

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
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**A STUDY OF IDIOMS CONTAINING WORDS
DENOTING HUMAN COMMON SHELTERS
(ENGLISH VERSUS VIETNAMESE)**

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

Nowadays, with the development of economics, people are much busier and they often choose the shortest way to achieve their goals. Particularly, how to express their ideas as much as possible but also as short as possible is what people want to figure out. One of the shortest ways to express more but speak less is to use idioms in your speeches. Idioms appear to be the best choice for people to meet their requirements on communication, which is to express thoughts, emotion, etc., to name things, phenomena, events...or to consciously or unconsciously show culture or nationality.

Idiom is a kind of expressions that is short, easy to remember and contains underlying stories which can effectively illustrate hard-and-wasting-time-to-describe situations. Saying that using idioms in everyday conversations can save time does not mean that you can easily understand what the speakers want to play with their words. You cannot understand what they mean if you just separate the elements of the idioms and understand their surface meanings. It means more than that. As a learner of a language in general and English or Vietnamese in particular, your language skill will reach new heights only when you can master idioms.

People cannot live without shelters. They can protect us from bad weather, danger and insect pests. With the development of human beings, many kinds of human shelters are created to meet human's needs. ICWDHCS appear as a solution for the necessity to convey briefly something containing or relating to human common shelters.

Because of the reasons mentioned above, I select “**A Study of Idioms Containing Words Denoting Human Common Shelters (English vs. Vietnamese)**” to study. I desire to gain an insightful knowledge about **ICWDHCS** and their use in English and Vietnamese.

1.2. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

What are brought in from this study depend on the purpose of the readers. **Firstly**, it lists most idioms that contain words denoting human common shelters in English and in Vietnamese. From that point, they can bring you, the readers, a profound knowledge about the culture of English and Vietnamese and their customs in detailed because always there is a story or a cultural origin that makes a particular idiom. **Next**, with your understanding of idioms in general and **ICWDHCS** in particular, you can avoid a lot of interferences between the two languages to have a better, fluent, natural and native-like speaking style which is the wish of all the learners of English, as well as of Vietnamese.

1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.3.1. Aims

The purpose of this study is to find the differences and similarities in the syntactic, and the semantic features of **ICWDHCS** in English and Vietnamese. With the findings of this study, teachers and students of English will increase their awareness of the importance of idioms in general and expand the vocabulary of **ICWDHCS**, in particular.

1.3.2. Objectives

This study is intended to do the following:

- ❖ Categorize and collect the **ICWDHCS**, in English and Vietnamese.

❖ Describe those idioms basing on their syntactic and semantic features.

❖ Make comparison of the two languages' idioms in terms of syntactic and semantic features.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In order to achieve the aims and objectives of the study, we would try to answer the following questions:

1. *What are the syntactic features of ICWDHCS in English and in Vietnamese?*

2. *What are the semantic features of ICWDHCS in English and in Vietnamese?*

3. *What are the similarities and differences of ICWDHCS between English and Vietnamese in terms of syntactic and semantic features?*

1.5. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The research will focus on the study of the syntactic and semantic features of ICWDHCS in English and Vietnamese.

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This research contains 5 chapters.

Chapter 1: **Introduction**

Chapter 2: **Literature Review and Theoretical Background**

Chapter 3: **Method and Procedures**

Chapter 4: **Findings and Discussion**

Chapter 5: **Conclusion and Implications**

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

Linguists have done a great deal number of researches on idioms so far. They have also categorized idioms into many topics, such as animals, body, character and appearance, children and babies, clothes, colours, nature, food...Thanks to their effort, doing researches on a particular topic is easier. That is the reason why idiom is the fat land for people who study language to plough.

Idioms are defined as “a group of words which have a different meaning when used together from the one they would have if you took the meaning of each word individually” in *Idioms Dictionary* by Collins Cobuild.

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary also shares the same view when defined idioms as a group of words whose meaning is different from the meaning of the individual word, while Palmer [22] defined idioms as consequences of words whose meaning could not be predicted from the meanings of the words themselves.

After studying idioms to examine why some idioms still retain their figurative meanings after some changes in syntax, Gerald Harry Prendergast Brackenbury [12] found out that it is semantic component in idioms that play a vital role in preserving the figurative meanings after those changes in syntax.

It is interesting that not only linguists but also some critics are interested in studying idioms, such as Rosamund Moon [20], Sam Gluckberg S McGlone [18], Sprenger, Levelt and Kempen [26].

However, they mainly did carry out comparative studies to draw a conclusion that the close relation between the meanings inside idioms (literal and idiomatic meanings) is really opaque and we fail to distinguish them clearly.

Many linguists from all over the world have bended their minds to idioms. There are a lot of works of those who collected and introduced collections of English idioms in many ways which are different from one another this way or another, such as Dixon [7], Seidl [29], Broukai [5], John Wright [31], Ammer [1], Jennifer Seidl and W. McMordie [29]. With those books, learners and teachers of English can broaden their knowledge of idioms and master how to use a certain idiom in a particular situation to make it easier to have a successful communication in the smartest way

In Vietnamese, Trần Quang Mân [49], Lã Thành [53], Hoàng Văn Hành [40], Vĩnh Bá, Nguyễn Lâm [45], Nguyễn Lực [47] [48], Lương Văn Đăng [48],... are some of the well-known Vietnamese linguists who put in much effort on studying idioms. There are also a lot of MA theses which focused on idioms in DaNang University, such as *idioms denoting humans with dispraising implication in English and Vietnamese* (by Truong Thi Bich Hong), *idioms denoting family in English and Vietnamese* (by Tran Ngoc Que Chau), *idioms related to compliment and appreciation in English and Vietnamese* (by Nguyen Ai Ngan) and so on. However, the ICWDHCS still have not been researched yet. That is the reason why this paper is in front of you.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Definitions of Idioms

The linguists still have not had an agreement on idioms' definitions.

According to *Từ điển tiếng Việt* of Vietnam Institute of Linguistics, idiom is a set of fixed words, that are familiarly used; whose meaning is not the same as the meanings of the separate elements. Similarly, Hoàng Văn Hành [40] holds the point that idioms are a type of set expressions that are stable in morpho-structure, complete, ornate in meaning, used popularly in everyday life communication, especially in speech. More detailed, the words constitute a particular idiom are always the same when using and cannot be replaced by any other element and the stability of idiom's structure is expressed in the stability of the order of words that make the idiom. Another linguist like Nguyễn Lân [45] states that an idiom is a fixed expression used to describe a definition. Hồ Lê [46] also states that idioms are word combinations, which are stable in structures and ornate in meanings, used to describe states, images, phenomena or characteristics... Although they have different ways of defining idioms, most Vietnamese researchers agree that idioms are fixed expressions, not yet a sentence, stable in structure and they contain figurative meanings inside to describe states, characteristics or phenomena in everyday life.

In English, there are also a large number of researchers who have tried to find out the appropriate definitions for idioms.

Concise Oxford Dictionary defines an idiom as a form of expression peculiar to language, person, or group of people, esp. one whose sense is not predictable from the meanings and arrangement of its elements.

According to *Webster's New World American Idioms Handbook* by Gail Brenner [4] "One common, basic definition for an idiom is:

two or more words together that, as a unit, have a special meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the words separately.”

Brenner [4] also pointed out some other criteria, in detail, to identify idioms. They are the following:

“Idioms might best be defined as having one or more of the following characteristics:

- *Idioms have a meaning that is different from or extends the literal meaning of the individual word or words.*
- *Idioms break or stretch the rules of grammar, word order (syntax), and semantics to a certain degree.*
- *Idioms change meaning when translated word for word into another language.”*

Seidl and Mordie (1988) [29] defined “an idiom is a number of words which, taken together, mean something different from the individual words of the idiom when they stand alone”.

After some detailed and easy-to-understand explanation in his book *Lexical Semantics*, D. A. Cruse [9] has stated that “*an idiom is an expression whose meaning cannot be accounted for as a compositional function of the meanings its parts have when they are not parts of idioms.*”

Some of the most common dictionaries for learners of English also define idioms as the following:

“Idiom is a group of words in a fixed order that have a particular meaning that is different from the meanings of each word understood on its own”

“Idiom is a group of words that has a special meaning that is different from the ordinary meaning of each separate word”.

“An expression which functions as a single unit and whose meaning cannot be worked out from its separate parts”. [27]

Or

“Idiom is a group of words whose meaning is different from the meanings of the individual words.” [19]

In general, however different in wording to define idioms people have used so far, we can conclude that idiom:

- Is a fixed expression which is grammatical or ungrammatical but accepted as “grammatically ungrammatical”.
- Has the meaning which is special, as a whole, different from the individual element’s inside. In order to understand it, people have to base on the literal meanings to generalize it figuratively.

2.2.1. Human Common Shelters

According to *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, shelter is a place to live, considered as one of the basic needs of life. A human shelter is a structure or a natural feature that provides protection against bad weather, insect pests or danger. With the development of society and the increase in human need of better shelters, we construct our shelters from a wide variety of materials such as wood and brick, steel and concrete, aluminium, glass, and plastic. The types of shelters people establish mainly depend on the climate, the materials that are available, and their intention in using.

In English, there are a large number of words denoting human common shelters (as defined above). The list is shown in the thesis.

Unlike English, Vietnamese only has some main words denoting types of human shelters due to its linguistic features although there are quite as many types of human common shelters in Vietnam. They are: *nhà, lều, chòi, hang, động, thành*. Many other names of other

types of shelters are compounds which are made from those main words and other elements. For example, *nhà rông, nhà lá, nhà lâu, hang đá, lều tranh,...*

CHAPTER 3

METHODS AND PROCEDURE

3.1. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In order to achieve the aims and the objectives mentioned above, we use descriptive method, contrastive method with qualitative and quantitative analysis, contrastive analysis, generalization and comparison. Conclusions are drawn out by using statistical and observational methods.

3.2. DESCRIPTION OF POPULATION AND SAMPLES

Samples are chosen carefully, basing on the following criteria:

- Idioms contain words denoting human common shelters
- Idioms, as well as examples for illustrating, from trustful sources, such as popular dictionaries, reliable, well-known novels, short stories or poems in both languages.
- The samples are arranged alphabetically for easy reference.
- The examples are picked from both languages' monolingual and bilingual publications and carefully considered about their relevant headings for investigation

3.3. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Firstly, all kinds of human shelters are searched and then narrowed down to the most common. After those idioms are checked carefully in the English and Vietnamese dictionaries to make sure that they all are idioms which exist in the languages.

3.4. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

As mentioned above, all the data in this thesis come from reliable sources in both languages and carefully checked in monolingual and bilingual dictionaries. In the process of studying the data, the theoretical knowledge from famous linguists was applied. Moreover, through careful collecting and analysis, the findings in the thesis are without prejudices or preconception. All those things guarantee the thesis' reliability and validity.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF ICWDHCS IN ENGLISH AND IN VIETNAMESE

I have discovered that most of **ICWDHCS** are phrases.

Basing on their construction, **ICWDHCS** are discussed in the following headlines:

- ICWDHCSs with noun phrase structures
- ICWDHCS with verb phrase structures
- ICWDHCS with adjective phrase structures
- ICWDHCS with prepositional phrase structures
- ICWDHCS with adverb phrase structures

4.2.1. Syntactic features of ICWDHCS in English

4.2.2. Syntactic features of ICWDHCS in Vietnamese

Below is table 4.1, which lists all the grammatical patterns of **ICWDHCS** in English and Vietnamese, table 4.2, which lists the statistic of all the samples in the two languages. Chart 4.1 and chart 4.2 is the illustration of table 4.2.

Table 4.1: Summary of the Grammatical Patterns of English and Vietnamese Idioms Containing Words Denoting Human Common Shelters

Type of Phrase	Structure	
	English	Vietnamese
<i>Noun Phrase</i>	[1] Det. + Adj + N	[1] N + Adj + N + Adj
	[2] Det. + N/NP + Prep.P	[2] NP + NP
	[3] N + N	[3] N + V + N + V
	[4] N + conj. + N	[4] N + Adj. + Prep. + N
	[5] N + VP	[5] NP+ Adj. + V
<i>Verb Phrase</i>	[6] V + N/NP	[6] VP + NP
	[7] V + NP + NP	[7] VP + VP
	[8] V + (NP) + like + NP	[8] V + N + V + N
	[9] V + NP + Prep./ Prep. P	[9] V + N _{hư} + VP
	[10] V + N + V (Present participle)	[10] V + N _{hư} + Clause
	[11] V + NP + Adv./Adv. P	
	[12] V + NP + Adv. + Prep. P	
	[13] V + Adv.	
	[14] V + Adv. + V (to-inf.)	
	[15] V + Adv. + Prep. P	
	[16] V + Adv. + N.P	
	[17] V + Prep. P	

<i>Adj.P</i>	[18] (As) + Adj. + as + N/ NP	[11] Adj. + Nhr + N/NP
	[19] Adj. + Prep./ Prep.P	[12] Adj. + N + Adj. + N
	[20] Adv. + Adj.	
<i>Prep.P</i>	[21] Prep. + N/NP	None
	[22] Prep. + N + Prep.(+ N)	
	[23] Prep. + Clause	
<i>Adv.P</i>	None	None

Table 4.2: Statistical Summary of Syntactic Features of English and Vietnamese Idioms Containing Words Denoting Human Common Shelters

<i>English and Vietnamese Idioms Containing Words Denoting Human Common Shelters</i>			ENGLISH		VIETNAMESE	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Syntactic Analysis	Phrase Structures	NP	15	24%	27	55%
		VP	38	61%	11	22%
		Adj.P	4	6%	11	22%
		Prep.P	5	8%	0	0%
		Adv.P	0	0%	0	0%
Total			62	100%	49	100%

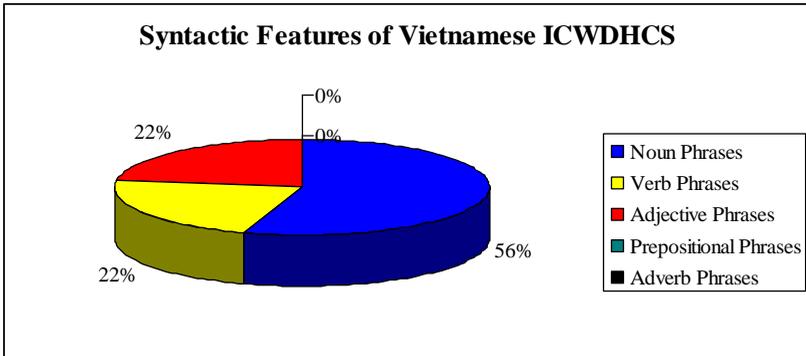


Chart 4.1

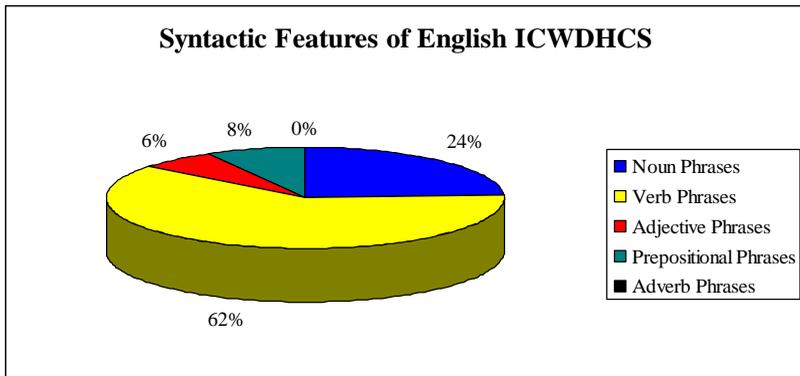


Chart 4.2

4.2.3. A comparison in syntactic features of ICWDHCS in English and ICWDHCS in Vietnamese

a. Similarities

From Table 4.1, 4.2 and the pie charts 4.1 and 4.2 presented above, firstly, we can easily see that both English and Vietnamese idioms containing words denoting human common shelter make use of same grammatical groups such as Noun Phrases, Verb Phrases, and Adjective Phrases.

It is clear that English and Vietnamese are two different languages but in form of Noun Phrases, the number of structures of Noun Phrase is the same in the two languages although they are different in constituent parts.

Moreover, within some syntactic features, they have some same structures, such as comparison (“as...as...”, “like...” in English and “như” in Vietnamese) and parallel. *Get on like a house on fire, as safe as houses, dòm như cú dòm nhà bệnh* and *kêu như cháy nhà* are some examples for comparison, *hearth and home* and *ăn lông ở lỗ* are examples for parallel.

b. Differences

Beside those similarities, there are also many differences as there are surely alterations between the two languages.

Firstly, as mentioned above, the distributions of Noun Phrases and Verb Phrases are opposite. While Noun Phrases make up the largest part in Vietnamese ICWDHCS (56%), followed by Verb Phrases (22%), they get the second largest piece in the pie chart (23%) after Verb Phrases (62%) in English ICWDHCS.

Secondly, apart from the same amount of patterns in Noun Phrases in the two languages, the amounts of patterns in other types of phrases are not the same. English seems to have more patterns in each type. It shows that English has more varied structures than Vietnamese.

4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ICWDHCS IN ENGLISH AND ICWDHCS IN VIETNAMESE

4.2.1. Symbolic characteristics of ICWDHCS in English and Vietnamese

a. Metaphor

b. Metonymy

c. Hyperbole

d. Simile

e. Symmetry

4.2.2. Semantic features of ICWDHCS in English and Vietnamese

Idioms containing words denoting human common shelters cover a wide range of semantic fields. Therefore, in this thesis, we divide them into two main semantic groups. They are idioms with human implications and with non-human implications. In idioms with human implications, there are some sub-categories, which contain all the aspects that are often used to describe human: *Physical states; Personality; Mood/Psychological States; Actions, Behaviours, Activities; Situations and Conditions; Social Status; Success and Failure; Understanding and Relationship.*

The charts 4.3, 4.4 below show the statistics of the two main groups in each language.

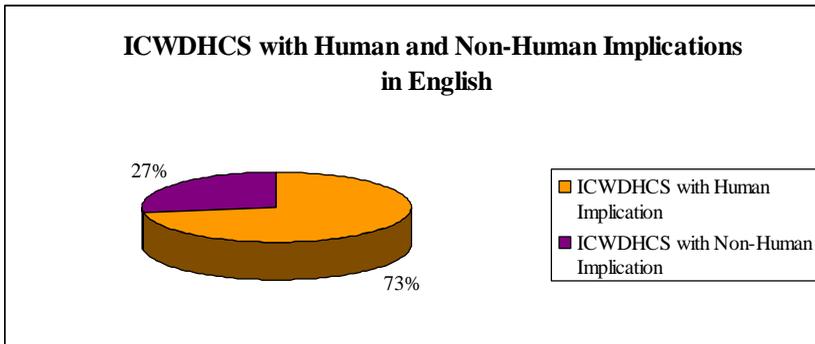


Chart 4.3.

In the pie charts, it can be seen that 27% of ICWDHCS with non-human implications and 73% of ICWDHCS with human

implications make up the English samples studied. The percentage is 20% and 80% in proportion to ICWDHCS with non-human implications and ICWDHCS with human implications in Vietnamese.

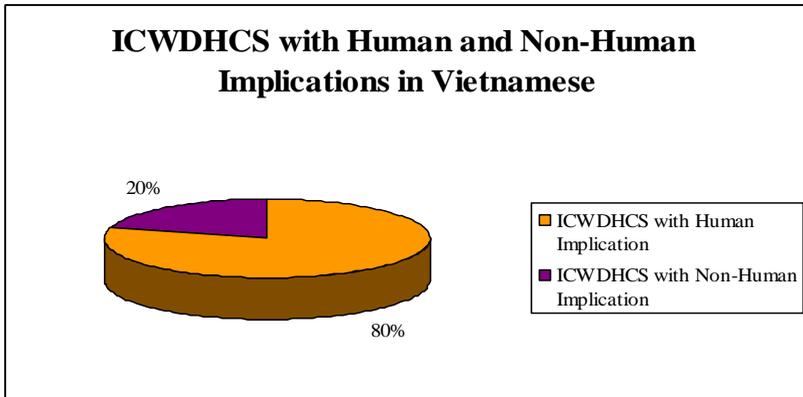


Chart 4.4.

a. Idioms Containing Words Denoting Human Common Shelters with Human Implications

- ❖ **Physical states**
- ❖ **Personality**
- ❖ **Mood/Psychological states**
- ❖ **Actions, Behaviours, Activities**
- ❖ **Situations and Conditions**
- ❖ **Social Status**
- ❖ **Success and Failure**
- ❖ **Understanding**
- ❖ **Relationship**

b. Idioms Containing Words Denoting Human common shelters With Non-Human Implications

The table 4.3 below can illustrate the frequency of semantic features of ICWDHCS in English and Vietnamese.

Table 4.3. Frequency of Semantic Features of ICWDHCS in English and Vietnamese

Semantic fields		English		Vietnamese	
		Number	%	Number	%
Human Implications	Physical states	0	0	5	10.20
	Personality	1	1.61	3	6.12
	Moods/ Psychological states	3	4.84	1	2.04
	Actions, behaviors, activities	23	37.10	7	14.29
	Situations & conditions	6	9.68	21	42.86
	Social status	0	0	0	0
	Success & failure	9	14.52	0	0
	Understanding	1	1.61	1	2.04
	Relationship	2	3.23	1	2.04
Non-Human Implications		17	27.42	10	20.41
Total		62	100	49	100

Chart 4.5 below can illustrate the comparison between ICWDHCS with human implications in English and Vietnamese.

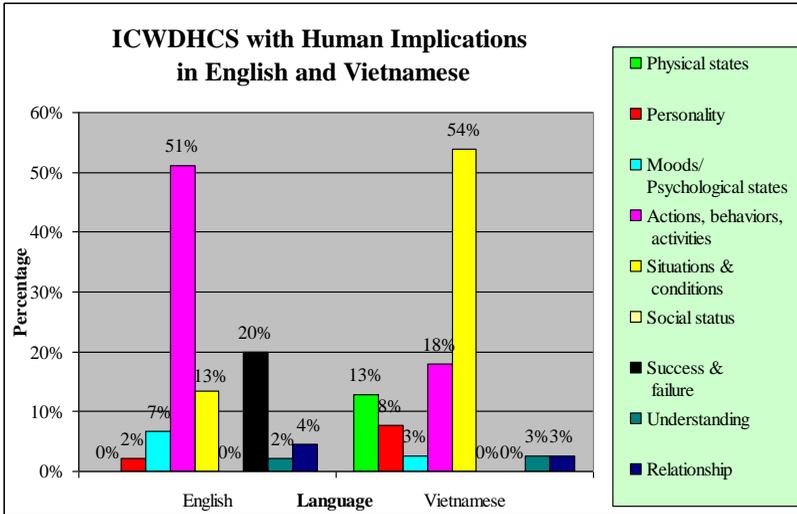


Chart 4.5:

4.2.3. A comparison in semantic features of ICWDHCS in English and ICWDHCS in Vietnamese

a. Similarities

Firstly, as mentioned above in chart 4.3 and 4.4, in both languages, a large number of ICWDHCS with non-human implications are found. In English, ICWDHCS with non-human implications make up 27% in English and 20% in Vietnamese. The rest in each language is ICWDHCS with human implications.

Next, among ICWDHCS with human implications in English and Vietnamese (100% for each language), there are 2 semantic fields in each language that have no ICWDHCS inside.

Moreover, the distribution between semantic fields is varied in both languages. Some has no idioms inside but some has more than half the samples collected. **Actions, Behaviors,**

Activities (51%) in English and **Situations & Conditions** (54%) in Vietnamese are found in this circumstance.

b. Differences

There are no equivalents of English samples in Vietnamese or vice versa. It means that there are differences in thoughts between English and Vietnamese in terms of human common shelters.

Actions, Behaviors, Activities makes up the biggest part of all the ICWDHCS with human implications in English while that of Vietnamese is **Situations & Conditions**.

While **Success & Failure** makes up 20% of all English samples collected, there are no idioms with this semantic field in Vietnamese ICWDHCS.

Because of the familiarity of *nhà* in Vietnamese, most daily activities are took place in it, all the ICWDHCS in Vietnamese are related to something very familiar, such as *kêu như cháy nhà, nhà dột cột xiêu, cây nhà lá vườn, ...* It shows the differences in cultures of the two countries through linguistics.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSION

As mentioned above, the aim of the thesis is to investigate syntactic and semantic features of English and Vietnamese idioms containing words denoting human common shelters in order to achieve the goal of finding out the similarities and differences between those two issues. Chapter four has presented clearly findings and discussion.

In chapter five, the last part of this thesis, with the hope that

Vietnamese teachers and learners of English language will master the meanings and use idioms, especially idioms containing words denoting human common shelters in English and Vietnamese, better and more effectively in teaching, learning, and successfully in communicating in English, the researcher has tried to give some suggestions.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS FOR LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING

5.2.1. Implications for Language Learning

As a learner, the researcher knows that it is not easy for Vietnamese learners of English to master idioms because they cannot just generalize the meanings of their constituents to understand their meanings as wholes. On the other hand, the learners cannot avoid facing idioms because native speakers frequently use idioms in their daily conversation, and it is inconvenient for us, the learners, to ask them to speak their mind in an easier way so often. Moreover, using idioms in our speeches, as learners of English, we can assert ourselves more through the way we use the language. For these reasons as above, we should choose for ourselves an effective way to master idioms. Here are some recommendations:

- **Learn idioms in specific categories or groups.** It is easier for us to learn idioms through topics or some specific categories, such as: same- structure idioms, same-semantic-features idioms...
- **Finding another way to write or speak by using idioms.** If learners of English can describe a thing or talk about some issues not only with the normal English structures but also with idioms, it will be the best way to enhance their knowledge of idioms. Nothing to

practice a language is as appropriate as your real life, real situations.

- In addition, idioms are not only the manifestation but also the inheritance of culture. They express centuries of life in a sociolinguistic context and geographical setting. It can be said that idioms are the heart and soul of a linguistic society. England and Vietnam have many differences in cultural and historical background. As a result, students not only have the knowledge of a language but also should have a good knowledge of history, culture or customs which is related to idioms in process of dealing with ICWDHCS. The best method of possess the cultural background knowledge of idioms is reading. Professional books about English and Vietnamese idioms, books introducing British and Vietnamese cultures are some recommended helpful references.
- Learners can also gain knowledge to use idioms in different communicative skills, especially in speaking and writing skills. Students should have interaction and exchange with native English speakers to know the ways how idioms are used correctly and effectively.

5.2.2. Implications for Language Teaching

As teachers of English, our goal is to successfully teach out students English. It is the fact that we cannot teach a foreign language without teaching idioms since idioms are not separated parts of the language. Learning idioms also helps learners get closer and feel easier in understanding and using English – a popular language in the world. Therefore, teachers of English should prepare themselves with the knowledge of how idioms are formed or the meanings of idioms in different contexts. Once they know well about

the idioms, they can have suitable methods to help their students learn better. The following suggestions should be considered in order to get a good teaching result.

Idioms should be introduced to language learners at all levels. Nonetheless, they should be introduced in different ways for different levels.

- *For elementary level*: teachers had better help students realize idioms by setting some exercises in which they can pick out and understand the meaning of each idiom. Besides, task or exercises comparing literal and figurative meanings of idioms should be used to help learners to be familiar with them. Exercises should be designed with the purpose of checking their memory and helping them remember. It is advised to explain the syntactic and semantic features of idioms so that learners can understand their particular meanings and use them effectively.

- *For intermediate and advanced levels*: learners are asked to apply idioms into their conversations and discourses. By doing this, students can improve both their speaking and writing skills. Teachers can introduce useful course books, dictionaries and other resources to students to check the correctness of idioms before using. Moreover, teachers should support students find out possible equivalent idioms in English and Vietnamese because it is useful for them in translation ICWDHCS. The more teachers help students understand ICWDHCS, the easier students find to translate them. When learners have opportunities, they should listen to educated native speakers, and endeavour to catch the exact expressions they use.

Generally, it is necessary to introduce students to the origin of how an idiom was forms and the underlying lessons about culture

that it brings. Then, students can associate the concept of an idiom in a foreign language with that in their mother tongue.

Moreover, students of a language will improve their language skills if they are put into a language environment, which is a place for them to practice what they have learnt. Therefore, it is a good method to give students a chance to use the language in their real life or in an authentic situation. That is the teachers' job to create that environment.

Briefly, teaching a language not only helps learners understand how to apply knowledge of the idioms generally and English ICWDHCS particularly in communication but also provides learners with a good chance to broaden their knowledge of a language's culture. In addition, learning idioms can inspire students to love their own language and culture as well as the language and culture they are learning. To some aspects, the thesis will provide a useful reference for those who are interested in teaching and learning idioms containing words denoting human common shelters effectively.

5.3. LIMITATIONS OF THE RESEARCH

Although the researcher has put in a great deal of time and effort in doing this research, there are some limitations due to the limitation of time, reference materials, the limited ability of the researcher and some others external factors. Another limitation is that the number of ICWDHCS in English and Vietnamese is relatively low.

5.4. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

With the hope that idioms will be investigated and studied more widely into more depth, we would like to make some suggestions for

further studies as follows.

+ An Investigation into Pragmatic Aspects of English and Vietnamese Idioms Containing Words Denoting Human Common Shelters.

+ An Investigation into Syntactic, Semantic and Cultural Features of English and Vietnamese Idioms Containing Words Denoting Human Common Shelters.

+ An Investigation into Syntactic, Semantic and Cultural Features of English and Vietnamese Proverbs Containing Words Denoting Human Common Shelters.

As mentioned above, in the introduction, idioms are a fat land for linguistics to plough. It is always something to do for further study with idioms.