

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

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**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
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**AN INVESTIGATION INTO ANIMAL – RELATED  
METAPHORS IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE**

**GRADUATION PAPER**

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**HAI PHONG - 2018**

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**NHIỆM VỤ ĐỀ TÀI TỐT NGHIỆP**

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Tên đề tài: An investigation into animal – related metaphors in English and Vietnamese.

# 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

## Người hướng dẫn thứ nhất:

Họ và tên:

Học hàm, học vị:

Cơ quan công tác: Đại học Dân lập Hải Phòng

Nội dung hướng dẫn: An investigation into animal – related metaphors in English and Vietnamese

## Người hướng dẫn thứ hai:

Họ và tên:.....

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Nội dung hướng dẫn:.....

Đề tài tốt nghiệp được giao ngày    tháng    năm 2018

Yêu cầu phải hoàn thành xong trước ngày    tháng    năm 2018

Đã nhận nhiệm vụ ĐTTN

*Sinh viên*

Đã giao nhiệm vụ ĐTTN

*Người hướng dẫn*

*Hải Phòng, ngày ..... tháng.....năm 2018*

**Hiệu trưởng**

**GS.TS.NGƯT *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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**2. Đánh giá chất lượng của khóa luận (so với nội dung yêu cầu đã đề ra trong nhiệm vụ Đ.T. T.N trên các mặt lý luận, thực tiễn, tính toán số liệu...):**

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

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

**Cán bộ hướng dẫn**

*(Ký và ghi rõ họ tên)*

**CỘNG HÒA XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA VIỆT NAM**

**Độc lập - Tự do - Hạnh phúc**

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**PHIẾU NHẬN XÉT CỦA GIẢNG VIÊN HƯỚNG DẪN TỐT NGHIỆP**

Họ và tên giảng viên: .....

Đơn vị công tác: .....

Họ và tên sinh viên: ..... Chuyên ngành: .....

Đề tài tốt nghiệp: .....

Nội dung hướng dẫn: .....

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

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**2. Đánh giá chất lượng của đề án/khóa luận (so với nội dung yêu cầu đã đề ra trong nhiệm vụ Đ.T. T.N trên các mặt lý luận, thực tiễn, tính toán số liệu...)**

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**3. Ý kiến của giảng viên hướng dẫn tốt nghiệp**

Được bảo vệ  Không được bảo vệ  Điểm hướng dẫn

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

**Giảng viên hướng dẫn**

*(Ký và ghi rõ họ tên)*

**CỘNG HÒA XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA VIỆT NAM**

**Độc lập - Tự do - Hạnh phúc**

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**PHIẾU NHẬN XÉT CỦA GIÁO VIÊN CHĂM PHẢN BIỆN**

Họ và tên giảng viên: .....

Đơn vị công tác: .....

Họ và tên sinh viên: ..... Chuyên ngành: .....

Đề tài tốt nghiệp: .....

**1. Phần nhận xét của giáo viên chăm phản biện**

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**2. Những mặt còn hạn chế**

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**3. Ý kiến của giảng viên chăm phản biện**

Được bảo vệ  Không được bảo vệ  Điểm phản biện

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

**Giảng viên chăm phản biện**

*(Ký và ghi rõ họ tên)*



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# **PART 1: INTRODUCTION**

## **1. Rationale**

Today, the number of English speakers is increasing rapidly. Following the survey of Crystal (2006), there are one billion of people who use English as the second language and still continue. For its convenience, learners can use to travel, study, discover new cultures and environments. By the way, the English language contains many interesting features that are waiting for us to explore more and more. One of the hardest challenges in studying English, as for me, is the transference of word meaning – especially metaphors.

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.

The second, 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 cultures and lifestyles. This is the reason why I choose the study of metaphors relating to the name of animals for my graduation paper.

## **2. Aims of study**

This study primarily focused on metaphors relating to a certain number of animals and how people use it in both speaking and writing.

## **3. Scope of study**

There exists a large animal system in reality so that my graduation essay cannot show all of them. Thus, only the animal names that people often use in sentence will appear in this study.

#### 4. Methods of study

In order to complete this study, the following methods were employed:

- ✓ **Material Collecting:** From the huge information sources on the Internet, I gathered useful researches and quoted main ideas to make a complete essay.
- ✓ **Exercise Making:** I tried to create numerous exercises to make it simple for understanding practically, not only theories.

#### 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 I: Literature background:** The first chapter provides definition of metaphor and its characteristics.
  - ✓ **Chapter II: 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 III: 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 2: DEVELOPMENT**

### **I. Theory Review**

#### *1. Overview of Semantic change*

##### *1.1. Definition*

In the history, semantic change was used quite commonly to make language more flexible and easy to imagine people's minds. It is very important for us to study the backgrounds of semantic changes.

According to Bloomfield (1933), semantic change is the evolution of word usage—usually to the point that the modern meaning is radically different from the original usage. Thus, every word has a variety of senses and connotations, which can be added, removed, or altered over time, often to the extent that cognates across space and time have very different meanings. For example, the word “Hawk” is often used in Vietnam war to refer a jet or supporters of the war instead of a normal bird in the sky.

By contrast, Levinson's opinion (1995) had shown semantic change as arising out of the preferred strategies that speakers or writers use in communicating with addressees. Thus, speakers or writers are the main source for innovation, strategically using implicatures and inviting addressees or readers to infer a meaning.

##### *1.2. Types*

The most widely accepted scheme in the English-speaking academic world is from Bloomfield (1933) and it includes narrowing, widening, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, hyperbole, meiosis, degeneration and elevation.

Besides, Blank's study (1999) was also accepted by the world with metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, specialization of meaning, generalization of meaning,

cohyponymic transfer, antiphrasis, auto – antonymy, auto – converse, ellipsis and folk – etymology.

In general, both Bloomfield and Blank studies all indicted that metaphor is the most popular type of semantic change and it is always the sustainable root for language's development.

## ***2. Overview of Metaphor***

### *2.1. Definition*

According to Nguyen Hoa (2004), metaphor means “transference” in Greek from one object to another based on similarity between two objects.

In Cambridge dictionary, a metaphor is defined as an expression, often found in literature, that describes a person or object by referring to something that is considered to have similar characteristic to that person or object.

Meanwhile, in “Metaphors we live by” of Lakoff (2003), the author said that “Metaphor is for most people a device of the poetic imagination and the rhetorical flourish—a matter of extraordinary rather than ordinary language”.

Moreover, some experts admit that metaphor plays an important role in life, thought and behaviour as well. Certainly, Mardy Grothe, the author of “ I never metaphor I didn't like” also mentioned that opinion in her book and posed out a number of typical animal examples using for rhetorical effect.

### *2.2. Types*

Mainly, English metaphor is divided into three types: Living, Faded and Dead metaphor. (Nguyen Hoa, 2004)

#### *2.2.1. Dead Metaphor*

A dead metaphor is a figure of speech which has lost the original imagery of its meaning due to extensive, repetitive, and popular usage (Nguyen Hoa, 2004).

Because dead metaphors have a conventional meaning that differs from the original, they can be understood without knowing their earlier connotation.

*My time is **running** out.*

In this sentence, the verb “run” (Continuous present is “running”) refers to someone or something (animals, ...etc) moving by their feet quickly in modern English. On the contrary, in old English, “run” is to describe a small river.

Another example is “nice” – the word we use commonly. In the past, people used this word to tell somebody silly, stupid or something like that and, nowadays, to compliment.

### 2.2.2. Living Metaphor

Living metaphor (or poetic and individual metaphor) is a word used with unusual meanings or by an individual. It usually used to make a poem more imaginative and exciting. (Nguyen Hoa, 2004)

*Peace is our **fortress**.*

(Nguyen Hoa, p.109)

The word “fortress” has its own meaning like “castle” and implies that “peace” will be our strong wall to fight against the world war.

### 2.2.3. Faded Metaphor

Faded metaphor is the case in which the word loses its freshness due to a long time of usage and becomes habitual. (Nguyen Hoa, 2004)

*Fall in love, **fruitful** effort.*

(Nguyen Hoa, p.109)

Obviously, the word “fall” is not used with normal meaning “fall down to something”. Its meaning is moving from a feeling of neutrality towards a person to one of love because the use of the term "falling in love" comes from the love



between Hazem and Sana (in the history) that equates becoming in love with the act of falling.

### 2.3. Sources of Metaphor

In the book of Nguyen Hoa, it is clear that we widely use metaphors on one object to indict other one based on many similarities. Hence, they can be:

#### a) Position

Example: The hands of scissors lifter, the tail of procession, the foot of mountain.

#### b) Shape

Example: The head of cabbage, the teeth of saw.

#### c) Movement

Example: caterpillar of a tank (to worm).

#### d) Function

Example: the key to the mystery, finger of instruments.

#### e) Colour

Example: orange, rose.

#### f) Size

Example: elephantine, midget.

#### g) Others

- Name of animals: snake – a spiteful person or fox – a cunning person and bear – a rude person.

- Proper names: Othello (a play's character) – a jealous person, Don Juan – a man who has sex with lots of women or Achilles – a person's weakness. (Oxford dictionary of phrase and fable – Elizabeth Knowles, p.08)

## II. Metaphors relating to animal names in English

This investigation mainly focused on researching name of animals used as metaphors.

### 1. Name of Dog

People can see dogs at anywhere because they are kept as companion animals by approximately fifty percent of American households (Dog as metaphors: meaning transfer in a complex set – Elizabeth C. Hirschman). Dogs not only enrich our lives, but they enrich the language as well.

In English, dogs are always said to imply someone who was unpleasant and started losing many things or being poor and unhappy. Furthermore, it normally gets negative meanings when using for a person. (Humans, animals and metaphors – Andrew Goatly, p.26)

*We lead him a **dog's** life.*

The word “dog” is replaced with the hard life in this sentence.

As a verb, “dog” can be an action of following someone closely in a way that annoys them.

*Photographers **dogged** the princess all her adult life.*

Besides, it can be seen frequently in types of compound words and idioms like below:

<b>Hang - dog</b>	A sneaky or untrustworthy person
<b>Dog hearted</b>	Inhuman, cruel
<b>Dogbone</b>	Telephone, especially the handset, in

	british and australian slang
<b>Raining cats and dogs</b>	Very heavy rain
<b>Lead dog</b>	Task leader, typically one who has or is granted significant responsibility
<b>Bird dog</b>	Womanizer
<b>Dish dog</b>	A person who washes dishes for pay. Sometimes the term is used derogatorily, others as a compliment
<b>Downward dog</b>	A yoga posture similar to that of a dog stretching out its front legs and lowering its head
<b>Mad dog</b>	Someone who is fighting mad, perhaps a crazed fighter who has no thought for his own health and well being
<b>Running dog</b>	A servile follower or lackey
<b>Dog end</b>	A cigarette butt
<b>Dogpile</b>	To leap on top of someone, of groups of people, or individuals
<b>Beware of dog</b>	A warning that property has fierce protection
<b>Celebudog</b>	Dogcessory

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. Name of Cat***

Animals have been widely used metaphorically to convey certain meanings related to human beings in English. One such animal, cat, has a common proposition of being fickle and independent (Lakoff, 1989).

*The night is a big black cat*

(G.Orr Clark – The poem of “The night is a big black cat”)

In this poem’s sentence, anyone can see that the sky at night is always dark and it is a feature of nature. The way that author used “black cat” makes us not only think of a completely dark night but it is going to be lifelier when comparing a natural creature with an animal.

On other hand, “cat” also carries the meaning of negative meanings in English such as being dangerous or fierce (Metaphor and corpus linguistics – Alice Deignan) in the sentence below.

*I do not wake **that sleeping cat** up at class.*

Here, cat is viewed as a real threat and means not to disturb the silent enemies.

Moreover, idioms and compound words are also popular when using with the name of “cat” such as:

<b>All cats love fish but hate to get their paws wet</b>	Lazy
<b>Never in disgrace, a sexually aroused cat</b>	Shameless
<b>Cat - soup</b>	Ketchup
<b>A tomcat, alley cat</b>	A prostitute
<b>A cat nap</b>	A short but nice sleep
<b>A cat’s paw</b>	A person is used by another to achieve some purposes.
<b>Raining cats and dogs</b>	Heavy rain, rain in a great amount

<b>To see which way the cat jumps</b>	Temporarily stop making decisions until knowing exactly what it is going to
<b>To bell the cat</b>	Agree to perform a risky, Dangerous, or impossible job or task

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.

### 3. Name of Cow

“Cow” vocabulary is used metaphorically in everyday language, especially in greeting expressions, exclamations and swear words. At this moment, the majority of cow metaphors have good connotation (Cow Metaphors – Alexandre Kimenyi) but, sometimes, cow word can also be understood as a really stupid or dumb person.

*President Obama does not seem to be a **coward** by the efforts of the powerful lobbyists to change policies to benefit their corporations.*

*(English-Vietnamese p.250)*

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

*Kathy is trying to **cow** my brother into doing her homework.*

In English, they often use the “take the cow by the horns” idiom when getting troubles or difficulties in life but then facing or coping with it instead of avoiding.

*It's time to take the **cow** by the horns and ask out that girl you like!*

Many people also like compounding it or saying like idioms to make speaking more fluent and natural such as:

<b>Cash cow, milch cow</b>	A person, an organization or a product from which it is easy to make money
<b>Holy cow</b>	Bewilderment, Surprise or astonishment
<b>Cowshit (bullshit)</b>	An expletive, often used in disbelief
<b>Cowboy</b>	A person whose job is to take care of cattle or usually rides a horse in a film.
<b>Sacred cow</b>	Something that people accept or believe to be good or necessary without ever questioning their belief
<b>Cow juice</b>	Cow's milk
<b>To have a cow</b>	To be upset, angry or something negative

At the moment, “cow” metaphors are really common to use by English people around the world because of its soft and shy characteristic.

#### ***4. 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 “woman” (López, 2009) 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.

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 (Cambridge Dictionary Meaning). Unlike them, “early bird” is someone who gets up early in the morning.

We can take a look at the idioms and compound words below for more information of “bird” metaphors:

<b>One stone, two birds</b>	To achieve two things at the same time with one action
<b>To have a bird</b>	Extremely shocked or agitated
<b>The bird has flown</b>	The wanted person has escaped
<b>You cannot catch old birds with chaff</b>	Experienced people are not to be deceived because they are too astute
<b>Birds and the bees</b>	The facts about sex and often be told to children
<b>Early bird</b>	Someone who arrives someplace early or starts something early
<b>Eat like a bird</b>	Eat very little
<b>For the birds</b>	Not interesting, something that you do not like, worthless

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.

### ***5. Name of Duck***

“Duck” is also a kind of animal which is similar to “bird” and represents a nature reserve (Introducing Metaphor – Murray Knowles and Rosamund Moon 2006). Most of English speakers use this animal’s name to describe a hopeless situation or condition by the compound word “dead duck”.

*The man is a **dead duck**. When the officers come and catch him, he will have to go to jail.*

Sometimes, it contains positive meanings to make sentences more fluent and natural like “duck soup” – something that people can do it without much effort or attempt.

*The exam was **duck soup**. I am sure that I did very well.*

As for ducks, we all know that their bodies are naturally stable in water and they weigh less than the weight of the water they displace. Moreover, the fur on their bodies are very light and soft to keep warm and not to be wet , so that is why ducks love rainy weather much and natives always say the words “ lovely weather for ducks today” to infer rainy days or weather.

*My father’s letter got wet completely, it was **lovely weather for ducks** today.*

The table below shows a several main examples of idioms and compound words for the name of “duck” :

<b>Sitting duck</b>	A person who is easily fooled as if waiting to be attacked
<b>Ugly duckling</b>	An ugly or plain child (who grows up to be pretty)
<b>Lame duck</b>	A politician who has only a little time left in office and therefore has little power
<b>Get one's ducks in a row</b>	To put one's affairs (businesses) in order
<b>Strange duck</b>	A rather unusual, strange, eccentric, or peculiar person
<b>Duck and cover</b>	To evade something, often a question that one does not want to answer
<b>Duck face</b>	A pouty face (with lips stuck out like a duck bill) typically made by young women in photos posted to social medias, especially selfies
<b>Milk a duck</b>	To do something totally impossible
<b>Deduck</b>	A tax deduction
<b>Lord love a duck!</b>	My god!, my goodness!

Generally, the name of “duck” is very easy to use with numerous meanings that makes listener misunderstand sometimes.



## 6. Name of Chicken

One of the main metaphors relating to animal's names is "Chicken" – which mostly used for genders. (López, 2009)

*Is that person with the red hat a chicken or hence?*

We can all see that the words "chicken or hen" are replaced for the meaning of "man" and "woman". (The questioner is confused about someone's gender)

Sometimes, English speakers still say it for something very small or paltry and not deserved to keep their eyes on like an example of "Chicken feed". (English-Vietnamese Dictionary, p.175)

*My brother has a connection in the theatre, so I got some tickets for chicken feed.*

Normally, they just depict a young and very naïve person, especially a young woman like "spring chicken". (López, 2009)

*Well, my sister may not be a **spring chicken**, but she won a computing championship at school.*

Moreover, the name of chicken appears in some expressions:

<b>To count one's chickens before they are hatched</b>	To make plans based on events that may or may not happen
<b>To go to bed with the chickens</b>	To go to bed at sundown - at the same time that chickens go to sleep
<b>A chicken-and-egg situation, problem</b>	A situation in which it is difficult to tell which one of two things was the cause of the other
<b>To get up with the chickens</b>	To wake up at a particularly early hour, especially at or before sunrise
<b>If it ain't chickens, it's feathers</b>	There are always problems; that is life
<b>One day chicken and the next day feathers</b>	Sometimes we have something valuable but other times we don't
<b>The chickens come home to roost</b>	We have to face the consequences of your mistakes or bad deeds
<b>Chicken shit</b>	Something unimportant or nonsense
<b>Chicken - hearted</b>	Coward
<b>Chicken in every pot</b>	A symbol of wealth and prosperity

Most of the idioms about “chicken” are often advices. For example, we have “One day chicken and the next day feathers” that advises to spend what we have sparingly or “To count one's chickens before they are hatched” for living not to show off or be arrogant ourselves.

### ***7. 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 (Genesis – Tremper Longman III). 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 “snake oil” and “trouser snake”.

*My female sibling keeps giving me these medicines to help my disease, but I think honestly that they are just **snake oil**.*

“Snake oil” is American informal way to mention advices or solutions 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.

By contrast, “trouser snake” is used to replace the word of “penis” and not to make the others too sensitive.

*Can he stop scratching his **trouser snake** in public?*

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 or a sneaky and despised person.

*How could I ever have trusted that snake in the grass?*

(McGraw Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs, p.620)

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

*Phoebe: Where are my keys?*

*Lexter: They are right in front of you on that desk.*

*Phoebe: **If it was a snake, it woulda bit me.***

Here, when Phoebe said “If it was a snake it woulda bit me”, she merely wants to show that the keys are very closed to herself so why she does not see it.

In addition, the name of snake can use for something moving like a snake (curving line) such as the train and it is often in type of verb.(English – Vietnamese dictionary, p.997)

*The train **snaked along**, gaining speed as it went down hill.*

(McGraw Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms And Phrasal Verbs, p.620)

### **8. Name of Wolf**

Wolf is a large wild animal of the dog family and then, it is used for producing an effect of paradox and provoking a demand for justification. (Models and metaphors , Max Black, p.287)

***That wolf** is a vegetarian*

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.

*Liz would never **wolf** her food down.*

(McGraw Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms And Phrasal Verbs, p.764)

Wolfish is an adjective which means somebody or something like a wolf, “wolfish grin” is a noun phrase used to depict someone showing sexual interest in the others. (Humans, animals and metaphors – Andrew Goatly, p.26)

*I gave her a **wolfish grin**.*

“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>When the wolf comes in at the door,</b>	If a couple gets married because they
--	---------------------------------------

<b>love creeps out of the window</b>	love, but they do not have enough money, they will stop loving each other when the money runs out
<b>Between dog and wolf</b>	Between dusk and daylight
<b>A wolf in sheep's clothing</b>	A person who seems to be friendly or harmless but is really an enemy
<b>A growing youth has a wolf in his belly</b>	Young people who are growing fast are hungry all the time
<b>To sell wolf tickets</b>	To threaten someone with threats of violence or menacing, boastful words
<b>To throw somebody to the wolves</b>	To leave somebody to be roughly treated or criticized without trying to help them
<b>To keep the wolf from the door</b>	To have enough money to avoid going hungry
<b>To have a/the wolf by the ears</b>	To be in a difficult and dangerous situation
<b>To cut one's wolf loose</b>	To get drunk
<b>To cry wolf</b>	To cry or complain when nothing is really wrong
<b>To buy someone's wolf ticket</b>	To speak aggressively to someone without intending to back it up with violence.
<b>A lone wolf</b>	An independent person who likes doing stuffs on their own abilities, rather than doing them with other people

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.

### **9. 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 (Humans, animals and metaphors – Andrew Goatly, p.27). 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” that means “drunk” too. Compound nouns using the name of rat will be summarised in the table below:

<b>Frat – rat</b>	A college fraternity member
<b>Pack rat</b>	A person who collects and hoards worthless items
<b>Rat fink</b>	One who is regarded as a traitor for reporting criminal activities to the police (mainly in US)
<b>Rat – bastard</b>	A really wretched or despised person
<b>Sack rat</b>	Someone who spends a lot of time in bed and never seems to get enough sleep
<b>Rug rat</b>	A small child, especially an infant or toddler
<b>The rats</b>	The delirium tremens (dts)
<b>Rat run</b>	A minor roadway used as a bypass for

	drivers who wish to Avoid traffic on larger roads or motorways
<b>Rat race</b>	An unpleasant way in which people compete against each other at work in order to succeed
<b>Lab rat</b>	One who agrees to let others use him or her as a test object
<b>Winter rat</b>	A beat-up car that does not mind driving in harsh winter weather
<b>Hood rat</b>	Person who lives and exhibits attitudes of inner city life, usually a negative connotation that implies poor upbringing, bad manners, little to no education and low class behaving

Because of its small and ugly appearance, the name of rat is usually for describing someone or something in negative ways or bad meanings.

### ***10. Name of Pig***

Pigs, widely present in world cultures, have taken on many meanings and been used for many purposes in traditional arts, popular culture, and media. In fact, the name of pig implies an unpleasant person who is fat, dirty or greedy (Humans, animals and metaphors – Andrew Goatly, p.27) so that “pigsty”, which is primitively an area where pigs are kept, is used to depict a very dirty or untidy place now. Likewise, there are some compound words with the name of pig used:

<b>Guinea pig</b>	Someone or something used as the subject of an experiment
<b>Pig heaven</b>	Police station
<b>Pig's arse</b>	No way!, not a chance! (Australian)
<b>Pig-ignorant</b>	Very stupid or badly educated
<b>Pig-headed</b>	Unwilling to change your opinion about something
<b>Piggy bank</b>	A container in the shape of a pig used by children to Save money
<b>Piggyback</b>	A ride on somebody's back, while he or she is walking
<b>Male chauvinist pig</b>	Men who do think that their gender is more superior than the other.
<b>Female chauvinist pig</b>	Women who consider men as an object to be used for pleasure, fun or labour
<b>Piggy</b>	A person's eyes like those of a pig

In these 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. Otherwise, many idioms and proverbs also contain the name of pig like the table below:

<b>To drive one's pigs to market</b>	To snore
<b>To make a pig's ear (out) of something</b>	To do something badly
<b>To make a pig of yourself</b>	To eat too much
<b>To put lipstick on a pig</b>	To make some superficial or cosmetic change to something so that it seems more attractive or successful than it really is
<b>To buy a pig in a poke</b>	To buy something without seeing it or knowing if it is good enough
<b>A pig of a something</b>	A difficult or unpleasant thing or task
<b>Pigs might fly</b>	You think there is no chance at all of something happening
<b>Piggy in the middle</b>	1) A children's game where two people throw a ball over the head of another person who tries to catch it 2) A person who is caught between two people or groups who are fighting or arguing
<b>Why buy the whole pig when the sausage is free</b>	People will not pay for something which they can get for free

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” (Cambridge Dictionary) 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.



### **III. Application of the study**

#### ***3.1. Comparisons between metaphors relating to animal's names in English and Vietnamese***

##### *a. Similarities*

Metaphors are all used to make the sentences more fluent, natural and imaginative by both English and Vietnamese speakers. Additionally, some idioms have the same words and meanings as well like “con ong chăm chỉ” translated as “a busy bee” – a hard working person, “sống như chó với mèo” as “lead a cat and dog life” – the life between two people with many arguments or “Nhờn với chó, chó liếm mặt” as “If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas” – If we believe one person too much, they can be a traitor to use us.

Sometimes, they have the same only on meanings and are different from words. In Vietnamese metaphors, we say “ngưu tầm ngưu, mã tầm mã” as “birds of a feather” to say that two people are very similar in many ways. Another example is “Như rắn mất đầu” as “Run around like a headless chicken” to describe someone working without care of preparation and then leading to failure gradually.

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

##### *b. Distinctions*

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

In Vietnamese, the name of “dog” is used very common, but it has only negative meanings. Otherwise, people also say its name for positive meanings like “every dog has its day” – it means everyone will be successful or lucky at some time.

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 vó 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 untamed 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 use 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 “Ngưu tầm ngưu 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.

If the name of rat in English represents 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 studying English metaphors relating to the name of animals***

Cultural and regional features: the metaphors in Vietnamese and English are not often the same, so it will be a real challenge if students want to discover this scale of English. Sometimes, studying metaphors in both two languages in the same time can make us misunderstand or be wrong completely. Moreover, the number of English speakers now covers around the world and each region has their own custom, idioms,...etc so that the others maybe do not know or understand. For example, South African use the words “monkey’s wedding” to describe the phenomenon that sun and rain show up in the same time, but the other countries call them “sun shower”.

Grammar feature: Not all the metaphors used in right grammar structures. *For example:* “Why buy the whole pig when the sausage is free”, “If it ain’t chickens, it’s feathers”. Unlike Vietnamese, English speakers also use the name of animals as a verb, not only a noun. 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 feature: Some context can put us in unclear situations if we do not understand you in contexts. Two sentences are examples “I raise some milch

cows”, “She is a milch cow in my studio”. Hence, learning about context to understand the phrases is very important.

### ***3.3. Some suggestions when studying the metaphors relating to the name of animals***

As for my experience, there are three advices I want to share with those who are going to study metaphors as passion.

The first is trying to explore culture of the nation that you are going to learn their English. Each country has their own distinction, so we need to make sure that we will understand them from basic cultures to advanced scale of language.

The second, reading and writing idioms or whatever we see many times are best ways to carve the knowledge of metaphors into our minds. If we are uncertain about some words, it is necessary to research it in dictionaries again and again instead of guessing its meaning.

Ultimately, contexts are also very important because it can include two different meanings depending on denotational and connotational sides.

## **PART 3: CONCLUSION**

### **1. Summary**

This study aims mainly to metaphors relating to ten names of animal: Dog, Cat, Bird, Duck, Fox, Pig, Wolf, Cow, Chicken and Rat.

Based on my own experience and research, I find that people in Vietnam always feel hard to learn metaphors in English because of their differences between cultures and ways we use. There are some fierce realities that I can pose out below to let the others prepare before studying metaphors and English as well.

First, students now do not have environment to improve their potentials in English. In addition, the quality of teachers for them is also not good enough to lead them from beginning so that learners may be wrong in their whole studying process.

Secondly, most of people are quite impatient to get started from zero with metaphors in English when they already know it in Vietnamese ones. (The words used between two languages are completely not same)

Besides, according to the errors students done in their speaking sentences, it is necessary to make students practice more grammar and spelling skills in the process of writing. Grammar should be taught in context and through peer checking and giving feedback from teachers.

Finally, everyone should have own passions in exploring metaphors because this scale can be really difficult without standard and basic knowledge background.

### **2. For further study**

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:

### THE EXERCISES AND ANSWERS

I) Choose appropriate words with each name of animal to describe a person

1) A snake	a) Greedy
2) A bear	b) Stupid, dumb
3) A bee	c) Busy
4) A fox	d) Hard-working
5) A cow	e) Unreliable
6) A beaver	f) Cunning
7) A pig	g) Rude, strict

II) Match words to make a complete idiom

1) You can't teach...	a) Ducks in a row
2) There is...	b) An old dog new tricks
3) It's raining like...	c) A monkey's uncle
4) Get your...	d) Sheep's clothing
5) I'll be...	e) Cats and dogs
6) ... told me	f) A snake in the grass
7) Wolf in...	g) A little bird (birdie)

III) Complete sentences below

(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 "sunshower".

(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**)!

IV) Find all compound words

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

❖ Answers:

I)

1 – e, 2 – g, 3 – d, 4 – f, 5 – b, 6 – c, 7 – a

II)

- 1 – b: You can't teach an old dog new tricks

(It is very hard to change someone's habits)

- 2 – f: There is a snake in the grass

(Someone pretend to be our friend and then actually harms us)

- 3 – e: It's raining like cats and dogs

(Heavy or endless rain)

- 4 – a: Get yours duck in a row

(Organise something in order)

- 5 – c: I'll be a monkey's uncle

(Something happened that we did not expect)

- 6 – A little bird (birdie) told me

(Someone told us stuffs and we do not want to reveal who said)

- 7 – d: Wolf in sheep's clothing

(A person with a pleasant and friendly appearance that hides the fact that they are evil)

III)

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

IV)

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