

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
UNIVERSITY OF DANANG**

PHẠM LÊ TƯỜNG VY

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO ENGLISH IDIOMS
CONTAINING THE WORD 'NO'
AND THEIR VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS**

**Field Study: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Code : 60.22.15.**

**M.A. THESIS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
(SUMMARY)**

Supervisor: NGUYỄN THỊ QUỲNH HOA, Ph.D

DANANG, 2011

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

Supervisor: Nguyễn Thị Quỳnh Hoa, Ph. D.

Examiner 1: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lưu Quý Khương

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

The thesis will be orally defended at the Examining Committee.

Time: September 30th, 2011

Venue: Quang Trung University

The original of thesis is accessible for the purpose of reference at the College of Foreign Languages Library, and the Information Resources Center, Danang University

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

In the studying of translation, I often encounter idioms containing the word ‘no’ which make it difficult to translate from English into Vietnamese and vice versa. Due to the specific features of each language, an idiom containing the word ‘no’ in this language does not always have an exact translation in the other. Take an example of the idiom "no way" in English, there are at least two equivalents in Vietnamese: “không đời nào”, “đừng hòng”, we have various”. In addition, there are many ways to explain the meaning of an idiom. Its depend on where, when, why and who uses it. Its mean that when the cultural knowledge of speakers and listeners is different, the idiom will have a variety of meanings. In fact, foreign learners meet many difficulties when they learn foreign language in general and idioms in particular.

For these reasons above, we decided to do research into the topic entitled “An investigation into English idioms containing the word ‘no’ and their Vietnamese equivalents”.

1. 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.2.1. Aims of the study

The study is basically aimed at finding out the syntatic and semantic characteristics of EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents.

1.2.2. Objectives of the study

The study is expected to identify and describe syntactic and semantic features of EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents; to offer some appropriate and effective ways for teaching and learning EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents.

1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the syntactic and semantic characteristics of EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents?

2. What are the similarities and differences between EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents in terms of syntax and semantics?

3. What are some suggestions for teaching and learning EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents?

1.4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

In this thesis, EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents are studied in terms of two aspects: syntax and semantics. The results of this study can be applied to increase the efficiency of communication and can be of some help to the teaching and learning of EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents.

1.5. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Due to the limitation of time, we only conduct research on EIN and mainly focus on the structure, meaning of EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents. We almost do not include the pragmatic and cultural features of EIN in this study.

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Literature Review and Theoretical Background

Chapter 3: Methods and Procedures

Chapter 4: Finding and Discussion

Chapter 5: Conclusion and Implications

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

D.A. Cruse in “Lexical Semantics” (1987) mentions the traditional definition of idioms. An idiom may be characterized as a lexical complex which is semantically complex. According to him, most idioms are homophonous with grammatically well-formed transparent expressions.

Nguyễn Lực, Lương Văn Đăng (1978) who made the first significant contribution to the field. Since then, a great number of collections of Vietnamese idioms alone and those of Vietnamese idioms in comparison with English idioms have been carried out by Lã Thành (1988), Bùi Phụng (1996), Nguyễn Lâm (1997), Vũ Dung, Vũ Thúy Anh, Vũ Quang Hào (2000), Trần Quang Mân (2002)...

Finally, some M.A. theses in Danang University which are related to the field are “A Study of Idioms Containing Color Words in English and Vietnamese” by Nguyễn Thị Diệu Hào (2005), “An Investigation into Syntactic and Semantic Features of Idioms Denoting Causes and Results” by Nguyễn Thị Thu Mai (2009).

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Definition of idioms

D.A Cruse (1986) defines “idiom is an express whose meaning cannot be inferred from the meanings of its parts.” [4, p.37]

In the view of Richards et al “an idiom is an expression which functions as a single unit and whose meaning cannot be worked out from its separate parts”. [26, p.246]

Vietnamese linguistic researchers have given out a number of definition of idioms. Hoang Van Hanh (1994) states that an idiom is a fixed group of words which is firm in terms of structure, complete and figurative in terms of meaning, and is widely used in daily speaking (thành ngữ là những cụm từ cố định, có hình thái cấu trúc

bền vững, có tính bóng bẩy về ý nghĩa và được sử dụng rộng rãi trong giao tiếp) [37, p.21]. Hồ Lê [40] states that an idiom is a word combination which has a stable structure and a figurative meaning, and it is used to describe an image, a phenomenon, a characteristic or state (Thành ngữ là một loại cụm từ có cấu tạo ổn định. Nghĩa của thành ngữ có tính hình tượng, biểu trưng và giàu cảm xúc), etc.

In this thesis I have intended to adopt the definition given by F.R. Palmer because it satisfies my aims of syntactic and semantic analysis of idioms. In their book “Semantics”, an idiom is a fixed group of words or an expression whose meaning cannot be inferred from the meanings of its parts

2.2.2. English idioms containing the word ‘no’

2.2.2.1. Definition of ‘no’

a. *Word-classes:* exclamation, determiner, adverb, adjective and noun.

b. *The meaning of ‘no’:*

‘No’ is used to give a negative reply or statement; to express shock or surprise at what somebody has said; means not one; not any; not a as a determiner; to say that something is not allowed; to say that it is impossible to do something; to express the opposite of what is mentioned; before adjectives and adverbs to mean ‘not’; it is an answer that shows you do not agree with an idea, a statement, etc; a person who says ‘no’.

2.2.2.2. Definition of English Idioms Containing the Word ‘no’

EIN are a special kind of idioms in which the word ‘no’ is a key words. In addition, EIN are one specific group of idioms that

demonstrate the way people use EIN in set expressions and how they associate EIN with other things in the world.

2.2.3. Main features of idioms

2.2.3.1. Characteristics of English Idioms

a. Structural Features

- An idiom is a fixed group of words.
- The stability in English idioms is very high.
- Idioms have many grammatical restrictions.

b. Semantic Features

According to Grains and Redman (1986), “semantic opacity” of “semantic ambiguity” can be considered as one of the characteristic features of idioms. It is clear that most idioms are constructed from components that can also be used non-idiomatically. Such phrases can have either a literal or idiomatic meaning. This leads to their semantic opacity.

2.2.3.2. Characteristics of Vietnamese Idioms

a. Structural Features

It can be said that Vietnamese idioms are fixed groups of words whose forms are unchanged: the fixed combination comes from settled words and expressions. The fixation shows that we can not change the order of words or use the synonyms to replace any components of an idiom in a casual way. This is a basic feature helping us to realize idioms easily.

b. Semantic Features

The meaning of an idiom:

- is a perfect whole which does not come from the meanings of individual components added.
- expresses the reflection of things or concepts.

- is usually figurative and descriptive.

2.2.4. Idioms and other language units

2.2.4.1. Idioms and phrases

Features	Idioms	Phrases
Structure	- tend to be frozen in form and position of the words as “ready-made utterances” or single "items", - cannot add, remove any word from idioms or change their orders without breaking their meaning.	- free combinations of the words - the components have loosely relation and can be changeable.
Meaning	- a group of words whose meaning is different from the meanings of the individual words and cannot be inferred from the meanings of its parts.	- is a group of words acting as a single part of speech and not containing both a subject and a verb. It is a part of a sentence, and does not express a complete thought.

2.2.4.2. Idioms and collocations

Idioms	Collocations
- is usually quite different from the meaning of its individual words.	- can be interpreted literally by combining the meanings of its separate words.

2.2.4.3. Idioms and proverbs

Features	Idioms	Proverbs
Structure	- are phrases which are parts of sentences and equivalent to words only.	- are complete sentences or phrases expressing the whole idea.

Meaning	- denote concepts, notions or idea.	- are short well-known sentences or phrases that express a judgment, state a general truth about life or advice.
----------------	-------------------------------------	--

2.2.5. Concepts of semantic fields

David Crystal (1987) defined “a semantic or lexical field as a named area of meaning in which lexemes interrelate and define each other in specific ways.” [23, p. 104]. For example, the field of “*fruit*” comprises the lexemes: apple, orange, bannana, pear, peach...

CHAPTER 3

METHODS AND PROCEDURE

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

The study is based on the combination of qualitative, quantitative and analysis. And the study is also based on the descriptive, equivalent translational, deductive, inductive and statistical method.

3.2. RESEARCH METHODS

This study is planned to identify and describe some syntactic and semantic features of EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents which affect the effective interpreting and using of idoms. In this study, the descriptive, contrastive, deductive, and inductive methods are used for finding out the syntatic and semantic characteristics of EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents.

3.3. PROCEDURES

- Finding syntactic features of EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents.

- Finding semantic fields of EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents.

- Finding the similarities and differences between EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents in terms of syntax and semantics.

- Drawing conclusions on syntactic, semantic features of EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents.

- Stating the limitations of the study.

- Putting forward some implications for teaching and leaning EIN and their Vietnamese equivalent and making suggestions for further research.

3.4. SAMPLING

I choose the samples based on the following criteria:

- 1 - I collect the idioms in English.
- 2 - I read and pick out EIN that have equivalence in Vietnamese.
- 3 - I collect EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents from dictionaries and websites on the internet of idioms.
- 4 - I choose 106 English idioms which contain the word 'no' and their Vietnamese equivalents .

3.5. DATA ANALYSIS

Syntactically, the analysis and classification is mainly based on the different structural categories of idioms. The result of this step are presented in tables and in percentage; illustrated with examples in different contexts. I look for the special characterictics based on examining the distribution rates of EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents; generalize the results to have a complete overview about the structure of idioms. From which, I find out the similarities and differences between EIN and their Vietnamese idioms. Semantically, the classification is carried out on the typical semantic features of

idioms. From the results of the analysis, we also make some suggestions for successfully teaching and learning EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents.

3.6. INSTRUMENTS FOR ANALYSIS

I collect, synthesize, analyze and classify EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents through observing and investigating the occurrence of them in dictionaries and literature works. The descriptive method is used to explore their linguistic features and find out how they work in terms of syntactic and semantic characteristics. On the other hand, I use other supporting instruments, such as: checklists and statistical tables to show the contribution of EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents. I also use tables for analysis, generalization, comparison and systematization.

3.7. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

The data for this study, mainly collected from the dictionaries, the websites on the internet and examples are extracted from the short stories. Most of them are reliable.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF EIN AND THEIR VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS

4.1.1. Syntactical Glimpse at EIN and their Vietnamese Equivalents

4.1.1.1. Phrase Structures

a. Noun Phrases

Table 4.1 The Structures of EIN Noun Phrases and Their Vietnamese Equivalents

<i>un</i> <i>Phr</i>	EIN	VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS
-------------------------	-----	------------------------

	[1] Conj + Det + N	- Verb Phrase
	[2] Det + N + Past Participle	- Verb Phrase
	[3] Det + N + Prep.Phrase + N/Pro	- Noun Phrase - Verb Phrase - Adjective Phrase
	[4] Det + N + Prep+ V + Prep	Verb Phrase
	[5] Det + N/NP	- Verb Phrase - Adjective Phrase - Adverb Phrase - Noun Phrase
	[6] NP + Prep + Det + N	- Verb Phrase

b. Verb Phrases

Table 4.2 The Structures of EIN Verb Phrases and Their Vietnamese Equivalents

	EIN	VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS
<i>Verb</i> <i>Phrases</i>	[7] Det + V-ing	- Verb Phrase
	[8] V + Det + Adv	- Verb Phrase
	[9] V + Det + N	- Adjective Phrase - Noun Phrase - Verb Phrase
	[10] V + Det + N+ Past Participle	- Verb Phrase
	[11] V + Det + Noun + Prep + N/Pro	- Verb Phrase - Adjective Phrase
	[12] V + Det + N + V-ing/To infinitive	- Verb Phrase
	[13] V + N	- Verb Phrase (73)
	[14] V + NP + Conj + NP	- Verb Phrase (74)

c. Adjective Phrases

Table 4.3 The Structures of EIN Adjective Phrases and Their Vietnamese Equivalents

<i>Adjective Phrases</i>	EIN	VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS
	[15] Det + Adj	- Adjective Phrase

d. Prepositional Phrases

Table 4.4 The Structure of EIN Adverb Phrases and Their Vietnamese Equivalents

<i>Adverb Phrases</i>	EIN	VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS
	[16] Det + Adv	Verb Phrase

4.1.1.5. Prepositional Phrases

Table 4.5 The Structure of EIN Prepositional Phrases and Their Vietnamese Equivalents

<i>Prepositional Phrases</i>	EIN	VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS
	[17] Prep + Det+ N + Pre + V-ing/To Infinitive	- Verb Phrase
	[18] Prep + Det + N/NP	- Adjective Phrase - Adverb Phrase - Verb Phrase

4.1.2. Sentence Structures

Table 4.6 Sentence Structures of EIN and Their Vietnamese Equivalents

<i>Sentence Structures Simple Sentences</i>	EIN	VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS
	[19] S + P + C	- Verb Phrase - Subject + Predicate + Complement

	[20] S + P + C + A	- Verb Phrase - Verb Phrase + Verb Phrase - Noun Phrase
	[21] S + P + O	- Adjective Phrase
	[22] S + P + O + A	- Adjective Phrase

Table 4.7 A Summary of EIN and Their Vietnamese Equivalents in Grammatical Patterns

Phrasal Structures	Noun Phrases	EIN	VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS
		[1] Conj + Det + N	- Verb Phrase
		[2] Det + N + Past Participle	- Verb Phrase
		[3] Det + N+ Prep.Phrase + N/Pro	- Noun Phrase - Verb Phrase - Adjective Phrase
		[4] Det + N + Prep+ V + Prep	- Verb Phrase
		[5] Det + N/ NP	- Verb Phrase - Adjective Phrase - Adverb Phrase - Noun Phrase
	Verb Phrases	[6] NP + Prep + Det + N	- Verb Phrase
		[7] Det + V-ing	- Verb Phrase
		[8] V + Det+ Adv	- Verb Phrase
		[9] V + Det+ N	- Adjective Phrase - Noun Phrase - Verb Phrase
		[10] V + Det + N + Past Participle	- Verb Phrase
		[11] V + Det + N + Prep + N/Pro	- Verb Phrase

			- Adjective Phrase	
		[12] V + Det + N + V-ing/To infinitive	- Verb Phrase	
		[13] V + N	- Verb Phrase	
		[14] V + NP + Conj + NP	- Verb Phrase	
	Adjective Phrase		[15] Det + Adj	- Adjective Phrase
		Adverb Phrase		[16] Det + Adv
	Prepositional Phrase			[17] Prep + Det + N + Prep + V-ing/To Infinitive
			[18] Prep + Det + N/NP	- Adjective Phrase - Adverb Phrase - Verb Phrase
	Sentence Structures	Simple Sentences	[19] S + P + C	- Verb Phrase - Subject + Predicate + Complement
			[20] S + P + C + A	- Verb Phrase - Verb Phrase + Verb Phrase - Noun Phrase
[21] S + P + O			- Adjective Phrase	

		[22] S + P + O + A	- Adjective Phrase (106)
--	--	--------------------	--------------------------

Table 4.8 A Statistical Summary of Syntactic Features of EIN and their Vietnamese Equivalents

		EIN and their Vietnamese Equivalents	EIN		Vietnamese Equivalents	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Syntactical Analysis	Phrasal Structures	<i>Noun Phrases</i>	33	31.3%	4	3.8%
		<i>Verb Phrases</i>	41	38.7%	66	62.3%
		<i>Adjective Phrases</i>	1	0.9%	26	24.5%
		<i>Adverb Phrases</i>	1	0.9%	7	6.6%
		<i>Pre.Phrases</i>	11	10.3%	0	0%
	Sentence Structures	<i>Simple Patterns</i>	19	17.9%	3	2.8%
Total			106	100%	106	100%

4.1.3. Similarities and Differences of Syntactic Features of EIN and their Vietnamese Equivalents

4.1.3.1. Similarities

From Table 4.8, it can be found that both EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents own a system of idioms in certain grammatical groups, called noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, adverb phrases, etc. EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents can also form in sentence simple structure. The structure of the constituents in sentences are like subject, predicate, object, complement and adverbial. However, all of them do not always occur at the same time in every EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents. Both

languages have some similar patterns , such as: *no flies on sb* (*người lanh lợi và không dễ bị lừa*); *no mean feat* (*điều rất khó làm*); *say no more* (*đừng nói nữa*), etc.

4.1.3.2. Differences

As can be seen Table 4.8, most of EIN patterns are different from their Vietnamese equivalents. Among the samples investigated, there are no cases of idiom in the form of prepositional phrases in Vietnamese equivalents in comparison with the phrasal structures in EIN. In addition, there is a variety of patterns in phrasal structures in EIN but Vietnamese equivalents have fewer ones. Most of the Vietnamese equivalents consist of familiar topics, the common relationships or phenomena in Vietnamese daily activities or social life, such as: *không rào trước đón sau* (*make no bones about sth*); *tiền bạc không thành vấn đề* (*money is no object*), etc.

4.2. SEMANTIC FIELDS OF EIN AND THEIR VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS

4.2.1. Ability

A very small number of EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents belong to this semantic field.

- 1 - Howie was *no great shakes* as a pianist, but he really enjoyed playing. [52, p.818]
(Howie là một nghệ sĩ dương cầm *không giỏi lắm*, nhưng anh ta thực sự rất thích chơi.)
- 2 - Sarah is an excellent student. And she's *no slouch at* sports, either. [52, p.818]
(Sarah là một sinh viên tuyệt vời. Và cô ta cũng *rất giỏi* trong các môn thể thao nữa.)

- 3 - Yes, of course I'm sure it was Liam on the phone. *There's no mistaking* his Irish accent. [49, p.71]
(Vâng, dĩ nhiên tôi tin chắc là giọng Liam trên điện thoại. *Không thể nào lầm được* giọng Ái Nhĩ Lan của hắn.)

- 4 - She is *no mean* player. [54, p.1080]
(Cô ấy là một người chơi *hết sảy*.)

4.2.2. Activities

- 5 - If it's blackmail you're thinking about, I *want no hand* in it!
(Nếu mày đang nghĩ đến việc tống tiền, tao *không nhúng tay* vào đâu!) [49, p.355]
- 6 - I *hold no brief for* those who say that violence can be justified.
(Tôi *không ủng hộ* những ai nói rằng bạo lực có thể được biện minh.) [54, p.223]
- 7 - They *left no stone unturned* in their search for the child's mother. [16, p.996]
(Họ *đã làm mọi điều có thể làm* được để tìm kiếm mẹ đứa bé.)
- 8 - If you don't invest in these shares, you're *saying no* to a fortune.
(Nếu ông không đầu tư vào những cổ phần này là ông đang *từ chối* một vận may.) [16, p.1573]
- 9 - We can't reverse our decision now or we'll lose the contract. We reached *the point of no return* when we offered an unconditional guarantee. [12, p.38]
(Chúng ta không thể thay đổi quyết định bây giờ, nếu không chúng ta sẽ thất bại trong hợp đồng làm ăn mất. Chúng ta đành phải *theo lao thôi* một khi chúng ta đã đảm bảo vô điều kiện.)
- 10 - *Pay him no mind*. He's just teasing you. [15, p.888]

(Đừng lưu ý đến anh ta. Anh ta chỉ là đang trêu chọc bạn đó thôi.)

4.2.3. Age

11 - "My sister still wears miniskirts, and she's *no spring chicken*."
(Chị tôi vẫn còn mặc váy ngắn, mà chị ấy có trẻ trung gì nữa đâu.) [15, p.810]

12 - "How old is Mrs Griffin?" "Well, she's *no chicken*, that's for sure."
(Bà Griffin bao nhiêu tuổi rồi?" "Ồ, bà ta chẳng phải trẻ trung nữa đâu, chắc chắn là thế.") [12, p.315]

4.2.4. Personality

13 - Jeremy *has no backbone*! If he had, he wouldn't let the company manager treat him like that!
(Jeremy chẳng có ý chí gì cả! Nếu có nó đã không để tay giám đốc đối xử với nó như vậy!) [12, p.339]

14 - The car needs washing, but Bill is *all talk and no action* on this matter.
(Chiếc xe hơi cần được rửa, nhưng Bill chỉ nói mãi mà chẳng làm việc này.) [12, p.62]

15 - He's *no disciplinarian*.
(Anh ta không phải là người có kỷ luật.) [16, p.492]

4.2.5. Place

16 - It's 500 miles from here, or *as near as makes no difference*.
(Từ đây đến đó 500 dặm, suýt soát.) [16, p.1254]

17 - Lovejoy, of *no fixed abode*, was charged with murder.
(Lovejoy, kẻ lang thang đã bị buộc tội giết người.) [16, p.661]

4.2.6. Psychological state

18 - We were enemies once, but there are *no hard feelings* between us now. [16, 808]

(Có một thời chúng tôi là kẻ thù của nhau, nhưng bây giờ không còn oán hận gì nhau nữa.)

19 - He's *in no mood for* telling jokes. [16, 1123]
(Anh ta không có ý muốn nói đùa.)

20 - "Fancy some coffee?" "*I wouldn't say no*."
("Đùng cà phê chứ?" "Sẵn sàng") [16, p.1573]

21 - I'm *in no hurry* to see him again. [16, p.859]
(Tôi chẳng vội vã gặp lại nó làm gì.)

22 - When she heard the news her fury *knew no bounds*. [16, p.972]
(Khi cô ta nghe được tin ấy thì sự giận dữ của cô ta thật ghê gớm.)

23 - They complained about the bad service, but got *no joy* from the manager.
(Họ than phiền về sự phục vụ tồi nhưng cũng không được ông giám đốc hài lòng.) [16, p.950]

4.2.7. Money

24 - She travels around the world as if *money is no object*. [15 p.789]

(Cô ấy du lịch vòng quanh thế giới như thể tiền bạc không là vấn đề gì cả.)

4.2.8. Power

25 - What are you looking for? You've *got no business* going through my papers like that. [12, p.279]

(Anh đang tìm cái gì vậy? Anh chẳng có quyền gì mà xem hết các giấy tờ của tôi như vậy.)

4.2.9. Situations

- 26 – *Under no circumstances* should you lend him any money. [16, p.303]
(*Dù trong hoàn cảnh nào* anh cũng đừng cho anh ta vay tiền.)
- 27 - *No matter who* phones, I’m not at home, okay? [12, p.34]
(*Dù có ai gọi đi nữa, cũng nói là tôi không có ở nhà, nghe?*)
- 28 - You must *on no condition* tell them what happened.
(*Trong bất cứ tình huống nào* anh cũng không được cho họ biết chuyện gì đã xảy ra.) [15, p.888]
- 29 - *On no account* should the soldiers be blamed for what happened. [15, p.846]
(*Không thể vì bất cứ lý do nào* mà các quân nhân lại bị quy lỗi về những gì đã xảy ra.)

4.2.10. Success and Failure

- 30 - We warned them, but *to no effect*. [16, p.554]
(*Chúng tôi đã báo động cho họ, nhưng không có hiệu quả.*)
- 31 - I got a job moving furniture – it paid the rent but *there was no future in* it. [15, p.1120]
(*Tôi tìm được công việc khuân vác đồ đạc – nó giúp trả tiền thuê nhà nhưng thật chẳng có tương lai gì.*)

4.2.11. Warnings

- 32 - The oral exam *was no picnic*. The professor asked me some very tricky questions. [12, p.256]
(*Cuộc thi nói không phải là chuyện ngon ăn đâu. Ông thầy hỏi tôi nhiều câu hóc búa lắm.*)
- 33 - *It’s no joke* getting a piano up three flights of stairs, I can tell you! [12, p.56]

(*Tôi nói cho anh biết là việc mang chiếc đàn dương cầm lên ba tầng lầu không phải là chuyện đùa.*)

- 34 - Sue seems very quiet, but *make no mistake* (about it), she has a terrible temper! [16, p.1112]
(*Sue có vẻ rất trầm lặng nhưng đừng có lầm, cô ta tính rất nóng nảy đấy!*)
- 35 - As a country, we must face the fact that *there is no free lunch*, and that there is a tax bill for every public welfare program.
(*Là một quốc gia, chúng ta phải đối với sự thật là không có gì không phải trả giá, và có một khoản tiền thuế đóng góp cho mỗi một chương trình phúc lợi công cộng.*) [15, p.1120]

Table 4.9 Frequency of Semantic Fields of EIN and Their Vietnamese equivalents

<i>EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents</i>		<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Semantic Fields of EIN and their Vietnamese Equivalents	1	<i>Ability</i>	5 4.7%
	2	<i>Activities</i>	39 36.8%
	3	<i>Age</i>	3 2.8%
	4	<i>Personality</i>	5 4.7%
	5	<i>Place</i>	2 1.9%
	6	<i>Psychological state</i>	6 5.7%
	7	<i>Money</i>	1 0.9%
	8	<i>Power</i>	2 1.9%
	9	<i>Situations</i>	12 11.3%
	10	<i>Success and Failure</i>	8 7.5%

	11	Warnings	10	9.4%
	12	Others	14	12,4%
Total Number			106	100%

4.3. SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN SEMANTIC FEATURES OF EIN AND THEIR VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS

4.3.1. Similarities

- EIN and their Vietnamese are stable in language they form a unity which cannot be broken down into smaller parts.

- EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents are employed for the same eleven semantic fields: *ability, activities, age, personality, place, psychological state, situations, money, power, success and failure and warnings*. Among these semantic fields, activities are of the highest frequency in EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents.

4.3.2. Differences

- The Vietnamese equivalents do not always use articles and the rules are not as clear as those of the EIN.

- Some EIN are peculiar. An EIN may process several meanings. For example, the EIN "know no bounds" is equivalents to the Vietnamese "không có giới hạn", "ghê gớm"... depending on the text.

- Metaphor is used in the meaning transfer of some EIN, such as the point of no return (phóng lao), be no chicken (chẳng còn trẻ trung gì nữa), cut no ice (chẳng gây nên ấn tượng gì), etc.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

5. 1. CONCLUSIONS

Syntactically, EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents analyzed are under the phrasal structures and sentence structures. The phrasal structures are categorized into noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, adverb phrases and prepositional phrases. Sentence structures are presented in simple sentences. The patterns of Vietnamese equivalents are fewer than those of EIN. I have found 22 patterns in EIN and 5 patterns in Vietnamese equivalents (noun, verb, adjective, adverb phrases and simple sentences). This shows that the syntactic relations of the Vietnamese equivalents are rather simpler than that of EIN.

Semantically, all EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents in the study are presented in eleven fields namely *ability, activities, age, personality, place, psychological state, situations, money, power, success and failure and warnings*.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING IDIOMS

Now I would like to have some suggestions for language teaching and learning idioms to help Vietnamese learners of English.

An important first step is exposing learners to idioms in context, which is useful to learners in comprehending unknown idioms. Learners should be encouraged to infer the meaning of the idiom by using contextual clues or background knowledge. After presenting idioms in context to help learners infer their meanings, teachers should revise the idioms that have been studied. This can be done in some ways, including typical vocabulary exercises like *matching idioms to their meanings, filling in blanks with the appropriate idioms, replacing underlined expressions with an idiom,*

etc. Next, another significant way is that teachers also provide learners with strategies for dealing with figurative language. Through a greater awareness of idioms, their literal meaning and underlying conceptual metaphors, learners will be better equipped with figurative language and make sense of it without teacher's guidance.

Our viewpoint is that more emphasis should be put on the teaching of EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents to Vietnamese learners of English at all levels in order to raise their awareness in learning EIN and their Vietnamese equivalents.

For elementary and intermediate levels, in each lesson teachers should provide idioms, explain and give examples of idioms clearly. Learners should use tasks or exercises choosing the appropriate idiomatic expression to substitute for the italicized word or words in each sentence or filling in each blank with the appropriate form of an idiomatic expression from this unit or answering these questions orally in the lesson. This helps learners to remember the lesson better. (See examples in Appendix 1)

For advanced levels, teachers should be sensible in dealing with cultural differences between languages in order to provide more precise explanations for the learners. The learners are helped to use idioms in practising different communicative skills and choose appropriate idioms in certain contexts. (See examples in Appendix 1)

Moreover, teachers should guide Vietnamese learners in:

- Using various dictionaries, coursebooks and others to

check the correctness of idioms before using them.

- Finding idiomatic expressions in the daily speech of English speaking people, in novels, books, newspapers and magazine articles, idioms of expression abound.

- Writing much, getting their compositions corrected if possible by a native speaker and attend carefully to the corrections.

Practically, to reach these aims, I would like to introduce to learners of English at all levels some suggested types of exercises, each of which has its own purpose and requires different ability from learners. (Exercises on EIN in Appendix 2)

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Due to the restriction of time, the shortage of reference materials related under investigation, the study has only covered a very small scope within a vast area of research and has not reached a satisfactory depth as it should. For these reasons, there are some other aspects that need to be further investigated.

Some suggestions for the further research are:

- An Investigation into English Proverbs Containing the Word 'No' and Their Vietnamese Equivalents.

- An Investigation into Pragmatic and Cultural Aspects of English Proverbs Containing the Word 'No' and Their Vietnamese Equivalents.

- An Investigation into English Proverbs Containing the Word 'No' and Vietnamese Proverbs Containing the Word 'Không'.