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**A FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF
REPETITION IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE NOVELS**

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

Literature has an important role in our life, and it is one of the most necessary subjects in all curricula. To be good at a language and understand a literary work, we must first understand certain grammar and rules. Literature is a place where authors convey their ideas, lessons, and experiences to everyone. There are many ways that the writers have been using to make the language become such a valuable and flexible means of transferring ideas with the use of stylistic devices.

Stylistic devices play the greatest role in the analysis of any kind of literary text. The term “figure of speech” is used for stylistic devices that make use of a figurative meaning of the language elements and thus create a vivid image. Among other figures of speech, repetition is one of the widely used syntactic stylistic devices. That is used very often in English as well as Vietnamese novels.

Repetition is one of those ways which create great effects for literary works. It is a technique widely used in the novel because it shows the writer’s feeling clearly. Repetition is often used in poetry or song, and it is used to create rhythm and bring attention to an idea. Repetition is also often used in speech, as a rhetorical device to bring attention to an idea. Many writers who prefer to use repetition as a literary device choose the right sentences and ideas to apply this stylistic device so that it will promote the best effect. This helps readers understand the feelings and ideas that the authors want to reveal with impression. The interesting thing about stylistic repetition

is that there are repeat rules. When used as a stylistic device, repetition acquires-quite different functions. It does not aim at making a direct emotional impact as one might think. On the contrary, the stylistic device of repetition aims at logical emphasis, an emphasis necessary to fix the attention of the reader on the key-word of the utterance.

Unfortunately, in studies on this topic, only types of repetitions and their usages in speeches, songs, novels...have been addressed. There are still gaps in the functions of repetition in detective novel in term of vocabulary and structure.

Let's look at two following sentences contain repetition in English and Vietnamese novel:

(1.1) "He went on: "You know, I think ours will be the perfect marriage: **We** both love each other enough and not too much. **We're** good friends. We've got a lot of tastes in common. **We** know each other through and through. **We've** all the advantages of cousinship without the disadvantages of blood relationship. (Sad cypress,11, p.7)

In the novel "Sad Cypress-Agatha Christie" you can see that the word "**We**" is repeated four times to express their relationship is very good and they have a lot in common.

(1.2) "Không! **Không hề gì, không hề gì**... (Gói thuốc lá,16, p.6)

In the novel "Gói thuốc lá-Thế Lữ", the phrase "Không hề gì, không hề gì" is repeated twice, not only to emphasize that the problem is not serious but also reassure the hearer in a particular context of communication.

Repetition is used to enrich the novels and makes the novel's details memorable, interesting. Also, it can sharpen the emotion of the listeners. There are still so many unexplored interesting things about

repetition that need to be studied in view of discourse functions. That is the reason why I choose to study this stylistic device to help readers to recognize its functions and structures in English and Vietnamese novels. It is expected that **"A FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF REPETITION IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE NOVELS."** This study will provide practical knowledge for teachers and learners of English especially students majoring in the English language literature well as those who are interested in this field of figurative language as far as repetition is concerned.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.2.1. Aims

This study is aimed at investigating functions of repetition in English and Vietnamese novels in order to provide a good insight into repetition in terms of similarities and differences of them. Besides, the findings of the study can provide teachers and learners of English with some helpful information about using repetition in the novels and applying in English teaching and learning.

1.2.2. Objectives

In order to achieve the aims of the study, the researcher attempts to reach the following objectives:

- To examine functional aspects of repetition in English and Vietnamese novels.

- To compare the similarities and differences of functional repetition used in English and Vietnamese novels.

- To put forward some implication to the teaching and learning English concerning the linguistic realizations and functions of repetition in novels.

1.3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

There are many kinds of novels for examining repetition: however, because of the limited time, I decided to conduct the description of repetition in detective novel.

This study aims to discover the similarities and the differences of functional repetition in the novel.

To make the research more manageable and reliable, I limited the scope of the study by studying detective novels. The data for analysis were selected from the novel “Dumb Witness” (1937), “Death on the Nile” (1937), “Sad Cypress” (1940) by Agatha Christie and “Mai Hương và Lê Phong” (1937), “Lê Phong phóng viên” (1937), “Gói thuốc lá” (1940) by The Lu.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

For all the aims and objectives to be achieved, the following research questions are to be answered:

1. What types of repetition are used in English and Vietnamese novels?
2. What similarities and differences in the use of repetition in English and Vietnam novels in terms of structure and functions?

1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

With the purpose focusing on the linguistic features of stylistic devices in the novel in English and Vietnamese, the findings of the study will help the readers to have a better insight into the use of repetition (repetition of vocabulary, repetition of structure) and signify the differences and similarities in functions between English

novels and Vietnamese novels, especially in detective novels where repetition contributes to bring to the foreground details in crime fiction, a murder mystery style.

From the research, the readers or learners can apply some tips in using repetition in writing or real life.

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Literature Review and Theoretical Background

Chapter 3: Research Design Methodology.

Chapter 4: Findings and Discussion

Chapter 5: Conclusions and Implications

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

There are a lot of studies of stylistic devices in the literature on the issues of figures of speech and genres. One of the basis of stylistic devices usage and principles of the organization of the text is repetition. Repetition or reprise is considered to be a phonomorphological phenomenon, a figure of speech which consists of the repetition of sounds, words, morphemes, synonyms or semantic structures with sufficient compactness of the series that is quite close to each other so that they can be seen. (Dibrova 1998; Lisochenko 1997; Nikolina 2002; Arnold 1990). Repeated words can be grouped around a single object or bring together different subjects and images

of the plans, reinforcing the common ground between the various characters, the character and the world around him, and so on. Stylistic repetition has been studied by thousands of linguists in English and Vietnamese for a long time. It has so far been an interesting topic for study all over the world. Repetition has been dealt with by many famous writers in both English and Vietnamese who made great contributions to the background theory of this research.

Long ago, there have been researchers investigating stylistic devices, namely: Galperin, *Stylistics* (1977) showed repetition's functions and examples of them. Ghaleb Rabab' Ah, (2012) in *Research in Language* conducted a pragmatic analysis to the discourse of Dr. Phil and his guests on Dr. Phil's TV show. This study attempted to explore the pragmatic functions of such repetitions as used by English native speakers.

Not only did Western linguists study repetition as stylistic devices but also Vietnamese researchers investigated this problem many years ago. Diệp Quang Ban (1996) has dealt with Vietnamese stylistics with an examination of repetition of all kinds. Cù Đình Tú (1994) showed the definition and function of repetition. In recent years, researchers have done a lot of researches that focuses on investigating the commonly used stylistic devices in written texts through difference genres.

So far, the writers have been very interested and pleasant in the study of repetition. With the use in different genres, such as (poems, novels, speeches, songs...). Though these findings in these studies help the learners understand more about repetition in novels and the usage, there still remain important gaps. Despite the careful

descriptions of repetition in form and effect, they offer few suggestions on how to use it in pragmatic contexts with specific functions. More should be addressed in these aspects of repetition.

2.2 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Stylistics and functions of Stylistic Devices

2.2.1.1. Stylistics

Galperin, in his book “Stylistics” defines that: Stylistics is a branch of general linguistics, which deals with the following two interdependent tasks:

- a) studies the totality of special linguistic means (stylistic devices and expressive means) which secure the desirable effect of the utterance.
- b) studies certain types of texts "discourse" which due to the choice and arrangement of the language are distinguished by the pragmatic aspect of communication (functional styles)

2.2.1.2. Functions of Stylistic Devices

Galperin (1977) considers function of stylistic devices as “marked unit in texts. They always carry some kind of additional information, either emotive or logical.

In sum, writers use stylistic devices for some more functions: to emphasize or highlight an attitude or an opinion, to impress someone’s position or situation on someone, to make a remark or make a statement vivid and unforgettable, to make something clear and understandable to the audience, to awaken the understanding, sympathy, and pity for someone’s situation, and to make a train of thought more obvious to the audience

2.2.2. Foregrounding and backgrounding

2.2.2.1. Foregrounding

Following Jan Mukarovsky, one of the leading exponents of the Prague linguistic circle, was the first to postulate the concept of foregrounding. In his famous article "standard language and poetic language", he (1970:43) states. "*Foregrounding is the opposite of automatization, that is the deautomatization of an act, the more an act is automatized the less consciously executed; the more it is foregrounded the more completely conscious does it become.*"

The theory of foregrounding is one of the foundations of Stylistics. There are several approaches to the classification of the foregrounding types. The first is suggested by Leech (2007:38) and involves the division of this device into qualitative and quantitative aspects.

2.2.2.2. Foregrounding features and stylistic effect

Following Simpson (2007) see foregrounding as a form of textual patterning which is motivated specifically for literary aesthetic purposes. According to Simpson, it is capable of working at any level of language and typically involves a stylistic distortion of some sort, either through an aspect of the text which deviates from a linguistic norm or, alternatively, where an aspect of the text is brought to the fore through *repetition* or *parallelism*, in other words, foregrounding as 'deviation from the norm' and foregrounding as 'more of the same'.

Foregrounding has lots of features. These features are formally and broadly classified into phonological (rhyme, alliteration, consonance and repetition), graphological (capitalisation, embolding and spelling), lexico-semantic (metaphor, hyperbole, pun and

antithesis) and grammatical (affixation, imperatives, interrogatives and parataxis) levels.

2.2.3. Repetition

2.2.3.1. Definition

Repetition is a figure of speech that shows the logical emphasis that is necessary to attract a reader's attention on the key-word or a key-phrase of the text. It implies repeating sounds, words, expressions and clauses in a certain succession or even with no particular placement of the words, in order to provide emphasis. There is no restriction in using repetition but too much repetition can be dull and even spoil its stylistic effect.

Galperin in his book "Stylistics" makes a very clear definition of stylistic repetition is that "*repetition is an expressive means of the language used when the speaker is under the stress of strong emotion*" (1977).

Cù Đình Tú (1994) writes that "*Diệp từ ngữ là cách tu từ dùng sự lặp lại những từ ngữ, những câu, những kiểu câu, kiểu phô diễn như nhau nhằm mục đích nhấn mạnh nội dung biểu đạt*" (Repetition is a Rhetorical expression that uses the same repeated words, sentences, sentence patterns and expressions to emphasize the content).

2.2.3.2. Types of repetition

To Galperin (1977), repetition is classified into Repetition of phonetic (Alliteration and Assonance), Repetition of lexical and syntactic (Anadiplosis, Anaphora, Epiphora, Epizeuxis, Framing, Mesodiplosis, Diacope, Diaphora or Pleonasm, Tautology).

2.2.2.4. The Stylistic function of repetition

According to Galperin (Stylistics, 20, p.212-214), when used as a stylistic device, repetition acquires quite different functions. It does not aim at making a direct emotional impact. On the contrary, the stylistic device of repetition aims at logical emphasis, an emphasis necessary to fix the attention of the reader on the key-word of the utterance. The background repetition is sometimes used to stress the ordinarily unstressed elements of the utterance. Finally, like many stylistic devices, repetition is polyfunctional. One of them is the rhythmical function.

2.2.3. Foregrounding and Backgrounding:

2.2.3.1. Foregrounding

Following Jan Mukarovsky, one of the leading exponents of the prague linguistic circle, was the first to postulate the concept of foregrounding. In his famous article "standard language and poetic language", he (1970:43) states. *"Foregrounding is the opposite of automatization, that is the deautomatization of an act, the more an act is automatized the less consciously executed; the more it is foregrounded the more completely conscious does it become."*

2.2.3.2. Foregrounded features and stylistic effect

Following Simpson (2007) see foregrounding as a form of textual patterning which is motivated specifically for literary aesthetic purposes. According to Simpson, it is capable of working at any level of language and typically involves a stylistic distortion of some sort, either through an aspect of the text which deviates from a linguistic norm or, alternatively, where an aspect of the text is brought to the

fore through *repetition* or *parallelism*, in other words, foregrounding as ‘deviation from the norm’ and foregrounding as ‘more of the same’

In “Journal of Theoretical Linguistics [online].2019”, the writer writes “*The theory of foregrounding is one of the fundamental theories in stylistics. Two aspects of foregrounding are singled out – quantitative and qualitative aspects. Quantitative aspect can be realized by the redundancy of stylistic devices such as the concentration of these devices in some text fragments or by numerous lexical / syntactical repetitions. The most typical techniques of quantitative aspect of foregrounding are stylistic convergence and parallelism. Qualitative aspect often manifests itself as deviation represented by original tropes and lexical devices (neologisms, archaic words, etc.).*”

2.2.4. The writer Agatha Christie (15th September 1890 – 12 January 1976)

Dame Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie, Lady Mallowan, DBE (née Miller; 15 September 1890 – 12th January 1976) was an English writer known for her 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, particularly those revolving around fictional detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. She also wrote the world's longest-running play The Mousetrap and six romances under the pen name Mary Westmacott

. Most of her books and short stories have been adapted for television, radio, video games, and comics, and more than 30 feature films have been based on her work.

2.2.4.1. Dumb Witness (1937)

2.2.4.2. Death on the Nile (1937)

2.2.4.3. Sad Cypress (1940)**2.2.5. The writer Thế Lữ (June 10th, 1907 - June 3rd, 1989);**

The Lu (June 10, 1907 - June 3, 1989) was born in Hanoi; his birth name was Nguyen Dinh Le (other documents show his name as Nguyen Thu Le) was a Vietnamese poet, writer, and theater activist.

Thế Lữ became famous in the literature in the 1930s, Thế Lữ published more than 50 poems, mostly before 1945.

2.2.5.1. Lê Phong phóng viên (Le Phong reporter)**2.2.5.2. Mai Hương và Lê Phong (Mai Huong and Le Phong)****2.2.5.3. Gói thuốc lá (Cigarette packet)****2.2.6. Summary****CHAPTER 3****RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY****3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN**

As mentioned in the aim and objective of this study, combine the research question used to support the findings. By reading, observing the occurrence of all kinds of repetition in English and Vietnamese novels, we analyzed and classified them.

Firstly, the numbers of phrases, or sentences containing the devices were counted and arranged in a table to compare those in the novels. The quantitative method was used for calculating the percentage the types of repetition.

Secondly, the qualitative method was the first step which used

to discover the descriptive information about functions of repetition used in English and Vietnamese novels.

Finally, the similarities and differences about functions between English and Vietnamese were concluded thanks to the comparative method.

3.2. RESEARCH METHODS

In this thesis, the descriptive method played a dominant role. The descriptive method was a useful tool to describe and characterize the functions and structure of repetition. Descriptive research frequently uses charts and tables to illustrate results so easy to analyze.

3.3. SAMPLING

The method for selecting items or events from the frame was stratified sampling. The examples of a stylistic device (repetition) collected from 3 novels of Agatha Christie and The Lu. I choose novels of Agatha Christie and The Lu because both of them lived in the early 20th century. The characteristics of Agatha's detective novel are crime fiction, a murder mystery. Similar to Agatha, The Lu has inference style (mystery, missing) and action (murder). They composed detective novels which were composed near time. The novels used in the research were composed around 1937 and 1940.

3.4. DATA COLLECTION

3.4.1. Instruments

To collecting data, we used research methods of comparative and reading documents to respond to the purpose of the research questions. With the aim of the research, mainly qualitative and descriptive were used in the research. We also used some ways to

apply the numbers of samples such as table, calculating. The data can be collected in English and Vietnamese novels.

3.4.2. Procedures

The steps for collecting data, includes:

- Making a deep understanding of the topic to study.
- Collecting data about repetition (types, structures)
- Collecting the materials which are related to this research. According to many books, websites and printed materials, we choose the most suitable information for our research.
- Using quantitative data and qualitative data in the thesis.
- Collecting data about repetition in "Death on the Nile", "Dumb Witness", "Sad cypress" by Christine Agatha.
- Collecting data about repetition in "Mai Hương và Lê Phong", "Lê Phong phóng viên", "Gói thuốc lá".
- Grouping the samples in types of repetition and making the tables.
- Analyzing the repetition found out in Agatha and The Lu's novels.
- Finding out the similarities about function of repetition in the English and Vietnamese novels.
- Finding out the differences about function of repetition in the English and Vietnamese novels.
- Suggesting some useful implication for using stylistic devices in the novels

3.5. DATA ANALYSIS

First of all, we collected and grouped the data into categories which depend on the descriptive methods used in 3 English and

Vietnamese novels in term of phonetic, lexical, syntactic and functions.

After all of the samples were collected, the next step is classifying, analyzing the data to meet the target of analysis. The data analysis in this study used descriptive, qualitative and quantitative methods because its aims are to collect, describe, interpret and analyze the numbers of repetition in novels. The results and finding of the similarities and differences function of repetition.

3.6. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

3.6.1. Reliability

3.6.2. Validity

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. Types of repetition in novels

Table 4.1 types of repetition in 3 novels of Agatha Christie: “Dumb Witness”, “Death on the Nile”, “Sad Cypress”

	Number	Percentage (%)
Repetition of phonetic	30	8.9
Repetition of syntactic	191	56.5
Repetition of lexical	117	34.6
Total	338	100

Table 4.2 types of repetition in 3 novels of The Lu: “Mai Hương và Lê Phong”, “Lê Phong phóng viên”, “Gói thuốc lá”.

	Number	Percentage (%)
Repetition of phonetic	15	7.1
Repetition of syntactic	100	90.9
Repetition of lexical	94	1.9
Total	209	100

From table 4.1 and table 4.2, we can see that repetition is classified into three categories: phonetic, lexical and syntactical.

4.1.1. Repetition of phonetic in English and Vietnamese Novels

4.1.1.1. Repetition of phonetic in English novels.

- Alliteration
- Assonance

4.1.1.2. Repetition of phonetic in Vietnamese novels.

- Alliteration
- Assonance

4.1.2. Repetition of syntactic in English and Vietnamese novels

4.1.2.1. Repetition of syntactic in English novels

a. Repetition of phrases and clauses

There are 7 types of repetitions.

- Anadiplosis
- Anaphora
- Epiphora
- Mesodiplosis
- Epizeuxis:
- Framing
- Diacope

b. Repetition of sentences, sentence structures.

- S+V+O
- S+V
- S+V+C
- S + V + A
- S + V + O + C
- S + V + CL

4.1.2.2. Repetition of syntax in Vietnamese Novels

- Anaphora
- Anadiplosis
- Epiphora:
- Mesodiplosis
- Epizeuxis
- Framing
- Diacope

b. Repetition of the sentence, sentence structures.

- S + V

- S + V + O

4.1.3. Repetition of Lexical in English and Vietnamese Novels

4.1.3.1. Repetition of Lexical in English Novels

a. Pleonasm

b. Tautology

4.1.3.2. Repetition of Lexical in Vietnamese novels

a. Pleonasm

b. Tautology

4.2 Comparison in functional of Repetition in English and Vietnamese novels

4.2.1 Functions in English and Vietnamese novels

4.2.1.1 Function of repetition's phonetic in English and Vietnamese novels

4.2.1.2 *Function of repetition's syntactic in English and Vietnamese novels*

4.2.1.3 *Function of repetition's lexical in English and Vietnamese novels*

4.2.3. Similarities and Differences in the functions of repetition in English and Vietnamese novels

4.2.3.1. Similarities

From the results of descriptive and document methods, it can be seen that there are some similarities between English and Vietnamese novels.

Firstly, from the table (4.8) we can see repetition of phonetic in Agatha Christie and The Lu's works have same function that make

a tune for sentence and creates an image in style of Rhythm. This kind of repetition makes the sentence more interesting.

Secondly, from table (4.9) the repetition of Syntactic, it used to emphasize the content of paragraph/ sentence.

Thirdly, in the repetition of lexical, Pleonasm and Tautology used to emphasize the ideas of the content of sentence or paragraph or to reinforce an idea, contention, or question, rendering writing clearer and easier to understand. Besides, they create not boring effects.

In both English and Vietnamese novels, repetition not only attracts the reader's attention to an important segment in the text and promotes coherence of it, but also serves to create a particular effect: the more is said about someone or something, the more attention is switched to another object.

4.2.3.2. Differences

After reading, observing the occurrence of all kinds of repetition in English and Vietnamese novels. There are many differences among the works.

Firstly, in the English novels, repetition uses sound to emphasize the emotions of the characters. In the Vietnamese novels, it used to create visuals.

Secondly, with Agatha's novels, she uses repetition of phrase, sentences to emphasize the content of novels through character's status. In The Lu's novels, he makes reader more attention to novels through character's emotion.

4.2.4. Summary

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

In the previous chapter, the research has analyzed of the repetition in English and Vietnamese novels. In this chapter, the researcher would like to summarize all the findings we have found in the process of analyzing and discussing before mentioning implications for the study. And then the researcher would like to propose some suggestions, the suggestions are also intended for the next researchers who are interested in carrying out a similar study.

5.1. CONCLUSIONS

First, we introduce the study in chapter one. Then, a short review gives out to show proof in chapter two. Then we described the methods and procedures of the research in chapter three. Moreover, in this chapter, we also showed the ways of data collecting and data analysis. Also, chapter four is one of the most important chapters about describing, analyzing, and findings of the research where linguistic features of repetition in English and Vietnamese novels are in focus. To achieve the result in our thesis, we mainly apply stylistic theories by Galperin, Diệp Quang Ban and from the Internet to get background knowledge of repetition as well as to find out some types and functions of repetition in English and Vietnamese novels.

This study is an attempt to discover the repetition in English and Vietnamese novels with the aim of providing an in-depth analysis of functions of repetition in English novels and Vietnamese novels and then comparing the similarities and differences in functional of repetition in novels through the detailed

analysis and description of about 74 examples. We find that repetition has the distinctive features and different effects in expressing the authors' feeling and make the works more interesting and meaningful. The repetition functions as a stylistic device in the English poetic utterance are diverse and serve the purposes of revealing additional emotional shades of the text. Repetitions are considered to be important means of communication between the sentences, it should be noted that they convey much more emotional information, expressiveness and styling.

In conclusion, both in English and Vietnamese novels, we recognize that repetitions have the function is expressing the author's ideas, feeling. Basing on the findings in the study, the researcher attempts to recommend some implications to help learners use of repetition and makes some suggestions for a further researcher.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS

Firstly, from the result of this thesis, we can realize that there are a lot of differences in using repetition in both English and Vietnamese novels because of the differences between origins, cultures, composing styles.

Secondly, the study of this thesis provides background knowledge of stylistic features of repetition in general based on the viewpoints of Galperin, Dinh Trong Lac. From that, we know many types of repetition and similarities and differences of functional of repetition in English novels and Vietnamese novels, which is a great help for teaching and learning English in Vietnam. In this study, the authors combine many kinds of repetition in the work to make it more interesting, meaningful. Besides, by understanding the way how to use

stylistic devices of the author, readers can find interest when reading books and apply them to their writing. For the language teaching, language learners will know how to use repetition to express their feeling, ideas in a logical and how to use different kinds of repetition and stylistic devices appropriately. Thus, their knowledge will be improved by exercises that can have more confidence in writing text and avoid clumsy essays in school.

Thirdly, the study not only for teaching and learning English but also for all language users in writing containing stylistic devices namely repetition.

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

In this study, I just research about the types of repetition and its function in English and Vietnamese novels by Agatha Christie and The Lu's. We cannot cover all the features of repetition in novels. Despite the researcher's great effort, it is obvious that this thesis contains a lot of shortcomings and weaknesses because of the researcher's limited ability to do scientific work as well as incomplete knowledge of the field. Therefore, something should be suggested for future research as follows.

Firstly, the studies in the future should be expanded with larger and more complete research since one of the limitations of this thesis is attributed to the scope of the study.

Secondly, the studies should have investigating into pragmatic and cultural features of some stylistic devices used in English and Vietnamese novels.

Thirdly, the studies should have an investigation into collocations of parallelism in English and Vietnamese novels.