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AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE STRUCTURE  
OF THEME AND RHEME IN ENGLISH AND  
VIETNAMESE POLITICAL SPEECHES

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1. RATIONALE**

Language is the most effective means of communication through which we convey our ideas, our desire and thinking and we help to clarify what we mean. To achieve effective and coherent communication, we have to combine vocabulary and wording. This is because of the association of grammar rules, forms, and structures with aspects of meaning or semantic functions over the lexical meaning of individual words. Actually, the structure of language is not to be separated from its function and its meaning. It is important to study the mechanism of the combination.

To achieve effectively communication for Vietnamese and foreign learners and to reach the mystery of grammar that will benefit us greatly in using our language and study foreign languages, many different approaches to Vietnamese grammar analysis have been adopted. Among them is the functional grammar point of view developed by Halliday and many more linguists. Besides all the advantages of this viewpoint in solving the problems of formal grammar, it also helps teachers to increase students' ability in analysing discourse and to achieve successful communication.

Speech is one of the most powerful weapons in communication. It is not exaggerative to say that being an effective public speaker is a great advantage of us to win people's heart, persuade and even change attitudes and opinions of others. World history has proved the fact that human beings can avoid or even create wars because of the effect of some political speeches. Undoubtedly, speechmaking is very necessary and important in our

daily life. This is the reason for me to look at political speeches under the light of functional grammar, which is still a fairly new theory in Vietnam.

#### **1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

##### **1.2.1. Aims**

This paper is aimed to study the Structure of Theme- Rheme in English and Vietnamese political speeches in comparison to each other, their characteristics, and semantic, pragmatic aspects.

##### **1.2.2. Objective**

This paper is designed to aim at the following objectives:

- Identify the characteristics of Theme-Rheme structures in English and Vietnamese political speeches.
- Find out the similarities and differences in semantic, pragmatic aspects of political speeches in English and Vietnamese.
- Put forward some implications for language teachers and learners, translators as well as for those interested in political speeches.

#### **1.3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

This research studies the semantic, pragmatic as well as the characteristics of the Theme-Rheme structures in 2008 English and 1986 Vietnamese clauses in political speeches.

#### **1.4. RESEARCH QUESTION**

In order to achieve the above-mentioned aims and objectives the research will seek the answers to the following questions:

1. What are the characteristics of Theme- Rheme structures in English and Vietnamese political speeches?

2. What are the similarities and differences in semantic, pragmatic aspects in Theme- Rheme structures in English and Vietnamese political speeches?

3. What are the implications of Theme- Rheme structure for teaching, learning and translating English- Vietnamese political speeches?

### **1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

This thesis – An investigation into the structure of Theme and Rheme in English and Vietnamese political speeches is to study the Theme- Rheme characteristics in English and Vietnamese political speeches and their possible similarities and differences in semantic, pragmatic features. It is hoped to help user of English and Vietnamese approach the political speeches in their language from a different viewpoint, reconsider them in the light of functional grammar and use them better in communication, language teaching and studying in political speeches translation from English and Vietnamese and vice versa.

### **1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

The study is organized into five chapters as follows.

- Chapter 1 includes the rationale, the aims and objectives, the research questions to solve, the significance, the scope and the organization of the research.

- Chapter 2 consists of two parts. The first part is a review of previous studies related to this thesis. The second one is concerned with theoretical knowledge related to issues under discussion.

- Chapter 3 presents the method of the study, the sampling and population, the data collection, data analysis, the instruments, the reliability and validity.

- Chapter 4 concerns the similarities and differences in semantic, pragmatic aspects in Theme- Rheme structures in English and Vietnamese political speeches, the work of analyzing and discussing the results, from which findings are drawn out.

- Chapter 5 is about the suggestions for implicating in teaching and learning and translating English- Vietnamese political speeches.

## **CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1. OVERVIEW**

### **2.2. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS STUDIES RELATED TO THE RESEARCH**

So far, there have been some studies on English and Vietnamese political speeches.

In 2007, Ngo Thi Thanh Mai studied ““Some discourse features of political speeches in English and Vietnamese” investigated into Thematisation, cohesion, speech acts and interprets the similarities and differences under the light of pragmatics, genres, socio-cultures, values, politics, and traits of people of the two nation.

Le Thi Hoang Van (2008) investigated some linguistics features of antithesis in political speeches in English and Vietnamese.

All those books do more or less to contribute to study of English and Vietnamese political speeches either in their semantic, pragmatics and cultural aspects.

In the field of functional grammar, the Theme-Rheme structure have been acknowledged as the structure of clause as a message, and it is

also called under the named of Thematic structure. In his book “ An introduction to Functional Grammar”[12], Halliday has studies about the Theme and rheme of a clause, simple Themes of more than one constituent, the relationship between Theme and Mood, the other characteristic Themes, clauses as Themes and Predicated Themes, then Theme in dependent, minor and elliptical clauses and the thematic interpretation of a text. . Many other linguistics had followed Halliday’s theory and further studied them in many other work including Bloor [2], David Butt’s [3], Simon Dik’s [4], Susan Eggins [6], Tamin Givon [9], Graham Lock [15], Martin [21] and so on. In Vietnam, Cao Xuan Hao has studied the structure, meanings and use of Vietnamese clauses in the view of functional grammar [36] and written a book on Vietnamese functional grammar [34] which is later on considered to be one of the best and most influential work in this field. They also pay attention to different aspects of the thematic structure. To some extent, these studies definitely contribute to the adequate description of Vietnamese grammar. Nguyễn Thị Ánh [29] studies realization of Themes in English and Vietnamese sentences.

On applying the functional grammar theory in English and Vietnamese in linguistic study, many woks have been carried out relating the Theme- Rheme structure. Nguyễn Thị Phước Trà’s master thesis on the thematic structures in English and Vietnamese on functional and pragmatic aspects [20]. Trần Lê Nghi Trân [26] has studied “The Theme- Rheme structure of English and Vietnamese proverbs”.

However, all these above authors have not discussed thematic structure in English and Vietnamese political speeches at

all. It leaves room for me to do research on political speeches in term of Theme- Rheme.

## **2.3. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.3.1.The metafunctions and three simultaneous semantics processes of the clause**

#### **2.3.2. Information Structure and Thematic Structure**

#### **2.3.3. The identification of Theme, Rheme**

#### **2.3.4. Classification of Themes**

##### ***2.3.4.1. Classification of Themes in English***

*(a) Topical, Interpersonal and Textual Theme:*

*(b) The five Theme patterns in English by Halliday*

##### ***2.3.4.2. Classification of Themes in Vietnamese:***

*(a) Topical, Interpersonal and Textual Theme :*

*b) Classification of Themes into marked and unmarked*

#### **2.3.5. Thematic progression**

#### **2.3.6. Politics and Political speech**

##### ***2.3.6.1. Politics***

##### ***2.3.6.2. Political Speech***

## **2.4. SUMMARY**

### **CHAPTER 3**

#### **METHOD AND PROCEDURES**

#### **3.1. OVERVIEW**

#### **3.2. RESEARCH DESIGN AND RESEARCH METHODS**

In this research, first of all information from many sources would be analyzed, compared and generalized to make clear the notion of Theme-Rheme structure as well as characteristics in English and Vietnamese clauses. The system of concepts and characteristics will be then the base on which we stand and use for

the analysis and contrastive comparison between the Theme- Rheme structure of English and Vietnamese political speeches hence it is a Qualitative research paper.

After that, we will find out the Theme- Rheme structure of well-known English and Vietnamese political speeches and distribution rate for each type or pattern of Theme- Rheme structure in each language. This result would be shown in tables and used for comparing and contrasting English and Vietnamese political speeches and for withdrawing their semantic, pragmatic characteristics so it is also a Quantitative research paper.

Moreover, analytic method means that the language “*is analyzed into its constituent parts and one or a cluster of these constituent parts is examined in greater detail to the exclusion of other factors*” [23, p.56]. That is to say, analytic perspective helps us evaluate the relative contribution of each constituent part, and then the synthetic approach helps identify how constituent parts interrelate and interact together in a kind of discourse. That is the best way to view language in its use.

Last but not least, descriptive and comparative methods are chosen as the general methodology of the study since the central point of this study is to find out the similarities and differences of Theme- Rheme in English and Vietnamese political speeches.

### 3.3. INSTRUMENTATION

In order to collect enough samples (2008 English and 1986 Vietnamese clauses in political speeches), many kinds of tool have been used. Thanks to the Internet, many valuable reference materials relating the problem investigated from different points of view have been found out by using the Google search. Moreover, a wide source

of books in printed plays an important role in selection the relevant data. Apart from the instruments above, tables are also helpful for stating the results of analysis and the percentage as well.

### 3.4. DATA COLLECTION

At the outset, data was collected in bulk; that is to say, political speeches of various lengths and at different points of time were kept and put in one separate folder and a paper file. Most of data collect from three sources: internet, books and press. Moreover, English political speeches delivered by American politicians are chosen and political speeches- both in English and Vietnamese- are from 1990 onwards. While all English political speeches are downloaded from websites <http://www.americanrhetoric.com.top100speechesall.html> and <http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/speeches.html>, great majority of Vietnamese political speeches are collected from printed political books such as "*Những bài viết và nói chọn lọc thời kỳ đổi mới*" by Võ Nguyên Giáp, "*Hồ Chí Minh tuyển tập 2,3*", "*Những bài nói và viết chọn lọc 1*" by Phạm Văn Đồng, "*Chủ tịch Hồ Chí Minh- Lãnh tụ vĩ đại của Đảng và dân tộc ta*" by Lê Duẩn, several Vietnamese political speeches are chosen from "An ninh newspaper" and download from Website: <http://www.dangcongsan.vn/cpv/index.html>, <http://www.mofa.gov.vn>, <http://thutuong.chinhphu.vn/Home>.

### 3.5. DATA ANALYSIS

After being collected, political speeches in the two languages are selected and group to be independently observed. After the independent analysis, necessary linguistic descriptions and analysis are given to the members of each group. Then frequencies and percentages help to find out the frequency of each type of Themes in

the political speeches in the two languages. The results of this step would be presented in tables and illustrated with the frequency of occurrence of each type and examples. Once we have the distribution rates of each Theme types or Theme patterns in English and Vietnamese, we would look for special and striking characteristics for each of them, compare them to each other and generalize the results in order to have a complete overview about the Theme-Rheme structure of English and Vietnamese political speeches. A further study would also be made on the semantic, pragmatic of political speech's thematic structure, how similar or different they are in English and Vietnamese and if possible, reasons for those similarities and differences.

### **3.6. RESEARCH PROCEDURES**

The following steps will be included:

- Collecting and classifying data:
- Sorting out the data:
- Examing the frequencies of occurrence of Theme- Rheme in English and Vietnamese political speeches
- Analyzing data. To have the results of comparison, descriptive method will be applied to present characteristics of Theme- Rheme structure in the two languages. The results achieved, in turn will be compared and contracted to show the similarities and differences of Theme- Rheme structure in English and Vietnamese political speeches.

Suggest some implications for the teaching and learning of English and Vietnamese political speeches.

### **3.7. VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY**

In terms of reliability, the data source selected to be investigated is derived from books, newspaper, magazines, and the internet in both English and Vietnamese. Therefore, the data source is highly reliable.

In terms of validity, this study meets all required criteria. In order to answer the three formulated research questions, the observation and investigation techniques have been chosen to be the main instruments for data collection. The samples taken from famous English and Vietnamese political speeches by a large number of prominent politicians are truly representative of the population. The supporting instruments such as calculation, statistics, tables, numeration are appropriately employed to eliminate irrelevant and unstable data. Hence, the degree of explicitness is definitely high. Moreover, the patterns from the data collection are always compared with the results from theoretical background to guarantee the quality of the research.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1. THE THEME- RHEME STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH POLITICAL SPEECHES**

##### **4.1.1. The Distribution Rates of Thematic Patterns in English Political Speeches**

**Table 4.1 The five thematic patterns in English political speeches**

Types of Theme pattern	Number of clauses in English political speeches: 2008	Distribution rate
1.Simple Theme	939	46.77%
2.Multiple Theme	112	5.58%
3.Clause as Theme	389	19.37%
4.Predicated Theme	257	12.79%
5.Dependent, embedded, minor and elliptical clause as Theme	311	15.49%

#### 4.1.2. Topical, Interpersonal and Textual Theme in English Political Speeches

**Table 4.2 Distribution of thematic patterns in English political speeches**

Types of Theme pattern	Number of clauses in English political speeches: 2008	Distribution rate
Topical/ Ideational	1476	73.50%
Interpersonal	194	9.66%
Textual	338	16.84%

#### 4.1.3. Marked and Unmarked Thematic Patterns in English Political Speeches

**Table 4.3 Marked and Unmarked Theme in English political speeches**

Types of Theme pattern	Number of clause: 2008	Distribution rate
Marked Theme	307	15.28%
Unmarked Theme	1701	84.72%

## 4.2. THE THEME- RHEME STRUCTURE OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL SPEECHES

### 4.2.1. The Distribution Rates of Thematic Patterns in Vietnamese Political Speeches

**Table 4.5 The five thematic patterns in Vietnamese political speeches**

Types of thematic patterns	Number of sentence: 1986	Distribution rate
Simple Theme	1004	50.57%
Multiple Theme	424	21.35%
Clause as Theme	406	20.44%
Predicated Theme	0	0%
Dependent, embedded, elliptical or minor clause as Theme	152	7.64%

### 4.2.2. Topical, Interpersonal and Textual Theme in Vietnamese Political Speeches

**Table 4.6 Distribution of thematic patterns in Vietnamese political speeches**

Types of Theme pattern	Number of clauses in English political speeches: 1986	Distribution rate
Topical/ Ideational	1540	77.54%
Interpersonal	154	7.75%
Textual	292	14.71%

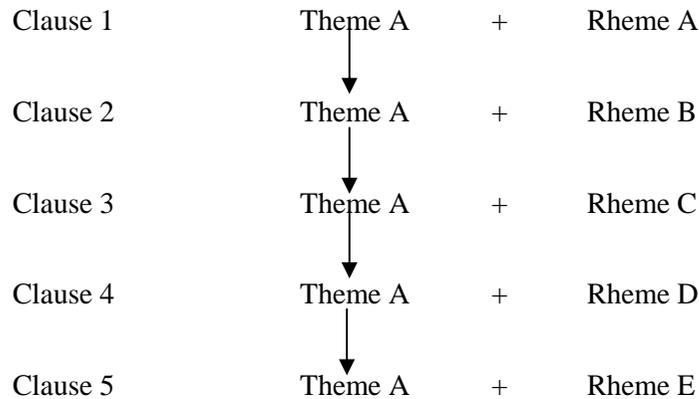
4.2.3. Marked and Unmarked Thematic Patterns in Vietnamese Political Speeches

Table 4.7 Marked and Unmarked Theme in Vietnamese political speeches

Types of Theme pattern	Number of clause : 1986	Distribution rate
Marked Theme	472	23.77%
Unmarked Theme	1514	76.23%

4.3. THEMATIC PROGRESSION IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE POLITICAL SPEECHES

4.3.1. The Constant Theme Pattern

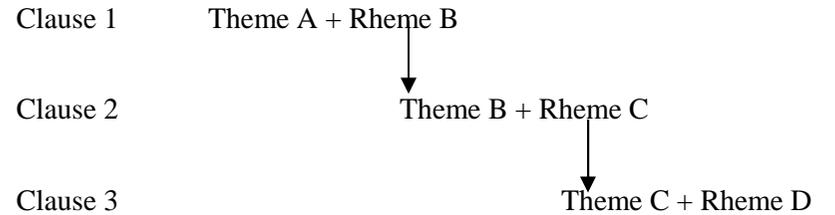


For example:

(34) But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. [62]

(35) Chúng lập ra nhà tù nhiều hơn trường học. Chúng thẳng tay chém giết những người yêu nước thương nòi của ta. Chúng tắm các cuộc khởi nghĩa của ta trong những bể máu [97]

4.3.2. The Linear Theme Pattern

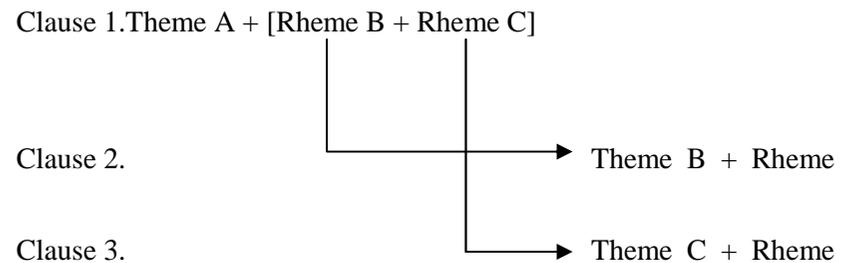


Though political speech is considered a type of discourse with full of argumentation but linear Theme pattern occur with low frequency. These are some among rare instances.

(36) I believe that truth is the glue that holds government together, not only our Government but civilization itself. That bond,  
**Rheme B** **Theme B**  
 though strained, is unbroken at home and abroad. [57]

(37) Miền Nam là một bộ phận của nước Việt Nam. Mà  
**Rheme B**  
nước Việt Nam cả Bắc- Trung - Nam là một khối, không thể phân  
**Theme B**

4.3.3. The Split Theme Pattern



For example:

(39) *The United States **also strongly supports the universal rights of the Libyan people.** **That** includes the rights of peaceful assembly, free speech, and the ability of the Libyan people to determine their own destiny. **These** are human rights.* [70]

(40) *Hai mươi bốn năm sau ngày đọc Tuyên ngôn Độc lập khai sinh ra nước Việt Nam Dân chủ cộng hòa, ngày 2/9/1969, Chủ tịch Hồ Chí Minh // đi vào cõi vĩnh hằng và để lại cho toàn Đảng, toàn dân, toàn quân ta một **bản Di chúc thiêng liêng, bất hủ.** **Di chúc** là bản tổng kết thực tiễn kinh nghiệm lãnh đạo cách mạng và phương hướng phát triển của dân tộc, đồng thời thể hiện cô đọng nhân cách của vị lãnh tụ, Anh hùng giải phóng dân tộc Việt Nam, nhà văn hóa kiệt xuất Hồ Chí Minh. **Di chúc** kết tinh ... sau khi nước nhà thống nhất.* [95]

#### 4.3.4. Derived Themes

In English and Vietnamese political speeches, it can be difficult to analyse thematic progression even where it is straightforward unless we take into account the notion of *derived Themes*. Themes of successive sentences are derived from a single over-riding theme. The term is used to describe expressions in Theme position which are cohesively linked in meaning, but not necessarily in form, to a topic which has been stated earlier in the text.

### 4.4. THE SEMANTIC ASPECTS OF THE THEME- RHEME STRUCTURE IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE POLITICAL SPEECHES

#### 4.4.1. The Aspects of Meaning Realized in the English and Vietnamese Clause

We have dealt with the three different aspects of meanings in English and Vietnamese and their simultaneous realization into the clause. Each language will express these three aspects of meaning and especially the Textual meaning differently, however what does seem true is that all languages will somehow encode Textual meaning, since language users depend on signals which indicate the cohesive relations between the clause, its contexts, and its purpose. [7, p.273]. To illustrate the different semantic realization of metafunctions in English and Vietnamese clauses, we give below the table adopted from Phước Trà's [24, p. 42]

**Table 4.8 Semantic realization of metafunctions in English and Vietnamese**

	Types of meaning	English	Vietnamese
1	Textual meaning	Textual Theme	Connectives/ adverbial groups Range topic
2	Ideational meaning	Unmarked Topical Them	Instance topic
		Marked Topical Them	Adverbs/ adverbial groups
3	Interpersonal meaning	Interpersonal/ Modal Theme	Modal Theme

#### 4.4.2. The Semantic Roles of and Semantic Relation between Theme and Rheme in Political Speeches

##### 4.4.2.1. The semantic roles of Theme and Rheme in the clause

**4.4.2.2. *The semantic roles of and semantic relation between Theme and Rheme in English and Vietnamese political speeches***

On dealing with semantic role in English, most linguists, grammarians and semanticists usually pay attention to define, classify and give the correlation or comparison among them. Some others, like Frawley [7], go further into the investigation of these roles in interaction and the interface with grammar, logistics, pragmatics and syntax. Here we will consider the realization of these semantic roles by Theme and Rheme of English political speeches.

- (1) AGENT
- (2) AUTHOR
- (3) INSTRUMENT
- (4) PATIENT
- (5) EXPERIENCER
- (6) BENEFACTIVE
- (7) THEME
- (8) SOURCE
- (9) GOAL
- (10) REASON
- (11) LOCATIVE
- (12) PURPOSE

The above twelve typical semantic roles are more likely realized in Theme and Rheme positions of English political speeches. As we see, each of them can be mapped onto Rheme or Rheme position of English political speeches. However there are roles that are more likely to be realized in Theme or Rheme positions than others.

The three logical actors (Actor, Author, and Instrument) seem to be the most commonly thematised then the three logical recipients (Patient, Experiencer and Benefactive). The three spatial roles (Theme, Source, and Goal) are normally embodied in Theme while the three nonparticipant roles (Locative, Reason and Purpose) are almost found in Rheme. In fact, the choice of Theme is largely because of the communicative purpose: whatever we like the addressee to focus on or pay prior attention to, we can just thematic it. Semantically, this easiness is partly shown in the closeness between the analysis of semantic roles and of the thematic structure: on working with the former we study the semantic structure of the clause and with the latter the clause's Textual meaning aspect. This also proves an interesting correlation: both Theme and Rheme can carry out one or more semantic roles and, on the other hand, different semantic roles can be embodied in the same position in the same political speech.

In Vietnamese, Cao Xuân Hạo [34, p.58] states that there are seven semantic roles carried out in connection with the nuclear or one part of Theme and Rheme of the clause. They are the semantic roles of Actor, Recipient, Time, Location, Instrument, Quality and Condition. The notions of these semantic roles are more or less correspondent to those in English and can be seen by their names so we will not give their definition here. Each of them can carry out by components in the thematic structure of Vietnamese political speeches, including Theme and Rheme.

**4.5. THE PRAGMATIC ASPECTS OF THE THEME- RHEME STRUCTURE IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE POLITICAL SPEECHES**

#### **4.5.1. Pragmatic Aspects of Thematic Structure in The Clause**

#### **4.5.2. The Pragmatic Characteristics of the Thematic Structure in English and Vietnamese Political Speeches**

### **CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS**

#### **5.1. CONCLUSIONS**

In this thesis we have studied the Theme- Rheme structure of English and Vietnamese political speeches and their semantic, pragmatic aspects. We choose to approach the English and Vietnamese political speeches in the light of functional grammar in order to bring out the identification and classification of their thematic patterns, figure out their distribution rates and the correlation among those thematic patterns and pick out their similarities as well as differences in semantic, pragmatic level. To achieve this goal, this study is divided into five chapters, successively the introduction to the research, the review of literature and theoretical preliminaries, the method and procedure of carrying out the thesis, the discussion of findings and lastly, the conclusion of the work.

We support Halliday's and Cao Xuân Hạo's views with regards to matters such as the characteristics of Theme- Rheme, the ways to identify Theme- Rheme boundaries, the Theme-Rheme structure of English and Vietnamese political speeches. The data have been classified according to types, classes and groups to be described and analyzed Theme- Rheme structure and then the thematic structure in both languages has been clarified in terms of

semantic and pragmatic. The findings of the study were stated and discussed in chapter 4.

In general, the summary of the findings in our study can be reviewed in the comparison of similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese enumerations in terms of semantic and pragmatics.

Basically, Theme in English and Vietnamese shares many common characteristics

Firstly, Theme in English and Vietnamese is at the initial position of the clause. They are expressed in phrasal structures including noun phrases, adjective phrases, verb phrases, prepositional phrase and in sentential structures.

Secondly, in terms of semantic, both language have some similar types of Theme and are used to express various meaning such as Location, Instrument. Any semantic role can be realized into Theme and Rheme position, Theme and Rheme may have different semantic roles and in case they have more than one component, each of the components may have different semantic role.

Lastly, in terms of pragmatics, we found out that the realization of an utterance or structure and the choice of which element in a clause/ utterance to thematise and which to make Rheme are all pragmatic. It is also noticeable that a pragmatic model of the thematic structure by itself describes the deep structure of utterances. In languages, reference, presupposition, implicative, inference meanings are realized by thematic structure.

However, thematic structure in the two languages contains some certain differences.

Syntactically, in English, we find out some types of Theme that do not exist in Vietnam, such as Predicated Theme. Marked and unmarked Theme are also problems that need further consideration. We could prove that there are actually examples of both types in Vietnamese, however which criteria should be used to define them and the marked order within a clause complex in Vietnamese need further investigation. In English political speeches, unmarked and non-predicated Themes are far more common than marked and predicated ones.

Different from English political speeches, vocative in Vietnamese political speeches is used not only at the beginning but also during the speech. Moreover, God and Ho Chu Tich as Unmarked Theme also prove the differences in though patterns of the two nations – an America with highly superstitious spirit versus a Vietnam with the hero worship customs.

In fact, English prefers the first person as Theme while Vietnamese employs many other images to relate or compare instead of using "I" or "We". Meanwhile, among all of the Vietnamese Theme investigated we find a low rate of the case.

Pragmatic modality is considered to encode Interpersonal meaning and of subjectivity. The modality in the thematic structure of English and Vietnamese political speeches is not expressed in the same way and with equal frequency of occurrence. In Theme position, it is more common for a modal element to be thematised in English political speeches than in Vietnamese. In Rheme position, modality is expressed directly by means of modal verbs in English but implicitly understood in Vietnamese through the hidden semantic relations between Theme and Rheme.

In conclusion, although thematic structure in English and Vietnamese political speeches shares a lot of similarities and differences in terms of semantic and pragmatic aspects, they have the same purpose: Theme introduces and intends the audience to the topic of the message as well as clauses in a discourse. Being aware of this matter, we can have own ways to approach and to master both languages. As a result, we can obtain a suitable procedure in the process of teaching and learning English as a foreign language and recognize the beauty of our native language.

## **5.2. IMPLICATIONS**

The study of thematic structure in English and Vietnamese political speeches carried out in this work may be of some use for native speakers of English and Vietnamese learner of these two languages as a foreign language, those who are interested in the study of political speeches, grammarians, linguists and researchers who are working with functional grammar and also Vietnamese teachers and students.

Firstly, speakers of English and Vietnamese would have a good various collection of political speeches in both languages submitted in the scope of this work and know how to analyze them functionally or thematically to use them most effectively in communication and translation.

Secondly, our findings provide general features of Theme and Rheme structure of political speeches as well as semantic and pragmatic aspects thus help the teachers a lot in giving students some tips in making presentations persuasively and impressively.

Thirdly, to students, speaking skill in general and formal presentation in particular are the "Asin's heels" of Vietnamese

learners of English. In mastering Theme-Rheme structure of both English and Vietnamese political speeches, Vietnamese students will have a better insight into making a unified and logical speech, and then apply advanced linguistic features to yield a successful presentation. Moreover, learner of English and Vietnamese can also find this research paper some different approaches to grammar. Those who find Vietnamese sentence structure analysis in formal grammar problematic can turn to their thematic analysis and see that it is much easier for Vietnamese is considered a Theme-inclined language.

Lastly, grammarians, linguists and researchers who are working with functional grammar can find in this work some material for their works. It is hoped that this thesis can make some contribution to the research on the semantic pragmatic aspects of the thematic structure or inspire others to go further in this difficult but interesting study of political speeches in different language.

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

#### **5.3.1. Limitations of the study**

Owing to a limited time and source of materials relating to the problem under investigation, there are some unavoidable weaknesses in this study. This topic interests us for a long time. However, because of the constraint of time, the study was focused on the "surface" thematic structure of each sentence in political speeches. The semantic and pragmatic aspects of thematic structure as well as the thematic progression of the same samples have not been deeply studied yet.

#### **5.3.2. Suggestion for further study**

As we have claimed many times in this work, there should have more research done in many other fields relating to the thematic in general and that of English and Vietnamese political speeches in particular.

First of all, the classification of Themes into marked and unmarked in Vietnamese needs further investigation for the inappropriateness of its notion and property in English when applied to Vietnamese.

Secondly, it is still debated whether we have multiple Themes in Vietnam and if so, whether Interpersonal and Textual Theme are counted in as components of the Multiple Theme.

Thirdly, further researches on the semantic aspects of the thematic structure are needed besides the semantic roles of and the semantic relations between Theme and Rheme in English and Vietnamese clause as well as in political speeches.

Lastly, the cultural aspects of both thematic structure and of the political speeches in English and Vietnamese are worthy of investigation in great details.