

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

5.0 Summary of findings

This thesis describes the conceptual metaphors and metonymies that structure Vietnamese thinking about the emotion of love in folk and contemporary songs and poems. This answers the first question of the thesis about what are the conceptual metaphors and metonymies in Vietnamese folk and contemporary literature.

This research is based on Lakoff and Johnson's theory about conceptual metaphor, which is summarized in chapter two. All the cases of metaphors and metonymies in Vietnamese songs and poems are studied in the light of what Lakoff and Johnson found in English in relation to conceptual metaphors and metonymies.

Chapter three is the description of metaphors and metonymies about the concept of LOVE in Vietnamese folk and contemporary songs and poems. There are some metaphorical cases like LOVE IS A UNION, LOVE IS A CONTAINER, LOVE IS AN INVESTMENT and LOVE IS A THREAD and metonymic structures such as GENERIC STANDS FOR SPECIFIC or PART STANDS FOR WHOLE in Vietnamese folk songs. The contemporary literature, in turn, exposes different metaphors, LOVE IS A MOVING OBJECT, LOVE IS A GAME, LOVE IS MEDICINE, LOVE IS A FLOWER or metonymies like GENERIC STANDS FOR SPECIFIC.

The study of conceptual metaphors and metonymies about LOVE in Vietnamese folk and contemporary literature helps us to see a part of a whole picture of worldview in Vietnamese culture. Values reflections from songs and poems in the past and in the present are the main focus in chapter four. The look at values in chapter four helps to

find the answer to the question whether or not there are some changes of worldview in the way Vietnamese people think about the concept of LOVE. That is, even though traditional values about LOVE may be seen in different forms, they are still more or less existing in the contemporary society.

5.1 Suggestions for further studies

This thesis only looks at metaphors of LOVE in folk and contemporary songs and poems. Therefore, there are still many other metaphorical cases that can be analyzed by using Lakoff and Johnson's theory, e.g. women and their roles or other kinds of emotions in Vietnamese folk songs.

In addition, other figures of speech such as simile in Vietnamese folk songs can also be studied. Though the topic about simile may not apply Lakoff and Johnson's theory, it is a possibility when simile is vastly found in Vietnamese folk songs.

Finally, to see how the language in *ca dao* 'folk songs' influences everyday language from anthropological linguistics perspective can be another potential topic. This, no doubt, will give a wider window to see a bigger picture of worldview in Vietnamese culture, compared with what is found in this thesis.