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AN INVESTIGATION INTO ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE IDIOMS CONTAINING THE WORDS OF POSSESSION

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(A SUMMARY)

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

Idioms are considered interesting and popular phenomena of almost all languages. They show the way people perceive and react to the world they inhabit. Idioms can be found in newspapers, books, magazines, on the radio, on the television, in everyday conversation and at work. Being able to master idioms is almost essential if we want our English to sound more native-like and less awkward. Mastering those tricky idioms will also help better understand native English speakers.

We are interested in the way English and Vietnamese people use idioms to satisfy their own need in daily communication. Here and there, there are many studies on idioms with certain linguistic units. However, there is no study of idioms related to the verbs of possession. Thus, the topic "An investigation into English and Vietnamese idioms containing words of possession" is chosen for my study. Hopefully, the result of the study will be useful for learners of English and contribute a small part into the teaching and learning English as a foreign language in Vietnam.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1. Aims

The study is carried out with the aim to investigate syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese idioms containing words of possession. Also, it can help Vietnamese learners to be aware of the differences between idioms and other language units. As a result, the understanding of English and Vietnamese idioms containing words of possession would encourage Vietnamese learners of English to spot idioms not only in receptive skills like listening and reading but also on productive skills like speaking and writing.

1.2.2. Objectives

The paper is intended to achieve the following objectives:

- To identify and describe syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese idioms containing words of possession

- To find out the differences and similarities of English and Vietnamese idioms containing words of possession;

- To suggest solutions enabling Vietnamese students of English to be aware of idioms containing words of possession.

1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the syntactic features of English and Vietnamese idioms containing words of possession?
2. What are the semantic features of English and Vietnamese idioms containing words of possession?
3. What are the differences and similarities between English and Vietnamese idioms containing words of possession?

1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This research is restricted to idioms containing ***verbs of possession*** (IsCVP). Specifically, the writer would like to pay attention to idioms containing the most typical possessive verb ***"have"*** in English and the equivalent verb ***"có"*** in Vietnamese.

1.5. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The study will include five chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Literature review and theoretical background

Chapter 3: Methods and procedures

Chapter 4: Findings and discussions

Chapter 5: Conclusion

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. PREVIOUS STUDIES

Up to now, there have been a number of studies on different kinds of English and Vietnamese idioms, verbs of possession and related subjects. The descriptions and analyses are based on the starting point from Chomsky. The other descriptions of syntactic and semantic views are through different ages in the history of linguistics as William Bullokar in "Brief Grammar for English" (1785).The description makes further progress to the view of W.C. Fowler in "English Grammar" (1857), then H. Sweet in "New English Grammar" (1891).

In Vietnamese, idioms have been recognized, collected and explained systematically. It should be noticed the works of Đỗ Hữu Châu, who wrote *"Từ vựng - Ngữ nghĩa tiếng Việt"* (NXB Giáo dục, 1981). In this book, the author analyzed Vietnamese idioms and showed their semantic and syntactic features. Nguyễn Lân collected a number of Vietnamese idioms in "*Từ điển thành ngữ, tục ngữ Việt Nam"* (NXB Văn học, 2005). Nguyễn Nhã Bản was best known with "*Đặc trưng cấu trúc ngữ nghĩa của thành ngữ ,tục ngữ trong ca dao"* (NXB Văn hóa thông tin, 2005).

Besides, there have been some other papers which dealt with idioms related to animals, human body parts, numbers, spatial verbs, ...

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Overview of Idioms

2.2.1. 1. Definition

According to Oxford Dictionary of English Idioms [57]-"*An idiom is a word or phrase which means something different from what it says"* - it is usually a metaphor.

According to Makkai [36], an idiom is "*any polylexonic lexeme made up of more than one minimal free form of word (as defined by morphotatic criteria), each lexeme of which can occur in other environments as the realization of a monoloxonic lexeme"*.

Cruise [27, p.37] defines idioms by using the notion of a semantic constituent. He says that we will require two things of an idiom: first, that it be lexically complex

In Vietnamese, Hồ Lê [12] refers an idiom is a word combination which has stable structure and figurative meaning and is used to describe an image, a phenomenon, a characteristic, or a state. Đái Xuân Ninh [15] defines an idiom is a set expression whose constituents lose their independence to some extend and combine into a rather complete and stable units.

To build a foundational definition for the study, we base on the above features as well as our own observation, then apply the following definition as the main reference for our research working: "*An idiom is a fixed phrase which has integrity of meaning, making a complete referential unit whose meaning is different from the total meanings of its components, it is non-literal and works as a single word or a phrase*".

2.2.1.2. Principal Features of Idioms

a) Syntactic Features

According to Palmer (1990), an idiom is semantically like a single word but it structurally does not function like one. An idiom is comprised of at least two words. Moreover, it was discovered by D.A.Cruse (1987) that most idioms are homophonous with grammatically well-formed transparent expressions.

b) Semantic Features

The characteristic of semantic ambiguity is one of the particular features of idioms. Grains and Redman (1986) consider that ***semantic opacity*** is one of the characteristic aspects of idioms. Most idioms are clearly constructed from components that can also be used in any other combinations without idiomatic constraints.

2.2.1. 3. Idioms and other Language Units

a) Idioms and Phrases

According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2005), "***A phrase is a group of words which have a particular meaning when used together***". It is a syntactic structure that consists of more than one word but lacks the subject-predicate organization of a clause.

b) Idioms and Collocations

D.A. Cruse in ***Lexical Semantic*** (1987) defines **collocations** as "sequences of lexical items which habitually co-occur, but which are nonetheless fully transparent in the sense that each lexical constituent is also a semantic constituent. Collocations are of two kinds: restricted collocations and open collocations. Idioms and collocations share with each other several common features.

c) Idioms and Proverbs

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2005) defines a proverb as "*a well-known phrase or sentence that gives advice or says something that is generally true*". The distinction between idiom and proverb is sometimes blurred, and that traditional grammarians recognized the special status the proverbs occupy in wisdom, moral, or

didactic literature. Modern attitudes and information, however, make a clear distinction between these two elements, although the overlap between them cannot be denied.

2.2.2. Possessive Relational Process and Possessive Verbs

2.2.2.1. The Possessive Relational Process

a. The viewpoint of Halliday

(a1) In the attributive mode, the possessive relationship may again be expressed either as attribute or as process.

(a2) In the identifying mode, the possession takes the form of a relationship between two entities; as a feature of the participants, as in *the piano is Peter's*, or as a feature of the process, as in *Peter owns the piano*.

b. The viewpoint of Downing and Locke

In the possessive relation process, the relationship between the two entities is one of possession: one owns the other. The notion of possession is expressed either by the Attribute or by the process itself (possessive verbs: *have, own, possess*). Also included in the category of 'possessing' are the notion of 'not possessing' (*lack, need)*, of being worthy to possess (*deserve*), and the abstract relation of inclusion, exclusion and containment.

c. The viewpoint of Hoàng Văn Vân

In "Ngữ pháp kinh nghiệm của cú tiếng Việt" (2004), Hoàng Văn Vân states : "Các quá trình quan hệ sở hữu liên quan đến chuyển tác quan hệ biểu đạt ý nghĩa 'có/ sở hữu'. Quá trình quan hệ sở hữu có thể được cho là giải thích ý nghĩa 'sở hữu' giữa các tham thể trong cú" [31, p.307].

2.2.2. 2. Possessive Verbs

a. In English

b. In Vietnamese

2.2.2.3. Predicator Complement and Adjunct

a. Predicator Complement (Cp)

b. Adjunct (A)

CHAPTER 3: METHODS AND PROCEDURES

3.1. RESEARCH METHODS

In this study, we have used the combination of descriptive and contrastive methods. This is also a combination of qualitative and quantitative research.

3.2. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

3.3. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

The number of samples being investigated in the research is about 356 in English and 198 in Vietnamese. These samples are of different genres and register: English and Vietnamese idiom dictionaries, fiction as well as non -fiction, novels, short stories, magazines, newspapers.

3.2. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

CHAPTER 4: FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE IDIOMS CONTAINING VERBS OF POSSESSION

4.1.1. Syntactic features of English and Vietnamese IsCVP

Pattern A

Subject + have + Complement (Noun phrase)

The complement can be realized by a nominal group. We can find a lot of English idioms containing the verb ***have*** with a noun phrase functioned as a predicator complement as in *have a ball, have a big mouth, have a heart,* ect. in English and *có máu mặt, có bề nào, có cóc khô gì,có bát ăn bát để* ,ect in Vietnamese.

Pattern B

Subject + Have + Complement + Adjunct (Prepositional group)

The adjunct element is realized by prepositional there is only the prepositional group in idioms containing the verb ***have***, for example, *have a bun in the oven, have a frog in one's throat, have a bee in one's bonnet,…*On the contrary, we do not find any idioms with this structure among 198 Vietnamese idioms containing the verb ***có*** being investigated.

Pattern C

Subject + Have + Complement + Adjunct (Non-finite Clauses)

We can find many English IsCVP in which the Adjunct is formed with a To- Infinitive clause or a V-ing clause, for instance, h*ave a bone to pick with someone, have a right to do something, ect.*

Obviously, in Vietnamese verbs do not have the 'to- infinitive' or the '–ing' form. However, Vietnamese idioms containing the verb ***có*** can be structured in a quite similar way as English ones. There can be three sub-groups in which they belong to:

a. [***có + noun1+ (mới) + có + noun2***], as in: *có bột mới gột nên hồ; có tích mới dịch nên tuồng; có da có thịt; có hàng có ngũ; có nước có cá,* ect

b. [***có + noun1+*** (***mà)+ không có + noun2***], as in: *có mắt mà không có ngươi; có tiếng mà không có miếng,* ect.

c. [***có + noun1 + (thì) verb + noun2***], as in: *có cam phụ quít; có cháo đói chè; có của thì rửa trăm dơ; có chuông chùa niệm Phật; ect.*

Table 4.1. Idioms containing verbs of possession in term of syntactic analysis

Types	English		Vietnamese	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Pattern A	108	30,3%	42	21,2%
Pattern B	171	48%	0	0%
Pattern C	52	14,6%	148	74,7%
Others	25	7%	8	4%
Total	356	99,9%	198	99,9%

4.1.2. The Structures of English and Vietnamese IsCVP

4.1.2.1. Comparative Structures

The comparative structure is typically encountered in Vietnamese idioms containing the verb ***có***, as ***có A+ như + B*** or ***A + hơn + B.*** For example, *có chồng như ngựa có cương, có mắt như mù, ect.* There are also some cases in which the comparative marker is omitted such as s*ông có khúc, người có lúc*. However, the comparative structure rarely appears in Vietnamese idioms containing the verb ***có***.

In English the comparative structure is encountered in IsCVP with the structure: ***A+ like + B* or *A + comparative + B,*** as in *have a kick like a mule, have eyes bigger than one's stomach, have more money than sense.* Similarity, this structure hardly appears in English idioms containing the verb ***have***.

4.1.2.2. Metaphorically Descriptive Structures

IsCVP are constructed on the basis of describing events and phenomena by means of metaphor. Based on the contents of the metaphorical structure, this type of IsCVP can be sub-divided as follows:

a. IsCVP with one fact

This kind of idioms consists of only one event or phenomenon. Therefore there is only one picture constructed and reflected. In Vietnamese we can find some idioms such as *có máu mặt; có cóc khô gì; có một không hai; không một tấc đất cắm dùi; không cánh mà bay,..*

b. IsCVP with two analogical facts

There are two events or phenomena that are dealt with and reflected. They are analogical and in concord with one another. We can find a lot of Vietnamese idioms correspondent to this kind such as *có nếp có tẻ; có ngành có ngọn; có nơi có chốn;* ect. However, English IsCVP are not constructed with this structure.

c. IsCVP with two incompatible facts

Each idiom of this type also introduce two events or phenomena, but they are opposite in meaning, or at least not analogical. We can find some Vietnamese IsCVP with this type such as *có mới nới cũ; có trăng quên đèn; có thịt đòi xôi; ect.* However, among the number of English IsCVP being investigated, there are only a few idioms of this style such as *have one's cake and eat it too,…*

Table 4.2. Structural Mechanism Analysis of English and Vietnamese IsCVP

Types		English		Vietnamese	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Comparative Structures		14	3,9%	18	9,1%
Metaphorically Descriptive Structures	One fact	330	92,8%	36	18,2%
	Two facts	12	3,3%	144	72,7%
Total		**356**	**100%**	**198**	**100%**

4.1.3. Similarities and Differences in Syntactic Features of English and Vietnamese Idioms Containing Verbs of Possession

4.1.2.1. Similarities

English and Vietnamese idioms containing verbs of possession can take the structure of the constituent such as: verb, complement, and adjunct. Besides, IsCVP in both English and Vietnamese have comparative and metaphorically descriptive structures. Also, the comparative structure rarely appears in IsCVP of both languages.

4.1.3.2. Differences

Firstly, most English IsCVP use common grammatical structures of English verbs and verb phrases. Secondly, the parallel construction seems to dominate Vietnamese IsCVP. On the contrary, there is no IsCVP of this kind in English. Finally, though the metaphorically descriptive structures are popular in both languages, most of English IsCVP have only one fact. While Vietnamese IsCVP normally have two analogical or incompatible facts.

Table 4.3. A statistical summary of syntactic features of English and Vietnamese IsCVP

English and Vietnamese Idioms Containing Verbs of Possession			**English**		**Vietnamese**	
Syntactical analysis		Structure	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	1	Subject + predicator + complement	108	30,3%	42	21,2%
	2	Subject + predicator + complement + adjunct (prepositional group)	171	48%	0	0
	3	Subject + predicator + complement + adjunct (non-finite clause)	52	14,6%	148	74,7%
	4	Others	25	7%	8	4%
Structures	Comparative structure		14	3,9%	18	9%
	Metaphorical Decepti ve Structur e	One facts	330	92,8%	36	18,1%

		Two facts	12	3,3%	44	72,7%
Total			356	100%	198	100%

4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE IDIOMS CONTAINING VERBS OF POSSESSION

4.2.1. Symbolic Characteristics of English and Vietnamese IsCVP

4.2.1.1. Metaphor

Metaphor is the process of seeing something as something rather than comparing something. In English IsCVP, a lot of metaphoric idioms are used such as *a heart of stone* for a cold and unfriendly person; *a heart of gold* for a generous, sincere, and friendly person; and so forth. In Vietnamese, people also use idioms metaphorically to convey the meaning. Vietnam is a country of agricultural culture based on the cultivation of wet rice. The metaphoric idioms "*có thóc mới cho vay gạo*", "*có thịt đòi xôi*", "*có nếp có tẻ*", "*có cháo đói chè*",… are originated from this specificity.

4.2.1.2. Metonymy

Metonymy is the substitution of the name of one thing for that of another to which it is related or with it is associated. For example, the image *heart* symbolizes love and kindness. Therefore, the idiom *have a heart* is used to ask somebody to be kind, to be generous and forgiving.

4.2.1.3. Metaphonymy

As metaphor and metonymy have something in common since they facilitate mapping from the source to the target domain, Goossens (1990) called the combination of metaphor and metonymy *metaphonymy* For example, *have one's foot in the door, have an eye on someone or something, ect.* In these idioms, some parts of body like *foot, eye,…* are used to substitute for a certain person. Clearly, the concrete substitutes for the abstract such as love, intention, a mental ability, sincerity, ect. Then they joined and make the metaphorical meaning of the idioms.

4.2.1.4. Hyperbole

The hyperbolic idioms are used to show emphasis, to catch the readers' attention, or to increase the effect of a description. In English, we can find many IsCVP with hyperbole. Let's have a look at *have one's head in the clouds* for instance. '***Clouds***' means grey and white mass floating in the sky; and '***head***' means the mind or the brain. When somebody *has his head in the clouds,* he is in the state of *unawareness of what is going on.* Also, hyperboles are widely used in Vietnamese IsCVP. It is the way people use to make something sound more exciting, figurative or important than it really is. For instance, in idiom *có tiền mua tiên cũng được* the notion ***tiên*** **-** fairy which means a creature like a small person with peculiar beauty and magic power is used to express something very valuable, precious and rare. Here ***tiền*** **-** money is exaggerated to have the magic power.

4.2.1.5. Simile

Simile is the use of comparison of one thing with another based on one shared quality. A simile is an explicit or direct comparison in which something is compared to something else by the use of a function word such as ***like, more, more than*** or ***as*** in English and ***như, bằng, tựa, hệt, hơn*** in Vietnamese. They can be simile as in *có mắt như*

không; có chông như ngựa có yên; có mắt như không; in Vietnamese or *have eyes like a hawk; have eyes bigger than one's stomach* in English.

4.2.1.6. Symmetry

The symmetry is the quality of being very similar or equal. In idioms the symmetry is displayed through parallel structure. The most outstanding character about the structure of this is that the correspondence among components and words establishes idioms. For example, in idiom *có bụng ăn, có bụng lo,* the phrase *có bụng ăn* is corresponding to *có bụng lo*. The interesting thing of this kind is that most Vietnamese idioms have two corresponding parts. Each part consists of two words. So the idioms are the four-component expressions such as *có mới nới cũ; có cháo ,đói chè; có chừng, có mực; có cúng, có thiên; có da, có thịt; có đầu, có đuôi; có đi, có lại; có khế, ế chanh; có kiêng, có lành;* ect. The two components parallel not only formally but semantically as well. The second interesting thing of idioms with this structure is that there is repetition between the two parts. They can have sound repetition, accent repetition or alphabet repetition as in *có t**ật** gi**ật** mình; **có ph**úc **có ph**ần; có kh**ế, ế** chanh;…*

In English, however, we cannot find any IsCVP with symmetry structure.

4.2.2. Semantic Fields of English and Vietnamese Idioms Containing Verbs of Possession

The purpose of this part is to picture the extended meaning of the idioms corpus. And as the result, some semantically similar and contrastive points in the two languages must be shown up.

4.2.2.1. Human Relationships

Good relationships are widely found in English IsCVP as in *have a hand for someone* (please applaud for someone), *have pull with someone* (have influence with someone), ect. and in Vietnamese *có thủy có chung, có chúng có bạn, có vợ có chồng như đũa có đôi, có đi có lại,…*

Difficult relationships are also mentioned in both English and Vietnamese IsCVP such as *have it in for someone* (to have something against someone), *have a bone to pick with someone* (to have a matter to discuss with someone), *không thầy đố mày làm nên,* ect.

4.2.2.2. Behaviors and Attitudes

An interesting finding is that there is a rather numerous group of IsCVP in this semantic area which is not arbitrary. Most of them are related to cultural knowledge in interpreting their meanings and there must be some co-relation with the quality of behavior and attitude. For example, *having big mouth* (to be a gossiper), *have a foot in both camps* (to support each of two opposing groups of people), *have a low boiling-point* (to get angry easily),ect. in English or *có quán tình phụ cây đa, có mới nới cũ, có oản phụ xôi, có the quên lụa có vàng quên thau, có trăng phụ đèn, có cam phụ quít, có cháo đói chè,* ect in Vietnamese.

4.2.2.3. Human States and Feelings

The choice of languages also depends on the particularly characteristics and the social psychology of each person. Therefore, the number of the idioms classified in this group is numerous in both English and Vietnamese. For example, *have a long face* (be disappointed), *have a ball* (have a really enjoyable time), *have a red face* (blush from embarrassment), *có bát ăn bát để, có nếp, có tẻkhông kèn, không trống, không một tấc đất cắm dùi, có vây có cánh, có vai có vế, có tai có mặt,*ect.

4.2.2.4. Knowing and Understanding

The idioms classified in this group denote people's ability of knowing to do something and understanding the real world around. For example, *have a familiar ring to it* (knowing), *not have a clue* (not knowing), *not have the faintest/ foggiest idea* (not knowing), *have what it takes* (to have the courage or ability to do something),… in English and *có mắt như mù, có mắt mà không có ngươi,…* in Vietnamese.

4.2.2.5. Business - Work

Business and work are very typical subjects in daily life. The idioms belonging to this group denote the ability of people in doing something, solving a certain problem, or the way they take over their work or business. There are quite a lot of IsCVP related to this field such as h*ave one's hands full* (be busy or totally occupied), *have green fingers* (have ability to grow plants well),… in English and *có bụng ăn có bụng lo; buôn có bạn, bán có phường; có vốn mới có lãi;…* in Vietnamese

4.2.2.6. Health

It turns out that English people tend to pay attention to health, naming the diseases and treatment by many figurative nouns such as *have a frog in one's throat* (have a lot or roughening of the voice), *have a bun in the oven* (be pregnant), *have pins and needs* (have a prickling sensation, especially in limb), *have a temperature* (have a body temperature higher than normal), ect. However, among 198 idioms being investigated in Vietnamese, we cannot find any IsCVP denoting health. This is really a noticeable difference between the two corpuses. Here exists a lexical gap.

4.2.2.7. Human personality

These idioms indicate the various aspects of a person's character that combine to make them different from other people. They may be good characters as in *have a heart* (be generous and forgiving), *have a heart of gold* (be generous, sincere, and friend), *have an open mind* (have a mind that can accept more than one point of view in English or *có thủy có chung, có chừng có mực*, ect. in Vietnamese; or bad characters as in *have a heart of stone* (be cold and unfriendly), *have a big mouth* (be a gossiper), in English or *có nanh có nọc, có sừng có gạc, có đồng nào xào đồng nấy, có sừng thì đừng có nanh,…* in Vietnamese.

4.2.2.8. Experience and perception

The idioms in this lexical area express what and how people view the reality. There is a large number of Vietnamese IsCVP belong to this semantic field such as *có rế thì đỡ nóng tay, có bột mới gột nên hồ, có nước có cá*, ect. In English, however, there are not any idioms showing the experience or perception among the number of idioms being investigated. Here again there is a lexical gap between the two languages.

4.2.2.9. Success - Failure

This lexical view of the idioms may result from the focus on achieving goals that is combined with the point of view that individualism is highly appreciated in British culture as in *have a good/ long innings*, *have a black mark,…* Otherwise, Vietnamese people seem to be cautious in mentioning the achievement or the failure. Among 198 idioms being investigated, therefore, we cannot find any IsCVP related to this field.

4.2.2.10. Situation

A large number of English and Vietnamese IsCVP share this semantic field. We can have *có đức mặt sức mà ăn, có lớn mà chẳng có khôn, có thóc mới cho vay gạo* in Vietnamese and *have elbow room, have a fifty-fifty chance*, in English.

4.2.2.11. Like and dislike

The idioms classified to this group denote the interest of somebody in something or someone else such as *have a soft spot for someone or something* in English. However, in Vietnamese IsCVP we cannot find any idioms belonging to this semantic area.

Table 4.4. Frequency of semantic fields of English and Vietnamese IsCVP

No	Semantic Fields	English		Vietnamese	
		Number	**%**	**Number**	**%**
1	***Human relationship***	32	9	23	11,6
2	***Behaviors and attitude***	37	10,4	33	16,6
3	***Human states and feelings***	53	14,9	39	14,6
4	***Knowing and understanding***	37	10,4	11	5,5
5	***Business - Work***	26	7,3	12	6
6	***Health***	13	3,6	0	0
7	***Human personality***	22	6,2	19	9,6
8	***Experience and perception***	0	0	32	16,1
9	***Success and failure***	28	7,9	0	0
10	***Situation***	82	23	28	14,1
11	***Like and dislike***	13	3,6	0	0
12	***Other***	13	3,6	11	5,6
Total		**356**	**99,9**	**198**	**99,8**

4.2.3. Cultural Characteristics of English and Vietnamese Idioms Containing Verbs of Possession

4.2.3.1. Symbols of food and domestic furniture

Vietnam is primarily a country of agricultural culture. So a great number of words referring indigenous flora such as ***lúa, nếp, bí, bầu,***…or particular products like ***thóc, nếp, gạo, cơm, xôi, cháo, chè,*** …attend to form Vietnamese IsCVP as in *có bí chê bầu là hôi, có cháo đói chè, có gạo thì nạo ra cơm, có thịt đòi xôi*, ect. Besides, many domestic furniture like ***rế, đũa, bát, đèn, dùi, đòn, võng kèn, trống,…*** may occur in Vietnamese IsCVP as in *có rế thi đỡ bỏng tay, có đầu có đũa,….* In English, it should be considered: cake, fish, egg as in *have one's cake and eat it too, have other fish to fry, have egg on one's face*

4.2.3.2. Symbols of religion

Religion plays an important role in each country. In Vietnamese, we have *có chuông chùa niệm Phật, có giời có ta.* On the contrary, English people believe in God. Thus, there appear to be images of God or a saint in English IsCVP as in *have the patience of Job/ a saint* (have unlimited patience).

4.2.3.3. Symbols of animals

Animals make language significant with symbols. It should be considered: *chó, mèo, trâu, dê, cá, cua* in Vietnamese, and *cat, kitten, horse, ox, ant, bat, bee, butterfly, parrot, frog,*.. in English.

4.2.3.4. Symbols of human body parts

Both English and Vietnamese IsCVP with human body parts focus on people, their behavior, perceptions of their environment, their physical and emotional states, and their interaction with others. Most of body parts like *heart, head, stomach, hand, foot, ear, eyes, finger, nose, mouth, face, hair, leg, back,…* are used to denote actions or things which have the close relationship with these parts.

4.2.4. Similarities and Differences in Semantic Features of English and Vietnamese Idioms Containing Verbs of Possession

4.2.4.1. Similarities

IsCVP in English as well as in Vietnamese acquire a very high symbolic characteristic through the use of some stylistic devices as metaphor, metonymy, metaphonymy, hyperbole and simile.

IsCVP fix in language, which forms gradually in history. Semantically, there are up to 7 lexical groups among 11 ones in which the number of idiom items is of little different. The finding here is that the culture-bound associative fields are more or less similar in both languages. They have some certain real-life objects and events that they use as symbols in their contents such as food, domestic animals, human body parts, religion.

4.2.4.2. Differences

Vietnam appears to be a typical agricultural country with a well-preserved traditional culture. Whereas England is a good representative of nomadic-originated nations with a highly developed industry.

The total number of English IsCVP is greater than that of Vietnamese, which implies that to Vietnamese people, the notion of ‘possession’ are not of greater concern than they are to English people.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

5.1. CONCLUSION

The goal of this study is to show syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese IsCVP in order to find out the various meaning as well as the constructions of IsCVP and the way it is used properly. The thesis is defined in five chapters, and these are the results:

Syntactically, most of English and Vietnamese IsCVP are idiomatic verb phrases. They can be categorized into two main patterns: *(i) verb + complement* and *(ii) verb + complement + adjunct*. They can also be grouped into two kinds of grammatical features in relation to semantic mechanism: *comparative structure and metaphorically descriptive structure*

Semantically, it is clear that the semantic opacity is one of the most characteristic features of IsCVP. The cultural uniqueness of each language is usually considered reflecting through the semantic features. IsCVP acquire a very high symbolic characteristic through the use of metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole, simile and symmetry. The cultural characteristic in IsCVP is first seen in the content themselves and then can be perceived through real-life objects and event which are used as symbol in their contents. All of the above materials carry profound 'colours' of the two cultures: one is an agricultural civilization based on the cultivation on wet rice and another is a nomadic-originated nation with a highly developed industry. Besides, the figurative and concrete characteristic of English and Vietnamese are also presented in ***eleven*** fields.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS FOR LANGUAGE TEACHING

To get a good result in teaching and learning idioms in general and IsCVP in particular, teachers should pay attention on the following suggestions:

- Idioms and IsCVP should be introduced to learners at all levels, from elementary to advanced level.

- Idioms and IsCVP should be learnt and taught in communicative contexts as in sentences or in dialogues.

- Various exercises ought to be considered such as phrases, sentences and paragraphs to introduce the syntactic and semantic features as well as the usage of each given idioms.

- Different course books, dictionaries and other resources should be used frequently to examine the correctness of idioms.

- Teachers should be sensible in dealing with cultural differences to have more precise explanation for the learners.

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

There is no denying that this paper cannot cover all constructions and meanings of English and Vietnamese IsCVP under discussion, which may lie in the limitation of time and reference materials, as well as the constraints faced by the researcher. For these reasons, further research should go into more details of meanings expressed by IsCVP such as verbs of possession in special structures of proverbs or other verbs in Possessive Relational Process such as *own, possess, belong to, lack, need, …*