MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
UNIVERSITY OF DANANG
----- ❧ ❀ ❧ -----

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A STUDY OF UNDERSTATEMENTS IN EDITORIALS IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE NEWSPAPERS

Field: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Code: 60.22.15

M.A. THESIS (A SUMMARY)

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DANANG – 2010

The study has been completed at College of Foreign Languages, University of Danang

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The thesis was defended at the Examination Council for the M.A. theses, University of Danang.
Time: 22/10/2010
Venue: University of Danang

The original of this thesis is accessible for the purpose of reference at:
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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Rationale

It is widely accepted that newspapers have been playing an essential role in the development of our society. However, when Vietnamese learners read editorials in English newspapers, they usually find it hard to understand the writing styles of journalists especially their stylistic devices. Understatement is a stylistic device used in English newspaper causing many difficulties to learners to understand. If the readers find it hard to understand those understatements they may lose their interest in the entire article as they read it.

Moreover, editorials are more and more popular because of the fact that people pay a lot of attention to criticizing one problem from many aspects. That is the reason why many newspapers, for example, "the New York Times" or "The Quân Đội Nhân Dân"..., have several pages for editorials. And, understatements are found in editorials.

So far, understatements in editorials, however, have not been carefully studied. Therefore, I hope that the study "**A Study of Understatements in Editorials in English and Vietnamese Newspapers**" will help learners of English identify understatements used in editorials in English and Vietnamese newspapers and get better understanding of implied meanings of this stylistic device.

1.2. Aims and Objectives

1.2.1. Aims of the Study

This study aims to investigate the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features of understatements in editorials in English and Vietnamese newspapers.

1.2.2. Objectives

- Identifying understatements in editorials in English and Vietnamese newspapers.
- Analyzing the syntactic, pragmatic and semantic aspects of understatements in editorials in English and Vietnamese newspapers.
- Identifying the differences and similarities of understatements in English and Vietnamese newspaper editorials.
- Finding out the problems facing Vietnamese learners in identifying and translating understatements.

1.3. Significance of the Study

The findings of the study will help Vietnamese learners get better understanding of understatements in newspaper editorials.

The study aims to supply some implications to the language learning and translating understatements.

We hope that the practical information will raise the language user's awareness of the differences between the two languages in terms of using understatements.

1.4 . Scope of the Study

The study is limited to editorials in some newspapers which are "The New York Times" and "The Los Angeles Times" in English, "The Quân Đội Nhân Dân" and "The Nhân Dân" in Vietnamese.

1.5. Research Questions

1. What are the syntactic, pragmatic and semantic features of understatement in editorials in English and Vietnamese newspapers?

2. What are the differences and similarities of understatements used in editorials in English and Vietnamese newspapers?

3. What are the problems that Vietnamese learners might face when identifying and translating understatements in English newspapers?

1.6.   Organization of the Study

The study is divided into five chapters as follows:

Chapter 1 is Introduction.

Chapter 2 is Literature Review and Theoretical Background.

Chapter 3 is Research Design and Methodology.

Chapter 4 is Findings and Discussion

Chapter 5 is Conclusion and Implications.

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CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

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2.1. Review of Previous Studies Related to the Research

Understatements have been attracting the attention of many researchers. Ball [2] and Spitzbardt [21] gave the definition of understatement, its function and its use in different situations. Galperin [10] also gave definition and some examples of understatement. Ball compared some temporary points of view about this problem with Laurens, Churchill, Fowler, Colonel Blimp, Brogan.

Hübler [16] studied characteristics of understatements and their use in contexts. He considered understatement as a hedge in English.

Colston [6], Colston and O'Brien [7], Gibbs [12], and Bertuccelli Papi [4] not only looked at understatements in different

contexts and their influence on the hearer but also studied them in relation to other stylistic devices such as overstatement, irony, and metaphor.

Capelli [48] described the role of the lexicon, with special attention to the use of "hard words", overstatement, understatement, hyperbolic language and litotes.

Other researchers that studied understatement in relation to irony, hyperbole, overstatement are Fogelin [8] and Gibbs [12].

Kreuz and Roberts [18] gave some contribution to the study of understatement.

In Vietnam, Nguyễn Khắc Phi [36] mentioned the definition and function of understatement.

Other Vietnamese researchers such as Đinh Trọng Lạc [33] and [34], Nguyễn Thái Hoà [32], Hữu Đạt [30], Võ Bình [33], Lê Anh Hiền [33] also defined understatement and considered it in different situations. All of them shared the same point of view about understatement.

2.2. Theoretical Background

2.2.1. Newspapers and Electronic Newspapers

2.2.1.1. Newspapers

According to Wikipedia, *'A newspaper is a publication containing news, information and advertising. General-interest newspapers often feature articles on political events, crime, business, art/entertainment, society and sports'*.

2.2.1.2. Electronic Newspapers

As more and more people access the Internet, electronic newspapers are developed. Wikipedia defines that "*An electronic newspaper is a self-contained, reusable, and refreshable version of a*

traditional newspaper that acquires and holds information electronically".

2.2.2. Editorials

According to Nguyễn Như Ý [40], '*Editorials are journalistic articles about the important and burning topics of the day. They are usually on the first page*'.(Xã luận là bài báo thuộc thể loại chính luận, nói về một vấn đề thời sự quan trọng, nóng hổi, thường dùng ở trang nhất.)

Galperin [10] also states that editorials are *articles commenting "on the political and other events of the day. The purpose is to give the editor's opinion and interpretation published and suggest to the reader that it is the correct one."*

2.2.3 Understatement as Part of Stylistics

2.2.3.1 Stylistics and Stylistic Devices

a. Stylistics

Stylistics, as defined by Galperin [10], '*is a branch of General Linguistics which studies the nature, functions and structure of stylistic devices, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the study of each style of language (which may be the belles-letters style; the newspaper style; the scientific prose style; or the style of official documents), i.e. its aim, its structure, its characteristic features and the effect it produces as well as its interrelation with other styles of language*'.

b. Stylistic Devices

The stylistic device is "*a conscious and intentional literary use of some of the facts of the language (including expressive means) in which the most essential features (both structural and semantic) of the language forms are raised to a generalized level and thereby*

present a generative model" (Galperin [10]). Stylistics is a linguistics of the effects of the message, of the output of the act of communication, of its attention-compelling function.

2.2.3.2 Definition of Understatements

Wikipedia defines understatement as "*a statement which is deliberately weakened to sound ironical or softened to sound more polite*".

2.2.3.3 Functions of Understatements

a. Showing politeness

b. Emphasizing the enormity of a problem

c. Avoiding hurting the hearer's feeling and making the hearer sulky

d. Criticizing someone (especially the people with higher rank and position in the society) subtly

e. Being a subtle form of sarcasm

f. Functioning as a metaphor

g. Making the problems less serious

2.2.3.4 Commonest Ways to Express Understatements

According to Ju Hong [41], there are three commonest ways to express understatements:

a. Using "negative words" like *'no', 'not', 'none', 'never'* + *negative expression* to express the affirmative content.

b. Using *"modal verb"* + *"bare-infinitive"* or *"the perfect form of infinitive"* to avoid direct statement or to answer indirectly.

c. Using downtoners like *'a bit', 'almost', 'hardly', 'kind of', 'rather', 'pretty', 'scarcely', 'quite', 'something of', 'sort of'* to minimize the importance.

2.2.3.5 Grammatical Use of Understatements

2.2.3.6 Modern Use of Understatements

2.2.3.7 Understatement and Litotes

According to Galperin [10], "*Litotes is a stylistic device consisting of a peculiar use of negative constructions. The negation plus noun or adjective serves to establish a positive feature in a person or thing. This positive feature, however, is somewhat diminished in quality as compared with a synonymous expression making a straightforward assertion of the positive feature.*" It is a figure of speech in which the speaker either strengthens or weakens the emphasis of a claim by denying its opposite.

Understatements are different from litotes. Litotes can involve intensification, but understatements are weakened statements.

In some situations, we can use litotes as understatement, but not all litotes is understatement and not all understatements are litotes.

Another difference between litotes and understatements is that litotes consists of a peculiar use of negative constructions, but there are many ways to express understatements such as using downtoners or using modal verbs…

2.2.3.8 Understatement and Euphemism

Galperin [10] defined euphemism as *'a word or phrase used to replace an unpleasant word or expression by a conventionally more acceptable one'*.

Understatements are not to be confused with euphemisms, where a polite phrase is used in place of a harsher or more offensive expression. In a euphemism, a word or phrase is used to replace an unpleasant word or expression by a conventionally more acceptable

one whereas in an understatement, a statement is deliberately weakened to sound ironical or softened to sound more polite. The main difference is that understatements can be used to sound ironical but euphemisms can not.

In many situations, euphemisms and understatements sometimes overlap. However, the study will find out understatements based on their functions and the implied meanings of the expressions.

2.2.3.9 Understatement and Irony

Understatement is closely connected to a more general term: irony. '*Irony is a stylistic device also based on the simultaneous realization of two logical meanings – dictionary and contextual, but the two meanings stand in opposition to each other.*' (Galperin [10]). The effect of irony lies in the striking disparity between what is said and what is meant.

Understatement is similar to irony, both of them can refer to something said about the coincidence of events or a situation when expressed verbally. However, understatement is different from irony. Irony can imply the opposite of what is actually said, meanwhile understatement doesn't imply the opposite, just deliberately weakens the reality.

CHAPTER 3
RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY
3.1. Research Design and Research Methodology

The study is carried out through descriptive, qualitative, quantitative and contrastive approaches. Among the above methods, the descriptive method is mainly used.

Descriptive method and contrastive analysis are chosen as the general methodology of the study because this study aims at

finding out the similarities and differences of understatements in English and Vietnamese editorials in terms of syntax, semantics and pragmatics. Descriptive research is used to describe linguistic features of understatements in editorials in English and Vietnamese newspapers. This description will be illustrated by examples of understatements in editorials in newspapers and statistical tables of their frequency. Contrastive analysis is used to find out the similarities and differences in syntax, pragmatics and semantics of understatements in editorials in both languages. Based on examples of understatements collected, characteristics of the data are also generalized and grouped. Therefore, both qualitative and quantitative methods are used in the study so that aims and objectives mentioned in chapter 1 are reached.

3.2. Instrumentation

To the extent of descriptive research, observation and investigation are used to collect data. Observation and investigation techniques can be part of qualitative approach as well as quantitative approach. They are the proper instruments for data collection. Thanks to them, we can collect data from different sources, synthesize them and analyze them.

By observing and investigating the occurrence of understatements in editorials in English and Vietnamese newspapers, we collect them, synthesize them, analyze them, classify them and describe their linguistic features and find out how they work in different contexts in terms of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic aspects.

Other supporting instruments such as checklists, calculating, statistics, tables, numeration… are performed to calculate percentage

of understatements and set them in list in order of population and frequency.

3.3. Data Collection

This study tends to collect 300 understatements in English editorials and 300 understatements in Vietnamese editorials.

Data for the study are collected from "The New York Times" and "The Los Angeles Times" in English and from "The Quân Đội Nhân Dân" and "The Nhân Dân" in Vietnamese.

3.4. Data Analysis

Data collected will be mainly analyzed on the basis of the following points:

Syntactically, the classification of the data is mainly based on the different structural categories of understatement (noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, prepositional phrases and adverb phrases). Besides, sentential and clause are also considered.

Pragmatically, using understatements helps to express the writers or speakers' attitude towards the readers or receivers.

Semantically, the classification is carried out on the basis of typical semantic features of understatement in editorials in both languages.

The data analysis is as follows:

- The samples collected from English and Vietnamese editorials are carefully investigated.
- Understatements are investigated, analyzed, and categorized into specific characteristics.
- All the samples will be calculated to have statistics as well as the percentage of the frequency of understatements. The statistics will be shown in tables. From these results, we will

withdraw some similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese understatements.

3.5. Research Procedures

The study is carried out through the following steps:

- Identifying and choosing the research topic after reviewing the previous studies. It is to select the relevant materials such as books, thesis, and researches relating to our topic in English and Vietnamese languages.
- Collecting samples of understatements in 300 editorials in English newspapers and 300 ones in Vietnamese newspapers, each of which contains approximately about 550 words in length.
- Deciding the topics in which understatement is widely employed.
- Listing various understatements with examples extracted from editorials in newspapers.
- Generalizing the linguistic features of understatements in terms of syntax, pragmatics and semantics.
- Making tables and calculating the frequency of occurrence based on understatement structures and understatement topics.
- Drawing the similarities and differences of understatements in English and Vietnamese newspapers. The results serve as the foundation for discussing the ways English and Vietnamese people conceive of understatements.
- Suggesting some implications for teaching and learning English understatements.

3.6. Reliability and Validity

Starting with the understatements themselves, we need to ask ourselves whether we can actually answer the questions we have posed with the research methodology selected. If not, the methods selected are inadequate; therefore, the research questions must be convincible enough and the instruments selected to collect data must be adequate. The sample itself must be truly representative of the population chosen.

The samples of data used in the study are required to be accurate and the collection procedures must be logical, what comes first and what comes later are to be scientifically well-ordered. The data source selected to be investigated are derived from English and Vietnamese editorials.

The study strictly follows the research design, research methodology and research procedures. The data collection plays an important part in finding the result of the research to produce a qualified study, helping Vietnamese learners of English to overcome their difficulties in using and translating understatements as well as to achieve better communicative aim.

CHAPTER 4
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Syntactic, Semantic and Pragmatic Features of Understatements in English Editorials

4.1.1 Syntactic Features of Understatements in English Editorials

This section focuses on the syntactic aspect of understatements in English editorials. It shows how understatements are formed syntactically. Understatements can be expressed by all parts of speech and it comes from many structural

levels. They can be presented under the form of phrasal structures namely *noun phrases*, *verb phrases*, *adjective phrases* and *adverb phrases*. Apart from these structures, sentential structures include understatements expressed through affirmative structures and negative structures.

4.1.1.1 Phrasal Structures

a. Adjective Phrases

Less + Adjective

Premodifier + Adjective

b. Adverb Phrases

Adverb + Verb Phrase

c. Verb Phrases

Verb + Noun Phrase

Verb + To Infinitive

Verb + Adjective Phrase

Verb + Prepositional Phrase

It can be seen that in many cases, the verb in these understatement models is '*seem*'.

Modal Verb + Perfect Infinitive

Modal Verb + Infinitive

Verb + Likely + To Infinitive

d. Noun Phrases

Noun + Noun

Premodifier + Head Noun

Noun + 0

Adjective + Noun

4.1.1.2 Sentential Structures

a. Affirmative Structures

S+ Verb +Adjective

There + Verb + Noun Phrase + That + S + Verb Phrase

b. Negative Structures

S + Verb (negative) + enough + Noun Phrase

This + Verb + Not + Noun Phrase + That + S + Verb

S + Verb + not + going to + Bare Infinitive

Subject + Verb Phrase + For + Not + Verb-Ing

Subject + Verb + No longer + Adjective + Enough + To Infinitive

It + Verb + Not + As If + Subject + Verb Phrase

Subject + Modal Auxiliary Verb + Not + Verb + Super Adjective +

Noun + To Infinitive

The verb appearing in these structures is chiefly '*be*'.

4.1.2 Semantic Features of Understatements in English Editorials

Understatements in English editorials can be categorized into 6 groups: expressions of poverty, gloomy state, conflict, insaneness, incapableness or weakness, and danger.

4.1.2.1 Understatements Expressing Poverty

4.1.2.2 Understatements Expressing Gloomy State

4.1.2.3 Understatements Expressing Conflict

4.1.2.4 Understatements Expressing Insaneness

4.1.2.5 Understatements Expressing Incapableness or Weakness

4.1.2.6 Understatements Expressing Danger

4.1.3 Pragmatic Features of Understatements in English Editorials

4.1.3.1 Avoiding Having a Clash with Politicians or Someone

4.1.3.2 Criticizing Someone or Some Organization Subtly

4.1.3.3 Showing Tactfulness

4.1.3.4 Avoiding Losing Affection with Others

4.2 Syntactic, Semantic and Pragmatic Features of Understatements in Vietnamese Editorials

4.2.1 Syntactic Features of Understatements in Vietnamese Editorials

This section focuses on the syntactic aspect of understatements in Vietnamese editorials. They can be presented under the form of phrasal structures namely *noun phrases*, *verb phrases*, and *adjective phrases*. Apart from these structures, sentential structures include understatements expressed through negative structures.

4.2.1.1 Phrasal Structures

a. Adjective Phrases

Adjective + 0

Premodifier + Adjective

b. Verb Phrases

Verb (modal verb) + Verb

Verb + Noun Phrase

c. Noun Phrases

Head Noun + Postmodifier

Premodifier + Head Noun + Postmodifier

Premodifier (negative word) + Noun Phrase

4.2.1.2 Sentential Structures

Negative Structures

Subject + Chua (not … yet) + Verb Phrase

Subject + Chua (not … yet) + Adjective Phrase

Subject + Không phải là (be not) + Noun Phrase

S + Không có (has/have not got) + Noun Phrase

4.2.2 Semantic Features of Understatements in Vietnamese Editorials

Understatements in Vietnamese can be categorized into 8 groups: expressions of poverty, gloomy state, conflict, difficulties, hostility, incapableness or weakness, homelessness and danger.

4.2.2.1 Understatements Expressing Poverty

4.2.2.2 Understatements Expressing Gloomy State

4.2.2.3 Understatements Expressing Conflict

4.2.2.5 Understatements Expressing Hostility

4.2.2.6 Understatements Expressing Incapableness or Weakness

4.2.2.7 Understatements Expressing Homelessness

4.2.2.8 Understatements Expressing Danger

4.2.3 Pragmatic Features of Understatements in Vietnamese Editorials

4.2.3.1 Avoiding Having a Clash with Politicians or Someone

4.2.3.2 Criticizing Someone or Some Organization Subtly

4.2.3.3 Showing Tacfulness

4.2.3.4 Avoiding Losing Affection with Others

4.2.3.5 Showing Ironic Attitude

4.3 Summary of English and Vietnamese Understatements in Grammatical Patterns

Putting it all together, the syntactic features of understatements are shown in table 4.1 where all features have been sorted into common patterns.

Table 4.1: A Summary of English and Vietnamese Understatements
in Grammatical Patterns

		English	Vietnamese
Phrasal structures	Adjective Phrases	Less + Adj	Adj+ 0
		Premodifier + Adj	Premodifier + Adj
	Adverb Phrases	Adverb + Verb Phrase	X
	Verb Phrases	Verb + Noun Phrase	Verb (modal verb) + Verb
		Verb + To Infinitive	Verb + Noun Phrase
		Verb + Adj Phrase	
		Verb + Prepositional Phrase	
		Modal Verb + Perfect Infinitive	
		Modal Verb + Infinitive	
		Verb + Likely + To Infinitive	
	Noun Phrases	Noun + Noun	Head Noun + Postmodifier
		Premodifier + Head Noun	Premodifier + Head Noun + Postmodifier
		Noun + 0	Premodifier + Noun Phrase
		Adj + Noun	Noun + Postmodifier
		Adv + Adj + Noun	
	Affirmative Structures	S+Verb +Adj	X
		S + Verb + Noun Phrase + To Infinitive	X

		There + Verb + Noun Phrase + That + S + Verb	X
Sentential Structures			
	Negative Strutures	S + Verb (negative) + enough + Noun Phrase	S + Chưa + Verb Phrase
		This + Verb + Not + Noun Phrase	S + Chưa + Adj Phrase
		S + Verb + not + going to + Bare Infinitive	S+ Không phải là + Noun Phrase
		S + Verb Phrase + For + Not + Verb-Ing	S+ Không có + Noun Phrase
		S + Verb + No longer + Adj + Enough + To Infinitive	
		It + Verb + Not + As If + S + Verb Phrase	
		S + Modal Aux Verb + Not + Verb + Super Adj + Noun + To Infinitive	

4.4 Frequency of English and Vietnamese Understatements

The results of the quantitative analysis of the data are presented in this section. The frequency of understatements in editorials in terms of grammatical, semantic and pragmatic categories is presented in tables designed to show the understatements investigated in English and Vietnamese.

4.4.1 Distribution of Understatements in Syntactic Categories

Table 4.2 Frequency of Grammatical Categories of Understatements in English and Vietnamese

	Phrasal Structure	Sentential Structure

		Adj Phrases	Adv Phrases	Verb Phrases	Noun Phrases	Affirmative Structures	Negative Structures
E	Occurrence	38	12	67	63	49	71
	Percentage	12.7%	4%	22.3%	21%	16.3%	23.7%
V	Occurrence	52	0	58	93	0	97
	Percentage	17.3%	0%	19.3%	31%	0%	32.4%

4.4.2 Distribution of Understatements in Semantic Categories

Table 4.3 Frequency of Semantic Categories of Understatements in
English and Vietnamese

Topic	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Percentage	Occurrence	Percentage
Poverty	40	13.4%	39	13%
Gloomy State	31	10.3%	14	4.7%
Conflict	49	16.3%	31	10.3%
Difficulties	0	0%	26	8.7%
Insaneness	40	13.4%	0	0%
Hostility	0	0%	9	3%
Incapableness or Weakness	91	30.4%	124	41.3%

Homelessne-ss	0	0%	11	3.7%
Danger	49	16.3%	46	15.4%
TOTAL	300	100%	300	100%

4.4.3 Distribution of Understatements in Pragmatic Categories

Table 4.4 Frequency of Pragmatic Categories of Understatements in English and Vietnamese

Type	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Percentage	Occurrence	Percentage
Avoiding Having a Clash with Politicians or Someone	103	34.3%	89	29.7%
Criticizing Someone or Some Organization Subtly	107	35.7%	121	40.3%
Showing Tacfulness	39	13%	30	10%
Avoiding Losing Affection with Others	51	17%	55	18.3%
Showing	0	0%	5	1.7%

Ironic Attitude				
TOTAL	300	100%	300	100%

4.5 Problems Vietnamese Learners Might Face When Identifying Understatements

We found that some Vietnamese students confuse understatements and the implicit meaning of one sentence or a lie.

Table 4.5 Result of Exercises on Understatements Students Have Done

	Percentage of Students Having Correct Answers
Identifying Understatements	60%
Understanding Understatements	47%

The result shows that 64% students misjudge understatements. Although Vietnamese students use understatements in daily conversation, they do not recognize and understand understatements clearly. Therefore, they find it hard to identify and interpret understatements.

4.6 Similarities and Differences of Understatements Used in Editorials in English and Vietnamese Newspapers

The summary of the findings in our study can be reviewed in the comparison of similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese understatements in terms of syntax, semantics and pragmatics.

4.6.1 Similarities
4.6.2 Differences

CHAPTER 5
IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Conclusion

The thesis involves the contrastive study of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features of understatements in English and Vietnamese editorials.

Over 600 samples have been collected from editorials. The data have been classified according to types, classes and groups to be described and analyzed. Understatements in both English and Vietnamese have been clarified in terms of syntax, semantics and pragmatics. Similarities and differences have been shown. The findings of the study were stated and discussed in chapter 4.

5.2 Suggested Application to the Teaching and Learning

5.2.1 Problematic Situations in Foreign Language Teaching and Learning

For learners, understatements represent a part of English largely untaught although understatements are used a lot in daily conversations. Many Vietnamese learners may run the risks of using normal words or expressions without using aesthetic or soft words to show their attitude towards the readers or hearers. Learning to interpret and express understatements seems to be a difficult task for Vietnamese learners of English. They might misunderstand understatements with other stylistic devices and find it hard to identify and understand understatements as mentioned in 4.5.

5.2.2 Suggestions for Language Teaching and Learning

I would like to put forward the following suggestions for language learning and teaching so that Vietnamese learners of English can overcome the above problems:

- To teachers:

+ Provide students with basic knowledge language features used in editorials including some newspapers understatements since editorials are full of terms concerning the political, economic, diplomatic and cultural issues.

+ Draw students' attention to subtle topics of everyday life and provide them with considerate number of understatements in order that students can write as well as communicate effectively.

+ Help learners master the way of using understatements by introducing suitable understatements used in specific context and creating opportunities for learners to practice using them in proper way.

+ Give learners different kinds of exercises of understatements basing on the levels of fluency of language learners.

+ Supply learners with knowledge of understatements and stimulate them to love their own language by helping them to get the insight into the depth of understatements. It will help learners improve their skills by grasping the main semantic and pragmatic characteristics of understatements in general and knowing how to apply knowledge to the context where understatements occur.

- To students:

+ Need to have wide common background knowledge of culture, customs and society of the target language communities besides the knowledge of the language.

+ Pick up the equivalent of understatements in Vietnamese while translating English understatements.

+ Master features of understatements in the two languages so that students can understand and use understatement expressions more easily.

5.3 Limitations of the Study

In order to conduct the study in time, this paper only focuses on the syntactic, pragmatic and semantic features of understatements in editorials in English and Vietnamese newspapers. In fact, there are other features of understatements that are not fully mentioned here such as lexical features. And, ideology is not carefully researched when I do research about pragmatic features.

5.4 Suggestions for Further Researches

I now would like to suggest further researches on the following problems:

- Understatements in conversations
- Understatements in literature