

Information on Doctoral thesis of Fellows Dang Nguyen Giang

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2. Sex: Male
3. Date of birth: January 3rd 1979
4. Place of birth: Hanoi
5. Admission decision number: 1347/QĐ-SĐH Dated November 3rd 2009
6. Changes in academic process: Extension of time (from November 4th 2012 to April 4th 2013).
7. Official thesis title: A Study on Structural and Semantic Components of Typical English and Vietnamese Idioms.
8. Major: English Linguistics
9. Code: 62 22 15 01
10. Supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Võ Đại Quang
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lê Hùng Tiến
11. Summary of the new findings of the thesis:

That an investigation of idioms in English and Vietnamese in terms of structural and semantic components is carried out in the present study is to find out the similarities and differences between the two languages.

In order to collect the data, a hand search approach of the dictionaries in both languages is conducted, which helps to establish a corpus of 4,134 idioms in English and 4,053 idioms in Vietnamese. Componential analysis, describing, comparing and contrasting are regarded as the main methods used in the present dissertation.

The findings of the study are concerned with the similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese idioms in terms of (1) structural components, and (2) semantic components and their formation. A common theoretical framework on idioms is applied to both English and Vietnamese. The canonical structural and semantic components involve three types of idioms existing in our data: symmetrical, simlized, and non-symmetrical. The non-canonical structural and semantic components refer to two types of idioms: idiom variants and synonymous idioms. The semantic components of each idiom type involve the motivation degrees (transparent, semi-transparent, semi-opaque and opaque), the

association between the literal readings and the idiomatic meanings, and the semantic composition of component parts. The formation mechanism of the semantic components of idioms is motivated by external semantic cognition including metaphors, metonymies and conventional knowledge. It is a natural process implicitly affected by several different factors such as living circumstance, historical allusion, religions and beliefs, traditions and customs, etc. The findings of the current study also reveal that most of the idioms in both English and Vietnamese are analyzable and have meanings that are at least partly motivated. In addition, the dissertation presents the implications for idiom teaching and translation.

12. Practical applicability, if any:

Practically, for language teaching (both English and Vietnamese), the work will provide assistance to English-speaking learners of Vietnamese and Vietnamese learners of English to distinguish one kind of idiom from others in each language. The work will also enable learners to tell when idioms in English and Vietnamese are similar and different, which is likely to be useful for their study. Language teachers will be aided to help their learners reach this communicative goal. For translation, knowledge of idioms from this work will help translators find closest equivalents to the expression in the source language.

13. Further research directions, if any:

Idioms contain themselves underlying cultural factors which form their own typical nuances and styles. The biggest differences between English and Vietnamese in terms of idiomatic meanings are their nuances and styles. It is still a gap needing to be investigated soon.

14. Thesis-related publications:

Giang, Đ. N. (2009). Idiomatic Variants and Synonymous Idioms in English. *VNU Journal of Science, Foreign Languages*, 25 (2), 81-85.

Giang, Đ. N. (2011). Idiom Variants and Synonymous Idioms in English and Vietnamese: The Similarities and Differences. *VNU Journal of Science, Foreign Languages*, 27 (4), 273-280.

Giang, Đ. N. (2012). Bàn thêm về đặc tính ngữ nghĩa của thành ngữ tiếng Việt [On the semantic properties of Vietnamese idioms]. *Từ điển học và Bách khoa thư*, 15 (1), 38-43.