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Part One: INTRODUCTION

1. RATIONALE

Culture exchange and foreign trade exchange are definitions quite familiar with every Vietnamese people in the 21st century. When more importantly, our country is member of world organization trade (WTO), culture exchange or international business cooperation is boosting than ever before.

My passion is ancestor's saying or idioms since I started going to school. In my mind, there always happened a question that why or where our ancestor created incredible idioms. And my suspect is more and more greater when I enter into my university - their places that help me develop my instinct comprehensively. On the other hand, to understand and communicate English effectively we should not only pay attention to vocabulary, grammar, intonation but master idioms as well. However, "what is an idiom?" I only know that it is very important to all English learners because the misunderstanding of idiom meanings causes the bad effects in communication. But how can idioms affect communication? I know a bit little. So I went to ask so many learners of English as a foreign language this question. But what I received was that "it is very important", but little more.

Being a student of English, I am too shocked in this problem and my desire is to make it clear and to get more comprehensive and specific understanding.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

In order to learn English idioms on natural and geographical phenomena and Vietnamese equivalent better the following methods are used in the studying process:

- + Having discussion with supervisors, teachers and friends.

+ Collecting in file with other words and idioms which have similar meaning

+ Accessing internet or reference in workbook, dictionary and search libraries.

3. RESEARCH PURPOSE AND RESTRICTION

The purpose of this graduation thesis has primarily been to define and describe idioms frequently seen in English – Vietnamese translation which does not completely ruin the whole work though, may confuse or puzzle readers of the target language. To further develop the argument, the thesis works out some of the major causes of non-equivalence in English – Vietnamese translations by not only students of English but also people who practice translating as their profession. Each cause is presented with typical examples taken out from published materials like newspaper articles, translated literary works, and students' translation exercises as well as assignments. The thesis then boldly suggests possible solutions, i.e. a number of strategies translators and would-be translators can employ to address or, at least, minimize these common mistakes.

Idiom is a treasure of each country and it's too difficult to study about the all English idioms because of its immense number. Moreover, my knowledge and time for this study is limited. So, I only study on English idioms on natural and geographical phenomena into Vietnamese the equivalent and non-equivalent between Vietnamese and English idioms.

Being aware of the fact that idioms are extremely difficult topic and merely well-understood by foreign English learners and even if native speakers of English who take the idioms for granted because when they use idioms, they don't know that they are using them, however, appreciate the idioms associated to attitude and behavior of the speakers. So when they hear

foreigners make grammatical or pronunciation mistakes, they are quite willing to accept and understand them. But if inappropriate idioms are used then, they might not understand what person means and that lead to a misunderstanding and boring conversation. Therefore, my research is aimed at:

- + Giving the knowledge of geographical and natural idioms.
- + Distinguishing different kinds of geographical and natural idioms.
- + Raising the learners' awareness of the existence of geographical and natural idioms and the effects using them on communication.
- + Helping the learners use right idioms in right situation.
- + Helping learners compare the equivalent and non-equivalent between English and Vietnamese geographical and natural idioms.

Part Two: DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 1: THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

1.1. What is translation?

Translation is very important but also difficult for English learners. Translation has existed in every corner of our life. It is considered as an indispensable part in the field of not only literature ,culture and religion but also commercial advertisement ,popular entertainment ,public administration ,international diplomacy, scientific research publication ,judiciary procedure ,immigration and educationThus, definitions of translation are numerous and a large numbers of writers have written about this subject In this paper, some various concepts of translation have been collected as follows:

- Translation is the copy made in one language of what has been written, or spoken in another.
- Translation consists of producing in the target language the closet natural equivalent of the source language message, firstly with respect to meaning and secondly with respect to style.(E.A.Nida, 1959)
- Translation is the action of interpretation of the meaning of a text, and subsequent production of an equivalent text, also called a translation, that communicated the same message in another language. The text to be translated is called the “source text”, and the language it is to be translated into is called the “target text.”
- Translation is the transformation of a text originally in one language into an equivalent in the content of the message and the formal features and the roles of the original text (Bell , 1991).

- Translation is made possible by an equivalent of thought that lies behind its different verbal expressions (Savory , 1968).
- Translation is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that author intended the text (Newmark , 1988).
- Translation, as process of conveying messages across the linguistic and cultural barriers, is an eminently communicative activity, one whose use could be well considered in a wider range of teaching situation than may currently be the case (Tudor, cited in Duff, 1989: 5).

Although these definitions are different in expression, they share common features about finding the closest equivalence in meaning by the choice of appreciate target language's lexical and grammatical structures, communication situation, and cultural context. Some sort of movement from one language to another depends on translation types that will be show in the next part.

Or sometimes translation is defined simply such as “a piece of writing or speech that has been translated from a different language.”

For example:

“On the sly he leads a very gay life.”

In order to translate this sentence correctly we should analyze it clearly.

“*On the sly*” means secret, “*Lead a gay life*” refer to a licentious life. So this sentence is translated into Vietnamese “*Anh ta giấu cuộc sống hết sức trác táng của mình.*”

Or:

“*He promised to give his son anything within reason for his twenty-first birthday.*”

In this sentence we should pay attention to phrase “anything within reason”. Anything within reason means reasonable anything which father’s ability can give his son. In some countries, adolescent at the age of 21 can be considered as a mature person. This sentence mean: “*Ông ta đã hứa tặng cho con trai mình bất cứ thứ gì vừa túi tiền nhân dịp sinh nhật lần thứ 21 của cậu ấy.*”

1.2 Translation types.

The translation types are often categorized by the number of areas of specialization. Each specialization has its own strategies and difficulties. Some translation types are list as following:

1.2.1 Word-for-word translation: the SL word order is preserved and the words are translated by their most common meanings. Cultural words are translated literally. The main use of this method is either to understand the mechanics of the source language or to construe a difficult text as pre-translation process.

For example:

My father is proposed by the director

Bố tôi được đề bạt bởi giám đốc

1.2.2 Literal translation:

Literal translation is a broader form of translation, each SL word has a corresponding TL word, but their primary meanings may differ. The SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents but the lexical items are again translated out of context. Literal translation is considered the basic translation step, both in communicative and semantic translation, in that translation starts from there. As pre-translation process, it indicates problems to be solved.

For examples:

The careless watchman was responsible for the fire to a great extent.

Người bảo vệ bất cẩn chịu trách nhiệm phần lớn về vụ hỏa hoạn.

He must use his personal property to settle the debts of the business of he goes bankrupt.

Anh ta phải dùng tài sản cá nhân của mình để trả món nợ của doanh nghiệp nếu anh ta bị phá sản.

1.2.3 Faithful translation:

Faithful translation attempts to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the TL grammatical structures. It transfers cultural words and preserves the degree of grammatical and lexical deviation from SL norms. It attempts to be completely faithful to the intentions and the text-realization of the SL writer.

For example:

Today the Vietnamese are, almost no exception, extremely friendly to Western visitors.

Ngày nay, người Việt Nam, gần như không có ngoại lệ, đều rất thân thiện với khách du lịch người phương Tây.

(Text book for Translation 1-Haiphong private university)

1.2.4 Semantic translation:

Semantic translation differs from faithful translation only in as far as it must take more account of the aesthetic value of the SL text, compromising on meaning where appropriate so that no assonance, word play or repetition jars in the finished version. It does not rely on cultural equivalence and makes very small concessions to the readership. While faithful translation is dogmatic, semantic translation is more flexible. Newark (1982:22) says

that"...semantic translating where the translator attempt, within the base syntactic and semantic constrains of the TL, to reproduce the precise contextual meaning of the author".

For example:

Today the Vietnamese are, almost no exception, extremely friendly to Western visitors

Ngày nay, người Việt Nam đều rất thân thiện với các khách du lịch nước ngoài.

(Text book for Translation 1-Haiphong private university)

1.2.5 Adaptation:

This is the freest form of translation mainly used for plays and poetry: theme, characters, plots preserved, SL culture converted to TL culture and text is rewritten. Dung Vu (2004) points out that "Adaptation has a property of lending the ideas of the original to create a new text used by a new language more than to be faithful to be original. The creation in adaptation is completely objective in contents as well as form".

For example:

Thà một phút huy hoàng rồi chợt tắt

Còn hơn buồn le lói suốt trăm năm

(Xuân Diệu)

It would rather the victorious brightness

In an only moment the centenary twinkle

1.2.6 Free translation:

Free translation reproduces the matter without the manner, or the content without the form of the original. Usually it is a paraphrase much longer than the original, a so-called “intralingua translation” often prolix and pretentious and not translation at all.

The advantage of this type of translation is that the text in TL sounds more natural. On the contrary, the disadvantage is that translating is too casual to understand the original because of its freedom (Dung Vu, 2004, www.talawas.org)

For example:

To reduce fertility rate the present 3.7 children per woman to replacement level of 2.

Tỉ lệ sinh hiện tại của phụ nữ giảm từ 3,7 xuống còn 2 trẻ.

1.2.7 Idiomatic translation:

Idiomatic translation is used for colloquialism and idioms whose literalism is the translation by which the translator does not transfer the literalism of the original, uses the translation of colloquialism and idioms.

For instance:

“He is a really strict and crude boss. He *breaks his staff's back* all week.”

The phrase “*to break somebody's back*” is not only understood as someone back is broken. It has an idiomatic meaning. It means force somebody to work hard. So the sentence “He breaks his staff's back all week” means the boss forces his staff work hard all week.

Or:

E.g.: Love me, love my dog

Yêu em yêu cả đường đi lối về

E.g.: Follow love and it'll flee thee, flee love and it will follow thee

Theo tình thì tình chạy, trốn tình thì tình theo

1.2.8 Communicative translation:

It attempts to render the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that both language and content are readily acceptable and comprehensible to the readership. "...But even here the translator still has to respect and work on the form of the source language text as the only material basis for his work" (Peter Newmark, 1982:39).

For example:

Good morning

Bác đi đâu đấy ạ!

Bác đi làm đồng đấy ạ!

1.2.9 Translation by using a loan word is particularly common in dealing with culture-specific items, modern concepts and buzz words. Using a loan word is dramatically strong method applied for the word which have foreign origin or have no equivalence in TL.

1.2.10 Shift or transposition translation: A "Shift" Catford term or "Transposition" (Vinay & Darbelnet) is a translation procedure involving a change in the grammar from SL to TL. One type, the change in the word order is named "Automatic translation", and offers translator no choice.

There are many differences between idioms and proverbs:

Idiom	Proverb
1. Idiom is a regularly used from words, particularly in some way either to an individual or a group. It can from a style of communication.	1. Proverb is a saying that makes a truth or piece of wisdom easier to remember.
2. An expression whose meaning in not predictable from the usual meanings of its constituent elements, as “go to the dog, let the cat out of the bag, etc” or from the general grammatical rules of a languages as “the table round” for “the round table”, and which is not a constituent of a larger expression of like characteristics.	2. A short popular sayings, usually of unknown and ancient origin, that expresses effectively some common places truth or useful thought, adages, saw.
3. A languages, dialect, or style of speaking peculiar to people.	3. A wise saying or precept, a didactic sentence.
4. A construction or expression of one language whose parts correspond to elements in another language but whose total structure or meaning is not matched in the same way in the second language.	4. A person or thing that is commonly regarded as an embodiment or representation of some quality, by word.

5. The peculiar character or genius of a language.	5. In a biblical sense, a profound saying, maxim, or oracular utterance requiring interpretation.
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1.3 An overview of idioms

1.3.1 What is an idiom?

It is important to recognize that idioms are not only colloquial expression as many people believe. They appear in formal style, in slang, in poetry. . .

There is very often no way of guessing the meaning of an idiom simply by looking at the individual words it contains.

What then is an idiom?

In Vietnamese Dictionary, they say about idioms as follow:

“Thành ngữ là một tập hợp từ đã quen dùng mà nghĩa thường không thể giải thích được một cách đơn giản bằng nghĩa thường của các từ tạo nên nó.”

And according to The Oxford Learner’s Dictionary:

“An idiom can be defined as a number of words which when taken together, have a different meaning from the individual meanings of each word.”

And another definition of idiom:

“Idioms are words, phrases, or expression that can not be taken literal. In other words, when used in everyday language, they have the meaning other than the basic one you would find in the dictionary. Every language a lot easier and more fun”

And sometimes idioms are defined as *“a phrase, construction, or expression that is understood in a given language. This expression has a meaning that*

differs from typical syntactic patterns or that differs from the literal meaning of its parts taken together.”

In fact, this is what can make idioms all the more confusing.

For example, the learner may know the words get and goat, and wonder why she doesn't understand the sentence You get my goat! In fact, she has little chance of guessing, out of context, that it means *You irritate me!*

Or other examples:

E.g.: “Break a leg”

- Literal meaning someone's leg is broken and he or she should go to the doctor afterwards to get it fixed.
- Idiomatic meaning: do your best and do well. Often, actors tell each other to “break a leg” before they go out on stage to perform.

E.g.: “To kick the bucket”

“Peter was very surprised when he heard that Mary's husband kicked the bucket one year ago”.

Here, the phrase “kicked the bucket” doesn't mean the literal meaning as usual but it has an idiom meaning. That is “to die”. So we can understand this above sentence that Peter was surprised because Mary's husband died one year ago.

E.g.: “To throw in the towel”

“Because of her, he is willing to throw in the towel even his current job”

This sentence can't be understood that he is willing to throw his job in the towel, because of her as literal meaning. The phrase “throw in the towel” means: to stop or to give up. So this sentence should be understood that *because of her, he is willing to give up even his current job.*

E.g.: “Give a hand”

“Give a hand” is an idiom and its meaning can not exactly be deduced from its components because if we analyze its literal meaning, the idiom will be translated that someone wants to borrow somebody’s hand. But its real meaning does not lie in the surface of words, hand is a part of human body and function is to work. Therefore, when somebody has its do something for him he will say “give me a hand”. “Give me a hand” is not for shaking here but for working, so “give me a hand” means “need a help”.

In conclusion, the above ideas are in common, it is difficult to define idioms exactly but we can confirm that are fixed expressions and their meaning are understood indirectly through visible words in each.

1.3.2 Translation equivalence.

The comparison of texts in different languages inevitably involves a theory of equivalence. Equivalences can be said to be the central issue in translation although its definition, relevance, and applicability within the field of translation theory have caused heated controversy, and many different theories of the concept of equivalence have been elaborated within this field in the past fifty years. Pym (1992) has pointed to its circularity: equivalence is supposed to define translation, in turn, defines equivalence. Here are some elaborate approaches to translation equivalence:

- Translational equivalence is the similarity between a word (or expression) in one language and its translation in another. This similarity results from overlapping ranges of reference.
- A translation equivalent is a corresponding word or expression in another language.(*Lingua Links Library*, Version 5.0 published on CD-ROM by SIL International, 2003).

Nida argued that there are two different types of translation equivalence, namely formal equivalence- which in the second edition by Nida and Taber (1982) is referred to as *formal correspondence*- and *dynamic equivalence*. Formal correspondence “focuses attention on the message itself, in both form and content”, unlike dynamic equivalence which is based upon “the principle of equivalent effect” (1964:159). In the second edition (1982) of their work, the two theorists provide a more detailed explanation of each type of equivalence.

Formal correspondence consists of a TL item which represents the closest equivalent word or phrase. Nida and Taber make it clear that there are not always formal equivalents between language pairs. They therefore suggest that these formal equivalents should be used wherever possible if the translation aims at achieving formal rather than dynamic equivalence. The use of formal equivalents might at times have serious implications in the TT since the translation will not be easily understood by the target audience (Fawcett, 1997). Nida and Taber themselves assert that “Typically, formal correspondence distorts the grammatical and stylistic patterns of the receptor language, and hence distorts the message, so as to cause the receptor to misunderstand or to labor unduly hard” (ibid: 201).

Dynamic equivalence is defined as a translation principle according to which a translator seeks to translate the meaning of the original in such a way that the TL wording will trigger the same impact on the TC audience as the original wording did upon the ST audience. They argue that “Frequently, the form of the original text is changed; but as long as the change follows the rules of back transformation in the source language, of contextual consistency

in the transfer, and of transformation in the receptor language, the message is preserved and the translation is faithful” (Nida and Taber, 1982:200).

Newmark (1988) defines that: “The overriding purpose of any translation should be to achieve ‘equivalence effect’ i.e. to produce the same effect on the readership of translation as was obtained on the readership of the original”. He also sees equivalence effect as the *desirable* result rather than the aim of any translation except for two cases: (a) If the purpose of the SL text is to affect and the TL translation is to inform or vice ; (b) If there is a pronounced cultural gap between the SL and the TL text.

Keller (1979) considers five types of equivalence:

- Denotative equivalence: the SL and the TL words refer to the same thing in the real world. It is an equivalence of the extra linguistic content of a text.
- Connotative equivalence: This type of equivalence provides additional value and is achieved by the translator’s choice of synonymous words or expressions.
- Text-normative equivalence: The SL and the TL words are used in the same or similar context in their respective languages.
- Pragmatic equivalence: With readership orientation, the SL and TL words have the same effect on their respective readers.
- Formal equivalence: This type of equivalence produces an analogy of form in the translation by either exploiting formal possibilities of TL, or creating new forms in TL.

Although equivalence translation is a different point of view of theorists, it is the same effective equivalence between SL and TL.

1.3.3 Non-equivalent cases.

1.3.3.1 Transliteration.

When we see the individual word, we can guess the meaning of the idioms.

For example:

- Build bridges: means when there are some people or groups don't have same ideas or argument with each other, you will help them to cooperate and understand each other better. You have a function as a bridge to cooperate them.
- Like a thief in the night: means someone does something secretly or in an unexpected manner.
- Go too far: refers to the action that you do is considered extreme or unacceptable.
- Make someone see reason means you persuade them to stop acting foolishly and behave more sensible.

1.3.3.2 Explanation

The idioms can't be guessed the meaning by seeing the individual word but only explanation.

For example:

- Play truant: means you stay away from school without permission or excuse.
- Couch potato: you refer to someone who is spending a lot of time sitting and watching television.
- All ears: means you are listening very attentively.
- Tell a white lie: means to say something which is not true in order to protect someone or to avoid hurting their feelings.

CHAPTER 2: TRANSLATION OF ENGLISH IDIOMS ON NATURAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL PHENOMENA INTO VIETNAMESE.

2.1 The meanings of English idioms on natural and geographical phenomenon.

E.g. 1: **(on) cloud nine**: extremely happy

Andrea was **on cloud nine** when she bought her new car.

E.g.2: **dig deep**: look hard for information

I had to **dig deep** to find my old report cards.

E.g.3: **dirt cheap**: very inexpensive

The clothes at the thrift shop are **dirt cheap**.

E.g.4: **down to earth**: natural or real (personality)

Lucile is really **down to earth** for a woman with so much money.

E.g.5: **fair-weather friend**: a person who is only a friend in good times

I can't talk to Nancy about my boyfriend problems. She's only a **fair-weather friend**.

E.g.6: **a field day**: a very enjoyable time

The kids had a **field day** at the water slide park.

E.g.7: **go downhill**: get progressively worse

My grades started **going downhill** when I got a part-time job.

E.g.8: **go with the flow**: continue in the same way as others

Nobody trained me at work. I just **went with the flow**.

E.g.9: **hit the hay**: go to sleep

I'm exhausted. I think I'll **hit the hay** early tonight.

E.g.10: **hit the road**: leave

It's getting late. We had better **hit the road**.

E.g.11: **keep one's head above water**: have just enough money to live

It's hard to **keep my head above water** with all of these medical bills.

E.g.12: **know which way the wind blows**: know how things will turn out

Who **knows which way the wind will blow**? I just hope Jesse gets one of the jobs he's applied for.

E.g.13: **make a mountain out of a molehill**: make a small problem seem big
The car only got a tiny dent. You're **making a mountain out of a molehill**.

E.g.14: **out of the woods**: clear of danger

The doctor said my heart is doing better, but I'm not **out of the woods yet**.

E.g.15: **over the hill**: past middle age

I knew I was **over the hill** when I started needing glasses to read.

E.g.16: **rain on someone else's parade**: ruin somebody else's happiness

Whenever I had a dance recital, my older brother always **rained on my parade**.

E.g.17: **stick-in-the-mud**: a loner or person who won't join in

They didn't bother inviting Charles to the party because he's always a **stick-in-the-mud**.

E.g.18: **(as) quick as lightning**: very fast

Wow! Your shower was as **quick as lightning**.

E.g.19: **the tip of the iceberg**: a small part of a large problem

The lost tickets were just the **tip of the iceberg**.

E.g.20: **take a rain check**: accept at a later date

I'd love to go out for dinner, but can I take a **rain check**?

E.g.21: **under the weather**: ill

I was feeling **under the weather** so I went back to bed.

E.g.22: **up the creek**: in trouble

If my Dad finds out I had a party I'll be **up the creek**.

E.g.23: **win by a landslide**: win by a lot of points

The skier in the green coat **won by a landslide**.

E.g.24: **(get) wind of something**: overhear something about someone or something (often gossip)

My Dad has a new girlfriend. I **got wind of it** over dinner tonight.

E.g.25: **Bolt from the blue**: If something happens unexpectedly and suddenly, it is a bolt from the blue.

E.g.26: **Brighten up the day**: If something brightens up your day, something happens that makes you feel positive and happy all day long.

E.g.27: **Calm before the storm**: A calm time immediately before period of violent activity or argument is the calm before the storm.

E.g.28: **Chase rainbows**: If someone chases rainbows, they try to do something that they will never achieve.

E.g.30: **Cloud of suspicion**: If a cloud of suspicion hangs over an individual, it means that they are not believed or are distrusted.

E.g.31: **Cloud on the horizon**: If you can see a problem ahead, you can call it a cloud on the horizon.

E.g.32: **Cold light of day**: If you see things in the cold light of day, you see them as they really are, not as you might want them to be.

E.g.33: **Colder than a witches tit**: If it is colder than a witches tit, it is extremely cold outside.

E.g.34: **Come rain or shine**: If I say I'll be at a place come rain or shine, I mean that I can be relied on to turn up; nothing, not even the vagaries of British weather, will deter me or stop me from being there.

E.g.35: **Doldrums**: If a person is in the doldrums, they are depressed. If a project or something similar is in the doldrums, it isn't making any progress.

E.g.36: **Down in the doldrums**: If somebody's down in the doldrums, they are depressed and lacking energy.

E.g.37: **Dry spell** : If something or someone is having a dry spell, they aren't being as successful as they normally are.

E.g.38: **Every cloud has a silver lining** : People sometimes say that every cloud has a silver lining to comfort somebody who's having problems. They mean that it is always possible to get something positive out of a situation, no matter how unpleasant, difficult or even painful it might seem.

E.g.39: **Face like thunder**: If someone has a face like thunder, they are clearly very angry or upset about something.

E.g.40: **Once in a blue moon**: If something happens once in a blue moon, it occurs very rarely

“Bill has very little contact with his brother. They see each other once in a blue moon.”

E.g.41: **Get wind of**: If you get wind of something, you hear or learn about it, especially if it was meant to be secret.

E.g.42: **Greased lightning**: If something or someone moves like greased lightning, they move very fast indeed.

E.g.43: **Head is in the clouds**: If a person has their head in the clouds, they have unrealistic, impractical ideas.

E.g.44: **Hit rough weather**: If you hit rough weather, you experience difficulties or problems.

E.g.45: **In a fog**: If you're in a fog, you are confused, dazed or unaware.

E.g.46: **Into each life some rain must fall**: This means that bad or unfortunate things will happen to everyone at some time.

E.g.47: **It never rains but it pours**: 'It never rains but it pours' means that when things go wrong, they go very wrong.

E.g.48: **Jack Frost**: If everything has frozen in winter, then Jack Frost has visited.

E.g.49: **Know which way the wind blows**: This means that you should know how things are developing and be prepared for the future.

E.g.50: **Made in the shade:** One has an easy time in life or in a given situation. Finding things working to one's benefit.

E.g.51: **Quiet before the Storm:** When you know that something is about to go horribly wrong, but hasn't just yet, then you are in the quiet before the storm.

E.g.52: **Rain on your parade:** If someone rains on your parade, they ruin your pleasure or your plans.

E.g.53: **Rainy day:** If you save something, especially money, for a rainy day, you save it for some possible problem or trouble in the future.

E.g.54: **Right as rain:** If things are right as rain, then everything is going well in your life.

E.g.55: **Sail close to the wind:** If you sail close to the wind, you take risks to do something, going close to the limit of what is allowed or acceptable.

E.g.56: **Seven sheets to the wind:** If someone is seven sheets to the wind, they are very drunk.

E.g.57: **Shoot the breeze:** When you shoot the breeze, you chat in a relaxed way.

E.g.58: **Silly season:** The silly season is midsummer when Parliament is closed and nothing much is happening that is newsworthy, which reduces the press to reporting trivial and stupid stories.

E.g.59: **Steal someone's thunder:** If someone steals your thunder, they take the credit and praise for something you did.

E.g.60: **Stem the tide:** If people try to stem the tide, they are trying to stop something unpleasant from getting worse, usually when they don't succeed.

E.g.61: **Storm in a teacup:** If someone exaggerates a problem or makes a small problem seem far greater than it really is, then they are making a storm in a teacup.

E.g.62: **Take a rain check:** If you take a rain check, you decline an offer now, suggesting you will accept it later. ('Rain check' is also used.)

E.g.63: **Tempest in a teapot:** If people exaggerate the seriousness of a situation or problem, they are making a tempest in a teapot.

E.g.64: **Throw caution to the wind:** When people throw caution to the wind, they take a great risk.

E.g.65: **Twisting in the wind:** If you are twisting in the wind, you are without help or support - you are on your own.

E.g.66: **Under a cloud:** If someone is suspected of having done something wrong, they are under a cloud.

E.g.67: **Wait for a raindrop in the drought:** When someone is waiting for a raindrop in the drought, they are waiting or hoping for something that is extremely unlikely to happen.

E.g.68: **Weather a storm:** If you weather a storm, you get through a crisis or hard times.

E.g.69: **When it rains, it pours:** This idiom means that when things go wrong, a lot of things go wrong at the same time.

E.g.70: **White as snow:** If something or someone is as white as snow, they are perfect or completely uncorrupted and honest.

E.g.71: **a snowball's chance** very little chance (as much chance as a snowball has in hell)

"We don't have a snowball's chance of winning that contract!"

E.g.72: **a storm in a teacup:** a lot of fuss over something small

"Don't worry about those two arguing. it's just a storm in a teacup."

E.g.73: **be a breeze:** to be easy

"The exam was a breeze."

E.g.74: **be snowed under:** to be very busy

"We're snowed under at work."

E.g.75: **blow hot and cold**: to keep changing your attitude

"They're blowing hot and cold over this issue. It's impossible to know what they want!"

E.g.76: **brass-monkey weather**: very cold weather

"It's brass-monkey weather today. You'd better wrap up warm!"

E.g.77: **come rain or shine**: whatever happens

"He's always working in his garden - come rain or shine."

E.g.78: **the lull before the storm**: a quiet time before a busy or difficult time

"It's going to get very busy on Thursday. Today and tomorrow are just the lull before the storm."

E.g.79: **save up for a rainy day**: put money aside for when you might need it later

"I don't want to spend this extra money. I'll save it up for a rainy day."

E.g.80: **see which way the wind blows**: to analyze a situation before doing something

"I'm going to see which way the wind blows before asking her about a raise."

2.2 English idioms on natural and geographical phenomenon compared to Vietnamese equivalent.

E.g.1:(on) **cloud nine**: extremely happy

Cảm giác thăng hoa, lên mây

E.g.2:**dig deep**: look hard for information

Tìm kiếm kỹ lưỡng, moi móc

E.g.3:**dirt cheap**: very inexpensive

Rẻ như bèo

E.g.4: **see which way the wind blows**: to analyze a situation before doing something

Xem dư luận ra sao, xem thời thế sẽ thế nào

"I'm going to see which way the wind blows before asking her about a raise."

E.g.5: **fair-weather friend**: a person who is only a friend in good times

Người cơ hội

I can't talk to Nancy about my boyfriend problems. She's only a **fair-weather friend**.

E.g.6: **a field day**: a very enjoyable time

Ngày đáng nhớ

The kids had a **field day** at the water slide park.

E.g.7: **go downhill**: get progressively worse

Xuống dốc không phanh

My grades started **going downhill** when I got a part-time job.

E.g.8: **save up for a rainy day**: put money aside for when you might need it later

Tiết kiệm, tiền bỏ ống, dành dụm

E.g.9: **the lull before the storm**: a quiet time before a busy or difficult time

"It's going to get very busy on Thursday. Today and tomorrow are just the lull before the storm."

"I don't want to spend this extra money. I'll save it up for a rainy day."

Thời gian thanh bình trong cuộc đời trước khi những bão tố ập đến

E.g.10: **hit the road**: leave

Lên đường

It's getting late. We had better **hit the road**.

E.g.11: **keep one's head above water**: have just enough money to live

Đủ ăn đủ tiêu

It's hard to **keep my head above water** with all of these medical bills.

E.g.12: **come rain or shine**: whatever happens

Trong bất kỳ hoàn cảnh nào

"He's always working in his garden - come rain or shine."

If I say I'll be at a place come rain or shine, I mean that I can be relied on to turn up; nothing, not even the vagaries of British weather, will deter me or stop me from being there.

E.g.13: **Tempest in a teapot**: If people exaggerate the seriousness of a situation or problem, they are making a tempest in a teapot.

The entire issue of who was to present the report was just a tempest in a teapot. The argument at the office turned into a tempest in a teacup. No one really cared about the outcome.

“Việc bé xé ra to”

E.g.14: **out of the woods**: clear of danger

Khỏi nguy hiểm, thoát nạn

The doctor said my heart is doing better, but I'm not **out of the woods yet**.

E.g.15: **over the hill**: past middle age

Lên dốc

I knew I was **over the hill** when I started needing glasses to read.

E.g.16: **rain on someone else's parade**: ruin somebody else's happiness

Whenever I had a dance recital, my older brother always **rained on my parade**.

Phá vỡ hạnh phúc của người khác

E.g.17: **the tip of the iceberg**: a small part of a large problem

The lost tickets were just the **tip of the iceberg**.

Phần nhỏ của vấn đề lớn

E.g.18: **brass-monkey weather**: very cold weather

"It's brass-monkey weather today. You'd better wrap up warm!"

Thời tiết rất lạnh

E.g.19: **under the weather**: ill

Khó ở, hơi mệt

I was feeling **under the weather** so I went back to bed.

E.g.20: **(get) wind of something**: overhear something about someone or something (often gossip)

Nghe phong thanh, biết được bí mật của ai đó

My Dad has a new girlfriend. I **got wind of it** over dinner tonight.

E.g.21: **Bolt from the blue**: If something happens unexpectedly and suddenly, it is a bolt from the blue.

Việc gì xảy ra bất thành lình, tiếng sét ngang tai

E.g.22: **Brighten up the day**: If something brightens up your day, something happens that makes you feel positive and happy all day long.

Làm vui hạnh phúc cả ngày

E.g.23: **Weather a storm**: If you weather a storm, you get through a crisis or hard times.

Dầm mưa dãi gió

E.g.24: **Cold light of day**: If you see things in the cold light of day, you see them as they really are, not as you might want them to be.

Những ngày suy sụp

E.g.25: **be a breeze**: to be easy

Để được dễ dàng

"The exam was a breeze."

E.g.26: **a snowball's chance** very little chance (as much chance as a snowball has in hell)

Rất ít cơ hội

"We don't have a snowball's chance of winning that contract!"

E.g.27: **Doldrums**: If a person is in the doldrums, they are depressed. If a project or something similar is in the doldrums, it isn't making any progress.

Buồn nản/ Tình trạng lặng gió

E.g.28: **Down in the doldrums**: If somebody's down in the doldrums, they are depressed and lacking energy.

Sở hữu trong nhiều năm

E.g.29: **Dry spell** : If something or someone is having a dry spell, they aren't being as successful as they normally are.

Gây thiệt hại trong mùa màng

E.g.30: **Every cloud has a silver lining** : People sometimes say that every cloud has a silver lining to comfort somebody who's having problems. They mean that it is always possible to get something positive out of a situation, no matter how unpleasant, difficult or even painful it might seem.

Trong cái rủi có cái may

E.g.31: **It never rains but it pours**: 'It never rains but it pours' means that when things go wrong, they go very wrong.

Phúc bất trùng lai họa vô đơn chí

E.g.32: **Wait for a raindrop in the drought**: When someone is waiting for a raindrop in the drought, they are waiting or hoping for something that is extremely unlikely to happen.

Mơ mộng hảo huyền

E.g.33: **be snowed under**: to be very busy

Rất bận

"We're snowed under at work."

E.g.34: **blow hot and cold**: to keep changing your attitude

Hay thay đổi ý kiến

"They're blowing hot and cold over this issue. It's impossible to know what they want!"

E.g.35: **Rain on your parade**: If someone rains on your parade, they ruin your pleasure or your plans.

Làm mất cả hứng

E.g.36: **Rainy day**: If you save something, especially money, for a rainy day, you save it for some possible problem or trouble in the future.

Phòng khi trời nắngchở trời

E.g.37: **Right as rain:** If things are right as rain, then everything is going well in your life.

Đâu vào đấy/ Mọi thứ đều suôn sẻ

E.g.38: **Sail close to the wind:** If you sail close to the wind, you take risks to do something, going close to the limit of what is allowed or acceptable.

He never actually tells lies ,but he often sails pretty close to the wind

Hành động phiêu liêu,bất hợp pháp

E.g.39: **White as snow:** If something or someone is as white as snow, they are perfect or completely uncorrupted and honest.

Trắng như tuyết

E.g.40: **Shoot the breeze:** When you shoot the breeze, you chat in a relaxed way.

Gió thổi huu huu

E.g.41: **Silly season:** The silly season is midsummer when Parliament is closed and nothing much is happening that is newsworthy, which reduces the press to reporting trivial and stupid stories.

Mùa vớ vẩn(thường vào mùa hè, lúc báo chí thiếu thông tin, toàn chuyện vớ vẩn)

E.g.42: **(as) quick as lightning:** very fast

Wow! Your shower was as **quick as lightning**.

Nhanh như chớp

If you do something as quick as a flash, you do it very quickly .Quick as a flash, he snatched the book and ran out of the room.

E.g.43: **Under a cloud:** If someone is suspected of having done something wrong, they are under a cloud.

Bị nghi ngờ, bị nhục nhã

E.g.44: **The grass is always greener in the other side of the hill**

The grass always looks greener on the other side of the fence,' said another informant, explaining that while stores who do practice the system are uneasy about it those outside constantly wonder whether results might not justify it.

Đứng núi này trông núi nọ

However, many English idioms that seem not to mention anything to natural and geographical phenomenon is equivalent to Vietnamese idioms relating to natural and geographical phenomenon.

- Fight a losing battle.

“A *losing battle*” means the battle is finishing and there will be lose side and win side. So this idiom refers to person who is trying to do something even when there is little chance of succeeding.

“The headmaster is fighting a losing battle trying to ban mobile phones at school.”

This sentence means that the headmaster knows banning mobile phones at school maybe bring no result but he still tries.

In Vietnamese we say:

“Còn nước còn tát”.

There is some idioms having the same meaning with the mentioned idiom such as: “*Where’s there’s life, there’s hope*”

- Give someone a taste of their own medicine: treating someone in the same unpleasant way that he/she has treated.

“People who always arrive late should be given a taste of their own medicine.”

This sentence refers to people who are always late will get the consequence from it.

There are some idioms having the same meaning such as:

“What goes around, will come around”.

Or

“He who sows the wind shall reap the tempest”

Or

“We reap what we sow”

Or

“Curses come home to roost”

In Vietnamese we say:

“Gieo gió gặt bão”

- To be in smooth water

This idiom refers to doing something naturally and easily, without fear or hesitation.

In Vietnamese, we have some equivalents:

“Lên như diều gặp gió”

“Thuận buồm xuôi gió”

“Như cá gặp nước”

There are some idioms having the same meaning such as:

“Take to something like a duck to water”

Or

“To be able to do something on one’s head”

Or

“Feel like duck in water”

Or

“After a storm comes a clam”

Or

“After rain comes fair weather”

In Vietnamese, we say:

“Sau cơn mưa trời lại sáng”

- When it rain, it pours

Or

“Heavy rain is strong wind”

Or

“A great ship asks deep water”

These idioms mean that when a thing goes wrong, a lot of things go wrong at the same time.

In Vietnamese, we say:

“Mưa to, gió lớn”

- Constant dropping water wears away the stone

This idiom means that even though something may seem impossible, if you break it up into small parts and take one step at a time, you will succeed.

In Vietnamese, we say:

“Nước chảy đá mòn”

There are some idioms having the same meaning with the mentioned idiom such as:

“Constant dropping wears stone”

“Little strokes fell great oaks”

- You can't teach an old dog new tricks.

Something that you say which means it is difficult to make someone change the way they do something when they have been doing it the same way for a long time.

For example:

“You’re never going to teach your father at the age of 79 to use a computer. You can’t teach an old new tricks, you know.”

In Vietnamese, we say:

“Tre già khó uốn”

- Time and tide wait for no man

The first idiom mean: Nobody can stop the progression of time

The second idiom means: We should act on favorable opportunities immediately, without delay.

The real meaning of “tide” is the rising and falling of the sea caused by the attraction of the moon and the sun. The real meaning of “tide” in this saying may originally have been the same as “time”.

No one is so powerful that they can stop the march of time.

That literal interpretation of 'tide' in 'time and tide' is what is now usually understood, but wasn't what was meant in the original version of the expression. 'Tide' didn't refer to the contemporary meaning of the word, i.e. the rising and falling of the sea, but to a period of time.

In Vietnamese, we say:

“Thời gian và nước thủy triều không đợi ai cả”

- Don’t let the grass grow under your feet

This idiom means that: Act now without any delay

If you say “Don’t let the grass grow under your feet” to someone, you tell him not to waste time and to do something immediately.

If someone doesn't let the grass grow under his, he does something right now without waiting.

This expression alludes to waiting so long that grass can grow.

For examples:

“Now that you know what to do, act right away. Don't let the grass grow under your feet.”

“We can't let the grass grow under your feet – we've really got to get going with this project.”

In Vietnamese, we say:

“Đừng để nước đến chân mới nhảy”

- Beauty is only skin deep

The phrase "beauty is only skin deep" is presumptive, misleading and a patently false statement. It presumes, first of all, that everyone accepts the standard definition of beauty, i.e., a person whose physical appearance would be appealing to a majority of people. That majority would first have to agree on a definition of beauty. It also negates the concept that beauty comes from within! True beauty goes much deeper than skin. It's difficult to interpret because I don't know that either gender would view themselves in the same light as someone of the opposite sex would. But, the essence is that, if you perceive that a person's features are arranged in a way that is pleasing to you, take it for what it is - a pleasant looking face! Nothing more, nothing less. Also, many thanks to the researcher in Social Psychology - interesting, informative and thought-provoking response.

In Vietnamese, we say:

“Tốt gỗ hơn tốt nước sơn”

- It's good fishing in troubled water

This intensive study of a single idiom is intended to show the variety and difficulty of the idioms that arise in investigating even a single text. It owes a great deal to the kindness of friends, who are gratefully remembered. Because the idioms are difficult and because many books have not been within my reach there is much yet to be done. Yet one can say, "It is good fishing in muddy waters."

From the beginning the adjective "troubled" or "muddy" is standard English usage. It implies a contrast with fishing in clear water or fishing in the sea

In Vietnamese, we say:

"Thừa nước thả câu"

- It is a long road that has no turning

Nothing lasts forever, even the most boring task will be over eventually.

Sometimes a journey can seem very tedious if it is along and follows a straight road, but even the longest road in the world must come to an end and have a turn.

I think it means that things change in life. You would find it difficult to find a road that doesn't have a turn in it in real life. So figuratively it means the situation that you are in will change. This is said when a person feels bad about their present situation

In Vietnamese, we say:

"Sông có khúc người có lúc"

CHAPTER 3: SUGGESTED SOLUTION FOR NON-EQUIVALENT IN TRANSLATION.

3.1. Non-equivalent cases and explanation

During the translation of English idioms relating to on natural and geography phenomenon into Vietnamese, there are some non-equivalent cases between two languages. Some suggestions are presented as followings:

> According to **idiomatic translation**:

“Idiomatic translation is used for colloquialism and idioms whose literalism is the translation by which the translator does not transfer the literalism of the original, uses the translation of colloquialism and idioms.”

For example:

- **down to earth**: natural or real (personality)

This personality refers to a sensible person or a person who knows what is truly important. Being called "down-to-earth" is a good thing.

It's also translated " *Thực tế, nhạy cảm* " as in Vietnamese.

- **hit the hay**: go to sleep

I'm exhausted. I think I'll **hit the hay** early tonight.

It's also translated " *Đi nằm, đi ngủ* " as in Vietnamese.

- **stick-in-the-mud**: a loner or person who won't join in

They didn't bother inviting Charles to the party because he's always a **stick-in-the-mud**.

If my Dad finds out I had a party I'll be **up the creek**.

It's also translated " *Bảo thủ chậm tiến* " as in Vietnamese.

- **win by a landslide:** win by a lot of points

The skier in the green coat **won by a landslide.**

It's also translated "*Sự thắng áp đảo*" as in Vietnamese.

- **Once in a blue moon:** If something happens once in a blue moon, it occurs very rarely

"Bill has very little contact with his brother. They see each other once in a blue moon."

A very rare event. According to popular usage, a blue moon refers to the second full moon that occurs in any calendar month. On average, there will be 41 months that have two full moons in every century. By that calculation 'once in a blue moon' means once every two-and-a-half years.

It's also translated "*Năm thì khi mười họa*" as in Vietnamese.

- **Get wind of something:** If you get wind of something, you hear or learn about it, especially if it was meant to be secret.

To hear a piece of information that someone else was trying to keep secret. I don't want my boss to get wind of the fact that I'm leaving so I'm not telling many people.

It's also understood "*Nghe phong thanh*" as in Vietnamese.

- **up the creek:** in trouble

If someone or something is up the creek, they are in real trouble. "Up the creek without a paddle" is an alternative and "up shit creek (without a paddle)" is a ruder form

It's also understood "*Gặp khó khăn*" as in Vietnamese.

- **Stem the tide:** If people try to stem the tide, they are trying to stop something unpleasant from getting worse, usually when they don't succeed.

Stop the course of a trend or tendency, as in **It is not easy to stem the tide of public opinion**. This idiom uses **stem** in the sense of "stop" or "restrain."

It's also understood "*Ngăn chặn thủy triều*" as in Vietnamese.

- **Take a rain check**: If you take a rain check, you decline an offer now, suggesting you will accept it later. ('Rain check' is also used.)

It's also understood "*Để khi khác hẹn dịp khác*" as in Vietnamese.

- **Throw caution to the wind**: When people throw caution to the wind, they take a great risk.

It means to act irrationally or without thinking about your personal safety. You might say, "throwing caution to the wind, he decided to ride his motorcycle without a helmet."

It's also understood "*Chẳng thèm để ý đến/Không cẩn thận*" as in Vietnamese.

- **Twisting in the wind**: If you are twisting in the wind, you are without help or support - you are on your own.

To be forced to exist without support or help. Some workers were fired and left to twist in the wind after many years on the job. People know she's ambitious and are afraid she might leave the company twisting in the wind if a better job came along.

It's also understood "*Phong ba hiểm nguy, đương đầu với khó khăn*" as in Vietnamese.

- **steal someone's thunder**: do what someone else was going to do and get all the praise

It's also translated "*Nẫng tay trên ai*" as in Vietnamese.

"You'll steal her thunder if you wear that dress tonight!"

To use, appropriate, or preempt the use of another's idea, especially to one's own advantage and without consent by the originator.

- **Seven sheets to the wind:** If someone is seven sheets to the wind, they are very drunk.

It's also translated “*Tình trạng say mê*” as in Vietnamese

> According to **literal translation**

“Literal translation is a broader form of translation, each SL word has a corresponding TL word, but their primary meanings may differ. The SL grammatical constructions are converted to their nearest TL equivalents but the lexical items are again translated out of context. Literal translation is considered the basic translation step, both in communicative and semantic translation, in that translation starts from there. As pre-translation process, it indicates problems to be solved.”

- **Under the weather:** If you are feeling a bit ill, sad or lack energy, you are under the weather.

This popular phrase for "ill" dates back to 1827. It is commonly believed that bad weather can make you sick.

A site visitor gave his/her opinion about this idiom:

I believe that "under the weather" is an old sailor phrase. When men were sick, they would rest below deck and thus were literally "under" the weather on deck

Another site visitor gave his/her opinion about this idiom:

Moreover, the deck they were under was likely "the weather deck", meaning the most exposed deck on the ship, usually the foredeck (over the seamen's quarters at the front end of the ship) or the quarterdeck (where the helm was

located, high for a good view). Either way, if you needed to be sick, you wouldn't want to "toss your cookies" where the wind could toss them back in your face, nor would anyone with you want you to do so. You'd be firmly told to "under the weather" to be sick.

It's also translated "*Bị ốm*" as in Vietnamese.

- **Calm before the storm:** A calm time immediately before period of violent activity or argument is the calm before the storm naturally. In fact, a quiet period just occurs before a period of great activity or excitement (Literal in reference to weather).

For instance, it was very quiet in the cafeteria just before the students came in for lunch. It was the full before the storm. In the brief calm before the storm, the clerks prepared themselves for the doors to open and bring in thousands of shoppers

It's also translated "*yên lặng khác thường trước khi bùng nổ việc gì dữ dội*" as in Vietnamese.

- **Chase rainbows:** If someone chases rainbows, they try to do something that they will never achieve.

To waste your time trying to get or achieve something impossible (usually in continuous tenses). I don't think my parents ever believed I'd make it as an actor. I think they thought I was just chasing rainbows.

It's also translated "*Theo đuổi một mục đích gì đó*" as in Vietnamese.

- **Cloud of suspicion:** If a cloud of suspicion hangs over an individual, it means that they are not believed or are distrusted.

"Under A Cloud Of Suspicion" is for you to completely understand what under a cloud of suspicion means, and to feel confident using "under a cloud of suspicion" correctly in conversation .

It's also translated "*Mơ hồ hoài nghi*" as in Vietnamese.

- **Head is in the clouds:** If a person has their head in the clouds, they have unrealistic, impractical ideas.

It's also translated "*Đầu để trên mây*" as in Vietnamese.

- **Face like thunder:** If someone has a face like thunder, they are clearly very angry or upset about something.

To have a very angry expression I don't know what had happened but he had a face like thunder. She didn't say anything but she looked like thunder.

It's also translated "*Khuôn mặt dữ dằn*" as in Vietnamese.

- **Hit rough weather:** If you hit rough weather, you experience difficulties or problems.

- **In a fog:** If you're in a fog, you are confused, dazed or unaware.

It's also translated "*Bối rối, hoang mang*" as in Vietnamese.

- **Into each life some rain must fall:** This means that bad or unfortunate things will happen to everyone at some time.

It's also translated "*Gian nan rèn luyện sẽ thành công*" as in Vietnamese.

Jack Frost: If everything has frozen in winter, then Jack Frost has visited.

Look what pretty pattern Jack frost has painted on the windows

It's also translated "*Ông già tuyết*" as in Vietnamese.

3.2. Suggested solutions

In fact, many people want to learn English idioms, but they deal with a lot of difficulties. And how to overcome them is still a great question. The following suggestions are referred to help Vietnamese learners in their English studying.

3.2.1 Influence on the culture, the nature and the social condition.

Because of the different geography, the difference between the cultures of two countries is unavoidable, especially the idioms system. So the learners should understand about the culture, belief, regions, habit of both Vietnamese and English so that they can compare and guess the meaning of the idioms. The Vietnamese culture in the language factor is usually a little bit difficult in translating. This requests the theories to learn, making the some quest to the translation of the English-to-Vietnamese language.

It is no doubt that language and culture are completely bound up with each other. Language “immerses” in the culture, so it is the main expression and a communication tool of cultures. It reflects and reveals a nation’s whole cultural contents and connotations, while culture, whose core is the natural linguistic structure, is the basis of language. Culture promotes the change and development of target languages, so it can be called “the life source” of language.

3.2.2 Identifying idioms.

Identifying idioms is not easy so learners should study the features of idioms carefully, and distinguish them from other kinds of set expression to identify idioms better.

Linguists believe that language is a tool for human beings to process the existing world and their own experiences. But because of cultural differences, some languages have strong ability to process words, while some have poor ability. As to the processing ways, some are easy; some complicated. Therefore, though things or phenomena can be expressed in one language, there may be lack of equivalents in other languages

3.2.3 Guessing the meaning.

Most of idioms are difficult to guess the meaning correctly because they have association with the ordinary meaning of the individual words. They can be guessed if they were heard in the context, that is, when we know they are used in a particular situation. Therefore, the learners can analyze the meaning of all components and the relationship among the components or study the meaning in the context or ask the native speakers.

For example, the class system left over by Vietnam's feudal society influenced the over-care classification of words, for the difference in the social structures. The abundant kinship terminology is good evidence, which, from the other side, shows that Vietnamese people pay much attention to the relations among family members or relatives. Contrarily, the kinship terminology in England is very general and vague. For instance, words like aunt, uncle and cousin covers extensive meanings. It becomes a hard problem in translation. The sentence "three cousins of the man were to receive the legacy" gives a good example. When translating it, we could not find an exact version lacking of a certain context, for the words "three cousins" can produce 64 versions, according to the sex, age and on-paternal or on-maternal relation. So it is improper to translate it into "ba người anh em họ của anh ta được quyền nhận thừa kế". On the other hand, if we translate the sentence "đây là cô em con dì ruột tôi !" into "this is my female-cousin-on-maternal-", western readers would find it too absurd and ridiculous to accept, though the translation is exact in meaning. So, in the translating activity, we have to remove the exact kinship and only translate it into "this is my cousin".

3.2.4 Using idioms in the suitable situation.

The main difficulty is that the learners do not know the level of style, that is, whether an idiom can be used in a formal or in an informal situation. In the

formal situation, when we do not know very well the person we are speaking to or the occasion is public, we choose word much more carefully. It would be wrong to choose an informal expression in some rather formal situation and it would be worse to choose a slang expression. This means that we can express the same information or idea in more than one way using different level of style. However, it is advisable not to make frequent use of slang expressions because it is easy to sound strange. And using idioms with neutral style is a good idea.

Besides, knowing an idiom is natural or appropriate in a certain situation is also a difficulty. This can only be learnt by careful reading of English texts which contain idioms. The learners should by careful note of examples of usage in typical situations.

3.2.5 Finding Vietnamese equivalents.

When translating English idioms, it is not easy for Vietnamese equivalent suitable to the nuance of meaning of English idioms. Some English idioms have more than one Vietnamese equivalent so we should be careful when choosing them because if we choose the idioms which reflect the specialties of Vietnamese nature and society too much, the unity of English style will be lost.

Some English idioms have no Vietnamese equivalent, we can translate them into our language but we must keep the suitable nuance of meaning.

3.2.6 Suggested exercises on English idioms.

During the process of researching this graduation paper, we find out that English idioms are very diverse and rich, full of meaning. In order to master them well, we have to understand English culture but firstly we should have a good knowledge about Vietnamese culture and idioms.

In the following part, some kinds of exercise on English idioms will be introduced. Hopefully, it will partly help us understand more clearly and fluently in using English idioms.

Geography and weather Idiom Quiz

- The tickets were cheap because it was a last minute sale.

- a. rock
- b. road
- c. dirt
- d. roach

- I guess it's time I I have go to make dinner.

- a. stick in the mud
- b. kept my head above water
- c. make a mountain out of a molehill
- d. hit the road

- I was the only one who wasn't in costume. I felt like

- a. up the creek
- b. the tip of the iceberg
- c. a stick-in-the-mud
- d. out of the woods

- Business has been going ever since the bad weather started.

- a. under water
- b. underground
- c. downhill
- d. out of the woods

- On Tonya's 50th birthday we made her a sign that said:

- a. Take a rain check
- b. Molehill mountain
- c. Rain on my parade
- d. Over the hill

- I was on cloud when Doug asked me to marry him.

- a. seven
- b. eight
- c. nine
- d. ten

- I'll be up the if I don't get to work on time.

a. mountain

b. ski lift

c. creek

d. ocean

- We'll have to take a check on dinner. My husband has flu.

a. storm

b. rain

c. wind

d. weather

- The broken window is just the tip of the We need new brakes and tires too.

a. mountain

b. hill

c. ice berg

d. river

PART III CONCLUSION

It is said that idioms is one of the most complicated fields for studying but they are very interesting when used in daily life.

This study has attempted to show the features of idioms in general and the differences and similarities between them in particular.

The major part of this paper is Development that consists of three chapters:

Chapter One principally presents the theoretical background of idiom language and translation, and points out that striking differences in the translation of idioms. It also introduces the current translation theory taught in Haiphong Private University.

Chapter Two highlights English idioms on geographical and natural phenomenon, its meanings, and Vietnamese equivalents, focusing on the errors caused through misunderstanding of cultural factors.

Chapter Three is about cases and solutions for non-equivalents of English idioms into Vietnamese translation. The author holds that Eugene A. Nida's Functional Equivalence can serve as the criteria for the translation.

This chapter also presents the exercise collection of idioms on geographical and natural phenomenon.

In this paper, English idioms relating to attitude have been taken into consideration. Then they are sorted and divided into three groups according to classification of semantic, syntactic and other.

At the same time, these idioms are compared to those in Vietnamese.

Generally speaking, to understand fully and profoundly those application of attitude and behavior in English idioms is very difficult because they relate to a great number of fields such as geographical feature, social development,

culture, etc.... and sometimes the origins or reason why they are used are not known. Moreover, English is spoken in many countries and the number of English idioms produced is not small at all.

Consequently, the difficulties in learning English idioms that Vietnamese learners must deal with are undeniable. Suggestions and exercises for overcoming are very necessary. The learners usually have difficulties in identifying idioms guessing the meaning, using them in suitable situations finding Vietnamese equivalent. To overcome these difficulties, learners should study feature of idioms deeply, guess their meaning in the contexts and carefully read English texts, to exercises and not forget to take care of cultural features and try to have cultural competence.

All what have been referred to in this paper come from the limited understanding and ability. It is, however, hoped that this study will be a small contribution to figure out the interesting significance of the idioms of the present international language and a reference to those who are interested in English as well as English culture and open other topics for further study.

The author holds the view that cultural factors are the most difficult in the translation of idioms. Translators should attach due importance to those factors, properly adjust the amount of culturally-loaded information and make translated idoms achieve their vocative function while retaining sufficient information to serve their purposes.

In actual translation, various methods, such as metaphrasing, paraphrasing, explanation, adding, analogy, deletion and rewriting are exploited to attain the end of presenting fluent, comprehensible and informative idioms in the target language.

Based on the above viewpoints, it can be inferred that, for successfully translated idioms, bicultural competence is even more important than bilingual competence.

To sum up, in this study, only some aspects of idiom translation are mentioned and addressed. There are still many other aspects left for further research in the days ahead.

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