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LÊ THỊ HỒNG HIẾU

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO SEMANTIC FEATURES
OF ADJECTIVES DENOTING 'BIG' AND THEIR
VIETNAMESE TRANSLATIONAL EQUIVALENTS**

**Field Study : ENGLISH LANGUAGE
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Supervisor: Lê Thị Giao Chi, M.A., M.Ed.

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Danang University

Supervisor: Lê Thị Giao Chi, M.A., M.Ed.

Examiner 1: Ngũ Thiện Hùng, Ph.D.

Examiner 2: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Trương Viên

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 RATIONALE

It is clear that language is an invaluable treasure that tells a great deal about the world of which human beings are real masters. Indeed, it is man that shapes the construction and reconstruction of such languages. Through decades, people have ceaselessly enriched and diversified linguistics with many new concepts.

There is no denying that an English word often has various meanings, which means that the meaning of a word can vary according to its context. Adjectives in English are no exceptions. They can be appropriately applied to fully transmit the speaker's thoughts and ideas. Nevertheless, it is not easy for those who learn English as a second language to use them correctly and effectively. In fact, most learners often feel confused with adjectives of the same denotation especially when they are used in various contexts since they fail to grasp the contextual meanings that are central to the interpretation of meaning. There can be no denying that a general sense of one adjective can be adjusted by virtue of contextual factors and each context can make certain aspects of meaning vary interestingly.

Big is one of the most commonly used adjectives, and is used to modify or describe nouns both in colloquial and in scientific or academic discourses. In some different contexts, the meaning of 'Big' can be represented by virtue of different lexical devices. That is to say, there are many English adjectives denoting the meaning of 'Big' when used in varying contexts. We use adjective Big in

everyday conversations with its common and general meaning. Big is used to describe something or someone with *a large shape, size, or building*. In particular contexts, however, the meaning of 'Big' is implied by other adjectives such as *big, great, huge, enormous, tremendous*, etc. We can say, for example, a *big house* (một ngôi nhà lớn), *tremendous efforts* (nỗ lực lớn), *radical changes* (những thay đổi lớn), or a *sweeping view* (quang cảnh rộng), to name a few. In contrast, in Vietnamese, we have phrases like *mưa to, gió lớn* whereby the meaning of 'Big' is realized by various lexical items, i.e. 'to', and 'lớn', and their English equivalents should be 'heavy rain' and 'strong wind', rather than being literally translated as *big rain* *, or *big wind* *. Although 'lớn' or 'to lớn' is the main aspect of meaning of 'Big', yet upon being rendered into English, we can use several different adjectives belonging to the semantic field of 'Big'.

Adjectives in English have, indeed, attracted the attention of both English and Vietnamese researchers. In fact, attempts have been made to study single adjectives like *good, bad, nice* or a group of adjectives denoting colour, and the like. Yet, there has yet been any research done into adjectives in the school meaning of 'Big', which is supposed to be an exciting but problematic area of study. For this reason, I would like to focus my research on the semantic features of English adjectives denoting 'Big'. On that foundation, I would like to study and compare the collocation range of Big and of other common generic size adjectives such as *great, large, huge, etc.* By doing so, it is hoped that the study can help equip English learners with some critical knowledge of adjectives in the school meaning of 'Big' while at the same time suggesting some possible Vietnamese translational

equivalents. Hopefully, once learners of English have a good grasp of these adjectives, they will possibly achieve their communicative target and their studying English will become an easier and more interesting experience.

1.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR THE STUDY

Hopefully, making an investigation into English adjectives denoting 'Big' will be a contribution to the existing knowledge of the field. And the findings of semantic categories of these adjectives will be expected to be of great benefit to Vietnamese learners of English.

With an in-depth interpretation of what is really meant by the adjective Big and its synonyms in specific contexts, as well as a proper use of such adjectives in varying ways, learners will be able to improve their understanding of the field and obtain their final goal – successful communication.

1.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.3.1 Aims

This paper is to study the semantic features of Adjectives denoting 'Big', and then to put forward some suggestions for translating them into Vietnamese. The study will provide English learners with a better insight into the meaning of Big and the ways it is represented by means of different lexical devices – or rather of adjectives in the same field of meaning.

1.3.2 Objectives

- Helping Vietnamese learners of English to be aware of the ubiquity of the meaning of the Adjective Big and other English adjectives denoting 'Big'.
- Identifying a range of adjectives denoting 'Big'

- Examining semantic differences of the adjectives denoting 'Big' in various contexts.
- Finding out the Vietnamese equivalents of English adjectives denoting 'Big'
- Putting forward some suggestions for teaching and learning as well as translating adjectives denoting 'Big'.

1.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is confined to the semantic features of English adjectives denoting 'Big' based on the data taken from different sources. Most of these adjectives are widely used in real communication. They are such descriptive adjectives as *big, great, large, huge, enormous, tremendous* and valuable adjectives like *big, great, important, considerable*. The contrastive analysis is based on the source language English with reference to Vietnamese equivalents. The study is carried out with the essential sources such as English and American English short stories and novels.

1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are the semantic features of the English adjective Big?
- What are the semantic features of the English adjectives denoting 'Big'?
- How do these English adjectives differ in the representation of meaning of 'Big'?
- What are the Vietnamese translational equivalents of English adjectives denoting 'Big'?

1.6 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This paper includes 5 chapters. Chapter 1 is the introduction. Chapter 2 consists of Literature Review and Theoretical Background.

Chapter 3 deals Method and Procedures. Chapter 4 presents Findings and Discussion. Chapter 5 consists of Conclusion, Teaching Implications and Suggestions for Further Studies.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In recent decades, the semantic and pragmatic aspects of English adjectives have become one of the major foci in studies of language use. These include Firth (1957), Haas (1964), Cruse (1987), Crystal (1987), Richard & Platt et al. (1993), Asher (1994), Allwoods & Gardenfors (1999), Jackson (2000), Hurford & Gardenfors (2001), Kreidler (2001).

Adjectives are also a matter of concern to many Vietnamese researchers. Take, for example, Nguyen Thi My Ai [27], Truong Thanh Ngoc [36], Vu Thi Chau Sa [37], Nguyen Ngoc Bich Thuy [26], or Huynh Ngoc Lan Thi [15], etc.

It can be said that the above-mentioned authors appear to have made good use of adjectival characteristics in the hope of bringing about their semantic and pragmatic recognition profoundly. Though linguists have written much on adjectives, and chiefly focused on their meaning and use. However, there so far has not been a specific study which is designed for semantic features of a range of adjectives denoting the meaning of 'Big'; for these reasons, I have made my attempt to make an investigation into this matter.

2.2 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1 Semantic Features

According to Hurford and Heasley [2001, p.1], "*semantics is the study of meaning in language*". It is also the study of the relationship between words and their meaning, i.e., the connections

and interactions between the symbols for things (words are symbols) and the things themselves (the actual objects or ideas the words refer to). In the book *'Linguistic Semantics – An Introduction'*, Lyons (1996) has given a clear explanation for this matter. Hurford and Hearsley (2001) also gave the semantic description of a language.

Semantic features are the features that are used to define the meanings of a word (Lyons, 1996) or to differentiate individual lexemes in a particular domain from one another in terms of meaning (Widdowson, 1996).

Ginsburg (1979) has stated that words may be classified according to the concepts underlying their meaning. Jackson (2007) has confirmed that the vocabulary is said to be organized into a number of, partially overlapping, semantic fields. Lyons (1996) distinguishes between "conceptual field" (a structure of concepts on the semantic level, a structured conceptual area) and "lexical field" (a set of lexemes that covers a specific conceptual field). According to Crystal (1992), semantic field refers to the view that vocabulary of a language is a system of interrelated lexical networks, and not an inventory of independent items, also called lexical field theory. Jackson (2007) pointed that there is no agreement among lexicologists on a method to establish semantic fields.

2.2.2 Synonyms

According to Arnold (1986), synonym is defined in terms of linguistics as two or more words of the same language, belonging to the same part of speech and possessing one or more identical or nearly identical denotation meanings, interchangeable, at least in some contexts without any considerable alternation in denotation

meaning, but differing in morphemic composition, phonemic shape, shades of meaning, connotations, style, valence and idiomatic use.

Jackson (2007) indicates that many linguists take this position and make a distinction between *'strict'* or *'absolute'* synonyms and *'loose'* synonyms.

Jackson (2007) pointed out three useful ways to distinguish synonyms. The first way is based on their dialects. A second general way relates to the style or formality of the context in which a word may be used. A third way is when connotations differ. Two words may largely share a denotation, but they may have different associative meanings.

2.2.3 Context

Widdowson (1996), when focusing his study on language meaning, thought "context" as "those aspects of the circumstance of actual language use which are taken as relevant to meaning". Or another definition from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, *'Context is the relevant constraints of the communicative situation that influence language use, language variation, and discourse'*. In studying the relationship between discourse and literature, Cook (1999) took "context" into consideration as well. When studying reference and inference, Yule (1997) also took "context" into account. He provided us with a somewhat general definition, "Context is the physical environment in which a word used." [40, p. 128]

Opinions on how to classify context vary from one to another. Some linguists divide context into two groups, while others insist on discussing context from three, four, or even six dimensions. Based on different circumstances as mentioned earlier, I would like to divide

context into three categories, namely linguistic context, situational context and cultural context.

2.2.4 Collocation Range

In Oxford Collocations Dictionary (2003), collocation is defined as the way words combine in a language to produce natural-sounding speech and writing or a particular combination of words used in this way.

“The term collocation refers to combinations of two lexical items each of which makes a distinct semantic contribution” [8, p.28]

Sinclair [1991, p.110] refers collocation to words co-occurring *'within a short pace of each other'*. Similarly, people get to know that collocation is *what goes together with what*. This paper is directed to the definition by Watson [1997, p.7]: *"collocation is the placing together of words which are often associated with each other, so that they form common patterns or combinations"*.

2.2.5 Adjective

2.2.5.1 Notion of Adjective

Adjective is one of the most common categories of the English words. Adjectives can simply be defined by Richard et al (1993) as 'a word that describes a noun', or referred to a more specific notion as 'a word that describes the thing, quality, state or action which a noun refer to'.

The English adjective is various. They typically denote properties - most centrally in the domains of opinion, size, age and origin. Hence, the learners have many choices of using adjectives based on their purposes.

2.2.5.2 Adjective Ordering

Almost all languages allow attributive adjectives to modify nouns; in fact, in many languages this is the only or primary function [32]. In some languages, attributive modification is limited to a single adjective phrase; additional adjectives must be coordinated, introduced by apposition, or introduced in relative clauses. In other languages, such as English, multiple adjectives are possible, and in such languages there are very clear cross-linguistic tendencies in the ordering of attributive adjectives. By and large, the order of pre-nominal adjectives tends to be similar cross-linguistically, for example size before color. In many cases, there is a preferred ordering and a marked ordering, or two different interpretations for two different orders. [20]

It is of paramount importance to learn the pattern of adjective order if it is not part of what you naturally bring to the language. The royal order of adjectives can be seen in this part.

In conclusion, adjectives are words used to describe or modify nouns. They give the reader more information about noun and make our writing more interesting.

2.2.5.3 Function of Adjectives

As stated by Quirk and Greenbaum (1972), the major syntactic functions of adjectives are attributive (acting as premodifiers of nouns) and predicative (acting as complement of verbs).

Although most adjectives can be either attributive or predicative, some can only be used in attributive position. Adjectives are attributive when they premodify nouns, that is, they appear

between the determiner and the head of the noun phrase. One group of them can be related to adverbials.

So far, I have, in this chapter, provided a review of literature concerning the matter under investigation, then given a discussion of the theoretical preliminaries needed for the research. Notion of semantics, collocation, context, and characteristics of adjectives have been presented to highlight the theoretical framework that scaffolds the whole study from beginning to end.

CHAPTER 3

METHOD AND PROCEDURE

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 Research Design

3.1.2 Methodology

With the purpose of investigating the semantic features of Adjectives denoting 'Big', suggesting some their Vietnamese translational equivalents, the qualitative approach was used to provide expected research results. Descriptive research was supposed to be the main method for the contrastive analysis because it was synthetic or analytic in its approach. Besides, the study also used quantitative and qualitative approaches as supporting methods. The study also summarized data in large quantity and made generalizations about characteristics of the data based on information obtained from the sample.

The qualitative approach consisted of following methods: Descriptive Method, Analytical Method, and Contrastive Method. These methods helped the study to describe and demonstrate

semantic features of English adjectives denoting 'Big' and their Vietnamese equivalents in bilingual sources of English and American literary works.

In this research, the two languages were examined in equivalence. And illustrated examples in the study were bilingual, some were monolingual and retrieved from the Internet, and the researcher tried to enumerate as closely as possible their contextually equivalent sentences in English and Vietnamese.

3.2 RESEARCH PROCEDURES

3.2.1 Data Collection and Corpus Building

The data were grouped into categories depending on their semantic features. The researcher observed and investigated the data taken from literary works and their versions, examined how they were used and described them. A more detailed linguistic analysis was finally performed in order to find out the different meanings of adjectives denoting 'Big' and compare them with their translational Vietnamese equivalents.

The data resources included the bilingual books, novels and short stories of which English was the source language. The works of Margaret Mitchell, Jack London, Mario Puzo, Hemingway and Colleen McCullough, were all examined, including *Gone With The Wind*, *The Call of The Wild*, *The Godfather*, *The Old Man and the Sea* and *The Thorn Birds* respectively. In addition, some other short stories were also exploited such as *The gift of the Magi* by O.Henry, *The Moon and Sixpence* by William Somerset Maugham.

3.2.2 Data Analysis

In this paper, I have made use of theories of sense relations and componential analysis with the semantic characteristics of the adjective to analyze semantic features of the adjectives denoting 'Big' in collected samples. The contrastive analysis theories were used to analyze common and distinct semantic features of the English adjectives denoting 'Big' with their meanings in Vietnamese.

CHAPTER 4

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 PREAMBLE

4.2 SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ADJECTIVE BIG IN ENGLISH

In order to analyze adjectives denoting 'Big' in English semantically, the study is based on the theories of Greenbaum and Quirk (1972), Ginsburg (1979), Crystal (1992), and Lock (1996), as the foundation of the investigation.

In the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary [12], Big can be interpreted in 14 main distinguished ways. However, there are some similar shades of meaning which can be misleading if being treated separately. In this regard, I would like to group 14 characteristics into 4 semantic categories to avoid the repetition in the way of expression and the way of rendition into Vietnamese.

4.2.1 'Big' in Size, Dimension, or Space

The word 'size' may refer to how big something is. There are many ways to express the size in English, such as using adjectives, lexical devices or even non-verbal means like body language in oral communication. It is widely known that when the word 'Big' appears in a statement, the very first common meaning it conveys is the expression of size description. Therefore, the first and foremost semantic interpretation of Big can be said to indicate *the meaning of large size, large dimension*.

4.2.2 'Big' in Number or Amount

Another popular semantic characteristic of Big is to describe *the quantity of things or people*. Quantity is the extent, size or sum of

countable or measurable discrete events, objects, or phenomenon, expressed as a numerical value. There are many ways to express the quantity in English, such as using pronouns like *many*, *much*; or nouns like *plenty*, or phrases like *a great number of*, etc. Despite a number of researchers done into this matter, not much has been paid to the usage of Big and its synonyms in this semantic feature. Big is one of the most common adjectives used to describe the sense of *quantity*.

4.2.3 'Big' in Degree

Another fascinating meaning assumed for Big is the shape or level in degree of subject. Also, the readers can enhance some its vivid Vietnamese translational equivalents.

4.2.4 'Big' in Value, Significance or Importance

One semantic feature of Big is to evaluate the significance or importance of an issue, or a matter. The bigness of physical objects can be hold, seen or observed. Yet, for others, such as projects, plans, a heard, love or human feelings only can be felt and their dimension is valued based on many factors beyond physical areas.

So far, we have dealt with a number of different shades of meanings of Big. Their Vietnamese equivalents also vary according to different contexts.

However, in English, there are many different adjectives used to denote 'Big'. In other words, there are many synonyms of Big in its semantic field. Synonyms are different words with almost identical or similar meaning. Words that are synonyms are said to be synonymous. If we want to describe the action of someone who is looking out a window for an extended time, how do we choose

between the words *gazing*, *staring*, and *peering*? What exactly is the difference between *an argument*, *a dispute*, and *a row*, or between *petty crime* and *misdemeanor*? Here, in this paper, the differences between Big and its synonyms such as *Huge*, *Great*, *Large*, *Enormous*, *Massive*, *Grand*, *Tremendous*, or *Bulky* etc need to be explored. Since the focus of this paper is a discussion of the synonyms of Big, it is quite crucial that we begin with some interpretation of what synonym is.

When considering a group of words belonging to the same semantic field as English adjectives denoting 'Big', we must establish the similarities as well as the differences among them, that is to establish the meaning relations. The reasons explain for this approach is that "*a semantic field contains words that belong to defined area of meaning*". "*The words in a field share a common 'semantic component'*," [16, p.92]. Sense relations are one type of semantic relations that may hold between words within the vocabulary. Big has a relation of synonymy with Great, Huge, Vast, Large, Mature, Considerable or Important. The synonyms expressing the sense of 'Big' will be fully investigated in this section according to their different shades of meaning. Moreover, in this part, we will not only deal with the shade of meaning of the synonyms but also their usage in different contexts. Let us examine the first shade of meaning for a start.

4.3 SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH ADJECTIVES DENOTING 'BIG' AND THEIR VIETNAMESE TRANSLATIONAL EQUIVALENTS

4.3.1 'Big' in Size, Dimension, or Space

In English, except Big, Large and Great, **Huge** is also a popular adjective denoting 'Big'. On analyzing the semantic characteristics of Huge, it is found that the meaning of *very large in size* is prominent or official. The bigness in size of this word is more considerable than Big or Large. Therefore, in Vietnamese, we have some common renditions such as *khổng lồ* or *đồ sộ*. Compared with the aforesaid adjectives such as Big, Great or Large, it can be seen that Huge has a higher degree concealed in the meaning. Therefore, the degree of bigness in meanings has a great influence on the rendition of meaning into the target language. Clearly, instead of using the common renditions such as 'to', 'to lớn' in order to emphasize the shape of objects, the translator makes use of some Vietnamese equivalents to transfer this adjectives such as 'khổng lồ', 'đồ sộ'. Being used to describe the big shape of animal or people, Huge makes the readers feel the bigness of objects in several dimensions.

4.3.2 'Big' in Number or Amount

Normally, to express the quantity of something or people, the adjectives discussed above (e.g. Huge, Vast, Grand, Powerful) are rarely used. Instead, we tend to use exact numbers or apply typical adjectives denoting this sense in such circumstances. Therefore, it is essential that this kind of adjectives be brought under discussion in this section.

In terms of semantic analysis, the study will divide English adjectives denoting 'Big' into two groups. The first group consists of adjectives expressing the descriptive meaning - *Big in size or quantity* of objects. The second group belong to those that express the evaluative meaning - *Big in degree* and *Big in value*. In comparison

with two above meaning categories, in this level, Big is considered based on subjective viewpoint of the writers.

4.3.3 'Big' in Degree

4.3.4 'Big' in Value, Significance or Importance

Big in value, importance or significance is an interesting shade of meaning. The investigation into this nuance meaning of English adjectives denoting 'Big' has greatly contributed to the success of this thesis. In this part, we have recognised such adjectives as *important, adult, considerable, ample, immense* or *big* with their interesting representation and corresponding equivalents.

4.4 RELATIVE FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE OF ADJECTIVES DENOTING 'BIG' IN ENGLISH

4.4.1 Frequency of Occurrence of Adjectives Denoting 'Big' in English

Descriptive adjectives, which account for 74.2 %, are more common adjectives expressing the big size or number of objects in English. Valuable adjectives occupy 25.8 %. Therefore, descriptive adjectives are nearly one and a half as popular as valuable adjectives when used to express the meaning of bigness. It is easily understood because the number of descriptive adjectives investigated is one and a half as many as valuable adjectives denoting 'Big'.

Big is used most often with the largest percentage (33.8 %). The second preferred adjectives are *Great, Huge* and *Large*, which account for 15.1%, 12.2% and 18.3%, respectively. Those like *Enormous* and *Vast* take from 7.4% to 8.0%. Other adjectives are allocated from 1.9% to 2.9%. Among these adjectives, *Bulky* is the least popular.

Important is used the most frequently of all covering 32.4%, followed by *big* with 28.7%. Other adjectives occupy from 4.6% to 16.6%. The frequency of occurrence of valuable adjectives denoting 'Big' is illustrated by the chart 4.2.

4.4.2 Trend

The first thing that can be noticed is the significantly different number of occurrences of *big* compared with the other adjectives like *large*, *great*, *huge* or *enormous*. *Big* is a predominating adjective which accounts for 33.8% of all occurrences while the others score modest percentages between 1.9 and 18.3%. The reason is that *big* is the most common adjective in English, being used in different contexts, formal or informal and it denotes not only descriptive meaning but also valuable meaning towards objects, happenings, or events. *Great*, *huge*, *large* are three adjectives having similar but lower ranges of usage compared with *Big*'s. Their level of the bigness seems different.

Secondly, it is not striking to notice that *important* is in the lead in the second group of semantic feature, followed by *big* and *great*. *Big* is markedly more often used than any other adjectives, less popular than *important* but more common than *considerable*, *mature* or *adult*.

4.5 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.5.1 English Adjectives Denoting 'Big' and Their Vietnamese Equivalents

4.5.1.1 Vietnamese Equivalents Based on Dictionaries

4.5.1.2 Vietnamese Equivalents Drawn from Literary Works

When collecting and analyzing data, it is seen that some adjectives investigated have more and some have fewer equivalents than those found in the dictionaries.

4.6 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the following remarks can be drawn from the findings: - In both English and Vietnamese, the level of bigness of objects is expressed by using adjectives denoting 'Big' or generally speaking, by using synonyms of *Big*. They are such descriptive adjectives as *Big*, *large*, *great*, *huge*, *enormous*, *bulky*, *vast*, and so on and such evaluable adjectives as *big*, *important*, *great*, *considerable*, *mature*, *adult*, etc. in English. These adjectives have their Vietnamese equivalents like *to*, *to lớn*, *khổng lồ*, *đáng kể*, *quan trọng*, *rộng*, *cao lớn* and so on. In general, Vietnamese equivalents almost keep their original meaning of English adjectives with the exception of some slight differences in shifts of meaning. The number of Vietnamese equivalents to adjectives denoting 'Big' in English is not too many, which enables learners or translators to find out suitable equivalents without great difficulties.

Generally, the differences between adjectives denoting 'Big' in English and their Vietnamese equivalents create certain difficulties for learners and helping them to overcome these obstacles to reach a thorough understanding is necessary. For this reason, these conclusions will be used as a background for implications for teaching and learning English in the next chapter.

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

This study has been aimed to investigate the semantic meanings embedded in Big and its synonyms, and simultaneously to put forward their translational equivalents in Vietnamese.

The study is developed on the base of some linguist's concepts of semantic and their viewpoints on adjectives denoting 'Big' in English such as Harford and Hensley (2001), Lyon (1996), Crystal (1992) and is especially under the influence of Quirk and Green Baum (1972). The study considers their viewpoints on adjectives and adjectives denoting 'Big' in English as the criteria to investigate such adjectives as *great, huge, large, vast, enormous, bulky, important, or mature, considerable*. The followings are what the study has reached in the course of investigating:

1. There are many ways of expressing the shade of meaning 'Bigness' in English by means of vocabulary or lexical devices, metaphor, metonymy, comparison. Among means of vocabulary, adjectives are more preferable. Many adjectives with different degree of popularity can be used to express the bigness but this study only investigates the above-mentioned adjectives due to time constraints and shortage of reference sources.

2. Semantically, there are many similar semantic features in both languages, that is, no marked difference in representation of meaning between these adjectives denoting 'Big' in English and their Vietnamese equivalents can be found. In general, English adjectives and Vietnamese adjectives express the same meaning with the

exception of some differences in shades of meaning of certain adjectives.

5.2 SOME IMPLICATIONS FOR TEACHING, LEARNING AND TRANSLATING ENGLISH ADJECTIVES DENOTING 'BIG'

5.2.1 Implication on the Language Teaching and Learning

With the scope of this paper, we have dealt with some basic knowledge of importance of adjective in vocabulary system, recognition of the adjective Big and adjectives denoting 'Big'. The findings of the study may be beneficial to the language learners since they provide a good background to how to use the various meanings of these adjectives appropriately. For language teaching, this study may prompt the need of encouraging students to exploit the diverse meaning of adjectives for the purpose of using adjectives flexibly and fully.

As discussed above, the meaning of the word is not determined by itself but by its relations with other linguistic elements. Thus, we can only identify the meaning of the word when it is put in a specific context. This may become a challenge for those who learn English as a second language. Thus, this study hopes to provoke learners' awareness of considering the contexts in which the words are employed, especially the contexts where the shape of physical objects or the expression of mental feeling are embedded. It can be inferred that when teaching the meaning of the word, the teacher should give specific situations or contexts reflecting exactly different meanings of a word, or direct students to necessary collocations in recognition of word meaning. If the teacher only gives students Vietnamese

equivalents of the meaning taught without context, this can create great difficulties for the students to understand them because one English lexeme could have one or more than one Vietnamese equivalents and vice versa, especially the case when adjectives denoting 'Big' are followed by the noun.

Moreover, the learners are always affected by the mother tongue when they learn a foreign language. Then, they often impose Vietnamese thinking on translating English words into Vietnamese. Learners often apply rules of their mother tongue in the production of foreign language sentences whenever they are short of knowledge or they are careless. As a result, that the translational equivalent becomes rigid is avoidable. Hence, pointing out all the similarities and differences between two languages with the teachers' help is necessary.

Lastly, the teachers should give as many chances for the learners to encounter the concerned word form as possible. Furthermore, doing various exercises also help the learners use adjectives denoting 'Big' effectively and vividly.

5.2.2 Implication on Translation Work

Firstly, when translating, the learners should have a thorough grasp of the contexts in which it is used to have suitable interpretations. We should consider the texts in term of both its denotations and its connotations. Grasping the right contexts, the translators may choose the most appropriate and relevant among the pool of meanings that it can convey the message being implied. They should examine if the Vietnamese equivalent can render all the

implications of the author. Then, the intention of the author should be taken into account.

Secondly, the learners should translate the text based on the meaning rather than form. This will help the translated version convey the intended meaning of the original one.

Furthermore, besides the general meaning of being '*big in size/dimension*' with '*to, to lớn*' as their Vietnamese equivalents, adjectives denoting 'Big' have a variety of equivalents. Hence, translators may have to make the best choices when rendering the meaning of these adjectives into Vietnamese as presented in Chapter 4.

5.3 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

5.4 SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

The thesis can continue to be studied in the following ways:

- Semantic features of lexical devices denoting 'Big' in English and their Vietnamese translational equivalents
- Cultural features of descriptive group of adjectives denoting 'Big'
- Syntactic features and collocations of adjectives denoting 'Big'
- Linguistics and cultural characteristics of adjectives denoting 'Big' in idioms and proverbs.