

**THE UNIVERSITY OF DANANG**  
**UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES**



**Y THỊ THÚY NGÀ**

**A STUDY OF COMPOUND SYNONYMS AND  
SYNONYMOUS SUBSTITUTIONS IN  
DUONG THUY'S STORIES AND THEIR ENGLISH  
TRANSLATIONAL EQUIVALENTS**

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## **Chapter One**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1. RATIONALE**

I deal with the research entitled “*A study of compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions in Duong Thuy’s stories and their English translational equivalents*” with the hope of finding out the translation procedures of compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions in Duong Thuy’s stories and their English translational versions, then applying for studying and teaching English, especially for translating.

#### **1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

##### **1.2.1. Aims**

##### **1.2.2. Objectives**

- identify, describe and analyze procedures for translating Vietnamese compound synonyms

- identify, describe and analyze procedures for translating Vietnamese synonymous substitutions in Duong Thuy’s stories into English.

- Suggest some implications for teaching, learning and translating from source language to target.

#### **1.3. SCOPE OF STUDY**

This study focused on investigating procedures for translating of the two stylistic devices; i.e. Vietnamese compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions in Duong Thuy’s five stories into English by the native translator Elbert Bloom.

#### **1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What are procedures for translating Vietnamese compound synonyms in Duong Thuy’s stories into English?
2. What are procedures for translating Vietnamese synonymous substitutions in Duong Thuy’s stories into English?
3. What are the occurrence frequencies of procedures for translating Vietnamese compound synonyms and synonymous

substitutions in Duong Thuy's stories into English?

## **1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The research is expected to provide learners with practical knowledge and use of the translation procedures of compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions. The score of the study can be applied to studying and teaching English skills as well as translation.

## **1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

### **Chapter Two**

## **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW**

We referred to the two stylistic devices, *compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions* in Vietnamese by Đinh Trọng Lạc (2012: 134-137). In English, we adapted the view points by Halliday M.A.K. & Hasan R. (1994: 284-292, 339)

So far, there have been studies on translation in general and translation procedures in particular of Vietnamese stylistic devices into English. However, an investigation into compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions as stylistic devices in Duong Thuy's stories and their English translational equivalents in terms of translation procedures has not been found yet. Thus, I made up my mind to choose the topic entitled "*A study of compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions in Duong Thuy's stories and their English translational equivalents*".

### **2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **2.2.1. Compound synonym and synonymous substitutions**

##### **2.2.1.1. *Compound synonym***

##### *a. Concept*

According to Dinh Trong Lac (2012: 134 -137): "*Compound synonym*" is a rhetorical method in which two or more synonyms are used to express a certain meaning, in order to characterize the object in

the fullest sense since each synonym is expressed only a certain nuance of meaning.

*b. Classification of Compound synonyms*

*b1. Pair of synonyms*

E.g. *Nhưng đúng như dự đoán của bà tôi! Cuối cùng mẹ tôi đã trở về, sau bao nhiêu ngộ nhận, lầm lạc, sau những cơn trầm uất vì ân hận, vò xé nội tâm... Nhưng có thể tóm tắt thế này: bà đã đuổi theo một cái bong bong, vì quần trí, mê lú.* (Ma Văn Kháng)

*b2. Chain of synonyms and near synonyms*

E.g. Bà **bế bồng, dìu dắt** chúng cháu đi qua những năm tháng **cách trở, lọc lừa, phản trắc, bất công**. Bà đưa chúng cháu qua nơi **hồn độn đến sự an bằng**. Có mẹ, có cha mà hóa ra **côi cút, bao oan khổ, đắng cay, thiệt thòi** của chúng cháu đều được bà **san lấp, đền bù, an ủi**. Những **đau tủi, buồn khổ** của tuổi ấu thơ đơn côi giữa cảnh đời, nhờ có bà, đã được gột rửa khỏi tâm hồn. Nhờ bà, chúng cháu bước qua vùng **tủi hổ** đến với hi vọng và tin yêu. Bà là sự **nhẫn nại, là lòng hi xả là tuyệt sạch giá trong, là tình thương, là lẽ phải, là sự cứng cỏi, kiên trinh**. Bà là **cổ tích**. Bà là bà **mụ đờ nâng** trong linh hồn chúng cháu. Bà là **phật bà**. Hay chính bà là **cô tiên giáng trần đã che chở cứu mang chúng cháu bằng tình thương yêu và các phép màu huyền nhiệm, thần kì!** (Ma Văn Kháng)

*2.2.1.2. Synonymous substitutions*

*a. Concept*

According to Dinh Trong Lac *synonymous substitution* is a rhetorical method in which one uses synonyms to name the object (phenomena, actions) that is said, in order to supplement that object with the features belong to a new aspect.

*b. Classification*

*b1. Dictionary synonymous substitutions*

E.g. *Một cái mũ len xanh nếu chị **sinh** con gái. Chiếc mũ sẽ đỏ tươi nếu chị **đẻ** con trai.* (Anh Đức)

*b2. Negative synonymous substitutions*

E.g. Nó phải đi hết chỗ này chỗ nọ, để kiếm cái nhét vào dạ dày.

*Để nó sống*

Vì nó chưa chết (Nguyễn Công Hoan)

*b3. Descriptive synonymous substitutions*

E.g. Nó (ngôn ngữ) là cái “cây đời” trong câu thơ của **Gót**, câu mà Lê Nin rất thích, mà tôi cũng rất thích. **Nhà thơ lớn của nhân dân Đức** đã viết: “Mọi lí thuyết, bạn ơi, là màu xám. Nhưng cây đời của cuộc sống mãi xanh tươi”. (Phạm Văn Đồng)

*b4. Temporary synonymous substitutions*

E.g. Một số phường sẵn đến thăm dò để giăng bẫy bắt con **cọp xám**. Nhưng con **ác thú** tinh lắm, đặt mồi to và ngon đến đâu cũng không lừa nổi nó.

### **2.2.2. Theory of translation**

*2.2.2.1. Notion of translation*

*2.2.2.2. Literary translation*

*2.2.2.3. Types of equivalence*

*2.2.2.4. Translation methods*

*2.2.2.5. Translation procedures*

*2.2.2.6. Punctuation in translation*

### **2.2.3. Linguistic features**

*2.2.3.1. Syntactic features*

*2.2.3.2. Structural features*

*2.2.3.3. Cohesive features*

*2.2.3.4. Morphological features*

### **2.2.4. Overview of the stories by Duong Thuy**

*2.2.4.1. Duong Thuy - The author*

*2.2.4.2. Elbert Bloom - The native translator*

## **Chapter Three**

### **METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURES**

#### **3.1. RESEARCH METHODS**

The qualitative and approaches we referred to discuss and

point out the procedures and their occurrence frequency for rendering Vietnamese compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions into the English language.

### **3.2. SAMPLING**

The samples that include compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions and their English translational equivalents were collected from the five stories by Duong Thuy and their English translational equivalents by Elbert Bloom.

### **3.3. DATA COLLECTION**

With the study of these two stylistic devices, 70 samples in Vietnamese compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions and the same number of English translational equivalents were chosen for the research.

### **3.4. DATA ANALYSIS**

As mentioned above, 70 samples of compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions and their sub-types were chosen. Then the samples were investigated in reference to linguistic features, such as structural and syntactic ones.

### **3.5. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

The study of translation procedures of Vietnamese compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions into English were conducted on theoretical backgrounds of prestigious authors of translation theories as well as of linguistics.

## **Chapter Four**

### **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1. TRANSLATION PROCEDURES OF VIETNAMESE COMPOUND SYNONYMS INTO ENGLISH**

##### **4.1.1. Translation Procedures of Vietnamese Pairs of Synonyms into English**

###### ***4.1.1.1. Translation procedures of Vietnamese pairs of synonyms as adjectives into English***

Source Language	Target Language
1a. Còn ở Mỹ, tôi thấy nhân viên dịch vụ thân thiện rõ rệt hơn, họ mang dáng dấp <b>năng động</b> và <b>khỏe mạnh</b> dù họ có thể có thân hình vượt mức cân nặng thông thường.	1b. However, I found the service personnel friendlier and more <b>dynamic</b> and <b>healthy</b> attitude, even though they may have been a bit overweight.
<i>Tôi nghĩ tôi thích nước Mỹ, p.58</i>	<i>Across America, p.59</i>

The letter *a* follows the number of each example in this chapter (e.g. 1a.) is used for the source language; otherwise, the letter *b* used after the number of each example (e.g. 1b.) refers to the target language.

Regarding the source version and the target one, the Vietnamese compound synonyms adjectives ‘*năng động*’ and ‘*khỏe mạnh*’ are transferred into English as ‘*dynamic*’ and ‘*healthy*’, respectively. In terms of syntactic features, ‘*năng động*’ and ‘*khỏe mạnh*’ in Vietnamese version function as post-modifier to the preceding noun ‘*dáng dấp*’; otherwise, the adjectives ‘*dynamic*’ and ‘*healthy*’ in English have the function of pre-modifier to the following noun ‘*attitude*’. In consequence, the syntactic functions of adjectives in English and Vietnamese languages are quite different.

In relation to the structure, the Vietnamese compound synonyms adjectives ‘*năng động*’ and ‘*khỏe mạnh*’ are coordinated by the coordinator *and*. The translational equivalent is that the coordinator *and* can be replaced in English version. It can be said that there is no change at all in terms of structural features between the source language sample and target language version.

In consequence, translation procedures of this type is called as *class shift* as stated by Peter Newark (1988) because the syntactic functions of the related ranks of language are different.

#### ***4.1.1.2. Translation produces of Vietnamese pairs of synonyms as adverbs into English***

Source Language	Target Language
10a. Các hội nghị của Tập đoàn luôn được tổ chức rất <b>chu đáo</b> và <b>chuyên nghiệp</b> , ai theo tôn giáo gì, ăn chế độ riêng ra sao, có nhu cầu cá nhân thế nào đều được ghi chú và đáp ứng một cách tận tâm.	10b. All of the corporate conferences were very <b>attentive</b> and <b>professional</b> , so whatever religion one had, they could eat their private diets.
<i>Nhắm mắt thấy Paris, p.31</i>	<i>Paris through closed eyes, p.38</i>

In syntactic field, Vietnamese pairs of synonyms as adverbs “*chu đáo* và *chuyên nghiệp*” functions as Ad (adjuncts) to the verb “*tổ chức*”. And the English translational equivalents of these Vietnamese pairs of synonyms as adverbs are the adjectives “*attentive* and *professional*” that are functionally Cs to the intensive verb “*were*”. This means the Vietnamese and English syntactic functions of pairs of synonyms are different. Besides, pairs of synonyms in Vietnamese and English are combined with the coordinators *và* and *and*, respectively in both languages. As a consequence, the translation procedure for transferring these Vietnamese pairs of synonyms as adverbs into English is considered as *class shift*.

#### 4.1.1.3. Translation procedures of Vietnamese pairs of synonyms as nouns into English

Source Language	Target Language
11a. Tôi rất thích phim Pháp vì có nhiều <b>tài tử</b> và <b>minh tinh</b> rất đẹp, mà tôi thì đi xem phim chủ yếu là để nhìn mặt <b>người đóng</b> .	11b. Yet I enjoyed the French movies because many of the <b>celebrities</b> were very talented and beautiful.
<i>Chờ em đến San Francisco, p.25</i>	<i>We'll meet again in San Francisco, p.25</i>

In the foregoing examples, the English translational version of the Vietnamese pairs of synonyms as nouns “*tài tử* và *minh tinh*” is “*celebrities*”. In connection with syntactic features, the nouns “*tài tử* và *minh tinh*” function as subject in the existential sentence; otherwise,

their English translational equivalent “celebrities” shares the same function as subject in the subordinate clause. However, the coordination of a pair of noun synonyms “tài tử và minh tinh” in the source language is translated into English as a single noun “celebrities”. *Celebrity* in English means “a famous person” while *tài tử và minh tinh* mean “actor/ actress or film star. Therefore, the translation procedure is regarded as *reduction* or also called *compression* as stated Amstrong N (2005: 159-160): “Clearly, there will be occasions where the sensible decision is to leave untranslated a segment of source text. (...). This will generally occur when the segment contains needless detail that will weary the reader, or information that is difficult to translate concisely because culture-specific, or both.” Newmark P (1988) implied that *reduction* is the omission of a word from an expression, not essential for understanding.

#### 4.1.1.4. Translation procedures of Vietnamese pairs of synonyms as verbs into English

Source Language	Target Language
12a. Từng đoàn người <b>xúm đen xúm đỏ</b> trước cửa nhà hát, <b>chen nhau</b> vào bên trong tham quan.	12b. Each group of people had <b>assembled</b> in front of the luxurious red theater, all <b>crowded together</b> sightseeing.
<i>Tôi nghĩ tôi thích nước Mỹ, p.169</i>	<i>Across America, p. 171</i>

In the above examples, a pair of synonyms as verbs “xúm đen xúm đỏ ... chen nhau” in the Vietnamese language are translated into the source one as “assembled ... crowded together”. In connection with to cohesive features, pairs of synonyms as verbs are not seen as mediate elements like pairs of synonyms of adjectives, adverbs or nouns that we have already mentioned above. By contrast, pairs of synonyms as verbs are immediate elements. According to Halliday M.A.K. & Hasan R. (1994: 286, 319), “*the cohesion between lexical items in English text can be immediate or mediate. They stated: “Any*

*cohesive instance, or 'tie, may be immediate (presupposing an item in a contiguous or adjacent sentence) or non-immediate. If not mediate, it may be 'mediated' (having one or more intervening sentences that enter into a chain of presupposition) or 'remote' (having one or more intervening sentences not involved in presupposition), or both."*

In this situation, both Vietnamese verbs “xúm đên xúm đỏ ... chen nhau” and their English equivalents share the same syntactic functions of intransitive verbs in the sentence structures according to the viewpoints given by Quirk et al (1998: 207-208) and Deep Quant Ban (2005: 191-193)”. In the end, the translation procedure of this translation process is *literal*. Armstrong N (2005:147) wrote: “*Literal concerns the syntax rather than the lexicon.*”

#### **4.1.1.5. Couplets of Vietnamese Pairs of Synonyms and Their English Equivalents**

<b>Source Language</b>	<b>Target Language</b>
16a. Trinh nữ đứng trên một tảng đá, đẹp <b>sùng sững và kiêu hùng</b> , nàng giơ hai tay lên trời cao, ôm cả một vùng thác trắng xóa hùng vĩ vào tim.	16b. The <b>lofty beautiful</b> virgin can be seen standing on a boulder, her arms raised to the heavens and hugging the majestic white waterfalls to her heart.
<i>Tôi nghĩ tôi thích nước Mỹ, p.92</i>	<i>Across America, p. 92</i>

The Vietnamese pairs of synonym as adverbs “sùng sững và kiêu hùng” syntactically function as adjuncts to the adjective “đẹp”. While their English translational equivalents “lofty beautiful” plays a role as pre-modifiers to the noun “virgin”. With regard to structural features, the adverbs “sùng sững và kiêu hùng” is coordinated with the coordinator *and*; otherwise, the two adjectives as English translational equivalents “lofty beautiful” are immediate adjectives that are linked without a comma or a coordinator. Both the syntactic and structural features shift in the translation process from Vietnamese to English language. Hence, the translation procedures in this context are the combination of *class shift* and *structure shift*. In general, the

translation procedure of Vietnamese- English pairs of synonyms in this case is *couplet*.

#### 4.1.2. Chain of synonyms and near synonyms

##### 4.1.2.1. Translation procedures of Vietnamese chains of synonym and near synonym as adjectives into English

Source Language	Target Language
24a. Nàng nhận ra cuộc sống ở thành phố Los Angeles <b>thân thiện hơn, tình cảm hơn và dễ dàng hơn.</b>	24b. The young lady realized that life in Los Angeles was more <b>friendly, sentimental and relaxing.</b>
<i>Tôi nghĩ tôi thích nước Mỹ, p. 173-174</i>	<i>Across America, p.176-177</i>

Vietnamese chains of synonym and near synonym as adjectives “thân thiện hơn, tình cảm hơn và dễ dàng hơn” syntactically function as Co to the object “cuộc sống ở thành phố Los Angeles”. Otherwise, their English translational equivalents “more friendly, sentimental and relaxing” have the syntactic function as Cs. In respect of structural features, Vietnamese chains of synonym and near synonym as adjectives and their English translational equivalents are linked by a coma and the coordinator *and*. Or in other words, they both share the same structure. In consequence, the translation procedure in this situation is *class shift*.

##### 4.1.2.2. Translation procedures of Vietnamese chains of synonym and near synonym as nouns into English

Source Language	Target Language
27a. Có một cô người Việt Nam nhìn lạ lạ. Nàng có vẻ xinh theo con mắt của người châu Á, tức là <b>da trắng, mắt hai mí, mũi cao.</b>	27b. There is one Vietnamese girl that appears very strange. She looks beautiful in the eyes of Asian, for she has <b>white skin, double eyelids, and a high nose.</b>
<i>Nhắm mắt thấy Paris, p.17</i>	<i>Paris through closed eyes, p.22</i>

Vietnamese chains of synonym and near synonym as nouns “da trắng, mắt hai mí, mũi cao” and their English translational equivalents share the same syntactic features as Od. Whereas they are different in structure because chains of synonym and near synonym as nouns in Vietnamese are linked with commas and their English translational equivalents linked with both commas and the coordinator *and*. Therefore, *structure shift* is the translation procedure found in this situation.

#### 4.1.2.3. Translation procedures of Vietnamese chains of synonym and near synonym as verbs into English

Source Language	Target Language
28a. Cô có <b>tường trình, thanh minh</b> hay <b>phân bua</b> gì lão cũng không để ý.	28b. You <b>made a clear report, sounding intelligent</b> and <b>justifying yourself</b> for what the old man doesn't even pay attention to.
<i>Nhắm mắt thấy Paris, p.51</i>	<i>Paris through closed eyes, p.60</i>

In these above examples, a chain of synonyms and near synonyms as verbs “tường trình, thanh minh hay phân bua” in the source language and their English translational equivalents “made a clear report, sounding intelligent and justifying yourself” can be seen.

As stated by Dinh Trong Lac (1996:134): In the learning style and in the practice of the language, synonyms are understood as meaningful words close to each other (words of the same meaning, with most of the same meaning and do not contain the opposite meaning) but they are different in rhetorical colors and in nuances. These synonyms are used in the same sequence of words to further correct the content of the speech and enhance its emotion.

In terms of syntactic field, the Vietnamese verbs and their English equivalents have the same function as intransitive verbs in the sentence structures according to the view points of view stated by Quirk et al (1998: 207-208) and Diep Quang Ban (2005: 191-193)”. Structurally, chains of synonym and near synonym in both languages

share the same construction as coordination of verbs. Thus, the translation procedure of this translation process is recognized as *literal*.

#### 4.1.2.4. Couplets of Vietnamese chains of synonym and near synonym and their English equivalents

Source Language	Target Language
32a. Tôi có cảm giác thành phố này có một vẻ gì rất <b>trí thức, sang trọng</b> , mang phong cách <b>lịch lãm</b> , rất châu Âu, khác hẳn với New York ồn ào.	32b. I felt that city seemed to have a very European <b>intellectual, luxurious</b> and <b>elegant</b> style, much different than roaring New York city.
<i>Tôi nghĩ tôi thích nước Mỹ, p.104</i>	<i>Across America, p.103</i>

In association with syntactic area, Vietnamese chains of synonym and near synonym as adjectives “trí thức, sang trọng ... lịch lãm” function as post-modifiers to the preceding nouns “vẻ gì and phong cách”. By contrast, their English equivalents “intellectual, luxurious and elegant” have the function of pre-modifiers to the following nouns “style”. Structurally, Vietnamese chains of synonym and near synonym as adjectives are mediated while their English equivalent is linked with the coordinator ‘and’. Therefore Vietnamese chains of synonym and near synonym as adjectives and their translational English equivalents are quite different both syntactically and structurally. On the whole, the translation procedures in this circumstance are *couplet*, the combination of *class shift* and *structure shift*.

#### 4.1.3. Summary

Table 4.1. Procedures of translating Vietnamese compound synonyms into English

Translation Procedures	Examples				Total
	Adjective	Verb	Adverb	Noun	
<i>Class shift</i>	5		1		6
<i>Structure shift</i>	3	3		1	7
<i>Literal</i>	3	5			8
<i>Provisional translation</i>	1				1
<i>Reduction</i>				1	1

Translation Procedures		Examples				Total
		Adjective	Verb	Adverb	Noun	
<i>Couplet</i>	<i>Class shift &amp; Structure shift</i>	8	1	1	1	13
	<i>Structure shift &amp; Expansion</i>		1		1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>36</b>

Regarding the translation of Vietnamese pairs of synonyms into English, there are six procedures can be found, namely *class shift*, *structure shift*, *literal*, *provisional translation*, *reduction* and *couplet*. Among these translation procedures, the highest proportion of 36.1 % is for *couplet*. In the procedure *couplet*, *class shift* combined with *structure shift* shows an extremely highest figure of 84.6% and the other *couplet* i.e. the combination of *structure shift* and *expansion* only make up 15.4%. The second on the list is *literal* that accounts for 22.2% of the total. The third and the fourth rates are *class shift* and *structure shift* that equal to 19.4% and 16.7% respectively. *Provisional translation* and *reduction* share the same lowest rate of 2.8%.

Among these 36 Vietnamese compound synonyms, there are 20 pairs of synonyms are adjectives (equivalent to 55.6%), 10 pairs as verbs (27.8%), 2 pairs as adverbs (5.5%) and 4 pairs as nouns (11.1%).

## 4.2. TRANSLATION PROCEDURES OF VIETNAMESE SYNONYMOUS SUBSTITUTION INTO ENGLISH

### 4.2.1. Translation procedures of Vietnamese dictionary synonymous substitutions into English

#### 4.2.1.1. Translation procedures of Vietnamese dictionary synonymous substitutions as nouns into English

Source Language	Target Language
37a. <b>Chicago là thành phố lớn thứ ba của Mỹ</b> sau New York và Los Angeles.	37b. <b>Chicago</b> , Illinois state is <b>the third largest city</b> we visited, after New York and Los Angeles.
<i>Tôi nghĩ tôi thích nước Mỹ, p.122</i>	<i>A cross America, p.123</i>

Dinh Trong Lac (1996:134) also stated “Dictionary synonymous substitutions are the stylistic means in which both linking elements are synonyms (*usually fixed in thesaurus*). In addition to the main function of the link, this type of function provides additional information about the evaluation.”

In the above example, “thành phố lớn thứ ba của Mỹ” is the “dictionary synonymous substitutions” of “Chicago” because they are linked by the intensive verb “là” in the source language. The Vietnamese dictionary synonymous substitutions and their English translational equivalents share the same syntactic and structural features. Both source and target languages syntactically function as S and Cs. Therefore this type of translation procedure is called *literal*.

**4.2.1.2. Translation procedures of Vietnamese dictionary synonymous substitutions of nouns as couplet into English**

Source Language	Target Language
40a. Xem phim Hollywood bối cảnh New York thế nào ta cũng thấy cây cầu này. <b>Cầu Brooklyn ở New York</b> là một trong những cây cầu treo lâu đời nhất nước Mỹ. Cầu được hoàn thành năm 1883, dài 486 mét, từng là <b>cây cầu treo dài nhất thế giới</b> .	40b. That New York bridge scene is often seen in Hollywood movies. <b>The New York Brooklyn Bridge</b> is one of the oldest suspension bridges in The United States. The bridge was completed in 1883, was 486 meters long, and used to be <b>the longest suspension bridge in the world</b> .
<i>Tôi nghĩ tôi thích nước Mỹ, p. 19</i>	<i>A cross America, p.20</i>

Vietnamese dictionary synonymous substitution and their English translational equivalents share the same structural features because both of them are not immediate in cohesive features. By contrast, the prepositional phrase “ở New York” that function as post-modifier to the preceding noun “cầu Brooklyn” is transformed into English as the noun “New York” having a function as pre-modifier to the following noun “Brooklyn Bridge”. Consequently, *class shift* is considered as the translation procedure in this situation.

**4.2.1.3. Translation procedures of Vietnamese dictionary synonymous substitutions of nouns as triplet into English**

Source Language	Target Language
41a. Trước khi đến tham quan <b>Điện Capitol</b> , tôi chỉ biết đây là <b>Tòa Nhà Quốc Hội</b> , là nơi vận hành <b>cơ quan lập pháp của Mỹ</b> .	41b. I didn't use to pay very much attention political institutions, so while visiting <b>the Capitol</b> I only grasped that it was <b>the Capitol</b> where <b>The United States legislatures</b> determined the laws.
<i>Tôi nghĩ tôi thích nước Mỹ, p.65</i>	<i>A cross America, p.66</i>

“Tòa Nhà Quốc Hội and cơ quan lập pháp của Mỹ” are the dictionary synonymous substitutions of “Điện Capitol”. Syntactically, “cơ quan lập pháp của Mỹ” function as Od while their English translational equivalent “The United States legislatures” has a syntactic function as S. The translation procedure that “Điện Capitol, Tòa Nhà Quốc Hội” are transferred into English as “The Capitol” is seen as *transference*. “Capitol” means: “the building in Washington DC where the US Congress (the national parliament) meet to works on new laws or a building in each US state where politicians meet to works on new laws”. In the end, the translation procedure in this circumstance is identified as *couplet*, combination of *class shift* and *transference*. Newmark P. (1988: 81): “*Transference* or also called *loan word* or *transcription* is the process of transferring a source language word to a target language text as translation procedure.”

#### 4.2.2. Translation procedures of Vietnamese negative synonymous substitutions into English

##### 4.2.2.1. Translation procedures of Vietnamese negative synonymous substitutions as adjectives into English

Source Language	Target Language
42a. Vậy nhưng tôi thấy lưỡi <b>đắng ngắt</b> , không còn muốn ăn chocolat nữa. Cuộc đời mà, chocolat cũng có lúc <b>không ngọt</b> .	42b. However, I developed a <b>bitter</b> tongue and didn't want to eat chocolate any longer. There are times in life when chocolate is <b>not sweet</b> .
<i>Tôi nghĩ tôi thích nước Mỹ, p.82</i>	<i>Across America, p.82</i>

Vietnamese negative synonymous substitution and their English translational equivalent share the same structure because they have the same cohesive features as immediate. Syntactically, the negative adjectives “không ngọt, not sweet” function as Cs in their language. However, the preceding adjective “đắng ngắt” has syntactic function as post-modifier, the English equivalent “bitter” play a syntactic role as post-modifier. As a result, *class shift* is chosen as the translation procedure in this circumstance.

#### 4.2.2.2. Translation procedures of Vietnamese negative synonymous substitutions as nouns into English

Source Language	Target Language
49a. Trên tấm bảng là dòng chữ lớn “ <b>Biến điều không thể thành điều có thể</b> : câu chuyện của cầu Cổng Vàng”.	49b. “Making <b>the impossible possible</b> , the story of the Golden Gate Bridge”.
<i>Tôi nghĩ tôi thích nước Mỹ, p.212</i>	<i>Across America, p.216</i>

The negative synonymous substitution in Vietnamese “điều không thể, điều có thể” and their English translational equivalents “the impossible possible” share the same syntactic functions as Od and Co, respectively. So do the structural features. Thus, the translation procedure can be found in this context is *literal*.

The similar case in which the negative synonymous substitution can be cataphoric reference to the following positive synonyms can be seen the examples below.

#### 4.2.3. Translation procedures of Vietnamese descriptive synonymous substitutions into English

Source Language	Target Language
51a. <b>Nhà tưởng niệm Lincoln</b> mang dáng dấp một <b>ngôi đền Hy Lạp sừng sững với 36 cây cột cao 10 mét</b> .	51b. <b>The Lincoln Memorial</b> was similar to a <b>Greek temple</b> with <b>36 imposing pillars, each 10 meters high</b> .
<i>Tôi nghĩ tôi thích nước Mỹ, p.59</i>	<i>A cross America, p.60</i>

In this context, Vietnamese descriptive synonymous substitutions as nouns and their English equivalents have the same syntactical features as subjects in the sentence structures and complement to the verb phrase. There are no differences in terms of the syntactic structures between the source language and target one. So *literal* is considered as the translation procedure in this situation.

Vietnamese descriptive synonymous substitutions as nouns and their English equivalents are shown in the following examples.

#### 4.2.4. Translation procedures of Vietnamese temporary synonymous substitutions into English

##### 4.2.4.1. Translation procedures of Vietnamese temporary synonymous substitutions as nouns into English

Source Language	Target Language
57a. Có một <b>cô</b> người Việt Nam nhìn lạ lạ. <b>Nàng</b> có vẻ xinh theo con mắt của người châu Á, tức là da trắng, mắt hai mí, mũi cao.	57b. There is one Vietnamese <b>girl</b> that appears very strange. <b>She</b> looks beautiful in the eyes of Asian, for she has white skin, double eyelids, and a high nose.
<i>Nhắm mắt thấy Paris, p.17</i>	<i>Paris through closed eyes, p.22</i>

Temporary synonymous substitution in Vietnamese “*cô ... nàng*” functions as Od in their existential sentence structures and the S, respectively according to Diep Quang Ban (2005: 175); otherwise their English equivalents “*girl ... she*” function as S in their sentence structures, Quirk R. et al (1988: 426). Structurally, they are both in immediate cohesion. Consequently, *class shift* is the translation procedure in this situation.

##### 4.2.4.2. Translation procedures of Vietnamese temporary synonymous substitutions as verbs into English

Source Language	Target Language
65a. Nếu anh đã có vợ, vợ anh <b>bấm</b> tôi ra. Nếu anh sống một mình, anh cũng có thể <b>thịt</b> tôi mất.	65b. If you're married, your wife would <b>chop</b> me up. If you're living alone you could <b>ravage</b> my virginity.
<i>Chờ em đến San Francisco, p.16</i>	<i>We'll meet again in San Francisco, p.17</i>

The source language and the target one of temporary synonymous substitutions as verbs are syntactically and structurally similar. The verbs “băm ... thít” and “chop ... ravage” all function as Vtmono and they are mediated in cohesion. Thus, the translation procedure in this case is *literal*.

#### 4.2.4.3. Translation procedures of Vietnamese temporary synonymous substitutions as adjectives into English

Source Language	Target Language
66a. Những người đi làm sáng sớm ngày 16/12/1989 đã vô cùng ngạc nhiên nhìn tượng một con bò <b>hùng dũng</b> rất ấn tượng. Trong lúc mọi người bu đến chiêm ngưỡng con bò <b>oai phong</b> , người cha của nó, nhà điêu khắc gốc Ý Di Monica xúc động đứng xa xa chứng kiến đứa con của mình được người đời chào đón như thể nào.	66b. Those employees who arrived at work on December 16, 1989 were amazed to see that impressive statue of the <b>mighty</b> bull. Everybody flocked around to admire that <b>majestic</b> bull then, and Di Modica's Italian father proudly stood at a distance to witness his son being warmly greeted by everyone.
<i>Tôi nghĩ tôi thích nước Mỹ, p.16</i>	<i>Across America, p.17</i>

The Vietnamese temporary synonymous substitution “**hùng dũng** ... **oai phong**” syntactically functions as post-modifier to the preceding head nouns “con bò”; By contrast, the English equivalents “impressive ... mighty” have syntactic function as post-modifier to the following head nouns “bull”. On the other hand, they are structurally similar because of the immediate cohesion in the source language and the target one. In general, the translation procedure is *class shift*.

#### 4.2.5. Summary

Table 4.2. Procedures of translating Vietnamese synonymous substitutions into English

Translation Procedures		Examples				Total
		Adjective	Verb	Adverb	Noun	
<i>Class shift</i>		2			8	10
<i>Structure shift</i>		2				2
<i>Literal</i>			1		5	6
<i>Transposition</i>		1				1
<i>Reduction</i>					3	3
<i>Addition</i>					1	1
<i>Translation label</i>					1	1
<i>Couplet</i>	<i>structure shift &amp; translation label</i>	1				5
	<i>class shift &amp; compensation</i>				1	
	<i>class shift &amp; transference</i>				1	
	<i>class shift &amp; expansion</i>				1	
	<i>class shift &amp; synonym</i>	1				
<i>Triplet</i>	<i>structure shift, class shift &amp; reduction</i>	1				1
<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>30</b>

The most significant rate of 33.3% is the translation procedure *class shift*. The second highest figure of 20% can be found at *literal*. The third highest figure of 16.7% is related to *couplet* that include *structure shift* and *translation label*, *class shift* and *compensation*, *class shift* and *transference*, *class shift* and *expansion*, *class shift* & *synonym*. The lowest rate 3.3% for each translation procedure can be seen at *transposition*, *addition*, *translation label* and *triplet* (that includes *structure shift*, *class shift* and *reduction*). The second lowest percentage in terms of *structure shift* has the proportion of 6.7%. Finally, a little bit higher percentage of 10% is for *reduction*.

#### 4.3. TRANSLATION PROCEDURES OF VIETNAMESE MIXED STYLISTIC DEVICES INTO ENGLISH

Source Language	Target Language
67a. Tôi rất thích tính <b>chân thật</b> của cô, cô sống <b>không cầu kì, không che đậy</b> . Ý tôi là, cô <b>không giả dối</b> ...	67b. I very much like your <b>honest</b> character, and you <b>don't live in a formal</b> manner, <b>don't hide your feelings</b> . I believe that you are <b>not insincere</b> ...
<i>Nhắm mắt thấy Paris, p.48</i>	<i>Paris through closed eyes, p.57</i>

In the above examples, the negative synonyms as adjectives “không cầu kì, không che đậy ... không giả dối” are not only used as negative synonymous substitutions for the adjective “chân thật” but also perform as a chain of synonyms or near synonyms. On the basis of their different syntactic functions but similar in structural features, the translation procedure in this case is *class shift*.

Table 4.3. Procedures of translating Vietnamese mixed types into English

Translation Procedures		Mixed Types			Total
		Negative SS & Chain of S & NS	Negative SS & Temporary SS	Negative SS, Temporary SS, & Chain of S & NS	
<i>Class shift</i>		1		1	2
<i>Couplet</i>	<i>Class shift &amp; Structure shift</i>	1	1		2
<i>Total</i>		2	1	1	4

#### 4.4. SUMMARY

According to Table 4.3 and Table 4.4 below, among 70 samples to be researched in the thesis, there are 36 examples of compound synonyms (51.4 %), 30 instances of synonymous substitutions (42.9 %) and 4 of mixed types (5.7 %).

Concerning the translation procedures, *class shift* expresses the highest proportion; otherwise *transposition*, *provisional translation*, *addition*, *translation label*, *couplet* (namely, *structure shift* and *translation label*, *class shift* and *compensation*, *class shift* and

*transference, class shift and expansion, class shift and synonym) or triplet (i.e. structure shift, class shift & reduction) share the same lowest rates. In relation to compound synonyms, class shift and structure shift (as couplet) scores the most dominant figure, by contrast provisional translation and reduction have the similar lowest quantity. With reference to synonymous substitutions, class shift indicates the highest figure and the lowest figures include transposition, addition, translation label, and some couplets, such as structure shift and translation label, class shift and compensation, class shift and transference, class shift & expansion, class shift and synonym) or structure shift, class shift and reduction as triplet.*

With regards to syntactic categories, one of the important criteria in order to identify syntactic features of compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions and their translation procedures, adjectives are most used; on the other hand, adverb is minimally shown. For each stylistic device, adverb is the least figure in compound synonyms; however, it cannot be found in synonymous substitutions. Furthermore, adjectives reach the most significant rate in compound synonyms. Otherwise, nouns are maximal in synonymous substitutions.

Table 4.4. Procedures of translating Vietnamese compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions into English

Translation Procedures	Compound Synonyms				Synonymous Substitutions			Total
	Adj	V	Adv	N	Adj	V	N	
<i>Class shift</i>	5		1		2		8	16
<i>Structure shift</i>	3	3		1	2			9
<i>Literal</i>	3	5				1	5	14
<i>Transposition</i>					1			1
<i>Provisional translation</i>	1							1
<i>Reduction</i>				1			3	4
<i>Addition</i>							1	1
<i>Translation lable</i>							1	1
<i>Structure shift &amp; translation</i>					1			1

Translation Procedures		Compound Synonyms				Synonymous Substitutions			Total
		Adj	V	Adv	N	Adj	V	N	
	<i>lable</i>								
	<i>Class shift &amp; compensation</i>							1	1
	<i>Class shift &amp; structure shift</i>	8	1	1	1				11
	<i>Class shift &amp; transference</i>							1	1
	<i>Class shift &amp; expansion</i>		1		1			1	3
	<i>Class shift &amp; synonymy</i>					1			1
<b>Triplet</b>	<i>structure shift, class shift &amp; reduction</i>					1			1
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>66</b>

## Chapter Five

### CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

#### 5.1. CONCLUSIONS

With reference to classification, Vietnamese compound synonyms are classified into two sub-types; namely pairs of synonyms and chains of synonyms and near synonyms. The highest figure of compound synonyms in terms of the translation procedure is *couplet*; otherwise, *provisional translation* and *reduction* have the same lowest rate.

Synonymous substitutions are categorized as four minor kinds; viz dictionary synonymous substitution, descriptive synonymous substitution, negative synonymous substitution and temporary synonymous substitution. In isolation from translation procedures, *class shift* is the most significant proportion. By contrast, the lowest figures include *transposition*, *addition*, *translation label* and *triplet*.

Apart from the two Vietnamese stylistic devices, i.e. compound synonyms and synonymous substitution; in reality, there are also mixed types of compound synonyms and synonymous

substitution can be seen in Duong Thuy's stories. They are the mixture of negative synonymous substitutions and a chain of synonyms or near synonyms, that of negative synonymous substitutions and temporary synonymous substitutions or the combination of three types, i.e. negative synonymous substitutions, temporary synonymous substitutions and a chain of synonyms or near synonyms.

There are totally 70 samples used for compound synonyms, synonymous substitution and mixed type. Among them, there are 36 examples of compound synonyms, 30 instances of synonymous substitutions and 4 of mixed types (5.7 %). In respect of translation procedures, *class shift* shows the highest rate of three types; on the other hand, the lowest rates that share the similar figures comprise *transposition*, *provisional translation*, *addition*, *translation label*, *couplet* or *triplet*.

In association with syntactic categories, the important most important criterion so as to find out syntactic features of compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions and their translation procedures, adjectives are most used; while adverb is least employed. For each type, adverb is the least proportion in compound synonyms; otherwise, it cannot be found in synonymous substitutions. Moreover, adjectives show the most significant figure in compound synonyms. By contrast, nouns indicate the highest rate in synonymous substitutions.

## **5.2. IMPLICATIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions are popularly used in texts types of source language as well as target one; therefore, learners of English language who are interested in the translation procedures of these two stylistic devices can find the result of this study beneficial.

Understanding the translation procedures of compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions source and target one may help students in their study of Vietnamese – English translation or vice versa.

More specifically, when dealing with teaching translation of compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions, their linguistic features, such syntactic, structural, cohesive or even morphological features play an important role in identifying translation procedures. This could help learners of English experience how to recognize procedures in the translation process in order to decode the meaning in target texts.

Furthermore, the result of the study can be useful for language skills. Students who understand the use of compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions in text can apply for decoding reading, listening tasks then apply to both writing and speaking skills.

Thanks to compound synonym and synonymous substitutions, users or communicators can avoid reiteration; simultaneously provide readers with an amount of new information and evaluation about the mentioned object. Furthermore, these two stylistic devices can send their messages to recipients in an attractive and effective way. In particular, they are regarded as a special code which has to be well-known to the reader in order to be deciphered easily. Last but not least, speaking people are conscious of choosing the most expressive language tools to achieve maximum benefit and enhance expressiveness. In general these synonyms are used in the same sequence of words to further correct the content of the speech and enhance its emotion.

### **5.3. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

Due to the obstacle in seeking for books about translation theories and materials related to these two stylistic devices, compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions in both languages, we have a lot of difficulties in analyzing them, in terms of translation procedures.

### **5.4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- An investigation into procedures for translating English compound synonyms and synonymous substitutions into Vietnamese ones.