

**BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO  
TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC DÂN LẬP HẢI PHÒNG**

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# **KHÓA LUẬN TỐT NGHIỆP**

**NGÀNH: NGÔN NGỮ ANH**

**Sinh viên : Phùng Hồng Phương**

**Giảng viên hướng dẫn : ThS. Nguyễn Thị Yến Thoa**

**HẢI PHÒNG – 2016**

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TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC DÂN LẬP HẢI PHÒNG**

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**METAPHORS RELATING TO THE NAMES OF  
ANIMALS IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE**

**KHÓA LUẬN TỐT NGHIỆP ĐẠI HỌC HỆ CHÍNH QUY  
NGÀNH: NGÔN NGỮ ANH**

**Sinh viên : Phùng Hồng Phương**

**Lớp : NA1601**

**Giảng viên hướng dẫn : Th.S Nguyễn Thị Yến Thoa**

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**NHIỆM VỤ ĐỀ TÀI TỐT NGHIỆP**

**Sinh viên:** .....**Mã SV:** .....

**Lớp:** ..... **Ngành:** .....

**Tên đề tài:** .....

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# **NHIỆM VỤ ĐỀ TÀI**

**1. Nội dung và các yêu cầu cần giải quyết trong nhiệm vụ đề tài tốt nghiệp (về lý luận, thực tiễn, các số liệu cần tính toán và các bản vẽ).**

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**2. Các số liệu cần thiết để thiết kế, tính toán.**

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**3. Địa điểm thực tập tốt nghiệp.**

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# CÁN BỘ HƯỚNG DẪN ĐỀ TÀI TỐT NGHIỆP

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Đã nhận nhiệm vụ ĐTTN

Đã giao nhiệm vụ ĐTTN

*Sinh viên*

*Người hướng dẫn*

**Hải Phòng, ngày ... tháng ... năm ... ..**

**Hiệu trưởng**

**GS.TS.NGŨT Trần Hữu Nghị**

## **PHẦN NHẬN XÉT CỦA CÁN BỘ HƯỚNG DẪN**

- 1. Tinh thần thái độ của sinh viên trong quá trình làm đề tài tốt nghiệp:**

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- 3. Cho điểm của cán bộ hướng dẫn (ghi bằng cả số và chữ):**

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Hải Phòng, ngày ... tháng ... năm 2016

Cán bộ hướng dẫn

*(Ký và ghi rõ họ tên)*

**NHẬN XÉT ĐÁNH GIÁ CỦA NGƯỜI CHẤM PHẢN  
BIỆN ĐỀ TÀI TỐT NGHIỆP**

- 1. Đánh giá chất lượng đề tài tốt nghiệp về các mặt thu thập và phân tích tài liệu, số liệu ban đầu, giá trị lí luận và thực tiễn của đề tài.**

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(Điểm ghi bằng số và chữ)

Ngày..... tháng..... năm 2016

Người chấm phản biện

*(Ký và ghi rõ họ tên)*

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*Student*

**Phùng Hồng Phương**



# **PART I: INTRODUCTION**

## **1. Rationale**

Nowadays, English is an extremely common language with millions of native speakers and over one billion people using as second language or foreign language, (*Crystal, 2006*). People use English for communication, trade exchanges, study, travel, so on and the Vietnamese are not exceptions. However, although teaching and learning English in Vietnam have been improved by years, it is never an easy language to read and understand because of many reasons. One of those is the ambiguity which caused by the transference of word meaning, especially metaphor.

Firstly, the Vietnamese and English, like many other languages, use metaphor, but its meaning is distinctly different. Therefore, if we do not study English profoundly, we may be confused and misunderstand English metaphor.

Secondly, in Haiphong Private University, metaphor is primarily learned through one lecture of Lexicology. There is not enough time to research all aspects of metaphor.

Metaphor relating to the names of the animals is an interesting topic that helps us not only understand clearly about English texts but also English culture and lifestyle. This is the reason why I choose the study of metaphors relating to the names of the animals for my graduation paper.

## **2. Aims of the study**

The study will focus on metaphors relating to the names of some certain animals to find out what names of the animals English people use as metaphors and how they use them in both texts and speeches.

## **3. Scope of study**

Metaphors relating to the names of the animals are so large that my

graduation paper cannot cover all of their aspects and objects. Therefore, I will focus on analysing metaphorical sense of several common animals' name which the English often use as metaphorical meaning.

#### **4. Methods of the study**

In order to understand metaphors relating to the names of the animals in English and Vietnamese, the methods are shown below:

- *Materials analysis:* I will read different reference books to collect necessary information and analyze them to contribute to the study.
- *Exercise compilation:* I will also compile some interesting exercises for English major students to read and study profoundly about metaphor.

#### **5. Design of the study**

The study is divided into three parts:

- Part I: Introduction: In the first part, I will present the rationale, aims, methods, scope and design of the study.
- Part II: Development: This part consists of three chapters:
  - *Chapter 1: Literature background:* The first chapter provides definition of metaphor and its characteristics.
  - *Chapter 2: Metaphors relating to the names of animals in English and Vietnamese:* This chapter focuses on analysing twelve common animals' name that English people often use as metaphorical meaning.
  - *Chapter 3: Application of the study:* The chapter provides some comparisons between metaphors relating to the names of animals in English and Vietnamese, some difficulties when learning English metaphors relating to the names of animals, some solutions to them and exercises in metaphors.
- Part III: Conclusion: In conclusion, I will summarise briefly the main points of the study and draw some ideas for further research.

# **PART II: DEVELOPMENT**

## **CHAPTER 1: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **1.1. Overview of semantic change**

#### **1.1.1. *Definition of semantic change***

Semantic change is thought to be an important way to help language more flexible and prosperous. It is necessary to start the study by learning some basic concepts of semantic change and then detailing metaphor and metaphors relating to the names of animals in particular.

According to Bloomfield<sup>(3)</sup> semantic change is defined as the innovations changing the meaning of words rather than grammatical function forms. Hence, meaning of the new word is often different from meaning of the original words. He gave an example the word “bite” whose meaning is “harsh of taste” instead of an action using your teeth to cut into or through something. However, Bloomfield also saw that in some cases of semantic change, word properties may be related to its connotations like the words understand, forgive, forget, overcome, so on.

#### **1.1.2. *Type of semantic change***

Until now, some classification schemes for semantic change have been suggested, of those, the most widely accepted scheme is proposed by Bloomfield (1933). His scheme includes: *Narrowing, Widening, Metaphor, Metonymy, Synecdoche, Hyperbole, Meiosis, Degeneration and Elevation.*

Besides, we also accept the categorisation of Blank (1999) which consists of *Metaphor, Metonymy, Synecdoche, Specialization of meaning, Generalization of meaning, Cohyponymic transfer, Antiphrasis, Auto-antonymy, Auto-converse, Ellipsis and Folk-etymology.*

In brief, irrespective of semantic change is categorised according to Bloomfield or Blank, metaphor is always a common type of semantic change

and play roles in the development of language.

## **1.2. Overview of metaphor**

### **1.2.1. Definition of metaphor**

According to the Oxford advanced learner's dictionary, metaphor is “a word or phrase used to describe somebody or something else, in a way that is different from its normal use, in order to show that the two things have the same qualities and to make the description more powerful”. (*Hornby: 965*)<sup>(4)</sup>

In cognitive linguistic view, according to Barcelona<sup>(2)</sup>, metaphor is defined as the cognitive mechanism whereby one experiential domain is partially mapped or projected onto a different experiential domain so that the second one is partially understood in terms of the first one.

Some linguists suppose that metaphor plays important roles not only in the literature, but also in the cognition. Indeed, in the book “Metaphors We Live By”, George Lakoff and Mark Johnson<sup>(6)</sup> saw metaphors are pervasive in everyday life in language, thought and action as well. However, the study merely considers metaphor as a figure of speech and researches some typical animals' names used for metaphor.

### **1.2.2. Types of metaphors**

Basically, English metaphors are classified into three types: Living metaphor, Faded metaphor and Dead metaphor.

#### **a) Living metaphor**

Living metaphor, also known as extended metaphor, is the case in which the word has unusual metaphorical sense or used by an individual. It is often used in both poetry and prose and makes them more interesting, imaginative and elegant.

*But soft! What light through yonder window breaks?*

*It is the East, and Juliet is **the sun!***



*Arise, fair sun, and kill **the envious moon**,*

*Who is already sick and pale with grief*

*(Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet)*

Here, Shakespeare compared Juliet with the sun to praise her beauty and brilliance. At the same time, he also compared a person who is grievously sick and pale with the envious moon killed by the sun. Thus, we are able to imagine how beautiful Juliet is! Living metaphor is an indispensable figure of speech that poets and authors would like to use.

**b) Faded metaphor**

Faded metaphor is the case in which the word loses its freshness due to long and traditional use. If living metaphors are individually used and sometimes they made us easily confused, faded metaphors are exclusively accepted by contrast.

*He was so exhausted that he **fell asleep** at his desk.*

*(Hornby:75)<sup>(4)</sup>*

Of course, “fall asleep” (past simple “fell”) is not used with literal meaning: to drop out. It means you start sleeping instead. If “go to sleep” means you start sleeping deliberately, “get to sleep” means you start sleeping difficultly, “fall asleep” usually means you start sleeping incidentally or in an inappropriate situation like the example Hornby provided, sleeping at the desk.

Faded metaphor is closely related to lexical ambiguity and polysemy. Besides, almost metaphors relating to the names of the animals are faded metaphors and they are studied at length in chapter two.

**c) Dead metaphor**

Dead metaphor is the case in which the word has lost its direct meaning and is used only figuratively. This kind of metaphor relates to the change and the development of meaning but we hardly ever recognise them. For example:

*Sometimes I just sit and **ponder**,*

*What the true meaning of life all about;*

*(Dwayne Bailey, Sometimes I Sit And Ponder).*

The verb “ponder” in Old English was a synonym of the verb “weigh”. However, in modern English, “ponder” merely means that you think about something carefully. “Weigh”, on the contrary, has many other meanings and “consider something carefully” is one of them.

Another example is the word we often use – “deadline”. The “deadline” in prison camps during the Civil War was inside about 19 feet from the wall which prisoners were forbidden to cross or they could be shot down. In other words, “deadline” initially alluding to a physical line or boundary in the past. Nowadays, “deadline” is a point in time by which the work must be done. Dead metaphor may cause the disappearance of meaning of some words and the emergence of new meaning, however, in general, that makes language more diversified, changeable and accordant with the usage of language in each historical period.

### ***1.2.3. Sources of metaphors***

Metaphoric transference of meaning may be based on similarity of shape, position, movement, function, colour or size. Therefore, parts of human body, names of animals and proper names are three commonest sources which are usually used as metaphors.

#### ***a) Body parts***

Human body part appear in many nouns and noun phrases which refer to parts of objects, such as bottle-**neck**, **backpack**, **eye** of the storm, **headline**, **goalmouth**, so on.

Even, human body part is used as a verb in verb phrases and idioms. For example, “to arm yourself with something” means you provide weapons for

yourself in order to fight a battle or a war or “foot the bill” means you are responsible for paying the cost of something.

*Our hearts go out to the families of the victims.  
(Hornby:720)<sup>(4)</sup>*

“Our hearts go out to somebody” is usually used to say that we feel a lot of sympathy for somebody, and here, it means “we” are sympathetic to the families of the victims.

Body part of animal is sometimes used with metaphorical meaning, for example, “the new **wing** of the hospital” is a part of a hospital building that sticks out from the main part or “French **horn**” is a brass musical instrument.

#### *b) Names of animals*

The names of animals may be a very common source used as metaphor, which are based on the similarity of some characteristics (both in appearance, personalities and habits) between human and animal, for example:

*(a) I made an **ass** of myself at the meeting, standing up and then forgetting the question. (Hornby:76)<sup>(4)</sup>*

*(b) She hired some **gorilla** as her bodyguard. (Merriam-Webster Dictionaries)*

In the example (a), it is obvious that the speaker is not an ass. However, standing up and forgetting the question made the speaker feel stupid and ashamed, so the speaker used “ass” implying a silly person to call himself in the ironic way.

Similarly, “some gorilla” in the example (b) hired as bodyguard by “she” are not hairy African animals, but are the men who large and frightening enough to protect her. Those men are compared with “gorilla” because of their appearance and strength, however, they are not real gorilla. Those are two simple examples of metaphors relating to the names of the animals mentioned at length in Chapter two.

c) **Proper names**

Proper names also have metaphorical meaning. They can be real person's name or character's name originated from famous novel. Following are some examples:

✚ Don Juan: *a man who has sex with a lot of women*

✚ Johnny-come-lately: *a person who has only recently arrived in a place or started an activity, especially somebody who is overly confident*

✚ Pascal: *the standard unit for measuring pressure, a language used for writing programs for computer systems*



d) **Other sources**

Apart from three commonest sources, metaphor also has other sources, for example metaphors relating to food, drink, money, clothes, so on. Following are some examples:

✚ Food: cinnamon roll (*a person who is very kind and sweet faces more hardship and suffering*); beefcake (*a man with big muscles, especially those that appear in sex shows and magazines*); so on

✚ Drink: milksop (*a cowardly man*); coffee morning (*a social event held in the morning to save money for charities*), so on

✚ Colour: greenback (*an American dollar note*); scarlet woman (*a woman who has sexual relationships with many people*); purple patch (*a period of success*); so on

Metaphor can even be taken religious concept that is considered now.

*There's a place **beyond the veil**,*

*That's hidden physically.*

*How can I doubt my Lord is real,*

*Because I cannot see?*

*(Arlene Dery, A Place Beyond The Veil)*

In the poem “A Place Beyond The Veil”, “Beyond the veil” metaphorically infers to the unknown state of being after death which is considered to be hidden.

Conforming to Knowles<sup>(5)</sup>, this phrase is originally a figurative reference to the veil separating the main body of the Jewish Temple from the tabernacle. In modern English, “going beyond the veil” is similar to “dying” or “passing away” and “beyond the veil” is used for memorial poems to express desire the deceased may rest in peace of the next life.

In summary, the first chapter recapitulates briefly on metaphor in terms of its definition and classifications. The focus of the study is Chapter two which is written on next pages.

## CHAPTER 2: AN ANALYSIS OF METAPHORS RELATING TO THE NAMES OF THE ANIMALS IN ENGLISH

There are many names of the animals used as metaphors, and this study will mention only twelve popular ones.

### 2.1. Metaphors relating to the name of Dog

Basically, dog is an animal with four legs and a tail, often kept as a pet or trained for work. There is no doubt that dog is a fairly popular pet in the world, so the name of dog is regularly used as metaphor.

In each different culture, dog is a representative of different characteristics both positively and negatively. In English, dog is also an informal and disapproving word used, especially after an adjective, to describe a man who has done something bad or a woman who is not considered attractive.

*He tried to steal my money, the dirty **dog**. (Cambridge Dictionaries Online)*

“He” is replaced with “dog” at the end of the sentence by the speaker who was nearly stolen something by “He”. In this example, dog is not an animal, but is a person who makes a mistake and gets the speaker angry.

“Dog” in American English is something bad or a failure, for instance:

*Her last movie was an absolute **dog** (Hornby:448)<sup>(4)</sup>*

When “dog” is used to criticise something bad like “her last movie” in the example “Her last movie was an absolute dog”, it nearly means “shit” or “bull shit” which stand for “nonsense”.

When “dog” is a verb, it means that someone or something causes you trouble for a long time or you follow somebody closely. It may be a reference to the ability of smelling and stalking for which dog is famous.

Apart from single words, the name of dog appears in many compound words which are shown with their meaning in the table below:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b><i>underdog</i></b>                                | <i>the weaker, the loser</i>  |
| <b><i>top dog</i></b>                                 | <i>the stronger, the winner</i>   |
| <b><i>hotdog (also hot dog)</i></b>                   | - <i>a kind of hot sausage</i><br>- <i>a person who performs clever or dangerous tricks</i>   |
| <b><i>watchdog</i></b>                                | <i>a person or a group of people whose job is to check that companies are not doing anything illegal</i>  |
| <b><i>shaggy-dog story</i></b>                        | <i>a long joke with a silly or disappointing ending</i>   |
| <b><i>doggy bag (also doggie bag)</i></b>             | <i>a bag for taking home any food that is left after a meal in a restaurant</i>   |
| <b><i>dog-ear of a book</i></b>                       | <i>a turned-down corner of a page in a book</i>   |
| <b><i>dog-end</i></b>                                 | <i>the end of a cigarette that has been smoked</i>  |
| <b><i>dog days</i></b>                                | <i>the hottest days of summer, usually from July to August</i>  |
| <b><i>dogfight</i></b>                                | <i>a fight between aircraft in which they fly around close to each other or a struggle between two people or groups in order to win something</i> |
| <b><i>dog-faced liar</i></b>                          | <i>a terrible liar</i>  |
| <b><i>dogsbody</i></b>                                | <i>a person who does all the boring jobs that nobody else wants to do and who is treated as being less important than other people</i>            |
| <b><i>dog tag</i></b>                                 | <i>a small piece of metal that US soldiers wear round their necks with their name and number on it</i>  |
| <b><i>dog-ways (or dog-fashion, or dog-style)</i></b> | <i>in the manner of dogs, that is, with the male approaching from the rear</i>  |

“Underdog” and “top dog” are two common words with opposite meanings: Underdog is a person or a group of people that is thought to be in a weaker position than the other and not likely to be successful and top dog is a person or a group of people that is better than all the others, especially in

competition. To make the meaning of those words clearer, we will study a famous speech of Mahatma Gandhi shown below,

*The Britisher is the **top dog** and the Indian the **underdog** in his own country. (Mahatma Gandhi, Volume 3, No 71)*

The British Empire had ruled India for over three centuries, and that the reason why Gandhi said “The Britisher is the top dog and the Indian the underdog in his own country”. It can be understood that the British is the strong, the winner (top dog) and the Indian is the weaker, the loser (underdog). Instead of using “winner” and “loser”, he used “top dog” and “underdog” to make his sentence more imaginable and trenchant.

“Hot dog” is also a popular word, and it has at least two meanings: a hot sausage served in a long bread roll and a person who performs clever or dangerous tricks while skiing, snowboarding or surfing. The others are usually used depending on the context and the purpose of the speakers. For instance, “dog tag” is an American English word for the identification tags worn by military personnel, however, not every English speaker uses it instead of military identification tag and in fact, the term “dog tags” is not allowed in official documents like regulations or something like that.

Besides, there are many idioms and proverbs using the name of dog. Generally, almost of them get negative meaning including unpleasant man, or bad thing or difficult situation, for example “go to the dogs” which is an idiom about poverty. It is said that if you do not like to eat something, bring it to the dog. Thus, if someone goes to the dogs, it means that he or she is extremely impoverished. Similarly, we also have:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <i><b>to be a dog in the manger</b></i> | <i>person who stops other people from enjoying what he or she cannot use or does not want</i>  |
| <i><b>to give a dog a bad name</b></i>  | <i>when a person already has a bad reputation, it is difficult to change it because others will continue to blame or suspect him/her</i> |



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b><i>not to have a dog's chance</i></b>                            | <i>to have no chance at all</i>   |
| <b><i>to have a dog in the hunt</i></b>                             | <i>to have some vested interest in or something to gain by a given situation.</i>   |
| <b><i>A dog's breakfast/dinner</i></b>                              | <i>a thing that has been done badly</i>   |
| <b><i>A case of dog eat dog</i></b>                                 | <i>a situation in business, politics, where there is a lot of competition and people are willing to harm each other in order to succeed</i> |
| <b><i>A cat and dog existence</i></b>                               | <i>a life full of frequent squabbles</i>  |
| <b><i>A dog's life</i></b>  | <i>a life full of problems or unfair treatment</i>  |
| <b><i>A dog and pony show</i></b>                                   | <i>(pejorative sense) an event that is designed to market new products or invest money</i>  |
| <b><i>If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas</i></b> | <i>if you associate with bad people, you will acquire their faults</i>  |
| <b><i>Why keep a dog and bark yourself?</i></b>                     | <i>if someone can do a task for you, there is no point in doing it yourself.</i>  |
| <b><i>You can't teach an old dog new tricks</i></b>                 | <i>it is very difficult to teach someone new skills or to change someone's habits or character</i>  |

However, there are some expressions using the name of dog with positive meaning. “Every dog has his/its day” means that everyone has good luck or success at some point in their life; “love me love my dog” means that if you love someone, you must be willing to accept everything about him or her; “go to see a man about a dog” is humour way to talk when you do not want to tell the others where you are really going, especially when you are going to the toilet and “hair of the dog that bit you” infers whatever made you ill used as a remedy.

In the United States, people also use a bitch that is initially a female dog as slang to offer a woman with unpleasantness and use “son of a bitch” to depict an unpleasant man. It can be said that “bitch” is thought to be one of the commonest cursed words in the English language.

*I'll kill that **son of a bitch** when I get my hands on him!*  
(Hornby:1471)<sup>(4)</sup>

Sometimes, “bitch” is used as a thing that causes problems or difficulties; a complaint about someone or something and a conversation in which you complain about them, and when “bitch” is a verb, it means you make unkind and critical remarks about somebody or something, especially when they are not there. “Bitch someone off” is similar to “make someone angry”, “bitch out” is comparable with “reprimand loudly or harshly” and “bitch someone or something up” means “mess someone or something up”, too. For example:

*You really **bitch** me **off**, do you know that?* (Spears:47)<sup>(7)</sup>

In the example provided by Spears, “bitch me off” means that the hearer (accidentally maybe) makes the speaker upset. The speaker is too angry to use “bitch me off” because “bitch” is often considered a vulgar word and it is the more serious and emphasized than “get someone angry”.

The name of bitch is also an origin of adjectives and idioms. “Bitchin” (or “bitching”) is a slangy word meaning very good while “bitchy” (and its noun “bitchiness”) referring to unpleasant and unkind things about other people. Similarly, “Life's a bitch (and then you die)” is said when you find a situation difficult or have had a bad experience while “payback's a bitch” means that something bad has happened as a result of something else.

“Puppy”, a young dog, occasionally refers an arrogant and rude young man. Thus, “puppy fat” is the fat on a child's body that disappears when the child grows up and “puppy love” is the love of young people that is thought to be unserious by adults. Otherwise, “pussy-whipped” is an adjective describing a male dominated or controlled by a woman.

On the whole, the name of dog, and its variants as well, is one of the most popular names of the animals which is used as metaphor in English so the study will provide some practical exercises in chapter three to understand this issue profoundly as much as possible.

## 2.2. Metaphors relating to the name of Cat

Cat is usually understood as a small animal that people often keep as a pet. Now, it also alludes to a fellow, a man or a gossipy woman based on context of conversation.

(a) *Now, this **cat** wants to borrow some money from me.  
What should I do? (Spears:69)<sup>(8)</sup>*

(b) *Mary can be such a **cat**, you know. (Spears:69)<sup>(8)</sup>*

In two examples, “cat” is not an animal, however, if cat in the example (a) is a friend who needs some money from the speaker, cat in the example (b) refers to Mary as a gossipy girl.

Compound words concerning the name of cat are quite numerous, in which, “alley cat” and “tomcat” are pejorative ways to refer to immoral or promiscuous people. “Alley cat” is often used for woman, while tomcat which primitively means a male cat is often used for man. “Cat nap” which makes a reference to oversleeping habit of cat, means a very brief but restful period of sleep. Other examples include:

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>A <b>cat nap</b></i>     | <i>a short but nice sleep</i>                                    |
| <i>A <b>fat cat</b></i>     | <i>an impolite way of referring to someone rich and powerful</i> |
| <i>A <b>fraidy cat</b></i>  | <i>a coward</i>  |
| <i>A <b>alley cat</b></i>   | <i>a prostitute</i>  |
| <i>A <b>scaredy-cat</b></i> | <i>someone who is frightened when there is no reason to be</i>   |
| <i>A <b>tomcat</b></i>      | <i>a prostitute</i>  |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Cat ice</b>      | <i>a thin sheet of ice under which water has already receded</i> |
| <b>Cat's cradle</b> | <i>something intricately or overly complex and/or elaborate</i>  |
| <b>Cat's meow</b>   | <i>something, someone enjoyable, desirable, or impressive</i>    |
| <b>Cat's-paw</b>    | <i>a person who is used by another to achieve some end</i>       |
| <b>Cat-soup</b>     | <i>catsup; ketchup</i>   |

Metaphors relating to the name of cat are so numerous, there are not only compound words, but also idioms and proverbs.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b><i>To be raining cats and dogs</i></b>                                     | <i>to be raining in great amounts</i>  |
| <b><i>To be the cat's whiskers/pyjamas</i></b>                                | <i>to be the best</i>  |
| <b><i>To bell the cat</i></b>   | <i>to undertake or agree to perform a risky, dangerous, or impossible job or task</i>                                      |
| <b><i>To cat got your tongue?</i></b>   | <i>a way to encourage someone who stays silent when expected to speak</i>  |
| <b><i>Not to not have/stand a cat in hell's chance of doing something</i></b> | <i>to have no chance at all</i>  |
| <b><i>Keep no more cats than can catch mice</i></b>                           | <i>should not maintain any more people or things than can accomplish a purpose</i>   |
| <b><i>To let the cat out of the bag</i></b>                                   | <i>to tell a secret carelessly or by mistake</i>   |
| <b><i>To play (a game of) cat and mouse</i></b>                               | <i>to play a cruel game with somebody in your power by changing your behaviour so that they do not know what to expect</i> |
| <b><i>To put/set the cat among the pigeons</i></b>                            | <i>to say or do something causing trouble</i>  |
| <b><i>To see which way the cat jumps</i></b>                                  | <i>to delay making a decision or doing something until you know what is going to</i>                                       |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <i>happen</i>   |
| <b><i>To shoot/sling the cat</i></b>                 | <i>to empty one's stomach; to vomit</i>   |
| <b><i>Not enough room to swing a cat</i></b>         | <i>not very much space</i>  |
| <b><i>A cat may look at a king</i></b>               | <i>everyone has rights to do things that are of no consequence to others</i>                        |
| <b><i>A cat in gloves catches no mice</i></b>        | <i>sometimes you cannot get what you want by being careful and polite</i>                           |
| <b><i>A cat in the meal-tub</i></b>                  | <i>a surprise attack or ambush; a hidden or unseen danger (primarily heard in US, South Africa)</i> |
| <b><i>A cat in the sack</i></b>                      | <i>a suspicious transaction</i>   |
| <b><i>A cat on a hot tin roof</i></b>                | <i>someone who was on edge or nervous</i>   |
| <b><i>A dead cat on the line</i></b>                 | <i>something wrong</i>  |
| <b><i>A kick at the cat</i></b>                      | <i>an opportunity to do or achieve something</i>  |
| <b><i>All cats are gray in the dark</i></b>          | <i>when in the dark, appearances are meaningless, since everything is hard to see or unseen</i>     |
| <b><i>Curiosity killed the cat.</i></b>              | <i>being curious can get you into trouble</i>   |
| <b><i>Look at what the cat dragged in!</i></b>       | <i>a good-humoured and familiar way of showing surprise at someone's presence in a place</i>        |
| <b><i>The cat that ate the canary</i></b>            | <i>happy, often in a self-satisfied way</i>   |
| <b><i>There are many ways to skin a cat</i></b>      | <i>there are many methods for achieving one's ends</i>  |
| <b><i>When the cat's away the mice will play</i></b> | <i>people enjoy themselves freely when their supervisor is not there</i>                            |
| <b><i>Who's she, the cat's mother?</i></b>           | <i>a reprimand given to someone</i>   |

Generally, figurative expressions concerning the name of cat are so many that it may be the animal whose name is commonly used. The meanings and the fields of those expressions are also diversified, so the study just summarises some basics of them.

In common with cat, kitten which is a young cat is also used as metaphor. “Have kittens” is an informal way to say that you are very anxious or nervous and “kittenish” is an adjective describing a woman who is lively, and trying to attract men's attention. Pussy, which is a child's word for a cat, also refers the female sexual organs. Pussycat, unlike pussy, often refers a person who is unexpectedly kind and friendly. Thence, “pussyfoot” is a verb meaning you are careful when expressing your opinion in case you upset the others.

### **2.3. Metaphors relating to the name of Cow**

Cow is initially one kind of cattle raised for beef and milk. Whereby, the name of cow used as metaphor is an offensive word for a woman. It is quite similar to “bitch” but less rude than “bitch”.

In Australian English and New Zealand English, cow is also an unpleasant person, thing, or situation. For example, “a cow of a day” is a day with a lot of unpleasantness or trouble.

*It's been a **cow** of a day. (Cambridge Dictionaries Online)*

When “cow” is a verb, it is usually passivised and means that you frighten someone in order to make them obey you. Thence, the phrasal verb “cow someone into something” means that you intimidate someone into doing something through the use of guilt or shame.

Compound words relating to the name of cow are not much, they include sacred cow, cash cow and milch cow. “Sacred cow” is a custom, system that has existed for a long time and that many people think it should not be

questioned or criticized, for example: “the sacred cow of free market economics” (Hornby:351)<sup>(4)</sup>

“Cash cow” is a business term implying the part of a business that always makes a profit and that provides money for the rest of the business.

*The movie studio saw the actress as a **cash cow**. (Merriam-Webster Dictionaries)*

In the example, we can understand that the actress is expected to earn so much money for the movie studio, that the reason why she is seen as a cash cow. The meaning of “cash cow” is nearly closed to the meaning of “milch cow” which infers a person, an organization or a product from which it is easy to make money in British English.

*Governments throughout the world are privatising their **milch cows** (Hornby:351)<sup>(4)</sup>*

“Milch cow” in the example may be the groups or companies, which earn much money, are formerly State-owned ones earn much money and now are privatised. It is completely unlike “milch cow” in the sentence below:

*The beet itself makes one of the best feeds for **milch cows**, and is excellent for other domestic animals.*

*(Anonymous:48)*

In the sentence cited from “The Vegetable Garden: What, When, and How to Plant” by Anonymous, “milch cow” is used with its literal meaning - a cow kept for milking and nothing more.

“Holy cow” or “holy shit” or “holy mackerel” or “holy smoke” are American overused words that express states of surprise, astonishment, joy, glee, incredulity, sometimes including confusion and anger.

*I can't eat, I can't sleep*

*Since you walked out on me, yeah*

***Holy cow**, whatcha doing, child, child*

*(Lee Dorsey, Holy Cow)*

In Dorsey's song, "holy cow" expresses the astonishment and confusion of "I" when his partner leaves, even he cannot eat or sleep and does not know why his partner walks out on him. Unlike "sacred cow" which has an Indian origin and is considered a venerated animal, "holy cow" is not a cow sacrificed or sanctified, it is merely an informal interjection like "Oh!", "Yeah!", "My God!", so on.

Some sayings also use the name of cow including "have a cow", "till the cows come home" and "Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free".

(a) *My mother **had a cow** when I said I was going to buy a motorbike. (Hornby:351)<sup>(4)</sup>*

(b) *You can talk **till the cows come home**, you'll never make me change my mind. (Hornby:351)<sup>(4)</sup>*

"Have a cow" is American English idiom meaning that you are becoming very angry or anxious about something. In the example, the speaker's mother got anxious when the speaker wanted to buy a motorbike, maybe because the speaker was so young, or the speaker's mother thought that riding a motorbike is extremely dangerous. The British also have a similar idiom to express angry and anxious state. They do not use the name of cow, but the name of kitten (also known as a young cat). In terms of connotative meaning, "have kittens" and "have a cow" are synonymous.

In the second example of idioms about the name of cow, "till the cows come home" means "for a very long time" and the sentence can be understood that "regardless you can talk for a very long time, you'll never make me change my mind". "Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free" is another example we need to talk about. This expression means that people will not pay for something which they can get for free.

*Mary told her daughter, "You may think that boy will marry you because you're willing to sleep with him, but **why should he buy a cow if he can get milk for free?**" (Spears: 757)<sup>(7)</sup>*



The example Spears providing may be understood that Mary is advising her daughter against sleeping with the other easily because if people gets everyone and everything freely, they do not respect them. According to Spears, the proverb is sometimes used to talk about someone who will not marry because sex without marriage is so easy. Thus, it has a variant: “Why buy the whole pig when the sausage is free”, which will be studied more detailed in 2.12.

#### **2.4. Metaphors relating to the name of Bird**

Bird is a creature that has two wings, two legs and lots of feathers covering its body. “Bird” is thought to be a slang for “girl” before the fourteenth century, but it seemed a confusion with another similar middle English word “burde”, which also meant “young woman” and the use of bird for ‘young woman’ was just popular since the twentieth century.

Basically, if you were a man, you can talk about your girlfriend: “She's my bird!”, it is acceptable, however, if you are not a native speaker, you should not use this slang arbitrarily because someone may not like to be called “bird” and feel like you do not respect her.

Sometimes, bird also to a person of a particular type, especially somebody who is strange or unusual in some way, for instance:

*She is that rare **bird**: a politician with a social conscience.*

*(Hornby:139)<sup>(4)</sup>*

Here, “Bird” means neither a kind of animal nor a young woman (she may be young or old, it is unimportant), but a politician with a social conscience and that makes her becomes unique.

The British also call a young woman who is considered attractive but not very intelligent “dolly bird” and call a stupid person “birdbrain” inferring that his brain compares with size of bird’s brain. Unlike them, “early bird” is someone who gets up early in the morning. “Bird of passage” primitively to a

bird that travels regularly from one part of the world to another at different seasons of the year, then it has a metaphorical meaning, that is a person who passes through a place without staying there long.

In American English, the names of bird and dog are two elements of a compound word “Bird dog” which means a dog used in hunting to bring back birds that have been shot or a person who searches good players for a sports team.

English also has many expressions relating to the name of bird, including:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b><i>to be (strictly) for the birds</i></b>              | <i>not to be important or practical</i>   |
| <b><i>to give somebody/get the bird</i></b>               | <i>to shout at someone as a sign of disapproval<br/>to make a rude sign at somebody with your middle finger</i> |
| <b><i>to have a bird</i></b>                              | <i>extremely shocked or agitated</i>  |
| <b><i>to kill/hit two birds with one stone</i></b>        | <i>to achieve two things at the same time with one action</i>   |
| <b><i>A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush</i></b> | <i>it is better to keep something you own than to risk losing it by trying to get much more</i>                 |
| <b><i>Birds in their little nests agree</i></b>           | <i>people who live together should try hard to get along peacefully</i>   |
| <b><i>Birds of a feather flock together</i></b>           | <i>people of the same sort are found together</i>   |
| <b><i>The bird has flown</i></b>                          | <i>the wanted person has escaped</i>  |
| <b><i>The birds and the bees</i></b>                      | <i>the basic facts about sex, especially as told to children</i>  |
| <b><i>You cannot catch old birds with chaff</i></b>       | <i>experienced people are not to be deceived because they are too astute</i>                                    |

Therefore, the study just focuses on analyzing interesting ones. American proverb “Birds in their little nests agree” is usually used to admonish children not to fight with each other. It comes from a divine song for children by Isaac Watts and advises people need to live together in harmony. “Birds of a feather flock together”, on the other hand, is an expression meaning that people of the same sort are found together. It is quite similar to the idiom “Every pot finds its own lid”.

*George: Why do you think Donald is dishonest?*

*Ned: All his friends are dishonest. **Birds of a feather flock together.***

*(Spears:47)<sup>(7)</sup>*

In conversation between George and Ned, the idioms “Birds of a feather flock together” is given as an example for dishonesty of Donald and his friend. Ned believes that all Donald’s friends are dishonest, and Donald is too because friendship is usually based on similarity on a certain level, or on the other word, a man is known by his friends.

Besides, chick, which is a baby bird, especially a baby chicken, is also used as a metaphor. The name of chick to a young woman like the name of bird. “Hot chick” is a modern English word referring to a stunning attractive female. Its meaning is closed to the meaning of the word “hot girl” while “slick-chick” is an attractive and cute girl. Thence, we have “chick flick” referring to films and “chick lit” referring to novels that are intended especially for women.

On the whole, it can be said that the name of bird is definitely one of the commonest names of animal used as metaphor in English.

## **2.5. Metaphors relating to the name of Chicken**

Chicken, a type of poultry kept on a farm for eggs or meat, also to to a person who is too frightened to do something involving a risk.

*“Your father's biggest problem is that he loses all self-control... when someone calls him **chicken**.”, Lorraine talks to her grandchildren. (Back To The Future Part II)*

It is too easy to realize that the biggest problem of Lorraine's son (“your father” as she said to her grandchildren) is he does not allow the others call him a chicken, or in other word, call him a coward. That makes him lose all control because of offended feelings and makes him willingly do everything to prove his courage regardless his acts maybe illegal or dangerous.

When “chicken” is an adjective, it is similar to cowardly. In the same way, “chicken-hearted” also means cowardly and is an antonym of “lion-hearted” referring to valiancy. Similarly, “chickenshit” is both a noun meaning nonsense and an adjective alluding to cowardice. However, the phrase “You can't make chicken salad out of chicken shit” is sometimes used as a variant of “you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear” meaning you cannot make a good quality product using bad quality materials.

Chicken can be a verb in two figurative phrases: “chicken out on someone” means that you decide not to do something for or with someone and “chicken out (of something/of doing something)” means that you decide not to do something because you are afraid. In opposition to “chicken out”, “play chicken” means you play dangerous games in order to show your courage and if you stop first, you lose.

*The children had been **playing chicken** by running across the railway line.(Hornby:251)<sup>(4)</sup>*

There is a difference between courage and daring, and “running across the railway line” is not an expression of hardihood, it is just “playing chicken”, a game played by daredevils who want to prove their courage in extremis.

Besides, we have other compound words such as “chicken feed” and “rubber chicken dinner”. “Chicken feed” is an amount of money that is not large enough to be important. “Rubber chicken dinner” is interpreted with figurative meaning that is a dinner served at a large catered event, especially a

political or corporate fundraising event, in which many people must be served simultaneously and the quality of food suffers as a result.

Moreover, the name of chicken appears in some expressions.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <i><b>to count one's chickens before they hatch</b></i> | <i>to make plans based on events that may or may not happen</i>  |
| <i><b>to get up with the chickens</b></i>               | <i>to wake up at a particularly early hour, especially at or before sunrise</i>                        |
| <i><b>to go to bed with the chickens</b></i>            | <i>to go to bed at sundown-at the same time that chickens go to sleep</i>                              |
| <i><b>A chicken-and-egg situation, problem</b></i>      | <i>a situation in which it is difficult to tell which one of two things was the cause of the other</i> |
| <i><b>If it ain't chickens, it's feathers</b></i>       | <i>there are always problems; that is life</i>   |
| <i><b>One day chicken and the next day feathers</b></i> | <i>sometimes we have something valuable but other times you don't</i>                                  |
| <i><b>The chickens come home to roost</b></i>           | <i>we have to face the consequences of your mistakes or bad deeds</i>                                  |

Most of those metaphorical expressions are usually advice, for example, we have a proverb “The chickens come home to roost” advising us that we have to face the consequences of your mistakes or “If it ain't chickens, it's feathers” advising we should be optimistic, even if life always has problems. It makes a difference with simile relating to the name of chicken, which usually depicts the state of chaos, difficulty, madness and weakness, for example “like a chicken with its head cut off”, “like a chicken with the pip” or even “have (hand)writing like chicken scratch”.

## **2.6. Metaphors relating to the name of Lion**

Lion is primitively a large wild animal of the cat family living in Africa and southern Asia. Considered a King of the jungle, lion is a symbol of strength

and pride, so the name of lion is used to call someone who is important, successful, or powerful. Sometimes, lion also implies a brave person. The verb “lionise” (or lionize in American English) which is derived from “lion” means that you treat somebody as a famous or important person.

*She was **lionized** everywhere after her novel won the Pulitzer Prize. (Merriam-Webster Dictionaries)*

The Pulitzer Prize is a prestigious award for many fields such as journalism, literature, musical composition, so on. That is the reason why “she” became famous and was treated as an important person after winning this award, or in other words, she was lionised because she won the Pulitzer Prize.

Compound words relating to the name of lion are not many, including lion-heart, the lion’s den and the lion share.

*I'll be here to hold your hand, 'cause you're my king and I'm your **lionheart**” (Of Monsters and Men, King And Lionheart)*

“Lion heart” is a back-formation noun of the adjective “lion-hearted” meaning “very brave or courageous”. When I use “lion heart” to describe someone, it is said that he or she is a valiant person. Similarly, in the example, “I’m your lion heart” is another word of “I make you braver”. On the other hand, “the lion's den” is a difficult situation in which you have to face a person or people who are unfriendly or aggressive towards you while “the lion's share” means the largest or best part of something when it is divided. The phrase “the lion's share” derives from some Aesop’s Fable telling that lion always takes the largest part when he goes hunting with other animals and reflecting that partnership with the mighty is never trustworthy. The fable has lots of variants in many different cultures but their implications are the same.

Expressions relating to the name of lion are quite various. Of those, “beard the lion in his den” means you confront someone on his or her own territory, for example:

*I spent a week trying to reach Mr. Toynbee by phone, but his secretary always told me he was too busy to talk to me. Today I walked straight into his office and **bearded the lion in his den.** (Spears:37)<sup>(7)</sup>*

Obviously, Mr.Toynbee did not want to meet or talk to the speaker so spontaneously coming in Mr.Toynbee's office was a venturesome action which might cause some big troubles for the speaker. That is the reason why he said he had bearded the lion in his den.

“Ass in a lion's skin”, on the other hand, is a blustering fool. “Ass” is old use of a donkey and sometimes, it to a silly person. Therefore, this phrase depicts a stupid person tries to portray himself as a strong and powerful lion. “Escape the bear and fall to the lion” means you avoid a frightening or problematic situation, only to end up in a worse one later. It is similar to the phrase “As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him” in the Bible (Amos 5:19). Then, we also have two nearly similar proverbs with two different shades of meaning: “a live dog is better than a dead lion” saying that it is better to be a living coward than a dead hero and “the head of a dog than the tail of a lion” saying that it is better to be the leader of a less prestigious group than to be a subordinate in a more prestigious one.

## **2.7. Metaphors relating to the name of Snake**

Snake is a reptile having no legs at first. The name of snake, however, to a bad person who tells lies and betrays other people. Serpent, which is originally a big snake, appears many times in the Bible and represents deception and cheating. Viper, which is originally a small poisonous snake, infers a person who harms the others.

In Australian English and New Zealand English, “snaky” is an informal word of “angry”, for example, “What are you snaky about?” is corresponding to “What are you angry about?”.

Besides, the name of snake is a part of some compound words like trouser snake, snake pit or snake oil. “Trouser snake” is a vulgar word of the penis and so “drain the snake/lizard/dragon” is a colourful euphemism for “urinate”. “Snake pit” primitively being a hole in the ground in which snakes are kept is compared with a place that is extremely unpleasant or dangerous, sometimes, it also to a hospital for mental diseases or a place and state of chaotic disorder and distress.

*When you're raised as we were, Moll, casual sex is a **snake pit**. We need a love that's soul-deep, and I'm here to testify that you don't find it by bed-hopping.*

*(Susan E. Phillips:33)*

According to Phillips’ novel, it is assumed that she thinks casual sex which sounds like a snake pit, is very dangerous, or at least unpleasant and useless if you want to find out a “soul-deep” love. It may be an advice and warning about love and sex visualised as a “snake pit”, in which snakes lived. However, an advice may also be “snake oil” if it is useless. “Snake oil” is American informal way to mention advice or solution to problems which are of no use and whereby, “snake oil salesman” is someone who sells, promotes, advocates some valueless or cure, remedy, or solution.

In almost the same way, the idiom “A snake in the grass” infers a person who pretends to be your friend but who cannot be trusted.

*I thought she was my friend, but she turned out to be a **snake in the grass**. (Merriam-Webster Dictionaries)*

The speaker used to consider “she” as a friend, then realized she was be untrustworthy, even she might harm the speaker, so she was compared with a snake in the grass that could bite us when we did not take precaution against them. The meaning of this idiom is closed to the phrase “turn a cat in a pan” denoting shifty and cunning and to the idiom “a snake in someone's bosom” inferring someone whom one has befriended, taken care of, or treated well but proves to be traitorous and deceitful. This idiom is used especially in the phrase



“nourish/nurse/nurture a snake in one's bosom” which means that someone befriends or looks after a deceitful and traitorous person.

However, not every idiom relating to the name of snake is negative, for example “If it was a snake it woulda bit you”. The idiom which means “It was very close to you” does not always comprehend a bad meaning, for instance:

*Jane: Where's the phone book?*

*Tom: Right there! **If it was a snake it woulda bit you.***

*(Spears:323)<sup>(7)</sup>*

Here, when Tom said “If it was a snake it woulda bit you”, he merely infers that the phone book is very closed to Jane so why she does not see it.

## **2.8. Metaphors relating to the name of Fox**

Fox is a wild animal of the dog family, with reddish-brown fur and a pointed face. In Western and in Persian folklore, fox is also depicted as a symbol of cunning and trickery. Thus, the name of fox to a person who is clever and able to get what they want by influencing or tricking other people. Sometimes, “fox”, and “stone fox” or “stone cold fox” as well, is also used to describe an attractive young woman.

*(a) He's a wily old fox.*

*(Hornby:615)<sup>(4)</sup>*

*(b) Who is that stone fox I*

*saw you with last night?(Spears:404)<sup>(8)</sup>*

In the first sentence, fox is a wild animal symbolising insincerity and cunning, so it's used to mention a person who has those characters. However, in the second sentence, fox means the speaker saw a beautiful girl last night and the speaker want to know who she is.

When fox is a verb, it means that something is too difficult for somebody to understand or it makes someone confused. Foxy is an adjective with three meaning: like a fox in appearance, sexually attractive like the word “sexy” and

clever at tricking others like the word “cunning”.

“Fox trap”, apart from being an equivalence to catch a fox, also refers to an automobile customized and fixed up in a way that will attract women like the trap attracts the fox. Otherwise, “fox's sleep” is a state of apparent sleep in which someone is actually aware of everything going on around him or her. It is derived from the fact that foxes sleep with one eye open and thus are always at the ready.

In football, the name of fox appears in a phrase “fox in the box” inferring to a forward who scores a lot of goals from a position close to the goal. This phrase is not related to “Box the Fox” (sometimes just Box Fox) which is a tune of Appalachian origin and is named after the old Irish slang “to box the fox” meaning to steal apples, or in general to rob an orchard.

The name of fox is also a part of the idiom “fox guarding the henhouse” inferring a person likely to exploit the information or resources that he or she has been charged to protect. Accordingly, we also have a proverb “Don't let the fox guard the henhouse” meaning that you should not assign the duty of protecting or controlling valuable information or resources to someone who is likely to exploit that opportunity.

## **2.9. Metaphors relating to the name of Wolf**

Wolf is a large wild animal of the dog family and then, the name of wolf infers a man who often tries to have sex with the women he meets. Thus, “fine wolf” is used to describe a sexy or desirable man and “lone wolf” is used to describe a man who stays to himself. Additionally, “wolf whistle” is a two-note whistle that is usually blown by a man to show he finds somebody else attractive.

When being a verb, “wolf something down” means you eat food very quickly, especially by putting a lot of it in your mouth at once. Wolfish is an adjective means somebody or something like a wolf, “wolfish grin” is a noun

phrase used to depict someone showing sexual interest in the others.

He gave her a **wolfish** grin. (*Cambridge Dictionaries Online*)

“Grin” is a wide smile and “wolfish grin” depicts a wide smile with many teeth like a wolf bares its teeth to threaten its prey. Therefore, in this example, “wolfish grin” infers that “he” smiled at her in a sexually interested way. Besides, idioms and proverbs relating to the name of wolf are especially numerous.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b><i>to buy someone's wolf ticket</i></b>                           | <i>to challenge someone's boast or taunt</i>   |
| <b><i>to cry wolf</i></b>  | <i>to cry or complain when nothing is really wrong</i>   |
| <b><i>to cut one's wolf loose</i></b>                                | <i>to get drunk</i>  |
| <b><i>to have a/the wolf by the ears</i></b>                         | <i>to be in a difficult and dangerous situation</i>  |
| <b><i>to keep the wolf from the door</i></b>                         | <i>to have enough money to avoid going hungry</i>  |
| <b><i>to throw somebody to the wolves</i></b>                        | <i>to leave somebody to be roughly treated or criticized without trying to help them</i>             |
| <b><i>to sell wolf tickets</i></b>                                   | <i>to threaten someone with threats of violence or menacing, boastful words</i>                      |
| <b><i>A growing youth has a wolf in his belly</i></b>                | <i>young people who are growing fast are hungry all the time</i>                                     |
| <b><i>A wolf in sheep's clothing</i></b>                             | <i>a person who seems to be friendly or harmless but is really an enemy</i>                          |
| <b><i>Between dog and wolf</i></b>                                   | <i>between dusk and daylight</i>   |
| <b><i>When the wolf comes in at the door, love creeps out of</i></b> | <i>if a couple gets married because they love, but they do not have enough money, they will stop</i> |

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <i>the window</i> | <i>loving each other when the money runs out</i> |
|-------------------|--|

Proverbs and idioms relating to the name of wolf are negative meaning, mainly. They often refer to danger, difficulty or challenge. “Keep the wolf from the door” is an advice on which we should save money in case starving and freezing. “Cry wolf”, otherwise, originated from the Aesop's fable “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” which talks about a shepherd boy who tricks nearby villagers thinking a wolf is attacking his sheep and when one actually appears and the boy again calls for help, no one believes him and the sheep are eaten by the wolf. Thus, the idiom alludes you call for help when you do not need it, with the result that when you really need it people do not believe you.

## 2.10. Metaphors relating to the name of Rat

At first, rat is a small animal with a long tail and looks like a large mouse. Now, the name of rat implies an unpleasant person, especially one who is not loyal or who tricks someone. Compound words relating to the name of rat is relatively numerous and almost of them are noun, except for “rat-arsed” which is an adjective inferring the state of “extremely drunk”. It is closed to the adjective “ratted” which means “drunk” too. Compound nouns using the name of rat will be summarised in the table below:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <i>rat-bastard</i> | <i>a really wretched or despised person</i>  |
| <i>rat fink</i>    | <i>an extremely unpleasant person, or someone giving your secret information to the police</i>             |
| <i>rat race</i>    | <i>an unpleasant way in which people compete against each other at work in order to succeed</i>            |
| <i>rat run</i>     | <i>a minor roadway used as a bypass for drivers who wish to avoid traffic on larger roads or motorways</i> |
| <i>frat-rat</i>    | <i>a college fraternity member</i>   |

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b><i>pack rat</i></b> | <i>someone who collects things that they do not need</i> |
| <b><i>rug rat</i></b>  | <i>a small child, especially an infant or toddler</i>    |
| <b><i>sack rat</i></b> | <i>a lazy person</i>                                     |
| <b><i>the rats</i></b> | <i>the delirium tremens</i>                              |

Additionally, the name of rat also appears in some phrasal verbs including:

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b><i>to rat on something</i></b>  | <i>to not do something that you have agreed or promised to do</i>                        |
| <b><i>to rat on somebody</i></b>   | <i>to tell somebody in authority about something wrong that somebody else has done</i>   |
| <b><i>to rat around</i></b>        | <i>to waste time loafing around; to kick around</i>                                      |
| <b><i>to smell a rat</i></b>       | <i>suspect that something is wrong; to sense that someone has caused something wrong</i> |
| <b><i>not give a rat's ass</i></b> | <i>to not care at all</i>  |

Of those, “rat on something” is a synonym of “renege” and “go back on”. Three of them mean you to break a promise, while “rat on somebody” is the slangy word of “betray”, “denounce” or “abandon”.

*Jimmy: You took your first pinch like a man, and you learned the two greatest things in life.*

*Henry: What?*

*Jimmy: Look at me... Never **rat on your friends**... and always keep your mouth shut.*

*(Pileggi and Scorsese, Goodfellas)*

According to Jimmy, Henry has learned two greatest things, never betraying his friends and keep his mouth shut. Using “Rat on your friend” makes Jimmy’s say more trenchant, vivid and strongly influencing on Henry.

“Rats abandon a sinking ship”, in the same way, means you can tell when something is about to fail because large numbers of people begin to leave

it. It may imply that the people who leave are selfish and disloyal like rats. For example below, Jill considers all employees of the company next door who resigns when the company is going bankrupt are rats abandon a sinking ship. His answer may be used to explain Jane why he knows the company must be going bankrupt or express his contempt for the employees leaving the company.

*Jill: The company next door must be going bankrupt.*

*Jane: How do you know?*

*Jill: All its employees are resigning. **Rats abandon a sinking ship.***

*(Spears:405)<sup>(7)</sup>*

## **2.11. Metaphors relating to the name of Monkey**

Monkey is an animal that climbs trees and lives in hot countries and then the name of monkey is used to describe a child who is active and likes playing tricks on people.

*(a) Using a bunch of bananas, the zoo-keeper persuaded the **monkey** back into its cage. (Cambridge Dictionaries Online)*

*(b) They ate all the cakes, **the monkeys**. (Cambridge Dictionaries Online)*

In the sentence (a) from Cambridge Dictionaries, “monkey” is merely an animal that is persuaded by a bunch of bananas. In the sentence (b), monkeys, on the contrary, are the children who ate all the cakes and maybe made the speaker upset.

Besides, English speakers also use the compound word “monkey business” to infer dishonest or silly behaviour, “grease monkey” to depict someone whose job is repairing car or aircraft engines and “monkey chanting” to depict the act of insulting black people by making the sound that monkeys make. Sometimes, American people call a tuxedo “monkey suit” which

possibly to to the fancy suit worn by an organ-grinder’s monkey.

*All the men except me wore **monkey suits** at dinner on the cruise. (Spears:440)<sup>(7)</sup>*

In this example, the speaker said that no one except him did not wear tuxedo that is a formal dinner suit. However, this sentence was quite ambiguous because it was too difficult to understand what the speaker inferred. It can be explained in at least two ways: He felt that he looked extremely odd when did not wear a tuxedo or he thought that wearing tuxedo at dinner on the cruise was unnecessary. In general, “monkey suit” is a jocular word so it is usually used in the informal speeches like a joke or (self) irony.

In South African English, “monkey's wedding” means a period when it is raining while the sun is shining which is nearly similar to the word “sun shower” used in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland and Britain.

In terms of set expressions, the name of monkey also appears in many idioms and proverbs. Basically, meaning of those idioms and proverbs is comprehended someone or something irritating.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b><i>not to give a monkey</i></b>                       | <i>not to care about something</i>                               |
| <b><i>to make a monkey (out) of somebody</i></b>         | <i>to make someone seem stupid</i>                               |
| <b><i>to play monkey tricks on someone</i></b>           | <i>to engage in discreditable behaviour affecting the others</i> |
| <b><i>to throw a monkey wrench in/into something</i></b> | <i>to do something to spoil somebody’s plans</i>                 |
| <b><i>A monkey on someone's back</i></b>                 | - drug addiction<br>- burden                                     |
| <b><i>I'll be a monkey's uncle</i></b>                   | <i>to be really surprised</i>                                    |
| <b><i>If you pay peanuts/bananas, you get</i></b>        | <i>offering a low salary will not attract skilled employees</i>  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>monkeys</i>                             |  |
| <b><i>Monkey around with something</i></b> | <i>to play with or use something in a way that could damage it</i>                   |
| <b><i>Monkey see, monkey do</i></b>        | <i>children imitate what they see other people doing</i>                             |
| <b><i>Monkey in the middle</i></b>         | - a children's game<br>- a person is dragged into the fight between his/her friends. |

Of those sayings, “not give a monkey” is British English slang used to say, in a way that is not very polite, that you do not care about something or are not at all interested in it. Its meaning is equivalent to “not give a shit” or “not give a damn” but less discourteous than them. “Monkey see, monkey do” is another example which appeared in American culture in the early 1920s and referred to the learning of a process without an understanding of why it works like children imitate what they see the others doing regardless they understand or not. “Monkey in the middle”, on the other hand, is the American sayings which is the same as “Piggy in the middle” in British English. It is initially a children's game where two people throw a ball over the head of another person who tries to catch it and then it is used to depict a person who is caught between two people or groups who are fighting or arguing.

## **2.12. Metaphors relating to the name of Pig**

In fact, pig is an animal with usually pink skin, short legs, a broad nose and a short tail. In language, the name of pig implies an unpleasant person who is fat, dirty or greedy and thus “pigsty”, which is primitively an area where pigs are kept, is used to depict a very dirty or untidy place now. Similarly, we also have some compound words in which the name of pig is used:

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b><i>Male chauvinist pig</i></b> | <i>male who does not think women are equal to men</i>         |
| <b><i>Female chauvinist</i></b>   | <i>female who believes that males are inferior to females</i> |



|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b><i>pig</i></b>          | <i>and need not to be treated to the same degree</i>                    |
| <b><i>Guinea pigs</i></b>  | <i>a person used in medical or other experiments</i>                    |
| <b><i>Pig heaven</i></b>   | <i>a police station.</i>  |
| <b><i>Piggyback</i></b>    | <i>a ride on somebody's back, while he or she is walking</i>            |
| <b><i>Piggy bank</i></b>   | <i>a container in the shape of a pig used by children to save money</i> |
| <b><i>Pig-headed</i></b>   | <i>unwilling to change your opinion about something</i>                 |
| <b><i>Pig-ignorant</i></b> | <i>very stupid or badly educated</i>                                    |
| <b><i>Piggy</i></b>        | <i>a person's eyes like those of a pig</i>                              |

Of those words, “male chauvinist pigs” and “female chauvinist pigs” are two nouns referring to sexist with “chauvinist” means someone who assertively maintains that his or her kind -- usually people of the same nationality -- are superior. The term “male chauvinist pig” (also known as MCP) was used in the late 1960s and early 1970s by feminists to imply some men who believed and expressed freely that men were superior and worthy being treated better than women. “Female chauvinist pigs” is its variant known widely through Ariel Levy’s book “Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture” in 2005. “Guinea pig” is another example of using the name of pig for compound nouns, it makes a reference to real guinea pig used as test subject in the biological experimentation. In the sentence below, “guinea pigs” are replaced as students taking part in new teaching methods:

*Students in fifty schools are to act as **guinea pigs** for these new teaching methods. (Hornby:1145)<sup>(4)</sup>*

Otherwise, “pig-headed” and “pig-ignorant” are two adjectives inferring that pig is a stubborn and unintelligent animal so a person who has those characteristics is also compared with pig. When pig is a verb, it makes phrasal verbs “pig yourself on something” and “pig out on something” meaning you eat too much. “Piggy” can be a noun and verb while “piggyback” can even be both noun, adjective, adverb and verb. The verb “piggyback” is usually applied for a

phrasal verb “piggyback on somebody/something” meaning you use something that already exists as a support for your own work; to use a larger organization for your own advantage. In terms of expressions, the name of pig is also used in many proverbs and idioms whose meaning is provided in the table below:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>to drive one's pigs to market</i>                  | <i>to snore</i>  |
| <i>to make a pig's ear (out) of something</i>         | <i>to do something badly</i>   |
| <i>to make a pig of yourself</i>                      | <i>to eat too much</i>   |
| <i>to put lipstick on a pig</i>                       | <i>to make some superficial or cosmetic change to something so that it seems more attractive or successful than it really is</i>   |
| <i>to buy a pig in a poke</i>                         | <i>to buy something without seeing it or knowing if it is good enough</i>  |
| <i>A pig of a something</i>                           | <i>a difficult or unpleasant thing or task</i>   |
| <i>Pigs might fly</i>                                 | <i>you think there is no chance at all of something happening</i>  |
| <i>Piggy in the middle</i>                            | <i>- a children's game where two people throw a ball over the head of another person who tries to catch it</i><br><i>- a person who is caught between two people or groups who are fighting or arguing</i> |
| <i>Why buy the whole pig when the sausage is free</i> | <i>people will not pay for something which they can get for free</i>   |

We consider some important expressions. “Make a pig's ear (out)” is equivalent to the idiom “a dog's breakfast”, two of them are British informal way to express that you have done something badly or made a mess. For example, the sentence “He's made a real dog's breakfast of these accounts” (Hornby:448)<sup>(4)</sup> is also written as “He’s made a pig’s ear out of these accounts” or “He’s made a mess of these accounts”. “Pig might fly”, or “when pigs fly” or

“when pigs have wings” in American English as well, is ironic saying showing that you do not believe or want something will ever happen.

*When the sun sets in the east, and rises in the west*

*When **pigs sprout wings and fly**, then I'll come back to you*

*(Bulletboys, When Pigs Fly)*

In fact, the sun sets in the west, rises in the east, and pigs cannot fly, so in Bulletboys' song, “When the sun sets in the east, and rises in the west, when pigs sprout wings and fly, then I'll come back to you.” clearly implies that two people cannot be together again.

Otherwise, “Why buy the whole pig when the sausage is free” which is derived from Andy Rooney's speech: “For all those men who say why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free, here's an update for you. Nowadays 80% of women are against marriage. Why? Because women realize it's not worth buying an entire pig just to get a little sausage!” is considered a respond of women and a variant of the proverb “Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free?”

## CHAPTER 3: APPLICATION OF THE STUDY

### 3.1. Some comparisons between metaphors relating to the names of animals

#### 3.1.1. *Some similarities between metaphors relating to the names of animals in English and Vietnamese*

Both Vietnamese and English people use metaphors relating to the names of animals and there are some similarities between them. The name of dog is a typical example. Like in English, the name of dog in Vietnamese is a common offensive word and has negative meanings in many phrases. Even, some idioms using the name of dog in two languages are the same, for example the idiom “Chó sủa là chó không cắn” translated as “Barking dogs seldom bite” in English; “Chó đen giữ mực” translated as “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks” and “Nhờn chó chó liếm mặt” translated as “*If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas*”.

Similarly, metaphors relating to the names of snake, monkey, wolf and pig in Vietnamese are also comparable with those metaphors in English. Metaphors relating to the name of snake in Vietnamese are not only numerous but also meaningful. “Sur hổ mang” is an informal way to describe a cruel monk while “rắn mất đầu” alludes a organisation, association which have no leader. Some idioms concerning the name of snake includes “Cõng rắn cắn gà nhà” (To set a fox to keep the geese); “Khẩu Phật tâm xà” (A honey tongue, a heart of gall); “Vẽ rắn thêm chân” (To draw legs on a snake); “Đánh rắn động cỏ” (Stomping the grass scares the snake), so on.

In common with English, metaphors relating to the name of monkey in Vietnamese often refer someone mischievous. “Đồ khỉ”, “khỉ giớ”, “khỉ khô”, “khỉ mốc” are some offensive words concerning the name of monkey which alludes an indecent and playful person or unpleasant situation while “làm trò

khí” means that you do something bad.

### ***3.1.2. Some distinctions between metaphors relating to the names of animals in English and Vietnamese***

Apart from similarities, metaphors relating to the names of animals in two languages also have distinctions.

The name of dog is also an example for those distinctions. In English, metaphors relating to the name of dog do not always have negative meanings, the idiom “hair of the dog that bit you” is an example. However, in Vietnamese, the name of dog just have negative meaning.

Unlike dog, cat in Vietnamese culture is a symbol of agility and wisdom, thus, metaphors relating to the name of cat are quite common. However, the name of cat in Vietnamese is a big challenge to English learners because it is extremely different from the name of cat in English. Some expressions have equivalent ones in English including “Mèo già hóa cáo” (*An old fox not easily snared*); “Mèo khen mèo dài đuôi” (*Each bird loves to hear himself sing*) and “Mèo mù vớ phải cá rán” (*Even a blind squirrel finds a nut once in a while*).

In Vietnamese culture, cow is a mild, useful but fairly stupid animal. The word “đầu bò” (*cow’s head*) infers a stubborn and untamable person and “bò đội nón” (*cow wears a hat*) refers a stupid person. The Vietnamese also use “con bò cái” (*cow*) to call or mention offensively an unpleasant woman but this usage is not extremely popular. In fact, Vietnamese people tend to use buffalo which is an animal of the cow family as metaphor like the English use the name of horse in metaphor.

In contrast to English, Vietnamese people do not used the name of bird to refer to a woman. That is often used as a slang of “penis” like the word “cock” in English instead. The name of bird only appears in a few idioms such as “Cá chậu chim lồng” inferring a life without freedom and “Chim sa cá lặn”

describing such an incredibly beautiful girl that the bird is falling down and the fish is sinking because of their embarrassment for her beauty. The idiom “Birds of a feather flock together” in English can be translated as “Nguu tầm nguu mã tầm mã” (*a buffalo finds a buffalo, a horse finds a horse*) in Vietnamese.

Metaphors relating to the name of chicken, and lion in two languages are not the same. Nowadays, “gà móng đỏ” (*chicken with red claws*) is a slangy word referring to the prostitute like “alley cat” in English while “gà công nghiệp” (*broiler chicken*) sometimes alludes people who are fairly passive and lack experience because their family nurture, shelter and pampered them exceedingly.

On the other hand, when Vietnamese people mention “lion”, they often allude to a jealousy and aggressive woman, that is similar to metaphorical meaning of “dragon” or “tigress” in English, while, English people consider lion as a symbol of strength and bravery. In contrast, while Vietnamese people consider dragon as a symbol of strength and bravery, English people use “dragon” to depict an impetuous woman.

Metaphors relating to the name of fox and rat also need to mention. The image of fox has many differences based on each culture. In Oriental culture, fox is a creature received both positive and negative evaluations. According to Hans-Jörg (2006), fox is depicted as a familiar spirit possessed of magic powers, mischievousness, deceit and the ability to disguise as an attractive woman but it is also thought to be a mystical and sacred creature. Sometimes, Vietnamese people also call a seductive woman who has an affair with married man or breaks the other’s relationship “Hồ ly tinh” (also known as “Hulijing” or “a fox spirit”).

If the name of rat in English represent a disloyal person, in Vietnamese folklore represents smallness, weakness and cowardice. Metaphors relating to the name of rat are not an exception. Some examples we can list include: “Chuột gặm chân mèo” (Mouse gnaws on a cat’s leg); “Ném chuột vỡ lọ” (People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones); “Đầu voi đuôi chuột”

(The mountain has brought forth a mouse); “Cháy nhà ra mặt chuột” (Rats abandon a sinking ship) and “Chuột sa chĩnh gạo” (Marry a fortune).

In summary, both Vietnamese and English have metaphors relating to the names of animals. Although the numbers and meanings of them are different, their roles in the flexibility, engaging of verbal communication in particular as well as development of language in general are almost the same.

### **3.2. Some difficulties when learning English metaphors relating to the names of animals**

#### ***3.2.1. Some difficulties when learning English metaphors relating to the names of animals***

The greatest difficulty is we can easily mistranslate if we do not learn thoroughly about English and its usage. How can we guess that “Birds of a feather flock together” means “Vật họp theo loài” in Vietnamese, or “Đếm cua trong lỗ” is comparable to “count your chickens before they hatch”. Following are some difficulties which we usually encounter:

- ✓ Cultural factor: The images of some animals in Vietnamese and English culture are not always the same is a challenge for English learners. For example, Asian people consider dragon as one of four holy beasts but in Western country, dragon is an ugly imaginary creature representing cruelty and brutality. In Vietnamese, dragon is a noble symbol of the King, but in English, dragon usually invokes a jealousy and aggressive woman. Language in general and metaphor in particular is not separated from culture.
- ✓ Regional factor: English is used in many countries and people in each country have their own dialects which are derived from English and may not be known in other countries. For example, South African used “monkey’s wedding” to describe a phenomenon in which sun and rain appear at the same time, however, in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland and Britain, it is called “sun-shower”.

- ✓ Grammar factor: Unlike Vietnamese, English people used many verb phrases consisting of the names of animals and prepositions. For example, “**rat** on something” means you break a promise; “**rat** on somebody” means you tell somebody in authority about something wrong that somebody else has done why “**rat** around” means you waste time loafing around.
- ✓ Contextual factor: Even some common and simple words can leave you confused if you do not put them in context. Two sentences are examples “I raise some **milch cows**”, “She is a **milch cow** in my studio”. Thence, learning about context to understand the phrases is very important.

### ***3.2.2. Some suggestions for English learners when learning English metaphors relating to the names of animals***

In order to learn metaphors relating to the names of animals effectively, we need some solutions to them.

Firstly, as mentioned previously, understanding the culture of both countries is very important to understanding metaphor in general and metaphors relating to the names of animals.

Secondly, in the reading and and translating process, we need to ponder deeply to understand and use correctly those dialects to assure that we understand correctly about the phrases. If we are not sure about one word, it is better to look it up in the dictionaries instead of guessing the meaning of the phrases.

Finally, context in which the names of animals appear also need to consider to know in what sentence invokes metaphor and in what sentence carries literal meaning.

### **3.3. Some exercises in metaphors relating to the names of animals**

**Task 1:** Are the names of animals in metaphorical or literal use? Write (A) with metaphorical and (B) with literal meaning.



- (a) I love **dog**, but I have a serious allergy to animal hair.
- (b) I hate **dog** days, they make me feel like being a living death.
- (c) I like a **lionhearted** man like you, please be my boyfriend!
- (d) Yesterday, I made my husband Hungarian **chicken heart** stew but he would rather die than eat it.
- (e) My girlfriend blames me for making a **monkey** out of her in front of her friends and then she dumps me, regardless the fact that I don't do that.
- (f) My son is interested in the African green **monkey** he saw in the national park.
- (g) I raise a **milch cow**, and then make some butter and cheese to sell.
- (h) **Holy cow!** You are so awesome in this blue dress.
- (i) I decided to raise some **pig** in my family's farm
- (j) I am really happy when Tom gives me a **piggyback**.
- (k) His new girlfriend is a **stone fox** but I don't believe that they have a long-term relationship.
- (l) "Do you have any pets?" – "I keep a **red fox** in my garden, so, 'Yes!'."

**Task 2:** Match the expression relating to the name of dog with its meaning

- |                                      |   |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1/ Everybody and their dog           | • | • | a/ A person who makes threats all the time hardly carries out them.         |
| 2/ Why keep a dog and bark yourself? | • | • | b/ An unhappy life, full of problems or unfair treatment                    |
| 3/ A dog's life                      | • | • | c/ A large number of people   |
| 4/ To put on the dog                 | • | • | d/ A thing that has been done badly   |
| 5/ Barking dog never bites           | • | • | e/ When a person already has a bad reputation, it is difficult to change it |
| 6/ A dog's breakfast                 | • | • | f/ To act as if you are very important                                      |
| 7/ To give a dog a bad               | • | • | g/ You needn't do something you have  |

name

hired someone else to do

**Task 3: Finish those metaphorical idioms**

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1/ You can't teach...                     | a/ ...flock together                |
| 2/ To be raining...                       | b/ ...you get monkeys               |
| 3/ Birds of a feather...                  | c/ ...come home to roost            |
| 4/ The chickens...                        | d/ ...cats and dogs                 |
| 5/ If it was a snake...                   | e/ ...love creeps out of the window |
| 6/ When the wolf comes in at the door,... | f/ ...an old dog new tricks         |
| 7/ If you pay peanuts/bananas,...         | g/ ...it woulda bit you.            |

**Task 4: Match the phrase to the blank**

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| i. <i>a watchdog</i>         | v. <i>send me on a wild-goose chase</i> |
| ii. <i>sacrificial lambs</i> | vi. <i>a dog in the manger</i>          |
| iii. <i>sling the cat</i>    | vii. <i>guinea pigs</i>                 |
| iv. <i>have a cow</i>        | viii. <i>dog-eat-dog</i>                |
| ix. <i>a pack rat</i>        |   |

- (a) My parent drink eighteen big mugs of beer and then they \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) "We're living in a \_\_\_\_\_ world. You should learn to adapt it"
- (c) He always feels envious of someone more talented than him and tries to thwart their effort. He is \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) They pharmacy company needs one hundred \_\_\_\_\_ for HIV vaccine trial.
- (e) "Why did you \_\_\_\_\_ like that? You knew the woman I crushed on got married and you didn't tell me."
- (f) He works in an organization that is responsible for monitoring and rating charities. He is \_\_\_\_\_.
- (g) "Don't \_\_\_\_\_, it's just a small operation. You sleep, and when you wake

up, everything is done”, said the doctor.

(h) He likes buying everything he sees in the shop, regardless of the fact that he doesn't really need them. He is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Task 5: Match English expressions with their equivalent ones in Vietnamese**

A)

- |  |   |                            |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| 1/ To nurture a snake in one's bosom         | • | • a/ Giận cá chém thớt     |
| 2/ Let the fox guard the hen house           | • | • b/ Bắt cá hai tay        |
| 3/ Cannot beat the horse beats the saddle.   | • | • c/ Đếm cua trong lỗ      |
| 4/ To be ware of silent dog and still water  | • | • d/ Trao trứng cho ác     |
| 5/ To run after two horses                   | • | • e/ Nuôi ong tay áo       |
| 6/ To look a gift horse in the mouth         | • | • f/ Tầm ngẩm đấm chết voi |
| 7/ To count one's chickens before they hatch | • | • g/ Được voi đòi tiên     |

B)

- |                                 |   |  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 1/ Trâu chậm uống nước đục      | • | • a/ When the cat's away the mice will play                |
| 2/ Mèo khen mèo dài đuôi        | • | • b/ The early bird catches the worm                       |
| 3/ Mèo già hoá cáo              | • | • c/ Birds of a feather flock together                     |
| 4/ Nhìn chó chó liếm mặt        | • | • d/ An old fox not easily snared                          |
| 5/ Chó cậy gần nhà              | • | • e/ Each bird loves to hear himself sing                  |
| 6/ Ngưu tầm ngưu mã tầm mã      | • | • f/ A cock is valiant on his own dunghill                 |
| 7/ Vắng chủ nhà gà mọc đuôi tôm | • | • g/ If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas |

**Task 6: Select the suitable word**

- (a) Today I got up late, went to the office with two differently-coloured socks and then I realized I had lost my key. It is a (**dog's life/ cow of a day**).
- (b) Mary buys her son a (**piggyback/ piggy bank**) to keep his lucky money.
- (c) "He is still alive or dead is not my business, I don't give a (**money/ monkey**)"
- (d) "I have won one million lottery, so this meal I will pay" – "Really? You (**lucky dog/ dirty dog**)."
- (e) The Prime Minister needs a (**lion's eye view/bird's eye view**) about economic potential of his country when becoming a member of TPP.
- (f) (**Monkey's wedding/ Monkey's funeral**) is dialectal word of "sun-shower".
- (g) My neighbour is a (**goat/lamb**), he always stares my breast when I pass his house.
- (h) "Your voice is so (**bitching/bitchy**). Do you want to go for a singing audition?"
- (i) He promised marry her, now he (**pigged out on/ratted on**) his vow because of the objection of his family.
- (j) He doesn't conceal a desire to get into her (**puppy/pussy**) but she always refuses tactfully.
- (k) Tom is a thirty-year-old bachelor. Such a (**fine wolf/lone wolf**)!

**Task 7: Pick up the compound word that matches the picture and then make a metaphor for each in a sentence.**



1/ B \_ \_ \_ S \_ \_ \_



2/ C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



3/ C \_ \_ \_ C \_ \_



4/ D \_ \_ -E \_ \_



5/ D \_ \_ T \_ \_



6/ M \_ \_ \_ \_ S \_ \_ \_

**Task 8:** Find compound words relating to the names of animals

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | I | C | H | I | C | K | L | I | T |
| I | R | A | T | R | U | N | I | A | C |
| R | G | S | B | Q | N | Y | O | B | A |
| D | U | H | Q | U | O | U | N | C | T |
| B | N | C | A | E | Z | K | H | F | S |
| R | D | O | G | E | N | D | E | S | O |
| A | E | W | O | N | G | Z | A | X | U |
| I | R | C | F | B | E | S | R | W | P |
| N | D | I | J | E | D | H | T | Y | Z |
| M | O | N | K | E | Y | S | U | I | T |
| I | G | S | N | A | K | E | O | I | L |

0, Bird-brain                      4, \_\_\_\_\_                      8, \_\_\_\_\_  
 1, \_\_\_\_\_                      5, \_\_\_\_\_                      9, \_\_\_\_\_

2, \_\_\_\_\_

6, \_\_\_\_\_

10, \_\_\_\_\_

3, \_\_\_\_\_

7, \_\_\_\_\_

## PART III: CONCLUSION

In summary, the study fulfilled its aims which are providing an in-depth view of metaphors relating to the names of twelve common animals in modern English including dog, cat, cow, bird, chicken, lion, snake, fox, wolf, rat, monkey and pig.

Besides, it also gave some comparison of metaphors relating to the names of animals in English and Vietnamese, some difficulties when learning this metaphorical source and their solves to assure that English learners can learn profoundly about this issue.

All what have been referred to in the study come from the limited understanding and ability, however, it is hoped that it will be a useful material for every student who wants to learn about metaphor and its applications.

Because of constraint time, limited reference sources and the researcher's ability, all dimensions of metaphors relating to the names of animals might not be covered. Hopefully, one of the following themes will be taken up in the further study.

- *A study on English metaphorical verb phrases relating to the names of animals*
- *Comparison and contrast on the images of dog and cat in English – Vietnamese metaphor*
- *A study on culture's influences in the way metaphors relating to the names of animals are created*

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## APPENDIX: SUGGESTED ANSWERS TO TASKS

**Task 1:** (a) B (b)A (c)A (d)B (e)A (f)B  
(g) B (h)A (i)B (j)A (k)A (l)B

**Task 2:** 1-c 2-g 3-b 4-f 5-a 6-d 7-e

**Task 3:** 1-f 2-d 3-a 4-c 5-g 6-e 7-b

**Task 4:** (a) iii (b) viii (c) vi (d) vii  
(e) v (f) i (g) iv (h) ix

**Task 5:** A) 1-e 2-d 3-a 4-f 5-b 6-g 7-c  
B) 1-b 2-e 3-d 4-g 5-f 6-c 7-a

**Task 6:** (a) cow of a day (b) piggy bank (c) monkey (d) lucky  
dog

(e) bird's eye view (f) Monkey's wedding (g) goat (h) bitching

(i) ratted on (j) pussy (k) lone wolf

**Task 7:** 1. Black sheep 2. Cocktail 3. Cash cow  
4. Dog-ear 5. Dog tag 6. Monkey suit

**Task 8:**

|          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>B</b> | I | C | H | I | C | K | L | I | T |
| <b>I</b> | R | A | T | R | U | N | I | A | C |
| <b>R</b> | G | S | B | Q | N | Y | O | B | A |
| <b>D</b> | U | H | Q | U | O | U | N | C | T |
| <b>B</b> | N | C | A | E | Z | K | H | F | S |
| <b>R</b> | D | O | G | E | N | D | E | S | O |
| <b>A</b> | E | W | O | N | G | Z | A | X | U |
| <b>I</b> | R | C | F | B | E | S | R | W | P |
| <b>N</b> | D | I | J | E | D | H | T | Y | Z |
| <b>M</b> | O | N | K | E | Y | S | U | I | T |
| <b>I</b> | G | S | N | A | K | E | O | I | L |