

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
DANANG UNIVERSITY**

**TRẦN THỊ HOÀI VY**

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO  
LINGUISTIC FEATURES  
OF ON-LINE CHATS  
IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE**

**Field: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**Code: 60.22.15**

**MASTER THESIS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**(A SUMMARY)**

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*DANANG - 2011*

The study has been completed at College of Foreign languages,  
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This thesis was defended at the Examination Council for the M.A.  
thesis, University of Danang.

Time : 28/09/2011

Venue: University of Danang

The original of this thesis is accessible for the purpose of reference  
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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. RATIONALE

We are living in a world of modern science and technology where computers and the Internet have become extremely pervasive and are considered some of the most common methods for communication. Chatting online is the mode of exchange which is very convenient, quick and effective. However, the language of on-line chat is by no means similar to the language written in books or taught at schools. It has its own features and causes a number of problems to those who are unfamiliar with on-line chat. Many observers fear that due to the growing influence of the Internet and computer-mediated communication, people are going to lose knowledge of how the standard language ought to be used.

#### 1.2. PROBLEMS UNDER INVESTIGATION

Chatters have limited time, feel bored with typing traditional, long words on the computer or tired of waiting, so they try to abbreviate traditional words, or create new spellings for long words. Gradually, it seems to appear a new language which makes people difficult to read and understand if they do not use it or study it. For example:

In Vietnamese

Hoatimuoi (20:01:20): *Bùn wá mài nhi, lệ gản hít nem lép 12 roài...  
tụi mìn ko đc học dưới mái trường dzầu iu này  
nữa,*

Miumiu84 (20:03:30): *nhưng mìn hứa sẽ mãi là bạn thân, đeng wên  
teo dzà mái tròng iu zầu nì nha*

In English

siddhart (9:44:20 AM) : hi

cupi (9:44:22 AM) : hi, wana chat? c2c

siddhart (9:44:28 AM) : h r u?

rim (9:44:30 AM) : gr8t. A u?

#### 1.3. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study helps teachers, parents, linguists, and all those who are interested in chat language understand the kind of language teenagers are using today, pointing out its possible negative effects and give them necessary guidance with regard to the preservation of the beauty and clarity of the Vietnamese language.

#### 1.4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

##### 1.4.1. Aims

This thesis aims at analyzing noticeable linguistic features of on-line chats in English and Vietnamese, pointing out their similarities and differences, and putting forward some suggestions relating to the use of chat language.

##### 1.4.2. Objectives

To achieve those aims, in this paper the researcher will collect chatting samples in both English and Vietnamese from the internet, describe, classify and analyze some distinguishing linguistic features, point out their similarities and differences and present some problems that chat language may cause and provide some solutions.

#### 1.5. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study lays emphasis on the analysis of some distinguishing linguistic features of on line chats in English and in Vietnamese, namely: grammatical features, commonly-used characteristics, and paralinguistic cues.

## 1.6. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are some grammatical features of on-line chats in English and Vietnamese?
2. What are other commonly-used characteristics of on-line chats in English and Vietnamese?
3. What are some paralinguistic cues of on-line chats in English and Vietnamese?
4. What are their similarities and differences?

## 1.7. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Chapter 1: *Introduction*

Chapter 2: *Literature Review and Theoretical Background*

Chapter 3: *Methods and Procedures*

Chapter 4: *Discussion of Findings*

Chapter 5: *Conclusions and Implications*

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS STUDIES OF ON-LINE CHATS

In Vietnam, Lê Thanh Bình [9] has M.A thesis ‘A Study of the Language in English Blogs written by American People’.

In the world, Hawisher and Selfe [16, p.3-19] acknowledge that networked discourse employs a language. Cherny [10] analyzes the language used in Multi-User Dungeons (MUD). Hutchby [19], like Werry [32, p.47-64], investigates into the Internet Relay Chat (IRC). Baron [1], [2], [3], [4] inquires into email communication, which is a way of computer mediated communication, and gives a detailed account on the linguistics of email. Crystal [13] gives an overview of

the language specifically used by Internet users. Wood and Smith [34, p.35-39] summarize the characteristics of online conversation into five, namely packet-switching, multimedia, interactivity, synchronicity and hypertextuality. Maynor [22] outlines that messages in 'e-style' are more likely to be fairly causal, freely omitted subjects, modals or articles and be extremely informal which include clipped word, simplified spellings and the use of conversational words such as 'yep' and nope. The study “Linguistic Innovations and Interactional Features of Casual Online Communication in Japanese” by Yukiko Nishimura [35] explores the linguistic and interactional properties of informal asynchronous computer-mediated communication (CMC) in Japanese.

#### 2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

##### 2.2.1. What is Computer-mediated Communication?

Computer-mediated communication (CMC) refers to the communication systems that use “computers and telecommunications networks to compose, store, deliver and process communication”.

##### 2.2.2. Chatgroups

According to Crystal [13, p.27], chatgroups are continuous discussions on a particular topic, organized in ‘rooms’ at particular Internet sites, in which computer users interested in the topic can participate. There are two situations here, depending on whether the interaction takes place in real time (synchronous) or postponed time (asynchronous).

##### 2.2.3. On-line Chat

On-line chat is a synchronous mode of CMC. There are two kinds of on-line chat: private chat and chat room.

Private chats are the conversations between two friends who

know each other well.

A chat room is a Web site that provides a venue for the users to communicate in real time. Most chat rooms do not require users to have any special software; those that do, such as ICQ, IRC allow users to download it from the Internet

#### **2.2.4. What is Netspeak?**

It is observed that there is a lot of “special vocabulary” created by the Internet chatters. This “special vocabulary” is now named “nettalk”, “netspeak” [13].

### **2.3. SUMMARY**

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **METHODS AND PROCEDURES**

#### **3.1. RESEARCH METHODS AND RESEARCH DESIGN**

In this study, English is chosen as the source language and Vietnamese is used as the target language. Analysis and descriptive and contrastive methods are chosen as the general methodology of the study.

#### **3.2. RESEARCH PROCEDURES**

The steps involved in the study are as follows: collecting on-line chatting samples; classifying and analyzing; using qualitative and quantitative approach as well as analysis, descriptive approach, contrastive analysis to demonstrate linguistics features of on-lines chats in English and Vietnamese; discovering some grammatical features of on-line chats in English and Vietnamese; studying some commonly-used characteristics of on-line chats in English and Vietnamese; finding out some paralinguistic cues of on-line chats in English and Vietnamese; carrying out a contrastive analysis of English

and Vietnamese samples of on-line chats and drawing some conclusions concerning their similarities and differences; presenting some problems that chat language may cause and providing some solutions.

#### **3.3. SAMPLING AND DATA COLLECTION**

The samples for the investigation are mainly taken from the conversations of on-line chats at <http://www.ukchatterbox.co.uk> and [http://chatnhe.com/rooms/phong\\_chat\\_teen\\_viet](http://chatnhe.com/rooms/phong_chat_teen_viet) from September 2010 to May 2011.

#### **3.4. DATA ANALYSIS**

#### **3.5. INSTRUMENTS FOR DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS**

This study is carried out by means of observation and investigation. Other supporting instruments such as checklists, tables are used. SPSS software is also used to process data and provide information about frequency of occurrence and statistical evidence.

#### **3.6. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

#### **3.7. SUMMARY**

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

#### **4.1. GRAMMATICAL FEATURES OF ON-LINE CHATS**

##### **4.1.1. Grammatical Features of English On-line Chats**

##### **4.1.1.1. Sentence Types**

Most sentences in English on-line chats consist of short and simple structures. The distribution of sentence types shows that, of 5,000 sentences observed, there are only 1773 completed sentences (35.5%), while the other 3227 sentences (irregular sentences, elliptical

sentences, and nonsentences) are used with a much higher frequency (64.5%).

*a. Irregular Sentences*

(i) *How about* and *what about* followed by a noun phrase or an ing- clause:

(1) rohiza: *how abt ur family?* (How about your family?)

(ii) Irregular why-questions without a subject or an auxiliary:

(3) ray: *y not answer my mess?* (Why not answer my message?)

(iii) Wh-questions (except for why-questions) without a subject and with a to infinitive:

(5) Paul: *What to do next?*

*b. Elliptical Sentences*

(i) Ellipsis in declarative sentences

+ Ellipsis of subject alone

(8) Kourtney: *shud go swH to relax.* (You should go somewhere to relax)

+ Ellipsis of subject plus operator

(10) Kyobe: *Gud to hear dat* (It's good to hear that)

(ii) Ellipsis in interrogative sentences

+ Ellipsis of subject plus operator

(15) Naomi: *like music?* (Do you like music?)

+ Ellipsis of operator alone

(18) june: *y u say so?* (Why do you say so?)

(iii) Ellipsis in exclamatory sentences

(23) sara: *How wonderful!* (How wonderful it is!)

(iv) Other cases of situational ellipsis

+ Ellipsis of an article

(25) kakinada: *Sorry, but w8 moment.* (Sorry, but wait a moment)

+ Ellipsis of a preposition

(28) Kyobe: *course, I like.* (Of course, I like it.)

+ Ellipsis of possessive pronoun

(30) kakinada: *mother calls me.* (My mother calls me.)

*c. Nonsentences*

(i) Formulae

+ Greetings : (33) Wade: *g m* (Good morning)

+ Farewells : (34) Ella: *Bye. CU* (See you)

+ Introductions : (36) gaurav : *h r u?* (How are you?)

+ Reaction signals : (38) sako: *Ya, u r right*

(43) Herohero: *oh noooo. u wrong*

+ Thanks : (45) Anan: *Many thx.* (Many thanks)

+ Seasonal Greetings : (47) catlovely: *HAPPY NEW YEAR*

+ Alarm calls : (49) mahato: *helppppp!* (Help!)

+ Warnings : (50) varun: *Tc. miss u* (Take care. Miss you)

+ Apologies : (52) tomas: *my cam not work, sorry*

+ Responses to apologies : (53) sparkplug: *Never mind!*

+ Congratulations : (56) Kyobe: *Wht wonderful news it is!*

Congratulations

+ Expressions of anger or dismissal:

(58) Keen: *damn it!!!! Where uuuuuuuu?*

+ Expletives: (60) Appu: *Golly! u r so slow* (You are so slow)

(ii) Interjection

+ Satisfaction, recognition: (62) tanya: *Ah, Yoko.*

*H r u?* ( How are you?)

+ Calls for attention: (63) cupi: *Eh, comon baby* (Eh, come on baby)

+ Surprises: (65) Ella: *Oh, it's so late. I've to go*

+ Mild apology, shock, or dismay:

(67) sam: Oops, It looks like serious

+ Great surprises: (68) varun: Wowww, soooooo nice! (So nice!)

*d. Completed Sentences*

Simple sentences are most frequently used, compound and complex sentences are least frequently used (61.5% over 4%). Also, the percentage of simple sentences is by far higher than that of compound sentences and complex sentences (61.5% versus 18% and 16.5% respectively

(i) Simple Sentences:

(70) Doxx: u make me mad (You make me mad.)

(ii) Compound Sentences

(71) Keen: i know but i feel sad. ( I know but I feel sad)

(iii) Complex Sentences

(73) man04: i want 2 c u again becos i like u.

(iv) Compound and Complex Sentences

(75) Munmu: I'm interest in physic since I ws in middle school and I wanted 2 become an engineer.

**4.1.1.2. Time Category**

*a. The Simple Present Tense*

(79) kakinada: We go shopping twice a wk.

(We go shopping twice a week)

*b. The Present Perfect Tense*

(82) Cuteteen: Ive got a gf b4. (I've got a girlfriend before)

*c. The Present Continuous Tense*

(84) Katya: Im adding u. (I'm adding you)

*d. The Simple Past Tense*

(85) Mohsin: I asked first.

*e. The Simple Future Tense*

(87) kakinada: I'll be back.

**4.1.1.3. Voice**

It is noteworthy that sentences in active voice outnumber sentences in passive voice in English on-line chats. The survey shows that the percentage of passive sentences is about 1% (20 sentences in passive form compared with 1753 sentences in active form out of 1773 completed sentences).

(90) John: I'm called John. (Passive voice)

**4.1.2. Grammatical Features of Vietnamese On-line Chats**

**4.1.2.1. Sentence Types**

The highest rate 43.8% belongs to elliptical sentences, followed by the completed sentences with 34.9% and then the irregular sentences with 21.3%.

*a. Irregular Sentences*

(i) exclamations

(91) phieudu: Do^` kho^` n nan! (Đồ khốn nạn!)

(ii) Introduction to a situation

(97) gaubudangyeu:Tao out day. Nong wa (Tao out đây. Nóng quá)

(iii) Calls for attention

(99) xiteen: 3m ji uj! (Em gì ơi!)

(iv) Remarks

(102) Tuimonkey: Tot' wa (Tốt quá!)

*b. Elliptical Sentences*

(i) Elliptical sentences with one subject only

(104) Ziczac236: Ai đang hát đấy?

(105) Hoctrocung: *Thần chết.*

(ii) Elliptical sentences with a predicate only

(106) sonlamtu: Chjèu nay m làm j?

(107) Boyboy09: học

(iii) Elliptical sentences with a subordinating element below the sentence level

(110) cuagaidep: Sontra hát chưa?

(111) Sontra: Chưa

*c. Completed Sentences*

In Vietnamese on-line chats, simple sentences are used most often with a very high frequency of occurrence 61.5%, while compound and complex sentences are used less often with a quite low frequency of occurrence 18% and 16.5% respectively. Look at these examples.

(i) Simple Sentences

(114) loving4eve: s m sướng dzur z!!!! (Sao mà sướng dữ vậy!)

(ii) Compound Sentences

(116) Cundangyeu: t ban^ . r t dj choj vs ng ju  
(Tao bận rồi, tao đi chơi với người yêu)

(iii) Complex Sentences

(120) Traitimbanggia : t tg? maj chit' oy chu"  
(Tao tưởng mà chết rồi chứ.)

**4.1.2.2. Time Category**

With a neutral point of view, Nguyễn Văn Hiệp agrees that the words “*sắp, sẽ, từng, vừa, mới, đã, rồi, xong, chưa và đang*” are the elements which clarify the time of an action or event: the past, the present or the future.

(122) Lan97:T da gap n0a' tou' qa rou. (Tao đã gặp nó tối qua rồi.)

However, these words do not always indicate the time supposed to be.

(127) Girlhathanh: Pun ger. Thag toj *da* hjt mua he rou.

**4.1.2.3. Voice**

According to Nguyễn Văn Hiệp, Hoàng Trọng Phiến [36], [39], although passive voice does not exist as a real grammatical category, Vietnamese has its own way to express passive meaning by means of such words as “*bị*” and “*được*”. Normally, the word “*bị*” conveys a negative meaning, while the word “*được*” has a positive meaning, for example:

(131) Thuhy: M pj fak az? (Mày bị phạt à?)

**4.1.3. Similarities and Differences of English and Vietnamese On-line chats in Terms of Grammatical Features Vietnamese On-line Chats**

**4.1.3.1. Similarities**

a. Various types of sentences (irregular, elliptical, and completed) are employed by both English and Vietnamese chatters.

b. English and Vietnamese chatters have a strong tendency to use short and simple structures with a very high percentage (64.5% in English and 63.1% in Vietnamese). The frequency of occurrence of completed sentences is quite low in both languages (35.5% in English and 34.9% in Vietnamese).

**4.1.3.2. Differences**

a. In English, sentence types falls into four categories: irregular sentences, elliptical sentences, nonsentences and completed sentences, whereas Vietnamese linguists classify sentence types as irregular sentences, elliptical sentences and completed sentences. Thus, “nonsentences” is not considered a type of sentences in Vietnamese.

b. The number of irregular sentences used in English chatting is 382 making up 7.8%, whereas that of irregular sentences used in Vietnamese is 1063 making up 21.3%. The frequency of occurrence

of elliptical sentences in English is also lower than that of elliptical sentences in Vietnamese - Nonsentences make up 27.6% in English chatting, whereas nonsentences are not considered one type of sentences in Vietnamese, so there are no equivalents in Vietnamese. In addition, compound-complex sentences are present in English chatting, but absent in Vietnamese chatting because this kind of sentences does not exist in the Vietnamese language.

c. The third difference is related to time category. In Vietnamese, time is not a very clear-cut concept. Meanwhile, English on-line chats make use of a number of tenses: simple present, present perfect, present continuous, simple past and various forms of future.

d. The last difference concerns with voice. Passive voice is used in English on-line chats although it occupies only 1% of the total of the completed sentences, while Vietnamese does not have passive voice as a morphological aspect.

## 4.2. COMMONLY-USED CHARACTERISTICS

### 4.2.1. Commonly-used Characteristics of English On-line Chats

#### 4.2.1.1. Contractions

##### a. Auxiliary Contractions

(141) Littlekatie: I'm 53.

##### b. Negative Contractions

(147) Tigerboy: She isn't young.

##### c. Contraction of "us" in Imperative Sentences

James: Let's do that.

##### d. Elisions such as C'mon (Come on)

Hunterboy: C'mon baby. I w8ting 4 u.

e. Short forms used in note-taking: "'n" (shortened form of "ing")

(152) Liam: I'm feel'n unwell today. (feeling)

#### 4.2.1.2. Abbreviations

##### a. Shortenings

Shortening is the shortened form of a longer word and phrase. Shortening consists of the first few initial letters of the word, which are used to represent the whole word.

(155) ray: but I hav a ? 4 u ( I have a question for you)

##### b. Acronyms

An acronym is "formed from the first letters of a series of words and pronounced as one word"

(157) Kourtney: imo, shud go swhr to relax (in my opinion)

##### c. Reductions of Individual Words

A large number of reduced individual words are used and accepted by frequent chatters, and can easily be guessed and understood by non-frequent chatters too.

(170) osamah: Nth thz. So help me God  
(Nothing, thanks. So help me God.)

##### d. Letter Homophones

A letter homophone occurs if a word is represented by a letter that has a similar pronunciation.

(174) Kourtney: Wht k I do 4 u? (What can I do for you?)

##### e. Number Homophones

Number homophones are based on similar pronunciations between a word and a number.

(180) Black4blue: h r u? (How are you?)

(181) Greenmoon: im 5 (I'm fine.)



*f. Combination of Letter and Number Homophones*

Letter homophones and number homophones can be used separately or jointly in English on-line chats.

(185) kakinada: Sorry, but **w8** moment. (Sorry, but wait a moment.)

**4.2.1.3. Case**

*a. All Lower-case*

(188) Odie: where u frm? im frm England

*b. All Capitals*

(190) ray: DIDN'T U HEAR ME?

*c. Mix of Lower-case and Capitals*

(194) garryboy: u 2. my crazy girl. Wht a cRAZY girl!!!!

(You too. My crazy girl. What a crazy girl!)

**4.2.1.4. Spelling Practice**

*a. The missing of apostrophes – the mark (')*

(196) Tallteen16: Ive been there. (I've been there.)

*b. The missing of hyphens – the short line (-)*

(200) Luk: Plz stop come and go (come-and-go)

*c. The ignorance of conventional grammar rules*

(202) Anan: She go there?

**4.2.1.5. Punctuations**

*a. Zero Punctuation*

By omitting punctuation, a writer can save the time and effort it takes to type those characters (period, comma, etc).

(204) Ella: was glad to help u if there is anything else I can do for u just tell me. (I was glad to help you. If there is anything else I can do for you, just tell me.)

*b. Unconventional Punctuation*

Unconventional punctuations are heavily reduplicated to express attitude, ask questions or generally “make oneself heard”.

(207) Baby-boy: u there ?????? (You there?????)

**4.2.1.6. Repetition**

*a. Repetition of Letters*

When the chatter repeats a letter of a word, it serves to stress the meaning of this particular word and to show the chatter's attitude at the same time.

(208) Mohsin: SOOOO great!

*b. Repetition of Words*

Similarly, for emphasis of meaning and conveyance of attitude, an individual word may be consecutively repeated for more than once.

(212) Isa: never never believe u

**4.2.1.7. Other Cases**

*a. Symbols for Words or Letters*

Symbols	Meaning
No \$	No money
What's her #?	What's her number?
When u @ me?	When you add me?
50% ok	Fifty percent ok

(213) diass: wow, u so k%1 !!!!! ( you are so cool!)

*b. Change of Letters based on Homophone*

+ a → o (What → wot)

(215) Guest777: wots up? (What's up?)

+ i → y (like → lyk, right → ryt )

(216) Jackman: u lyk me? ( You like me?)

(217) Jenny: im ryt? ( I'm right?)

+ k → c (cool → kool)

- (218) Kona: u r sooo kool!!!! ( You are so cool!)  
+ s → z (miss → mizz; its → itz)
- (219) Kate: mizz u so much ( Miss you so much)  
+ th → d (that → dat)
- (220) Sarah: u wnt 2 knw dat? ( You want to know that?)  
+wh → w (what → wat/wot)
- (221) hellen: Wat ???? (What ?)

#### 4.2.2. Commonly-used Characteristics of Vietnamese On-line Chats

##### 4.2.2.1. Abbreviations

###### a. Shortenings

Vietnamese chatters tend to use the very first letter, or once in a while, the first two letters. Look at these examples.

- (222) Changtraicodon: **A** iu e nhju nhju.  
(Anh yêu em nhiều nhiều.)

###### b. Acronyms

Acronyms are widely and abundantly used in Vietnamese chatting.

- (224) minhon: **Bt** thôi (Bình thường thôi)

###### c. Reductions of Individual Words

Reductions of individual words also occur frequently in Vietnamese chatting.

- (228) Duchoai96: dug mah d0g^. (Đừng mạnh động)

###### d. Number Homophones

Number homophones are also common in Vietnamese on-line chats.

- (234) nhinhohaycuoi : M 5 rui ha ? (Mày ngủ rồi hả ?)

###### e. Combination of Letter and Number Homophones

Like English chatters, Vietnamese chatters often combine letter and number homophones in their on-line chatting.

- (237) ziczac1146: d3p. qoa (Đẹp quá!)

##### 4.2.2.2. Case

###### a. All Lower-case

- (239) Hoahoctro: no bik ma thui maj rag dj hok nghe zui lém  
(Không biết mà. Thôi mai ráng đi học nghe, vui lắm)

###### b. All Capitals

- (241) longdaica:TRÒJJJJJ!!!!

###### c. Mix of Lower-case and Capitals

- (242) Tieuthunhangheo: BIẾN đi cha nÔi!!!!

##### 4.2.2.3. Spelling Practice

The most distinguishing features in spelling practice of Vietnamese chatters are the confusions between **s** and **x**, and between the falling accent (dấu hỏi ̉) and the tittle accent (dấu ngã ̣). Here are some examples.

- (243) Nhockcok: khôi ton' tjen mua ao'. (khôi tốn tiền mua áo)

##### 4.2.2.4. Punctuation

###### a. Zero Punctuation

- (246) Vitamin95: no bik ma thui maj rag dj hok nghe zui lém  
(Không biết mà. Thôi mai ráng đi học nghe, vui lắm)

###### b. Unconventional Punctuation

- (247) Tieuthu: BIẾN đi cha nÔi!!!!

##### 4.2.2.5. Repetition

###### a. Repetition of Letters

- (249) Ziazac666: ca sỹ hát hay *quaaaaa* (Ca sỹ hát hay quá!)

###### b. Repetition of Words

- (251) thailangtu: 1 trí, nho e nhieu nhieu (Nhất trí, nhớ em nhiều nhiều.)

#### 4.2.2.6. Other cases

##### a. Strange Characters

To avoid serious misunderstanding, Vietnamese chatters tend to use some characters available on the keyboard as a tacit convention.

(253) Girlthattinh: ngoi` pun` hok bik lem`j, vo^ tinh` nghj~ den´ a.

(Ngồi buồn không biết làm gì, vô tình nghĩ đến anh.)

##### b. Rhymed Words

Vietnamese chatters prefer using rhymed words in a phrase or sentence although the combination itself is meaningless. They use rhymed words just because the combination sounds funny or witty

(256) Hoahoactro: sao k tra? loi\*? chah? nhu\* ca' cah?

(Sao không trả lời? Chảnh như cá cảnh)

##### c. Using Symbols for Words

(257) Thaiha: Đôi xe # ruj a? (Đôi xe khác rồi à?)

##### d. Change of Letters

(i) vowels

(258) loving4eve: Chìu nay, m koa' dj hox k?

(Chiều nay, mà có đi học không?)

(ii) Consonants

(263) Titin: ddô` zô zin. (Đồ vô duyên)

#### 4.2.2.7. Mixed Language

##### a. Using Vietnamese and English

Vietnamese chatters often mix Vietnamese with familiar English words in their conversation.

(265) sebuon-se khoc : Kó time không ? (Có thời gian không?)

##### b. Using English Pronunciation

(271) Hoamaoga: wow, quá rô-man-tịt nhaaa!!!!

(Wow, quá romantic nha!)

##### c. Using Pidgin English

(i) Word-for-word translation

(273) Vivuvui: haha. Like is afternoon (Thích thì chiều)

(ii) Homonyms

(276) Hongminhon: Bi bi nha! Sugar you you go, sugar me me go

(Bye bye nha! Đường anh anh đi, đường em em đi.)

(iii) Paronomasia

(278) Cundethuong: bai` ta^p do^n da^p thía naj` thì` give me beg two word soldier black peace ( Bài tập dồn dập thế này thì cho em xin hai chữ bình yên)

#### 4.2.2.8. Deduction from Acronyms

Deduction from acronyms of some brands of cigarettes did occur long time ago in South Vietnam. Nowadays, this kind of deduction somehow finds its way into Vietnamese on-line chats and, strangely enough, nobody knows where it comes from.

(280) Hathanhsanhdieu: K0 cho\*j kie^u? NATO nha!

(Không chơi kiếu không hành động chỉ nói suông nha!)

(281) Luclac: M tha^t la`VIP. (Mày thật là người mất lịch sự.)

#### 4.2.3. Similarities and Differences of English and Vietnamese On-line Chats in Terms of Commonly-used Characteristics

##### 4.2.3.1. Similarities

Firstly, abbreviations, case, spelling practice, punctuation and repetition appear in both languages.

Secondly, there is a strong tendency for English and Vietnamese chatters to replace words with letters or numbers, or both letters and numbers.

##### 4.2.3.2. Differences

The first difference is that contractions and letter homophones are often used in English chatting, but it is not the case in Vietnamese chatting.

In the second place, mixed language – especial Vietnamese and English – is frequently used by Vietnamese chatters, not by English chatters.

Thirdly, the Vietnamese chat language seems to be more diversified and more complicated than the English chat language with the appearance accent, rhymed words, paronomasia, and especially with the appearance of words coming from the imitation of English pronunciation

And last but not least, English chatters tend to reduce vowel sounds in abbreviation, whereas Vietnamese people incline to reduce not only vowel sounds but also consonant sounds.

### 4.3. PARALINGUISTIC CUES

#### 4.3.1. Paralinguistic Cues in English On-line Chats

##### 4.3.1.1. Vocalization

It is common to see strings of letters like 'haha', 'heeheehee', 'ha?!"', 'hmmm...', 'huh?', 'ah—', 'ai', 'aiya', 'hoho', 'uh-oh', 'huhuu', 'wawawa', 'oh!', 'uhhh...', 'sh~~~~', 'zzzzz' in chatting.

They are used to express emotions and facial expressions in non-face-to-face Internet chatting

(282) sherry: hehehe. I joking.

##### 4.3.1.2. Emoticons

"Emoticons" derives from the words 'emotions' and 'icons'. Since there is no standard interpretation of smileys, (>\_< can be interpreted as angry, unhappy, or disappointed). Some smileys might even be misinterpreted by some users. This misunderstanding or

misinterpretation led to the popularization of the use of cartoon icons known as emoticons.

(282) danica: 8-0 it true?

#### 4.3.2. Paralinguistic Cues in Vietnamese On-line Chats.

##### 4.3.2.1. Vocalization

Similarly, Vietnamese chatters also express their feelings by using the strings of letters hic hic, huhu ( I'm crying, I'm sad), haha, kaka, hi hi, keke, ac ac, ak ak ak, hix hix, hehe (I'm laughing or I'm happy), uhm (I'm thinking), uh hah!! (ồ há), wow (I'm surprised)

(286) Thuxixon: hichic, we^<sup>n</sup> mih rui` seo? (quên mình rồi sao?)

##### 4.3.2.2. Emoticons

Like English chatters, Vietnamese chatters sometimes use emoticons in Internet chatting. The simplest emoticons are the most frequently used, probably because they are quickly typed and easily understood by most users.

(288) hathanh111: :-\* bibi e iu ( Bye bye em yêu)

#### 4.3.3. Similarities and Differences of English and Vietnamese On-line Chats in Terms of Paralinguistic Cues

##### 4.3.3.1. Similarities

- Vocalization is used not only in English on-line chats but also in Vietnamese on-line chats.

- Both English and Vietnamese chatters use emoticons in on-line chatting.

##### 4.3.3.2. Differences

No difference is identified between English and Vietnamese on-line chats in terms of paralinguistic cues

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSIONS AND SOME IMPLICATIONS

#### 5.1. CONCLUSIONS

*“An Investigation into Linguistic Features of On-line Chats in English and Vietnamese”* is a study of how on-line chats are structured and what commonly-used characteristics and paralinguistic cues are used in on-line chats. In order to reach these goals, we carry out to analyze the *grammatical features, commonly-used characteristics and paralinguistic cues* of English on-line chats and Vietnamese ones, then compare and contrast these features to find out similarities and differences between the two languages. This thesis is also aimed to make an original contribution to the theoretical studies of the language of chatting in general as well as the language of on-line chats in English and Vietnamese in particular.

#### 5.2. SOME IMPLICATIONS

##### 5.2.1. The Impacts of Chat Language on the Vietnamese Language

Chat language helps people exchange information more quickly and save more time. However, the abuse of too many chat languages in everyday life is a warning-bell for teenagers. Nowadays, chat language is devastating the clarity of the Vietnamese language as well as the language of the young.

##### 5.2.2. Some Solutions to Protect and Preserve the Beauty and Purity of the Vietnamese Language

“Life on the fast lane” nowadays makes humans race with time. Due to the limitedness of time and the boredom caused by the typing on the keyboard, Vietnamese chatters invented different ways to distort standard Vietnamese and made it strange and

incomprehensible, even to the speaker of that language. By so doing, they are greatly contributing to the destruction of the beauty and purity of the Vietnamese language.

It is high time that all families, schools, and the whole society did something to help the youth realize the problem and act properly to contribute to the preservation of the beauty and purity of the Vietnamese language.

#### 5.3. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Firstly, no matter how much effort was put into this research, it seems difficult to identify all types of structures or characteristics used in on-line chats. Secondly, the chosen chat room is just one chat channel; other channels may show different language usage. Finally, because of the limited time, knowledge and references, the study might have been left untouched.

#### 5.4. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- An Investigation into Linguistic Features of Private Chats in English and Vietnamese
- An Investigation into Linguistic Features of Dialects in English and Vietnamese Chatting.