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**AN INVESTIGATION INTO LINGUISTIC  
FEATURES OF “REALLY” AND ITS  
VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS**

**Field : The English Language  
Code: 60.22.15**

**MASTER THESIS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
(A SUMMARY)**

*DaNang – 2011*

The thesis has been completed at the College of Foreign  
Languages, University of Danang.

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The thesis will be orally defended at the Examining Committee.

Time: July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

Venue: Tay Nguyen University

The original of thesis is accessible for the purpose of reference at  
the College of Foreign Languages Library, and the Information  
Resources Center, Danang University

## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. RATIONALE

In the period of globalization nowadays, English is now officially considered as an international language and plays a very important role in international communication. Therefore, effective communication in English is the main and final purpose of teaching and learning this foreign language.

Like many other discourse markers, the word *really* has such a wide range of syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic features that may cause problems for Vietnamese learners of English.

This accounts for my investigation into the linguistic features of *really* in English and in Vietnamese. In practice, the study hopes to suggest some implications in the areas of language teaching, learning, and translation.

### 1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

#### 1.2.1. Aims

The study aims at investigating syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic features of the word *really* and its equivalents in Vietnamese, and putting forward some practical implications.

#### 1.2.2. Objectives

This study is intended to fulfill the following objectives:

- identifying and describing different meanings of the word *really* in contextual situations.
- discovering its possible translational equivalents in Vietnamese.
- putting forward some practical implications in the language classroom and in the area of translation.

### 1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Our study attempts to answer the following question:

1. What are features of *really* in terms of
  - a) syntax and its Vietnamese equivalents ?
  - b) semantics and its Vietnamese equivalents ?
  - c) pragmatics and its Vietnamese equivalents ?

### 1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

### 1.5. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This thesis is designed in five chapters:

Chapter 1: The introduction.

Chapter 2: Literature review

Chapter 3: Methods and procedures

Chapter 4: Findings and discussion

Chapter 5: The conclusion and implications

## CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

There have been a number of studies concerning the word *really*, such as Leech & Svartvik [8], Swan [21] etc. and especially Paradis [16].

According to Leech and Svartvik [8, p.135-202], *really* can occur in mid-position. Especially, *really* in mid-position can come, for positive or negative emphasis, before the operator. The normal position of *really* is front-position. *Really* also has an emphatic effect. According to Swan [21, p.156], *really* can be used to soften

something which might upset other people. In Thomson's study [23], *really* was treated as an adverb of degree while Quirk and Greenbaum [18] analyzed *really* as an attitudinal disjunct.

The most valuable study I benefit from is Paradis's paper [16]. This paper "identifies and explains the emergence of three different readings of *really* in the schematic domains of epistemic modality and/or degree. The different readings arise through the interaction between the ontological notion of [REALITY] and the construal of *really* in relation to the context.

Up to now, no contrastive analysis between *really* and its Vietnamese equivalents has been found, which leaves room for this study. My research will deal with the syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of *really* and its Vietnamese translational equivalents and point out their similarities and differences. It is hoped that the findings of this research will contribute to the existing knowledge of the topic under the study theoretically and practically.

## 2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.2.1. Speech Acts Theory

A speech act is regarded as an utterance in communication. On any occasion, the action of producing an utterance will consist of three related acts: locutionary act, illocutionary act, and perlocutionary act. There are five main types of speech acts, according to Searl [18]: the representative, the commissive, the declarative, the directive, the expressive.

### 2.2.2. Speaker's Intended Meaning

This kind of meaning represents the aim, possibly linguistic irrelevant, that the speaker bears in mind before uttering the sentence

and the purpose of the act performed by the utterance is to achieve the aim.

### 2.2.3. Formality in Communication

Formality is implicitly or explicitly indicated in any utterance. Whether the speaker is aware of its presence or not, in his utterance, there always exists a certain level of formality in the use of language. It reflects the formality of the context and the speaker's intention.

### 2.2.4. Politeness Theory

According to Yule (1997), **face** means the public self-image of a person which refers to the emotional and social sense of self that everyone has and expects to be recognized.

Within social interactions, people generally behave as if their **face wants** will be respected. If something is said as a threat to another concerning self-image, it is regarded as **face threatening act** while something is said to lessen the possible threat. This is called a **face saving act**. There are six conversational maxims: tact, generosity, approbation, modesty, agreement, and sympathy.

### 2.2.5. Utterance Meaning

#### 2.2.5.1. Context

Context of communication can be considered as the environment of the utterance including all that is present or in action at the moment of speaking.

#### 2.2.5.2. Utterances

According to Nguyen Hoa [12, p.148], an utterance expresses the speaker's feeling rather than describing a state of affairs. It is dependent so much on the context of communicating.

Utterances are interpretively used to represent the thoughts of the speaker. Utterance meaning is what a speaker means when he

makes an utterance in a certain situation, or in other words, it is a sentence in context.

### **2.2.5.3. Conversational Implicature**

According to Yule [24, p.35], “that something must be more than just what the words mean. It is an additional conveyed meaning, called an implicature”. In brief, “unlike presuppositions and entailments, implicatures are inferences that cannot be made in isolated utterances. They are dependent on the context of the utterance and shared knowledge between the speaker and the hearer.” [17, p.30]

### **2.2.6. Notion of Relevance**

Relevance theory is psychological model for understanding the cognitive interpretation of language. Its opinions are opposed to classical code model whereby information is encoded into a message, transmitted, and decoded by another party, with another copy of the code. Relevance theory argues that the thing that causes an input to stand out from others is its relevance to the receiver. Relevance theory states that receiving communication is a process of sifting through the available inputs to find the communication of most relevance. However, messages carry information about their own ostensive relevance that allows the receiver to infer which is the most important and permits the sender a degree of control over their importance.

### **2.2.7. Summary**

In this chapter, I have reviewed some prior researches related to the current study and provided some fundamental concepts such as speech acts theory and concepts of linguistic communication as the speaker’s intended meaning, formality in communication, politeness

theory, utterance meaning and notion of relevance in brief. This enables us to set up a theoretical framework for examining *really* in terms of syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic aspects, i.e. in what locution *really* can be recognized, in what illocution *really* reveals its semantic functions and under what pragmatic conditions *really* is intended to bring into place its perlocutionary effects.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN**

This is a qualitative research.

#### **3.2. RESEARCH METHODS**

Discourse analysis and descriptive and contrastive methods are chosen as the general methodology of the study. While discourse analysis helps to analyze examples containing *really* in discourse, the descriptive approach helps to describe and demonstrate linguistic features of *really* in English and Vietnamese literature. Qualitative approach is used as one of the major methods of this study. Besides, inductive investigative approach is also applied to draw necessary conclusions. The other methods adopted include statistical, observational, and analytical ones.

The following steps are involved:

- identifying and collecting utterances containing *really* in English and utterances containing the actual translational equivalents in Vietnamese.
- classifying meanings and functions of the word *really* in terms of semantic, pragmatic, and syntactic features.

- presenting, describing, and analyzing the syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic features of the word *really* in English utterances.

- suggesting some practical implications for pedagogical field and translational area.

### 3.3. DESCRIPTION OF POPULATION AND SAMPLES

**Table 3.1 Bilingual Sources of Examples analyzed in the Study**

Sources	Samples analyzed
<i>Gone with The Wind</i>	288
<i>Davidcopperfield</i>	118
<i>The Man of Property</i>	42
<i>The Quiet American</i>	2
<i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>	6
<i>The Moon and Sixpence</i>	22
<i>Vanity Fair</i>	22
<i>Love story</i>	28
<i>Streamline English</i>	16
<i>857 Tình huống giao tiếp</i>	48
<b>TOTAL</b>	592

### 3.4. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

### 3.5. INSTRUMENTS

### 3.6. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

## CHAPTER 4

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES

##### 4.1.1. Positions of *Really* in the Sentence

##### 4.1.1.1. Initial Position

##### 4.1.1.2. Medial Position

##### 4.1.1.3. Final Position

#### 4.1.2. Syntactic Functions of *Really*

##### 4.1.2.1. Premodifying an Adjective

##### 4.1.2.2. Premodifying an Adverb

##### 4.1.2.3. Premodifying a Verb

##### 4.1.2.4. Premodifying a Sentence

##### 4.1.2.5. Postmodifying a Verb

##### 4.1.2.6. Postmodifying a Sentence

##### 4.1.2.7. Being used as an Interjection

##### 4.1.2.8. The Emphatic Form of *Really*

##### 4.1.2.9. Split Infinitive

##### 4.1.2.10. Others

As can be seen, *really* can be used initially, medially or finally in the sentence.

*In initial position*, *really* stands at the beginning of the sentence, or at the beginning of the clause. Its equivalents in Vietnamese can be in the same position. When used initially as a sentence adverb, it makes a comment on the whole sentence that follows.

*In medial position*, *really* shows a very high mobility in the sentence. The Vietnamese translational equivalents of *really* appear in the middle, in the final, and in the front position while *really* in English appears in the middle of the sentence.

*In final position*, only a few examples of *really* were found. Its Vietnamese translational equivalents can be found at the beginning, or in the middle of the sentence.

Obviously, the position is an important clue to the interpretation of *really*, but it cannot completely decide differences in readings.

*Really* can function differently in the sentence.

*Really* can be used to *premodify an adjective*. *Really* can be used to strengthen adjectives, adjective + noun phrases, and participles.

*Really* is used to *premodify an adverb*. It is clear that when *really* goes with another adverb, it normally precedes that adverb to give more information about the extent or level of something or intensifies the adverb's meaning.

*Really* can also modify verbs, preceding the main verb to provide more information about the extent or level of something.

When *really* premodifies a sentence, it is at initial position. We often put it in front position when it relates to what has gone before.

In my corpus, *really* was found to postmodify a verb only when the ordinary verb is *be*.

When *really* postmodifies a sentence, it modifies a whole sentence and usually expresses the speaker's or narrator's opinion. It can also be in front position, mid-position, or end position. We often put *really* in end position when we want to emphasize what is said.

*Really* is used as an interjection. The interjection *really* does not either have any grammatical connection with other elements or describe others in the sentence like other common English interjections.

We can use the phrase *really and truly* as an *emphatic form of "really"* for more special emphasis. This use has an emphatic effect on the meaning of the statement or opinion.

The adverb *really* is sometimes put between *to* and *infinitive*. This is a case of split infinitive with *really*. Split infinitive structures are quite common in English esp. in an informal style.

In other cases, *really* was found to appear in the structure *hear + object + really + infinitive (without to)*. It was also found to appear in the structure *preposition + really + -Ing form* and in the comparative form *more + adjective + really than*.

In fact, the syntactic features of *really* may cause some confusions over English learners. This review of the syntactic features of *really* is hoped to give a useful reference material for learners.

## 4.2. THE SEMANTIC FEATURES OF THE WORD *REALLY* AND ITS VIETNAMESE TRANSLATIONAL EQUIVALENTS

### 4.2.1. In Fact (*trong thực tế, trên thực tế, thực tế là*)

A very important feature of *really* is used when you are adding something to emphasize what you have just said. In this case, *really* is synonymous with *in fact*.

### 4.2.2. Very; very much (*thực rất, rõ, rất, lắm or quá*)

The most common feature of meaning dealing with *really* is *very* or *very much*. *Very* and *very much* are used to mean "in a high degree" or "extremely". *Really* in this case has the effect of emphasizing the truth of the utterance as a natural consequence of reinforcing the degree of a scalar property. It intensifies the level of the adjectives.

**4.2.3. Truly; genuinely** (quả là, quả thật, thật, thực quả, thực là, thực... ả, thực sự, có thực)

It seems unacceptable to ignore the meaning *truly or genuinely* of *really* that is employed to emphasize that a particular statement, feeling, etc. is sincere or genuine.

**4.2.4. Indeed, in Reality** (thực tế thì, kể ra, thực ra, đúng ra là, thật ra là, thực sự thì)

It can usually be seen that *really* is employed with the meaning *indeed* or *in reality*, which is used to introduce an additional statement that emphasizes or supports what you have just said.

**4.2.5. Sincerely** (thực bụng, thực tình, thực tâm, and thành thật)

This meaning conveyed by *really* may refer to *sincerity, truth, or something able to be trusted and not likely to steal, cheat or lie.*

**4.2.6. Just** (đúng là, đích thực, đích thị, chính công)

We can make use of *really* with the meaning of *just* which means exactly.

**4.2.7. Completely** (hoàn toàn, nguyên xi, y xì)

It should be noted that *really* is involved with the meaning of *completely* which means in every way or as much as possible.

**4.2.8. Even** (thậm chí, đến nỗi, đến mức)

Not often but sometimes, we can use *really* in a sentence with the meaning of *even* when you want to be *more exact or detailed about something you have just said.*

**4.2.9. Try** (chịu khó, cố gắng)

Besides, *really* can also be used to refer to *an attempt to do something.* Its Vietnamese equivalents in this situation are *chịu khó, cố gắng.*

**Table 4.12. Semantic Features of Really and Its Vietnamese Equivalents**

REALLY		
No	English	Vietnamese equivalents
1	in fact	trong thực tế, trên thực tế, thực tế là
2	very; very much	thực rất, rõ, rất, lắm or quá
3	truly; genuinely	quả là, quả thật, thật, thực quả, thực là, thực... ả, thực sự, có thực
4	indeed, in reality	thực tế thì, kể ra, thực ra, đúng ra là, thật ra là, thực sự thì
5	sincerely	thực bụng, thực tình, thực tâm, and thành thật
6	just	đúng là, đích thực, đích thị, chính công
7	completely	hoàn toàn, nguyên xi, y xì
8	even	thậm chí, đến nỗi, đến mức
9	try	chịu khó, cố gắng

This table makes it possible for us to find out different meanings of *really* under discussion and its Vietnamese equivalents. As we can see, *really* in reality owns a diversity of meanings. Therefore, it is necessary that language users should care about its meanings to achieve effective communication.

### 4.3. PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF THE WORD *REALLY* AND ITS VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS

**4.3.1. Used to express a Judgment of Truth from the Point of View of the Speaker in a given Situation** (thật sự, thực sự...)

The speakers may use other adverbs instead of *really*, for

instance, *in fact, in reality, truly, genuinely...* to express a judgment of truth from their own point of view in a particular situation, not from the public.

#### 4.3.2. Used to Confirm the Truth of a Situation, rather than What People Might Wrongly Think (có thật, thực sự...)

In questions, *really* is normally a truth attester. The speaker uses it to ask the previous speaker whether what he or she said before is actually in line with reality and truth.

#### 4.3.3. Used to Emphasize Something that You are Saying (quả thật, thực đấy mà, thật mà, thật sự...)

A speaker usually wishes to convey an emphasis on the important message in the statement. *Really* can be used for that purpose.

#### 4.3.4. Used to Show that You are Surprised by What Someone has Said (vậy sao? thật vậy sao? thật đấy à? thật không?...)

In a conversation, *really* can be used to express a surprise at what has been heard. The Vietnamese translational equivalents of *really* in these situations can be *vậy sao? thật vậy sao? thật đấy à? thật không?...* This pragmatic meaning is very common in informal spoken discourse.

#### 4.3.5. Used in Conversation to Show that You are Listening to or Interested in What the Other Person is Saying (thật ư? thật à? thật không? có thực?...)

There are many ways to show that you are listening to or interested in what is being said. We might use both verbal and nonverbal communication. For nonverbal communication, we can use *really* which means *thật ư? thật à? thật không? có thực?...* in Vietnamese.

#### 4.3.6. Used to Say “No”, Especially When Something is Not Completely True (không đúng lắm, không phải hoàn toàn như thế, không hẳn vậy...)

The phrase *not really* is used for saying *no* without being very definite. It seems more polite than *no*. Especially, we can use it when something is not completely true. The Vietnamese translational equivalents of *really* in these situations can be *không đúng lắm, không phải hoàn toàn như thế, không hẳn vậy*.

#### 4.3.7. Used to Preface an Opinion Rather Than a Fact (thực sự...)

In everyday relationships with people, we often find ourselves in situations where we need to let a person know what we think about a topic. *Really* can be used in this situation with its Vietnamese equivalent: *thật sự*. We can say that *really* is employed to express a thought or belief about something or someone of a particular person, rather than something which is known to have happened or to exist.

#### 4.3.8. Used to Express Doubt (thật sao, vậy sao, có thật, thực sự...)

Often *really* may be employed to express a feeling of not being certain about something or not believing something. Thus, *thật sao, vậy sao, có thật, or thực sự* are suggestions for translation of *really* when expressing this pragmatic feature.

#### 4.3.9. Used to Request Confirmation of Some New Information, or to Indicate Affirmation (có thật...)

*Really* is used to ask for confirmation of some new information or to suggest a statement that shows agreement or says 'yes'. It seems that *có thật* is a suitable choice for translation of *really* in this case.

**4.3.10. Used to Emphasize an Assertion** (thực sự là, thực vậy, quả thật, quả nhiên, quả vậy, quả thế...)

It can be said that *really* is used to emphasize an assertion in high frequency in my sources of examples.

**4.3.11. Used to Express Regret or to Pass Mild Criticism** (tình thật, thực sự...)

*Really* is also used to express sadness about a situation, especially something sad or wrong, or a mistake that someone has made. We can see that *really* can be commonly employed with a disapproval meaning to say that something or someone is bad. The translator can use *tình thật*, or *thực sự* as suitable Vietnamese equivalents.

**4.3.12. Used to Express Exasperation** (thực sự là, thực sự ...)

In the process of communication, *really* is sometimes used to express anger or extreme annoyance because of something wrong, unfair or hurtful that has happened. We can use *thực sự là*, or *thực sự* as its Vietnamese equivalents. We can sometimes use *really* to express anger or extreme annoyance about the weather, the food we eat, the traffic, our work, money problems, and other areas of our lives.

**4.3.13. Used to Express Compliment** (thực sự, thực sự là, quả là, đúng là...)

Often *really* may be used to show a remark that expresses approval, admiration, or respect. Everyone likes to receive compliments; they make them feel good about themselves. Complimenting people is a major part of our daily lives. Complimenting people on their skills or talents is a common and natural activity. We often compliment people. When someone has done a job well or has performed a task in such a fine way that it

deserves to be recognized, giving such compliments can boost that person's motivation, which in turn leads to actions and finally results. Only in this manner can we inch closer to fulfilling greater and more ambitious goals. We can use *thực sự*, *thực sự là*, *quả là*, *đúng là* for *really* in this situation.

**4.3.14. Used to Express Gratitude or Thank you** (quả là, thật, thật là, thật sự là...)

It is natural to expect a reward after hard work. It is natural to thank someone when they do something for you. A simple thank you lets others know what they have done is *worthwhile* and *meaningful* to you. *Really* with its Vietnamese equivalents such as *quả là*, *thật*, *thật là*, *thật sự là* is sometimes used to express this pragmatic meaning.

**4.3.15. Used to Express Ridicule to Hide a Real Care from the Other** (thật là, đúng là, thật tình, thật sự...)

There are many ways to show love. That depends on each person and the beloved person. Some people speak out for themselves. Some hide their love from others. Ridicule in this situation is not a way to disregard the other, but a different sign to show love of an unusual person for an unusual person.

**4.3.16. Used to Express Disregard** (thực bụng, thật sự, thật, thật tình...)

Sometimes *really* may be employed to express no care or no respect for something or someone when speakers believe that someone is not worth admiration, or something that you believe does not have good ideas or qualities.

**4.3.17. Used to Express Refusal** (thật sự, thật tình...)

Sometimes we want to accept an invitation, an offer, a suggestion, or a gift and are able to, but there are other times we do

not want to accept them or are unable to. *Really* and its Vietnamese equivalents as *thật sự, thật tình* can be used to refuse to do or to accept something politely.

#### 4.3.18. Used to Express Admitting (thật sự, thật tình...)

Agreeing unwillingly that something is true or saying that you have done something wrong or illegal can be expressed by employing *really* in speech. In Vietnamese, we can use *thật tình*, or *thực sự* as the equivalents of *really* in these cases.

#### 4.3.19. Used to Express Agreement (đúng thế, đúng vậy, quả thật...)

*Really* rarely appears in my corpus to express agreement. It is a very informal expression of agreement. It is fine in informal setting with peers, close friends, or family members, but care and consideration should be given before using it in formal business or social settings.

#### 4.3.20. Used to Express Mild Protest (thôi đi, thôi nào, thôi thôi, đừng thế nữa, đừng tiếp tục nữa...)

*Really* is found in my corpus to express a mild complaint expressing disagreement, disapproval, or opposition.

#### 4.3.21. Used to Express Sympathy (rất, thật...)

We often sympathize with people who have experienced something unfortunate or bad, such as a disappointment, an illness, an accident, a loss, or a death of someone close to them. It is often hard to know what to say – or how much to say – at a difficult time like this. In every case, we support the person: offer words of consolation, comfort, and encouragement; and try to show that we understand what the person is feeling or going through.

To sum up, the pragmatic features of *really* and its Vietnamese equivalents presented above are briefly summarized in the following table 4.13:

**Table 4.13. Pragmatic Features of Really and Its Vietnamese Equivalents**

REALLY		
No	English	Vietnamese equivalents
1	Used to express a judgment of truth from the point of view of the speaker in a given situation	thật sự, thực sự...
2	Used to confirm the truth of a situation, rather than what people might wrongly think	có thật, thực sự...
3	Used to emphasize something that you are saying	quả thật, thực đấy mà, thật mà, thật sự...
4	Used to show that you are surprised by what someone has said	vậy sao? thật vậy sao? thật đấy à? thật không?...
5	Used in conversation to show that you are listening to or interested in what the other person is saying	thật ư? thật à? thật không? có thực?...
6	Used to say “no”, especially when something is not completely	không đúng lắm, không phải hoàn toàn như thế, không hẳn vậy...
7	Used to preface an opinion rather than a fact	thực sự...

8	Used to express doubt	thật sao, vậy sao, có thật, thực sự...
9	Used to request confirmation of some new information, or to indicate affirmation	có thật...
10	Used to emphasize an assertion	thực sự là, thực vậy, quả thật, quả nhiên, quả vậy, quả thế...
11	Used to express regret or to pass mild criticism	tình thật, thực sự...
12	Used to express exasperation	thực sự là, thực sự ...
13	Used to express compliment	thực sự, thực sự là, quả là, đúng là...
14	Used to express gratitude or thank you	quả là, thật, thật là, thật sự là...
15	Used to express ridicule to hide a real care from the other	thật là, đúng là, thật tình, thật sự...
16	Used to express disregard	thực bụng, thật sự, thật, thật tình...
17	Used to express refusal	thật sự, thật tình...
18	Used to express admitting	thật tình, thực sự...
19	Used to express agreement	đúng thế, đúng vậy, quả thật...
20	Used to express mild protest	thôi đi, thôi nào, thôi thôi, đừng thế nữa, đừng tiếp tục nữa...
21	Used to express sympathy	rất, thật...

From what is presented, it can be seen that how context and situation affect meaning that is extremely important for language students to learn. And if students are not even aware of these differences, they risk offending, confusing others, or misunderstanding what is said to them. Students must also have the cultural knowledge to understand and respond appropriately according to social norms.

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

#### 5.1. A SUMMARY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STUDY

Syntactically, the study inherited some results of syntactic features of *really* from previous studies. The contribution of this research is that it discovered more syntactic features to create a much more *complete picture*. To conclude, *Really has three positions in the sentence: initial position, medial position, and final position*. The syntactic features of *really* have been investigated by function with the ten classifications.

Semantically, *really* was thoroughly investigated and interestingly discovered to convey nine features. In addition to such common features as *in fact, very; very much, truly; genuinely, indeed; in reality, completely* that the research inherited from the previous studies, the paper discovered the rest: *sincerely, just, even, and try* through the typical examples from the corpus.

Pragmatically, according to some dictionaries, *really* is used to express interest, surprise, or anger. *Really*, in my paper, was found out to possess twenty – one pragmatic features, which is hoped to be the most treasured contribution of this thesis.

### 5.1.1. Similarities and Differences of *Really* and Its Vietnamese Equivalents in Terms of Syntax, Semantics, and Pragmatics

#### 5.1.1.1. Similarities

Syntactically, we realize that *really* in English and its translational equivalents in Vietnamese shows a high mobility in their positions. Both of them can appear in initial, middle, or final position.

Semantically, *really* has nine different types of meanings such as *in fact, very; very much, truly; genuinely, indeed, in reality, sincerely, just, completely, even, try*. Correspondently, there are nine types of Vietnamese equivalents. Its readings are based on particular contexts. Different readings of *really* in different situations can be easily recognized or understood. However, in some cases, it is not easy to identify its meaning exactly because one type of reading overlays another.

Pragmatically, there are twenty-one pragmatic features analyzed and similarly, there are twenty-one types of Vietnamese equivalents which are used *to express a judgment of truth from the point of view of the speaker in a given situation, to confirm the truth of a situation rather than what people might wrongly think, to emphasize something that you are saying, to show that you are surprised by what someone has said, to show that you are listening to or interested in what the other person is saying* and so on. Moreover, *really* and its Vietnamese equivalents are more commonly-used in spoken language than in written language.

#### 5.1.1.2. Differences

On syntactic aspect, *really* shows a much higher flexibility in structures, especially when *really* in medial positions, while its

Vietnamese equivalents have a limitation in their positions.

On semantic aspect, the use of *really* helps the speaker to express the intention of speech, or the relationship and attitude of the speaker toward the listener, or toward what is mentioned in the utterance. In some cases, however, *really* is not translated into Vietnamese, which slightly changes or reduces the meaning of the utterance.

On pragmatic aspect, to achieve the purpose of communication, people need to be aware of differences of pragmatic features in order to avoid offending, confusing others, or misunderstanding what is said to them. People also need to have knowledge of culture or of political regime to understand people from different cultures or from different political regimes and to respond appropriately according to social norms.

## 5.2. IMPLICATIONS

### 5.2.1. Implications on Language Teaching and Learning

First of all, in communication, the interactional process affecting a variety of senses of *really* syntactically, semantically, and pragmatically may cause problems for Vietnamese learners. Therefore, learners should be exposed to different semantic features of the word *really*. Teachers should help them distinguish its various shades of meanings and help them pay close attention to various positions and syntactic functions of *really*. Teachers should also provide learners with the pragmatic features of the word *really* and should emphasize how contexts and situations affect the meanings of *really* to avoid offending, confusing others, or misunderstanding the message conveyed to them. Additionally, in order to help learners to understand more and to avoid making mistakes in using *really*, it is

necessary for teachers to point out similarities and differences between *really* and its Vietnamese equivalents.

Secondly, English learners should be independent in the process of learning. This could be achieved by equipping learners with strategies necessary to expand their vocabulary knowledge. Hence, learners try to discover the meaning of *really* by guessing it with the help of context, which can be considered a major and an effective source of vocabulary learning. Moreover, learning can become a dynamic learning process in which ample learning materials from multiple sources, both audio, and visual are adopted. Varied learning modes which combine classroom learning with online learning are achieved. There are many features on which teachers may not be able to spend time within the class time limits. Thus, if students are equipped with a number of appropriate strategies, as well as proper methods, they can deal with them on their own and, as a result, have access to a large number of target language words in general and linguistic features of *really* in particular.

### **5.2.2. Implications on Translation**

To successfully translate *really* into another language, translators, first, should focus their attention on its context. Next, they should try to interpret the key words, identify the grammatical structures and determine the meaning implied by the writer of the source language. After that, the translator should go over the whole translation again to make sure that the writer's intention has not been ignored, or the writer's style has not been modified. Translators should do their best to minimize meaning loss to avoid losing the intention of the speaker or writer.

## **5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES**

### **5.3.1. Limitations of the Study**

Despite the fact that enormous efforts have been made to discover all of the possible features of *really* syntactically, semantically and pragmatically, the researcher may not have been able to deal with those features thoroughly and completely due to the lack of reference books, the limitation of time and ability, and some other constraints faced by the researcher.

### **5.3.2. Suggestions for Further Studies**

This study has not been dealt with such important aspects of *really* as the intonation of really or the cultural features of really. Therefore, the researcher suggests that the following topics should be taken into consideration for further research:

A Study of the Intonation of “*Really*”

An Investigation into Cultural Features of “*Really*” in Idioms and Proverbs.