addition, to indicate "strong wind", a great number of adjectives are used as postmodifier of the noun "gió". *"mạnh, mạnh mẽ, lớn, to, lộng"* are commonly used to denote "strong wind".

There are a lot of reduplivative adjectives denoting strong wind in Vietnamese such as *"lồng lộng, vù vù, ào ào, ù ù, đùng đùng, ào ạt, rào rào"*.

b. Light Wind

In Vietnamese we have the adjectives *"nhẹ, nhè nhẹ, dịu, vi vu, hiu hiu, hắt hiu"* following the noun "gió" to indicate "light wind".

4.2.4.3 Words Describing Other Properties of "Wind"

It is noticed that the word "gió" can be collocated with the adjectives like "*rét, lạnh, lạnh buốt, nóng, hanh"* to describe the state of wind.

4.2.5 Semantic Features of Words and Expressions Describing "Wave" in English

4.2.5.1 Sorts of "Wave"

"Wavelet, ripples, breaker, roller, whitecaps, tidal wave (tsunami)"

4.2.5.2 Words Describing Size and Degree of "Wave"

Here we have the adjectives like "*big, great, enormous, giant, huge, mountainous, strong, heavy, monstrous, small, little, tiny"* to describe size "wave".

There are some adjectives like **high, house – high, low** used to describe the height of "wave".

4.2.6 Semantic Features of Words and Expressions Describing "Wave" in Vietnamese.

4.2.6.1 Sorts of "Wave"

They include *"sóng nước, sóng biển, sóng bể, sóng lừng, sóng cả, sóng bạc đầu, sóng thần".*

4.2.6.2 Words Describing Size and Degree of 'Wave"

The adjectives *"lớn, mạnh, dữ, nhỏ, bé, yếu"* are used to describe size and degree of "wave".

4.2.7 Semantic Features of Words and Expressions Describing "Sunshine" in English

4.2.7.1 Sorts of "Sunshine"

a. Words Denoting Time Collocate with "Sunshine"

Similar to "rain" and " wind", the noun "sunshine" is able to combine with a variety of words denoting time such as *"morning, afternoon, november, autumn, summer, winter."*

b. Words Denoting Place Collocate With "Sunshine"

Occasionally, to denote the place where the sunshine sets in, we can find a preposition phrase beginning with "in" or "on", for example "the sunshine in the garden". Thus, we hardly find any collocation of "sunshine" and words denoting place.

4.2.7.2 Words and Expressions Describing Degree of "Sunshine"

a. Extremely Strong Sunshine

In term of the description of "extremely strong sunshine", the adjectives *"flaming, blazing, harsh, hot"* are widely used.

b. Bright Sunshine

To describe "bright sunshine", English people often use the adjectives *"bright, brilliant, sparkling".*

c. Weak Sunshine

The adjectives *"weak, hazy, pale, watery, dappled"* are used to describe "weak sunshine".

4.2.7.3 Words and Expressions Describing Other Properties of "Sunshine"

To denote the color of sunshine, it is clear that the adjective *"yellow"* is often employed.

4.2.8 Semantic Features of Words and Expressions Describing "Sunshine" in Vietnamese

4.2.8.1 Sorts of "Sunshine"

a. Words Denoting Time Collocate with "Sunshine"

Like English, Vietnamese words denoting time can collocate with the word "sunshine".

b. Words Denoting Place Collocate with "Sunshine"

For example*"cái nắng sông Hậu" "nắng gió phương Nam"* and "*nắng gió đồng bằng.*

4.2.8.2 Words and Expressions Describing Degree of "Sunshine"

a. Extremely Strong Sunshine

The adjectives *"to, rát, nóng rát, nóng rực, chang chang, chói chang, bỏng, chói gắt, gay gắt, sáng lòa, lòa"* are often used in many literacy works to denote "extremely strong sunshine".

b. Bright Sunshine

To describe the "bright sunshine", the adjectives *"rực, rực rỡ, long lanh, chói lọi"* are mainly used in Vietnamese.

c. Weak Sunshine

"Nhẹ, dịu, nhạt, thoi thóp" are the common adjectives describing "light sunshine".

4.2.8.3 Words and Expressions Describing Other Properties of "Sunshine"

Similar to English, to denote the color of sunshine, the adjective "vàng" (yellow) is mainly used. For example, *vàng, vàng tươi, vàng óng, vàng nhạt, hoe vàng, hanh vàng, ong óng vàng, sánh vàng, vàng như mật ong, vàng như bột ngô.*

Moreover, *"ấm"* and *"hanh"* are the two adjectives that are also employed to describe "sunshine" with high frequency.

4.2.9 Semantic Features of Words and Expressions Describing "Cloud" in English

4.2.9.1 Sorts of "Cloud"

a. Words Denoting Time Collocate with "Cloud"

(4.274) *The soft morning sky was changing to a clearer blue, and already a few wisps of* **summer cloud** *were trailing across it.*

[60, p.39]

b. Words Denoting Colors Collocate with "Cloud"

"White, dark, black, grey, blue, golden" are used to describe the colors of cloud.

c. Words Denoting Other Sorts of "Cloud"

4.2.9.2 Words Describing Size of "Cloud"

To describe the "thick cloud", here we have the adjectives *"thick, heavy, dense"* which are used with high frequency.

Moreover, the adjectives *"big, great, large, small"* are also employed to describe size of cloud.

4.2.10 Semantic Features of Words and Expressions Describing "Cloud" in Vietnamese

4.2.10.1 Sorts of "Cloud"

a. Words Denoting Time Collocate with "Cloud"

b. Words Denoting Colors Collocate with "Cloud"

The adjectives such as *"đen, xanh, xám, vàng, hồng, chì, trắng, trắng đục, trắng phớt, trắng như bông, cà phê sữa"* are often used to describe the colors of cloud.

c. Words Denoting Other Sorts of "Cloud"

4.2.10.2 Words Describing Size of "Cloud"

"To, nhỏ, dày, mỏng" are typical adjectives describing size of cloud.

(4.301) *Đám mây to đã buông tha mặt trăng ra rồi.* [77, p.4]

4.2.11 Idioms Denoting Degree of the Five Natural Phenomena RWWSC and Weather Condition

4.2.11.1 English Idioms

"It's raining pitchforks (and hammer handles), rain cats and dogs, pour with rain" are idioms that indicate that "It rains heavily".

4.2.11.2 Vietnamese Idioms

Vietnamese has a large number of idioms describing degree of RWWSC and weather condition. For example, *mưa như trút nước, mưa như giội, mưa như cầm chĩnh mà đổ, mưa như thác đổ, mưa đổ đình đổ chùa, nắng như rang, nắng như nung, nắng như thiêu, nắng như thiêu như đốt, nắng như đổ lửa, nắng xối lửa.*

(4.309) *Những làn sóng vỗ vào cồn đá ầm ầm, tiếng vang như núi đổ... mưa như trút nước.* [77, p.199]

4.2.12 Similariries and Differences in Semantic Features of WERWWSC in English and Vietnamese.

4.2.12.1 Similarities

Obviously, the language describing nature is influenced by the ways people perceive them. RWWSC are natural phenomenon which have their proper scientific charateristics. The language describing them is sometimes similar. For example, the description of each

natural phenomenon can be categorized into sorts and different degrees and quantity in the two languages.

4.2.12.2 Differences

Due to the difference in geographical characteristics, there are some words denoting some kinds of wind and rain that only exist in English, whereas there are no equivalent Vietnamese and vice versa.

Moreover, because Vietnam was invaded by China for more than thousand years, Vietnamese language is influenced by Chinese.

It is clear that characteristics of a tropical country are also expressed through WERWWSC in Vietnamese with high frequency such as "*mưa ngâu, mưa lũ, mưa phùn, mưa rào*".

CHAPTER 5
CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, exact usage of language will make communicative process more effective. As an aim of the study, examining syntactic and semantic features of WERWWSC in English and Vietnamese will help learners use the language more precisely.

To carry out the research, I have used the knowledge of cognitive semantics as the basic theory for the presentation of syntactic and semantic features of WERWWSC in the two languages. The knowledge about cultures of the two nations is also used to explain some similarities and differences in language usage of the two languages. Moreover, a variety of methods such as descriptive, analytical and synthetical methods, comparative and contrastive analysis are ultilized as the main instruments to help the researcher in interpreting, describing and analyzing the data.

With the aim of investigating syntactic and semantic features of WERWWSC in English and Vietnamese. We have already

presented and analyzed syntactic and semantic features of WERWWSC in English and Vietnamese. Some similarities as well as differences of syntactic and semantic features of WERWWSC in the two languages were pointed out. They were briefly presented as follows.

Syntactically, although the descriptions of RWWSC in the two languages can be expressed through both phrases and sentences, within this thesis, just structures of NPs were analyzed. After investigating the structures of NPs describing RWWSC in the two languages, we found that English and Vietnamese share some characteristics of NPs. The elements of NPs comprise three parts: pre-modifier, head, post-modifier. In spite of the similarities, there exist the differences which lie in word classes of each type of modifier.

Semantically, the descriptions in semantic features of each phenomenon were also shown in separate parts. Words and expressions describing RWWSC were also arranged into lexical fields. Moreover, a number of examples for each feature were also illustrated and discussed. From the findings, we found that English and Vietnamese have some similarities in language using, especially in word collocations. The most common point is that both the English and Vietnamese use words denoting time when they want to denote the time the phenomenon happens. There are some differences in the ways of perception and cultures which are expressed through language between the two peoples. In general, this investigation helps us understand more about the living habits, history, customs, religion, geography and culture of the peoples who speak English and Vietnamese.

5.2 IMPLICATIONS

Nature is closely related to human life. Therefore, there is no doubt to say that language about nature in general and about RWWSC in particular seems to occur frequently. Therefore, using correct language to describe RWWSC is very important for not only the learners but also the translators. Thus, the findings of the thesis will modestly contribute to the knowledge of the language of the learners about the use of WERWWSC, especially they can know how to choose words to describe these five phenomena more naturally.

Collocations always present in every language. Learning collocations is very important for learners because it helps them to use the language more exactly. Collocations between any noun and its collocated words will share some syntactic and semantic features, learners can use this research as a good reference in learning and using collocations effectively. This will make them use words more exactly and naturally. Moreover, in translation work, this research hopefully helps the translators to choose appropriate words for different contexts to satisfy cultural factors of each nation.

In language teaching, to help the learners use the language more precisely, the teacher not only teach grammar or vocabulary for the learners but also provide them a good knowledge of history, culture and customs….

5.3 LIMITATION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

There is no doubt that this research reveals certain shortcomings or limitations due to the time constraints, the limitation of materials for analysis and other unexpected factors. This investigation just examine noun phrases describing RWWSC, sentences decribing RWWSC are excluded. The thesis does not investigate other kinds of natural phenomena, and only five

phenomena are put into consideration. After investigating the research, we have found that there are some interesting points that the research has not solved. The followings are the suggestions for further research.

- An investigation into metaphoric meanings of "Rain, wind, wave, sunshine and cloud" in English and Vietnamese.

- A study on English and Vietnamese idioms containing "Rain, wind, wave, sunshine and cloud".