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AN INVESTIGATION INTO SYNTACTIC

AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF SOME

ENGLISH DIMENSIONAL ADJECTIVES

AND THEIR VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS

Field Study: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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M.A. THESIS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

(A SUMMARY)

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

Any entity in the material world always conceals a lot of attributes. Among them, the attribute of dimension is easily seen and exists mainly in some commonly used dimensional adjectives such as *high-low, tall-short, long-short, deep-shallow, thick-thin, wide/ broad-narrow* in English or *cao-thấp, dài-ngắn, sâu-nông, dày-mỏng, rộng-hẹp* in Vietnamese. However, DAs are not completely the same in English and in Vietnamese.

For example, in English, people say:

"*The apple tree in our garden was seven meters **tall**. I didn't think that it was so **high**"* [9]

In the utterance above, **tall** and **high** are DAs used to indicate the vertical extent of **the apple tree** but their meanings are different. **"Tall"** means *"in relation to what one expects of it"* while **"high"** means *"reaching a point above the normal level"*. Unlike English, Vietnamese only has the adjective **"cao"** to denote these two senses.

That leads to some semantic difficulties for learners of English as well as translators.

Regarding the syntactic aspect, Vietnamese students may pay no attention to the positions of DAs in a noun phrase or in a sentence. For example, they may translate the sentence "*Chị ấy là một phụ nữ cao lớn"* into English as *"She is a woman **tall**"*; in fact, it must be *"She is a **tall** woman"*.

Thus, a research on *"syntactic and semantic features of some dimensional adjectives in English and their Vietnamese equivalents"* is carried out in the hope to bring some theoretical and practical value for both linguistic study and language teaching methodology.

1.2. JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

1.3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

In this study, we investigate the syntactic and semantic features of some English DAs (*tall - short, high - low, deep - shallow, thick - thin, wide - narrow, broad - narrow)* and their VEs in the light of cognitive linguistics. Due to the limitation of the study, we mainly focus on examining unmarked adjectives *tall, high, deep, thick, wide, broad* on their spatial and non-metaphorical sense.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

(1).What are the common syntactic and semantic features of some DAs in English and their VEs?

(2).What are the similarities and differences of the adjectives indicating dimension in space between English and Vietnamese?

(3).What are the implications for English teaching, learning and translation?

1.5. HYPOTHESIS

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This thesis is divided into five chapters.

- *Chapter 1*: **Introduction**.
- *Chapter 2*: **Literature review and theoretical background** .
- *Chapter 3*: **Methods and procedures**.

- *Chapter 4*: **Discussion of findings**.
- *Chapter 5*: **Conclusion and Implications**.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. A REVIEW OF PREVIOUS STUDIES

Clark, H.H. (1973) studied spatial relations which are mainly involved to the physical environment and human being physical and cognitive prerequisites. He introduced the terms P-space and L-space.

Lyons, J. (1977) suggested a system regarding the DAs in English (*long, short, high, low, deep, shallow, wide, narrow, thick, and thin.)*

Cho, S.W. & O'Grady, W. (1991) studied DAs such as *big, small, tall, long, short, high, low, thick, thin, wide, narrow, deep* and *shallow*.

Dirven and Taylor (1988) referred to global characteristics such as profile against the background as well as to a dynamic interaction with the environment in the case of *tall*.

Athanasiadou (2001) studied English *broad* and *wide*.

Taylor, J.R. (2002) discussed the semantic structure of two prototypical adjectives: *"tall"* and *"small"*.

Moreover, the matter has been researched by Nguyễn Thị Dự (2003) with the study of DAs to describe people, the adjective "deep" in English or the spatial language in Vietnamese.

Đỗ Hữu Châu (1996) proposed DAs such as *dài- ngắn, rộng-hẹp, to-nhỏ, lớn-nhỏ, cao-thấp, sâu-nông, dày-mỏng, ect.*

For Trần Văn Cơ (2007), the verticality of the human body decides the *tallness* and *length* of entities.

In Lý Toàn Thắng's view (2005), adjectives used to express the attributes of spatial dimensions are *cao, thấp, sâu, nông, etc.*

In short, the concept of dimension has been introduced as a general matter of linguistic aspects so far. However, the research into DAs in certain languages is quite fragmented, and they are not a focal point of the research. Particularly, there seem to be few studies on DAs in English and their VEs. Therefore, this study attempts to discover the related aspects still unsolved.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Cognitive Linguistics

2.2.1.1. Cognition

In the view of Peter Gärdenfors [29], cognition includes *"mental processes connected with understanding formulation of believes and acquisition of knowledge"*.

2.2.1.2. Brief Overview of Cognitive linguistics

Ungerer and Schmid [53] says that the language is comprehended as an integrated part of our cognitive abilities. Pre-conceptual, pre-linguistic experiences form the foundations for semantics.

Wierzbicka [54] proposes a natural semantic metalanguage, where around 50 words are seen as semantic primitives. Langacker [39] discerns three types of basic conceptual entities. The first one is referred to as minimal concept in a particular domain. The second type is called experientially grounded conceptual archetypes. The

third type of notion is not tied to any particular domain, hence freely applicable to any domain. Finally, Lakoff and Johnson [37] suggest image schemas as basic notions. An image schema is derived from our pre-conceptual bodily experience, or from physical experience grounded in the body's interaction with other physical objects.

2.2.2. Language Space

2.2.2.1. Some viewpoints on L-space

Clark [23, p.28] says that our experience and perception of space must precede any ability we acquire to talk about it. Clark calls that basic knowledge "perceptual space" (P-space). When we talk about it, however, we use what Clark terms "language space" (L-space).

Frawley [28, p.250 – 254] presents two fundamental ideas about space and its representation in language.

Svorou [48, p.31] states that "To talk about space and spatial relations … languages make use of a relatively small number of elements."

In the mind of Lý Toàn Thắng [17, p.57], space reflects the specific features of a nation. Space is the most important category of semantics, culture and consciousness.

Du Ngọc Ngân [14, p.36] says that space reflects the realistic domain with the existence of things in general and human in particular.

Phan Khôi [13] says that time is much more important than space.

Nguyễn Đức Dân [6, p.328] affirms that space has a very important role in language.

When studying a category like space, according to Lý Toàn Thắng [17, p.28], we need to distinguish three different notions about space: (a) the objective space of the physical world; (b) the subjective space which is the result of man's cognition of the world and called perceptual space or projected space; (c) space shown in the semantics of spatial words and called language space.

2.2.2.2. General properties of L-space

Based on the researches into the semantics of spatial words by Leech (1969), Weirzbicka (1972), Lyons (1977), Talmy (1983), Herskovits (1988), Lý Toàn Thắng [16, p.69] names some properties and spatial relations.

Furthermore, Clark [23, p.48] summarizes that L-space has properties that are identical with those of P-space.

2.2.3. Basic Notions related to the Study of DAs

2.2.3.1. The Notion of Axis

2.2.3.2. The Notion of Spatial Orientation:

2.2.3.3. The Notion of "Point of Reference"

2.2.3.4. The Notion of Direction

2.2.3.5. The Notion of Position

2.2.3.6. The Notion of Markedness

2.2.3.7. The Structure of Egocentric Space:

2.2.3.8. The Structure of Nonegocentric L-space

2.2.4. An Overview of Adjectives

2.2.4.1. What is an Adjective?

2.2.4.2. Semantic Functions of Adjectives

According to Quirk et al [44], adjectives are classified into stative and dynamic, gradable and non- gradable, inherent and non-inherent.

When studying the semantics of adjectives in the aspect of pragmatics, Đỗ Hữu Châu [4] proposes eight groups of monosyllable adjectives in Vietnamese.

In Cao Xuân Hạo's view [11], the word " *cao*" has the different meanings.

2.2.4.3. Syntactic Functions of Adjectives

(a) Attributive adjectives

(b) Predicative adjectives

(c) Adjectives function as head of a noun phrase

(d) Supplementative adjective clause

(e) Exclamatory adjective sentence

2.2.5. Dimensional Adjectives:

2.2.5.1. Definition

2.2.5.2. Some Notions in English

Clark [23] examined pairs of basic spatial adjectives in English. They are *long – short, far – near, tall – short, high – low, deep – shallow, wide – narrow, broad – narrow,* and *thick – thin.*

In Lyons's view [41], DAs have been used to illustrate antonyms. He based on the shape, dimensionality and orientation of entities to analyze the meaning of such DAs as *long-short, high-low, deep-shallow, wide-narrow, big-little, large-small and thick- thin.*

In the view of Sook Whan Cho and William O'grady [43], DAs are used to describe size and dimensions of objects.

2.2.4.2. Some Notions in Vietnamese

Nguyễn Hữu Quỳnh [15] mentions DAs such as: *dài, ngắn, cao, thấp, rộng, hẹp, gần, xa.*

Đỗ Hữu Châu [5] states that DAs are pairs of antonyms such as *dài/ngắn, rộng/hẹp, to/nhỏ, lớn/nhỏ, cao thấp, sâu/nông, etc.*

For Trần Văn Cơ [3], DAs such as *cao/ thấp, dài/ ngắn* are determined by the vertical dimension of the human body.

Furthermore, Nguyễn Thị Dự [7], [8], [9] proposes basic DAs in English are *long-short, tall-short, high-low, deep-shallow, wide, broad-narrow, thick-thin* and their Vietnamese equivalents are *dài-ngắn, cao-thấp, sâu-nông, rộng-hẹp, dày-mỏng.* She also considers that these adjectives refer to the material space abstracted in language along the vertical dimension and horizontal dimension. Particularly, she pays much attention to DAs combining with nouns referring to the human body.

In addition, Lý Toàn Thắng [17] argues the uses of DAs concerning the human body. He says that beside three main reference plane (a horizontal plane with the up-down direction, and two vertical planes with the left-right direction and with the front-back direction), there are secondary planes in denoting the use of DAs.

2.3. SUMMARY

CHAPTER 3: METHODS AND PROCEDURES

3.1 . AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1. Aims: This paper is aimed to investigate the syntactic and semantic features of English DAs and their Vietnamese equivalents.

3.1.2. Objectives:

- To analyze syntactic and semantic features of some DAs in English.

- To point out the Vietnamese equivalents of some English adjectives investigated.

- To find out the similarities and differences of DAs in the view of the syntax and semantics between the two languages.

- To make suggestions relating to DAs for teaching English to Vietnamese students and translating these adjectives from English into Vietnamese and vice versa.

3.2. RESEARCH DESIGN

3.3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.4. DESCRIPTION OF POPULATION AND SAMPLE

3.5 . DATA COLLECTION

3.6 . INSTRUMENTS FOR ANALYSIS

3.7 . DATA ANALYSIS:

3.8 . RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

3.9 . SUMMARY

CHAPTER 4: FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 . SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH DAs AND THEIR VEs

4.1.1. General Syntactic Features of English DAs

4.1.1.1. All of English DAs can be used as Attributive Adjectives

4.1.1.2. All of English DAs can be used as Predicative Adjectives

4.1.2. Specific Syntactic Features of English DAs and their VEs.

4.1.2.1. Syntactic Features of High and its VEs.

Table 4.1. Syntactic Features of *High* in English and its VEs.

Syntactic functions		English	VEs
Attribu -tive	Pre- modification	- (d) + *high* + N - *high* – N (PO) +ed + (N)	- N + *cao* - (N) + N (PO) + *cao*
	Post- modification	- N/NP + *high* - NPQ + *high* - N (PO) – *high*	- N/ NP + *cao* - *cao* + NPQ - *cao*+tới/ngang+N (PO)
Predica -tive	Cs	S+Link V+*high*	S + (V) + *cao*
	Co	S + V + Pro/ NP + *high*	S⌠+V +Pro/ NP+ *cao* ⌊V+ *cao* + Pro/NP

4.1.2.2. Syntactic Features of Tall and its VEs

Table 4.2. Syntactic Features of *Tall* in English and its VEs

Syntactic functions		English	VEs
Attribu -tive	Pre- modification	- (d) + *tall* + N	- N + *cao/ cao lớn/…*
	Post- modification	- N/NP + *tall* - NPQ + *tall*	- N/ NP + *cao* - *cao* + NPQ
Predica -tive	Cs	- S + Link V + *tall* - S +V(sit, stand)+ *tall*	- S + (V) + *cao/ cao lớn,...*
	Co	- S + V (find) + Pro/NP + *tall*	- S + V + Pro/NP + *cao*

4.1.2.3. Syntactic Features of Deep and its VEs

Table 4.3. Syntactic Features of *Deep* in English and its VEs

Syntactic functions		English	VEs
Attrib- utive	Pre- modification	- (d) + *deep* + N	- N + *sâu*
	Post- modification	- NPQ + *deep* - N (PO)- deep - N/ NP + *deep* + PP (in/inside something)	- *sâu* + NPQ - *cao/ sâu* + đến/ tới + N (PO) - N/ NP + V(ở/ nằm) + *sâu* + PP (trong cái gì)
Predic -ative	Cs	S + Link V + *deep*	S + (V) + *sâu*
	Co	S + V (see, cut) + Pro/NP + *deep*	S + V + Pro/ NP + *sâu*

4.1.2.4. Syntactic Features of Thick and its VEs

Table 4.4. Syntactic Features of *thick* in English and its VEs

Syntactic functions		English	VEs
Attribu -tive	Pre- modification	- (d) + *thick* + N	- N+ *dày/ to...*
	Post- modification	- N/NP + *thick* - NPQ + *thick*	- N/ NP + *dày* - *dày* + NPQ
Predica -tive	Cs	- S + Link V + *thick*	- S + (V) + *dày/ to...*

4.1.2.5. Syntactic Features of Wide and its VEs

Table 4.5. Syntactic Features of *wide* in English and its VEs

Syntactic functions		English	VEs
Attribu-tive	Pre-modification	- (d) + *wide* + N - *wide* + N(PaO) – ed (+ N)	- N + *rộng/ to...* - { (N) + *rộng* + N (PaO) (N) + N (PaO) + *rộng*
	Post-modification	**-** N/NP + *wide* **-** NPQ + *wide*	- N/NP + *rộng/to...* - *rộng* + NPQ
Predica-tive	Cs	- S + Link V + *wide*	- S + (V) + *rộng*
	Co	- S + V (see) + O + *wide*	**-** S + V + O + *rộng*

4.1.2.6. Syntactic Features of Broad and its VEs

Table 4.6. Syntactic Features of *broad* in English and its VEs

Syntactic functions		English	VEs
Attribu-tive	Pre-modification	- (d)+ *broad* + N - *broad*+N(PO)– ed (+ N)	- N + *rộng/to...* - (N) + N (PO) + *rộng*
	Post-modification	**-** NPQ + *broad*	- *rộng* + NPQ
Predica-tive	Cs	- S + Link V + *broad...*	S + (V) + *rộng/to...*

4.2 . SEMANTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH DAs AND THEIR VEs

4.2.1. Semantics Features of *High* and *Tall* and their VEs

Table 4.9. A Summary of the Basic Semantic Features of *High* and its VEs

English DA	English semantic features	VEs
HIGH	- its usage for people or animals that have vertical measurements extending upwards and reaching a point above the normal level.	- cao.
	- its usage for trees, grass or plants that have the vertical extent reaching a point over what one expects of it.	- cao, lớn.
	- its usage for parts of objects that have a specified length extending upwards from a point of reference.	- cao
	- its usage for a relatively great length of immobile objects extending far upward from the base to the top.	- cao
	- its usage for moveable objects or self-moving objects that have a specified vertical extent upward from the base to the top.	- cao, lớn
	- its usage for a vertical distance upward from a speaker or a point of reference (the ground level or sea-level) to s position of an object.	- cao, cao vút, cao tít.

Table 4.10. A Summary of the Basic Semantic Features of *Tall* and its VEs

English DA	English semantic features	VEs
TALL	- its usage for the vertical extent of a person or an animal measured from the base to the top.	-cao, lớn, cao lớn.
	- its usage for the vertical extent of living things (trees, grass and plants) in relation to what one expects of it.	-cao, lớn.
	- its usage for measurements of immobile objects that people can see from the top to the bottom and that are big vertically.	- cao
	- its usage for moveable objects or self-moving objects that have a specified vertical extent upward from the base to the top.	- cao, lớn

4.2.2. Semantics Features of *Deep* and its VEs

Table 4.12: A Summary of the Basic Semantic Features of *Deep* and its VEs

English DA	English semantic features	VEs
DEEP	- its usage for a canonical vertical dimension of a container that goes far down from the top or from the surface inwards to the bottom.	- sâu, thẳm, sâu thẳm, sâu hoắm
	- its usage for a canonical horizontal dimension of a container that extends from	- sâu

	the front edge to the furthest point inside.	
	- its usage for a dimension of an unoriented container that extends from the open side to the opposite side.	- sâu, sâu thẳm, nở nang
	- its usage for a container substance (snow, grass, carpet, etc.) having a relatively great dimension from top to bottom.	(ngực) - dày, dày đặc, cao.
	- its usage for an object located far down in something (containers)	- sâu

4.2.3. Semantics Features of *Thick* and its VEs

Table 4.14: A Summary of the Basic Semantic Features of *Thick* and its VEs

English DA	English semantic features	VEs
THICK	- its usage for the cross section of cylindrical objects (trees, human bodies, poles, etc.)	- to, lớn, to lớn, to tướng, mập, mập mạp, vạm vỡ.
	- its usage for the cross section between opposite surfaces or sides of flat objects.	- dày
	- its usage for the density of a vapour or the atmosphere.	- dày, dày đặc, đậm đặc
	- its usage for the density of a large number of units close together.	- dày, dày đặc, rậm, rậm rạp

4.2.4. Semantic Features of *Wide / Broad* and their VEs

Table 4.17: A Summary of the Basic Semantic Features of *Wide* and its VEs

English DA	English semantic features	VEs
WIDE	- (objects having a hollow surface) its usage for inner measurements extending over a great distance from mid-point to both sides or edges.	- rộng.
	- (objects having a solid surface, except for *acres, leaf, knife, blade*) its usage for measurements of a distance which have a specified extent or size from side to side or from edge to edge.	-rộng, rộng rãi.
	- (multidimensional objects such as *building, house, cave, etc.*) its usage for measurements of a relatively great space inside.	- rộng
	- (self-moving objects having space inside) its usage for the dimension perpendicular to the direction of movement.	- rộng
	- (objects having empty space between limits such as *gap, window, clothes,etc.*) its usage for the dimension measured	- rộng

	much from side to side.	
	- its usage for body parts which are longer horizontally rather than vertically or completely open and extended to the maximum. (*eyes, mouth, jaws, feet, etc*)	- rộng, to
	- its usage for objects extending beyond the field of vision. (*world, country, ocean, etc.*)	-rộng, rộng lớn, mênh mông,bao la
	- its usage for a far distance from a point of reference.	- xa

Table 4.18: A Summary of the Basic Semantic Features of *Broad* and its VEs

English DA	English semantic features	VEs
BROAD	- (objects having a solid surface) its usage for measurements of a distance which have a specified extent or size from side to side or from edge to edge.	- rộng, to (*leaf, knife, blade*), to lớn (*acres*).
	- (multidimensional objects such as *building, house, cave, etc.*) its usage for measurements of a relatively great space inside.	- rộng
	- its usage for human body or body parts having solid surfaces and	- rộng, to, nở, lực lưỡng.

	being mainly characterized by strength.	
	- its usage for the features of the landscape, especially in literary language	- rộng, mênh mông, bao la

4.3 . FREQUENCY OF THE DAs INVESTIGATED

In the data, the adjective *high* appears 246 times and takes the percentage of 24.53%, the other adjectives such as *tall, deep, thick, wide* and *broad* are 201 times with 20.04%, 125 times with 12.46%, 155 times with 15.45%, 222 times with 22.13%, 54 times with 5.39% respectively.

4.4 . THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF DAs IN ENGLISH AND IN VIETNAMESE

4.4.1. Similarities

Syntactically, both English and Vietnamese DAs can function as attribute and predicative. Semantically, both English and Vietnamese have dimensional adjectives. Despite having only a small number of basic spatial DAs, they reveal a number of very important properties about L – space such as properties about dimensions and orientations in space.

4.4.2. Differences:

Syntactically speaking, there is a little difference between English and Vietnamese DAs. First, the positions where DAs may appear in a Vietnamese sentence are more limited than those of English. It is clear that in *attributive* position, English DAs are placed before or

after nouns whereas Vietnamese DAs are put widely after nouns. In general, functions of DAs are changed from premodifiers in English to postmodifiers in Vietnamese.

Second, sometimes, DAs function as predicative in English, but as postmodifiers in Vietnamese.

Third, the orders of DAs in English and in Vietnamese are not the same. In English, DAs can follow a noun phrase of quantity. Whereas, in Vietnamese, DAs are placed between the head noun and a noun phrase of quantity or before a noun phrase of quantity.

Semantically speaking, due to the difference in the cognition between the British people and Vietnamese people, in many contexts, there are differences of DAs in English and in Vietnamese.

The British people distinguish the differences between *high* and *tall* clearly. First, they use *tall* to denote the vertical length "one expects of it" and *high* to refer to the vertical length "reaching a point above the normal level". Second, for some parts of human beings, animals or inanimate things, the British people only use *high*, not *tall*. Third, only *high* is used to describe the position of an entity located far above the reference plane. Whereas, in Vietnamese, there is only the adjective *cao*. However, for living things, especially ones that are relatively big in proportion to their height, Vietnamese people often translate *tall* into Vietnamese such as *lớn* or add the word *lớn* after *cao*. On the other hand, for other things, especially ones that are narrow in proportion to their height, Vietnamese only use *cao*.

The Vietnamese equivalents of the English adjective *deep* are not only *sâu* but also *cao, dày*. For instance, the Vietnamese translation of *deep* in the sentences "*The grass is ankle- **deep***", "*I've never seen such **deep** snow before*" can not be *sâu* but *cao, dày*. This difference involves to the notion of containment. The British conceptualize objects not having an open side such as *grass, snow, carpet, moss, etc.* as containers.

For the term *thickness*, in most cases, English and Vietnamese have the same spatial senses. However, for cylinderal objects such as *people, animals, trees, arms, legs, neck, fingers, toes* or *stick*, there is an explicit difference between English and Vietnamese. In the spatial cognition of the British people, these objects are considered as ones having a cross section between opposite surfaces. So, they are described as *thick*. On the other hand, Vietnamese people don't use *dày* but use the adjectives such as *to, lớn, to lớn, mập, mập mạp* to emphasize the cross section of these.

Both *wide* and *broad* refer to one dimension of entities in space but their semantic characteristics are not entirely the same. The first difference between these adjectives is that *wide* is the more general word but *broad* is often used for people, trees, leaves and parts of the body. *Broad* seldom combines with nouns referring to entities having hollows surfaces such as *ditch, cave, bowl, dish, clothes, etc.* The second difference is that *broad* has only the extensional sense while *wide* has both the extensional one and the positional one. The final one is that *entities* referred to as *wide* can extend beyond the field of

vision; on the contrary, entities referred to as *broad* are preferably within the field of vision. So, *broad* is not used to describe the dimension of entities such as *world, country, steppe, ocean, sea, desert, space, sky, horizon, city, village* or *area*. However, in literary language, to describe features of the landscape, people often use the adjective *broad* such as *a broad river, a broad expanse of unspoilt country*. Apart from the differences between *wide* and *broad*, there is the distinction of the term *width* in two languages. For English, *width* is the dimension measured much from side to side. Thus, English people use *broad* and *wide* to describe the measurement of body parts such as *wide/ broad nose, wide/ broad face, wide/ broad head, wide ears, wide horn, wide feet, wide hands, etc.* On the other hand, Vietnamese people consider that the distance from one side to the other which is perpendicular to the opposite dimension - *the length* is called *the width*. Therefore, for body parts not having the distinction between *the length* and *the width*, Vietnamese people don't use the adjective *rộng*. In these cases, Vietnamese people often say *mũi to, mặt to/ to bè, đầu to/ to bè, tai to, sừng to, bàn chân to, bàn tay to.*

4.5 . SUMMARY

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSION:

The research brings about some interesting findings.

Firstly, there are only a small number of English DAs mentioned in this study, but they reveal a number of diverse syntactic features

and very important semantic features about L-space. Syntactically, they can function as attribute and predicative. In attributive position, English DAs are placed before or after nouns whereas their Vietnamese equivalents are put widely after nouns. In predicative position, all of them follow some linking verbs such as *be, get, grow* or *become*. Only the adjective *tall* is put after verbs *sit* and *stand*. Besides, *high, tall, deep* and *wide* can be used as object complements. With this function, they can come after a pronoun or a noun phrase. Remarkably, they all stand after a noun phrase of quantity, like the structure: **(the head noun) + a noun phrase of quantity + DA**. This structure is different from Vietnamese because Vietnamese people put DAs before a noun phrase of quantity. Semantically, almost all the adjectives chosen in this study can be used to express the extensional and the positional sense of an entity in space except for *tall, thick* and *broad* only refer to the positional use. Moreover, the dimensional designation depends on the dimensionality, the orientation, and on some other factors such as entities' posture, the observer's line of sight, or the observer's position in space.

Secondly, the study shows that pre-conceptual, pre-linguistic bodily experiences constitute part of the semantics of the dimensional adjectives. The kind of experiences that give rise to basic notions are experiencing gravity (*high/ tall*), the container concept (*deep*), the concept of surface (*broad/ wide)*. Within cognitive linguistics it is

argued that these notions are basic and fundamental for our understanding of language and the world.

Thirdly, the Vietnamese translational equivalents to English DAs are abundant. One DA may be used for many different equivalents.

Fourthly, among investigated DAs in English, *high* is most frequently used. The least frequent adjective is *broad*.

Lastly, the study ends with some implications to teaching English and translating from English into Vietnamese.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS TO TEACHING ENGLISH DAs TO VIETNAMESE LEARNERS, AND TO TRANSLATING ENGLISH DAs INTO VIETNAMESE

5.2.1. Implications to Teaching:

5.2.1.1. Some Predictions of Vietnamese Learners' Errors in Learning English DAs.

(i) Difficulties may lie in putting DAs in the correct position in a sentence.

(ii) Vietnamese learners may get confused with the distinction between *high* and *tall.*

(iii) As for the adjective *deep*, there are some errors when *deep* combines with the objects such as *grass, snow, carpet, moss*.

(iv) Vietnamese learners are confused when *thick* is used to refer to the dimension of cyclinderal objects.

(v) Learners may misuse this pair of adjectives *wide – broad.*

5.2.1.2. Suggestions to Overcoming the Problems of Learners' Errors:

Teachers should point out not only the similarities but also the differences between English DAs in English and their VEs.

Teachers can help learners practise using DAs by preparing some types of exercises involving some common errors made by learners.

In teaching speaking, teachers should organize activity for them to work in pair or to write dialogues.

5.2.2. Implications to Translating

The translator does not invent a new text but recreate the content of the source text without spoiling it.

The translator should select suitable Vietnamese translational equivalents since there are many Vietnamese translational equivalents for only one English DA.

The translator should pay much attention to some errors that he/she easily makes.

5.3. LIMITATIONS

5.4. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY