

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
UNIVERSITY OF DANANG**

**PHAN THI HOAI THANH**

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO LINGUISTIC  
FEATURES OF IRONICAL IMPLICATURES IN  
ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE USED ON PRESS**

**Field: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
Code: 60.22.15**

**M.A. THESIS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
(A SUMMARY)**

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Supervisor: **Assoc. Prof. Dr. PHAN VAN HOA**

Examiner 1: **Nguyen Thi Quynh Hoa, Ph.D.**

Examiner 2: **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ngo Dinh Phuong**

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## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. RATIONALE

There is some jewellery and art of life which is very simple but extremely precious and increases attraction and humourousity for those who always read newspaper and take concern in social problems. It's ironical implicature. The mysterious strength of an ironical implicature is relief and small joy from life. Ironical implicatures exist in the old time and civilised society as well. In public, ironical implicature is burst out sometimes naturally and purposely. Obviously, ironical implicature is offered when the writer feels something which is contrary to human right or contrary to moral values. Ironical implicature here always goes with a humorous and satirical mood. More importantly, ironical implicatures which are shown on the article headlines can expose so much eyesore, depraved moral values, social status, contradictory things in life, suffering and so on. The force and power of ironical implicature turns out to be strong in each line or word shown on the newspaper headline.

However, not all form of ironical implicatures which the readers draw out are always the same or received and interpret in different ways of thinking for many reasons. Therefore, when facing ironicals implicatures, most readers, especially Vietnamese people and English people may understand and have different sensation as a polite strategy as well as an ironical effect to survey if their apologies can be accepted.

It has not been doubted that different cultures often have different conventions. Actually, many failures have been occurred in intracultural and cross-cultural linguistic communication. The failures are often vaguely diagnosed as impolite behavior on the part of the other person. One of the strategies which can minimize this unexpected

result is using Ironical Implicature as hedges. In order to have an insight into the problem, I decide to choose "*An investigation into linguistic features of Ironical Implicatures in English and Vietnamese used on press*" as the topic of my M.A thesis.

### 1.2.1. Aims of the Study

This research paper aims at helping the learners of Vietnamese and English acquire some knowledge of Ironical Implicatures (I.Im)s in the headline of English and Vietnamese press to understand and use them more effectively in daily communication.

### 1.2.2. Objectives of the Study

- Investigating the prominent linguistic features of ironical implicatures expressed on the headlines of press.
- Discovering and explaining the similarities and differences of ironical implicatures in the headlines of English and Vietnamese.
- Studying the expressions on press headlines in the ways that English native speakers and Vietnamese writers use ironical implicatures in politeness, indirectness and apply them into communication and daily language.
- Finding out the culturally embedded factors in the ironical newspapers and testing the validity of the hypothesis that the Western tend to be more directive in communication than the way "beating about the bush" of the Oriental.
- Analyzing the semantic and syntactic features of I.Ims in terms of strategies involving politeness.
- Suggesting some ideas for teaching, learning and interpreting implicatures expressed in daily language.

### 1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are syntactic and semantic features of Ironical Implicatures in newspaper headlines?

2. What are the similarities and differences of English and Vietnamese Ironical Implicatures in syntactic and semantic features?

3. What are implications of the study on Ironical Implicatures and their role in learning and translating commentary or ironical articles?

#### **1.4. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

As a matter of fact, ironical implicatures used on press are considered as a great treasure of each nation, each country and each region, providing us with considerable knowledge of the people's customs, habits, religions, rites, social etiquettes, cultural tradition and their own of thinking. Studying ironical implicatures in English and Vietnamese press and some other funny stories on articles helps us investigate the national character and cultural features in Vietnam and England, then understand to communicate effectively. The findings of the research will help every learner aware and achieve the beauty of using language in everyday speech. When carrying out this study, I also hope that this research will provide the learners with valuable contribution and experience of how to communicate well and use the ironical implicatures in some fields in press, public printing, novels and stories.

#### **1.5. THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

Ironical Implicature is one of the most important stylistic devices in analyzing language like metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole, etc. It occurs frequently in daily speech, in various genres, in newspapers, in verse, movies, etc. However, because of the limited time, space, and our own ability, in this thesis we just focus on contrastive analysis some articles and investigating the semantic and syntactic signals of ironical implicatures on some English and Vietnamese newspapers. All the

phonological, phonemic and pramatic features of ironical implicatures and spoken irony are out of scope of the study.

#### **1.6. HYPOTHESES**

The following hypotheses are set:

1. There is a wide range of ironical implicatures in English and Vietnamese which is expressed through both direct and indirect ways.

2. There are similarities and differences in making ironical implicatures between the two languages.

#### **1.7. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

The study is organized into five chapters as follows.

**Chapter 1:** *Introduction*

**Chapter 2:** *Literature Review and Theoretical Background*

**Chapter 3:** *Methodology and Procedures of the Study*

**Chapter 4:** *Findings and Discussions*

**Chapter 5:** *Conclusions.*

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

### **2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW**

Firstly, H. P. Grice (1913–1988) was the first to systematically study cases in which what a *speaker* means differs from what the *sentence* used by the speaker means. Grice (1975) also set up cases of implicature and concepts. Simon Blackburn (1996). "Implicature" *The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy*, Oxford.

Secondly, there have been a lot of studies on linguistic features of Irony like Grice (1989) who refers to irony in the relation with his conversational maxims. He also deals with the fact that metaphor could

be combined with irony. Martin, R.A. (2007), Elsevier Academic Press, analyzes *The psychology of humor: an integrative approach*.

There are some researchers in Vietnam dealing with Implicature, irony and newspaper headlines in the last few years.

The most noticeable is the paper of Đinh Trọng Lạc (1999) states that ironic meaning is the meaning of a linguistic factor at any level in which the direct meaning or the rhetoric is not suitable for the nature of the referent.

Cao Xuân Hạo (2007) gives a definition of irony and emphasizes that when dealing with irony, the question how people can recognize that the speaker wants to convey the opposite meaning depending on the situation that the victim as well as the listener cannot wait to praise.

## 2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.2.1. Newspapers headlines (NHs)

#### 2.2.1.1. Definition

As defined by Peters (1995) [64, p.334] on *The Cambridge Australian English Style Guide* that “Headlines are the telescoped sentences used at the head of newspaper articles, designed to grab the readers’ attention”.

Galperin G (1981) also defined that the newspaper headline is “the title given to a news item or an article and regarded as a dependent form of newspaper writing” [53, p.302].

#### 2.2.1.2. Characteristics and functions of NHs

##### a. Characteristics of NHs

Firstly, the headlines should be short, simple, easily understandable and to the point. If the headline is too long, it might be difficult for the readers to keep their eyes on the article. NHs are normally short and the letters are capitalized to economize the space or to cut down the length of the headlines.

Secondly, NHs clearly describes the subject of the article and must be informative— A good headline doesn’t lie. It stands on its own language and the ways the words are used. According to Nguyen Thi Van Dong [7, p.34], “headlines should not be too general and able to be applied for any article”.

Briefly, as described by Le Hong Quang, headline must be “eye-catching, clear, easily understandable, brief, active, concise, informative and suitable to the article” [45, p.71-75].

##### b. Functions of NHs

In Handbook for Journalist of Central and Eastern Europe of Malcolm F. Marlette [35, p. 80], the writer shows that the headline has 4 functions:

- To summarize information
  - To delimit the important level of the story
  - To make the readers easier to recognize in the paper
  - To attract the reader’s attention to the content of the paper
- He also said that the headline should be short and terse. Good headline has the least 45 words, and each line shouldn’t be over 32 words. The headline usually has these strict requirements:
- Transmitting the main content of the paper
  - Being concise to decorate and arrange easily in a limited space of the article
  - Having high artistic value in linguistics
  - Being attractive, attentive and creating curiosity to the readers

#### 2.2.1.3. The Style of NHs

Firstly, content word (verb, noun, adjective, and adverb) is used very often, while function word (article, pronoun, conjunction and so on) is omitted in most cases. Secondly, there is characteristic word in headlines. For example, BOJ=Bank of Japan, USTR=United States Trade Representatives, N-Arms=Nuclear Arms. If the term is long, an

abbreviated word or a shortening word is used in this way.

Finally, we often see the past tense or the past participle in headlines. However, it is hard to distinguish the past tense from the past participle if the form of the past tense is the same as the past participle

#### **2.2.1.4. Types of newspapers**

a. Daily

b. Weekly newspapers

c. National

d. International

e. Online

f. Customized

g. Broadsheets

h. Tabloids

#### **2.2.1.5. Relationship between the headline and the article**

The headline is usually considered a brief summary of the whole article. That is the topic discussed in the article normally expressed in the headline.

Consequently, there is a close relationship between the headline and the article. On the other hand, the content of the article is generally implied in the topic sentence. Because of this, the link between the headline and the article is also the one between the headline and the topic sentence.

In general, most of the topic sentences contain the content mentioned in the headline develop and elaborate it on the basis of the so-called “five-w-and-h-rule” (who, what, why, where, when, how), which is chiefly used in the news reports.

### **2.2.2. Irony**

#### **2.2.2.1. Definition of Irony**

In “Oxford Advanced Learners’ Encyclopedic Dictionary” [62, p.479], Irony is “*Expression of one’s meaning by saying the direct*

*opposite of one’s thoughts in order to be emphatic, amusing, sarcastic, etc”.*

Galperin [45, p.142] also considers Irony as “*A stylistic device also based on the simultaneous realization of two logical meanings-dictionaries and contextual, but the two meanings stand in opposition to each other”.*

There are some Vietnamese writers like Cao Xuân Hạo claims that

“*Nói mỉa là chê bai bằng một lời đánh giá trái nghĩa với lời đánh giá lẽ ra phải nói”* (Irony is dispraise through the assessment which is opposite to the one that ought to have been said)

Beside his idea, Đinh Trọng Lạc [22,p.80] states that “*Nói mỉa là một phương thức chuyển tên gọi từ một biểu vật này sang một biểu vật khác, dựa vào sự đối lập giữa cách đánh giá tốt được diễn đạt một cách hiển minh với cách đánh giá ngụ ý xấu theo nghĩa hàm ẩn đối với biểu vật”* (Irony is a stylistic device which transfers the name of a referent into another referent, on the basis of the contrary between the good assessment clearly described and bad assessment implicitly expressed through the implicature of the referent.)

There are three kinds of irony:

1. *Verbal irony*

2. *Dramatic irony*

3. *Irony of situation*

#### **2.2.2.2. General features of Irony**

Galperin [53, p.142] states that “*the word containing the irony is strongly marked by intonation. It has emphatic stress and is generally supplied with a special melody design, unless the context itself renders this intonation pattern unnecessary”*

Some of the kinds of irony might make things clearer.

- *Verbal irony*

- In *dramatic irony*
- Cosmic irony

### **2.2.2.3. Irony as an Indirect Speech Act**

Peccei [45, p.56] stated that “*Speech Acts can be classified as direct or indirect. In a direct speech act, there is a direct relationship between its linguistic structure and the work it is doing. In indirect speech acts, the speech act is performed indirectly through the performance of another speech act.*”

J.L. Austin (1962), the first person who proposed the theory of speech act stated that speech act is all the acts that one does in saying something. It is an utterance as a functional unit in communication.

Crystal [44, p.185] also noted that an indirect speech act is “an utterance whose linguistic form does not directly reflect its communicative purpose.”

### **2.2.2.4. Irony versus Sarcasm**

Sarcasm is a sharp or cutting statement like a taunt or jibe, meant to really drive a point home. It can be meant to give pain and can include irony. Oxford Dictionary (2000) [34, p.1133] also gives the definition of sarcasm: “Sarcasm is a way of using words that are the opposite of what you mean in order to be unpleasant to somebody or to make fun of them”

The English sarcasm has its root in the Greek word *sarkazein* with the meaning “*to speak bitterly as to tear flesh like dog*” [33, p.3]. Thus, irony and sarcasm have a negative connotation in history.

### **2.2.2.5. Irony versus Humour**

According to Galperin [53, p.144], humor always causes laugh or smile. Normally, what is funny must come as a sudden clash of the positive and the negative. Irony, in this respect, can be likened to humor. Irony can be employed to mock somebody.

Irony does not cause a ludicrous effect. It rather expresses a feeling of pity or regret [53, p.143]. A word employed ironically may express subtler, more imperceptible nuances of meaning than those employed humorously.

### **2.2.2.6. Irony against Satire**

Satire covers many different methods including irony, sarcasm, burlesque, parody, exaggeration, juxtaposition and double entendres.

Satire can have no fixed object; viewing the world, or worlds from different perspectives, precludes one from knowing human nature. On the other hand, satire allows us to view the human condition.

However, irony can show the limits and blindness of reason, but this does not lead us to some ultimate principles. Irony can debunk our high ideals of reason and purity. Irony is expressed in term of a quite specific context with much more emphasis on satire.

## **2.2.3. Ironical Implicatures, its principles and maxims**

### **2.2.3.1. Definition of Implicatures and Ironical Implicatures**

*Implicature* is a technical term in the pragmatics subfield of linguistics, coined by Paul Grice, which refers to what is suggested in an utterance, even though not expressed nor strictly implied (that is, entailed) by the utterance.

H. P. Grice (1975), who coined the term “*implicature*” and classified the phenomenon, developed an influential theory to explain and predict conversational implicatures, and to describe how they arise and are understood.

*Ironical Implicatures* denotes the way people use language to give out mocking, criticism, eyesores, etc indirectly. Contrary to Irony and Implicature, in “*Ironical Implicatures*”, the criticized and mentioned objects are not clear and direct. The criticized objects are implied in the language used, the local language of each region to draw out the referent object.

Ex: *Đục nước, béo cò* (Viet Times- 8/4/2011)

### 2.2.3.2. *Some principles and maxims of Ironical Implicatures in language*

Grice developed a theory designed to explain and predict conversational implicatures. He also sought to describe how such implicatures are understood. Grice 1975: [59, p.45-46] postulated a general *Cooperative Principle* and four *maxims* specifying how to be cooperative. It is common knowledge, he asserted, that people generally follow these rules for efficient communication.

- (i)- *The maxim of Quantity*
- (ii)- *The maxim of quality*
- (iii)- *The maxim of Relation*
- (iv)- *The maxim of manner*

Grice thought some implicatures arise by *flouting* maxims

a, *Flouting the maxims*

b, *The context in translation*

### 2.2.3.3. *Implicit*

According to Alice Maclin, 2001[64,p. 169] “ An implicit idea is one that is not stated directly but that can be guessed, deduced, or inferred from the facts that are given. The opposite of *implicit* is *explicit*. The noun form is *implication* and the verb is *implied*.”

Nguyen Van Le also explains “Implicit is a meaningful speech which is implied inside and the hearers have to try to understand or decode that speech”

Ex: *Hàng trăm bệnh nhân “Bỏ quên” thẻ Bảo Hiểm Y Tế tại Bệnh viện*

### 2.2.3.4. *Presupposition*

a, *Definition*

The speaker always communicates more than is said (Yule, 1996). Presupposition is what the speaker assumes to be the case prior to making an utterance.

Ex: *Graciela’s brother bought two apartments.*

This sentence presupposes that Graciela exists and that she has a brother. The speaker may also hold the more specific presupposition that she has only a brother and her brother has a lot of money. All these presuppositions are held by the speaker’s and all of them can be wrong. A presupposition is:

-‘what a speaker or writer assumes that the receiver of the message already knows’ (Richards, Platt & Weber, 1987: 228)

-‘anything the speaker assumes to be true before making the utterance.’ (Peccei, 1999) [45,p. 19]

### b. *Types of presupposition*

b.1. *Existential presupposition*: assumes the existence of the entities named.

b. 2. *Factive presupposition*: assumes some thing to be a fact

b.3. *Lexical presupposition*: the use of some words conventionally assumes the understood meaning.

b.4. *Structural presupposition*: the use of some structures assumes something to be true.

b.5. *Non-factive presupposition*: one that is assumed not to be true

b.6. *Counter-factual presupposition*: what is presupposed is both not true and is the opposite of what is true

### 2.2.3.5. *Sentence Meaning, Utterance Meaning*

With respect to utterance types, one might have expected that assertive would receive the highest irony ratings because they have been the focus of virtually all prior studies of irony and have generally been considered prototypical of ironic utterance. For the stories with potentially ironic utterances, participants explicitly mentioned that the

writer (a) did not sincerely intend what was said, and (b) was trying to draw the reader's attention to some aspects of the situation. In contrast, for the literal counterparts of these headlines, insincerity and allusion was mentioned. One-way analyses of variance revealed that the proportions of reported insincerity and allusion were significantly higher for ironical meaning than for their corresponding literal ones.

### 2.2.3.6. Metaphor

Metaphor is one of the most beautiful and symbolic rhetorical devices in the field of stylistics. A metaphor consists of two main parts: the tenor and the vehicle. The *tenor* is the implied idea or the hidden subject of the comparison; the *vehicle* is the metaphorical word(s) or image(s) by which the tenor is conveyed.

*A metaphor is a relation between the dictionary and contextual logical meanings based on the affinity or similarity of certain properties or features of the two corresponding concepts.* [40, p. 136]

According to "Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching & Applied Linguistics", *"In a metaphor, no function words are used" Something is described by stating another thing with which it can be compared. In "Her words stabbed at his heart, the words did not actually stab, but their effect is compared to the stabbing of a knife".* [44, p. 139]

*Ẩn dụ tu từ là cách cá nhân lâm thời lấy tên gọi biểu thị đối tượng này dung để biểu thị đối tượng kia dựa trên cơ sở của mối quan hệ liên tưởng về nét tương đồng giữa hai đối tượng.*

Ex: The **illness** in Planet Earth [BBC]

**Căn bệnh** của trái đất

### 2.2.3.7. Simile

Simile is a specific semantic trope in stylistics, especially in stylistic devices. The existence of simile in stylistic devices has partly created the creativeness in the development of languages.

According to Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching & Applied Linguistics, *"Simile is an expression in which something is compared to something else by the use of a FUNCTION WORD such as like or as."* [44]

*So sánh tu từ là phương pháp biểu hiện ý tưởng rõ ràng, cụ thể, sinh động. (Simile is a way to express an idea clearly, concretely and lively)* [16, p.259]

### 2.2.3.8. Explicit

The word **"explicit"** is from Latin *explicare*, "to unfold" and thus also make visible can mean:

- stating something rather than implying it
- containing material (e.g. language or film footage)
- the final words of a text, which are immediately

followed by a colophon

- In Computer Science, explicit method calls on an object require the object to be of a specific class.

Nguyen Van Le explained that "Explicit is the meaningful speech that is denoted outside directedly"

Ex: Huyện nghèo "chơi sang"!

*Phản đối đường lưỡi bò. (Thanh niên số 151 (5638) 31/5/2011)*

### 2.2.3.9. Understanding discourse

*Understanding Discourse* refers to the systematic description of the processes and mechanisms involved in the production of talk and its derivative uses in writing, teaching, psychotherapy, and everyday mythology

A systematic exploration of the five movements of discourse:

- (1) Ethnosemantic Outlines
- (2) Topic Focus
- (3) Display Repertoire
- (4) Constitutive Exchanges

(5) Transactional Engineering

**2.2.4. Factors governing the use of ironical implicatures and the role of Ironical Implicatures toward news issues comments and idle talk in communication**

Types of context are several; they are identified as follows:

- *Context of reference (CR)*
- *Context of utterance (CU)*
- *Context of culture (CC)*

**2.2.4.1. Role and power**

**2.2.4.2. Rules, norms and setting**

**2.2.4.3. Social context and cultural elements in language use in communication**

**CHAPTER 3  
METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURE**

**3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN**

This is a qualitative and quantitative study executed with a contrastive and analysis.

**3.2. DATA COLLECTION**

Data for the research are totally collected from nearly 350 samples of ironical headlines in English and Vietnamese press on Internet, article, publication printing, funny stories on journals are analyzed.

The data in English are taken from most kinds of daily newspapers except for cultural, fashionable, educational magazines.

The data in Vietnamese come from a variety of articles except for cultural, fashionable, educational magazines, especially popular newspapers such as Tuổi Trẻ, Hạnh phúc gia đình, Thời trang, Giáo Dục, Lao động, etc.

**3.3. DATA ANALYSIS**

Relevant data is taken from nearly 350 samples from both languages of weekly and daily newspapers, news in brief, magazines in England and Vietnam. All these samples are typed carefully with more than 80 pages so that we can select and copy them easily if necessary.

The data are grouped into categories and described qualitatively depending on the syntactic and semantic features in English and Vietnamese that I.Ims perform for later analysis.

The frequency of structures used for I.Ims was totalized basing on the quantitative method. The syntactic and semantic features of I.Ims were then summarized in some tables.

The contrastive method was applied to analyze the similarities and differences in the syntactic and semantic features of I.Ims in the two languages.

### 3.4. PROCEDURES

The following steps are detailed procedures to be taken:

(i) Collecting data

The sampling is made with the searching for I.Ims of a wide range of linguistic structures in English and Vietnamese. They are picked out from most of the newspapers.

(ii) Classifying I.Ims

This is done in terms of syntactic and semactic features.

(iii) Describing and comparing I.Ims in English with those in Vietnamese.

(iv) Finding and discussing

(v) Suggesting some implications for English teaching and learning.

### 3.5. VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY

## CHAPTER 4 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

### 4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF IRONICAL IMPLICATURES ON PRESS HEADLINES

#### 4.1.1. Syntactic features of I.Ims in English and Vietnamese headlines by grammatical structures

##### 4.1.1.1. *Headline classification by grammatical structure*

###### a. *Headlines with phrases mode*

###### a1. *Headlines with NPs*

This form is very popular with 79% in the total headlines with phrase mode

NPs in English have simple noun (general Noun or proper Noun, countable Noun or uncountable Noun)

###### **Pre-modifier + Noun + post modifier**

###### a2. *Headlines with Noun pre-modifier*

a3. Comparison the Noun Phrase in English with Vietnamese

a4. Headlines with Prepositional phrase

a5. Headlines with idiomatic phrase

###### b. *The headlines with sentence form*

b1. The headline classification basing on informative content

The headline of English articles is expressed in the form of Declarative sentences, Interrogative sentences, imperative and exclamative sentences.

**Table 4.3. The headline data with informative content**

	Economy	Military	Science	Politics	Society	Sport
Total	27	16	9	72	59	41
Question	3 (11%)		1(11%)	1(1, 5%)	5(8%)	
Imperative			1(11%)	3(4%)	5(8%)	1(2, 5%)
Exclamative			1(11%)		1(1,5%)	
Declarative	24(88%)	16(100%)	6(66%)	68(94%)	48(81%)	40(97%)

b2. Headlines with declarative sentence

b3. The headline with interrogative form

#### 4.1.1.2. *Structure Features of English and Vietnamese Newspaper Headlines*

Structure features of English newspaper headlines can be divided into two aspects. They are as follows:

##### a. *Omission*

a.1. Omission of articles

a.2. Omission of conjunction and pronoun

a.3. Omission of “be ” and auxiliary verbs

a.4. Omission of verbs

##### b. *Using Noun to replace Adjective, Phrase, and Verb*

#### **4.1.1.3. Rhetorical Devices used in English and Vietnamese Newspaper Headlines**

Rhetorical devices of English and Vietnamese newspaper headlines mainly have six kinds. They are as follows.

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| a, <i>Imitation</i>    | b, <i>Metaphor</i> |
| c, <i>Alliteration</i> | d, <i>Rhyme</i>    |
| e, <i>Pun</i>          | f, <i>Idiom</i>    |

#### **4.1.2. Syntactic features of ironical implicatures in English and Vietnamese headlines by lexical structures**

##### *a, Abbreviation*

- a1, Abbreviation for organizations
- a2, Abbreviation for profession and career
- a3, Abbreviation for our familiar things

##### *b, Shortening*

##### *c, Compound*

##### *d, Informal and Small Words*

#### **4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF IRONICAL IMPLICATURES ON PRESS HEADLINES**

##### **4.2.1. Semantic features of ironical implicatures in English and Vietnamese headlines through words**

In reporting news in the newspapers, journalists are free to use words and expressions, language style and linguistic structures. These differences in the linguistic choices, the language style and the linguistic structures lead to different versions and views of the same event in different newspapers. Therefore, people who read different newspapers about the same event will get different perceptions about the event, based on the journalists' use of linguistic choices and linguistic structures. In other words, the sentences about the same event written in different newspapers are always syntactically and semantically different.

##### **4.2.2. Semantic features of ironical implicatures in Vietnamese and Vietnamese headlines through sentences structures**

#### **4.3. SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN THE SYNTACTIC AND SEMANTIC FEATURES OF IRONICAL IMPLICATURES IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE USED ON PRESS HEADLINES**

##### **4.3.1. Similarities in the syntactic and semantic features of I.Ims in English and Vietnamese headlines**

##### **4.3.2. Differences in the syntactic and semantic features of I.Ims in English and Vietnamese headline**

## **CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS**

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

As presented in the first chapter, the thesis involves the qualitative and quantitative study of the syntactic and semantic features of I.Ims in English and Vietnamese. So as to perform the study effectively, we have read a variety of theoretical material related to speech acts and other issues concerning the research. After collecting the data, we classified them into categories suitable to each part that I have designed in the outline and then we described, analyzed and made a contrasting analysis to clarify the similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese in the way of performing I.Ims on the daily journals.

### **5.2. BRIEF RE-STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS**

Basing on the sources of the data collected from 150 samples of I.Ims in English and 200 ones in Vietnamese in newspapers, the research finds out basically I.Ims in English and Vietnamese shares many characteristics in common as follow:

### 5.2.1. Similarities

Firstly, syntactically, I.Ims can occur in word forms such as Adjectives, Nouns, Verbs, and Adverbs. In addition, they are analyzed with a variety of different structures in both languages such as: a word, a phrase (Noun phrase, verb phrase, and prepositional phrase), a sentence and a series of sentences and divided into a lot of types for each structure. There are several types of I.Ims as a sentence such as interrogatives, declaratives, imperatives and exclamatives. In the two languages, it can be seen that the position of appearance of syntactic representation is similar.

With regard to structural forms, *declarative questions* in both English and Vietnamese have the form of statement. However, the syntax of *questions* in English is clearer than that of *questions ending with modal particles* in Vietnamese. Moreover, the forms of I.Ims as *yes/no questions* in English and as *questions containing interrogative adjuncts* in Vietnamese are identified differently. Another point is that I.Ims as *wh- questions* in English have the forms different to *questions containing interrogative pronouns* in Vietnamese.

Secondly, I.Ims in both languages also contains modifying acts as *pre-modifying* and *post-modifying*. I.Ims in both languages is most frequently represented by sentences and declarative sentences.

Thirdly, both English and Vietnamese writers tend to employ ironical implicature for the following topic: social relationship, daily event, quality of people/ things, human values, social status, honor, religions, etc. The socio-cultural background knowledge plays an important role in the explanation of ironic meanings.

Fourthly, in both English and Vietnamese, ironical implicature is used as a mean to express mocking, criticism, comment, humor, pity and regret among which mocking is the most popular function.

In short, I.Ims can be expressed and transferred by different ways by the readers. It depends on the content of headlines and close relationship between the W and the Obj, the C and the R. The R can choose or infer their own most suitable explanation and recognition, according to their own culture about the Obj that the W want to direct toward or imply to aim to on the news headline.

### 5.2.2. Differences

Syntactically, there is no Vietnamese ironical implicature in the form of prepositional as well as adverbial phrases compared with those in English. In addition, ironical implicature done through the combination of adjectives and particles only occurs in Vietnamese. It seems that Vietnamese writers create more ironic effects than English writers. In contrast, English ironical implicature patterns are fewer than the Vietnamese ones.

Another point is that in the semantic aspect, the frequency of occurrences and the context or the circumstance of the utterances containing ironical implicature in most semantic features in English and Vietnamese is different. Furthermore, in Vietnamese ironical implicature, we do not discover any irony on success and gratitude.

Finally, to avoid the directive expressing of thought and to sneer, Vietnamese people employ irony as an approach to express contempt while English people do not show their idea and thought in this way but saying more directly

In short, through the corpus, it can be concluded that when making an I.Ims, Vietnamese people tend to use more I.Ims than English speaking people. This is further proof of what has been claimed as the value of communication in the two cultures. For Vietnamese, the I.Ims reflects a traditional Vietnamese culture where people are apt to apply the indirect way in social communication.

### **5.3. IMPLICATIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING ENGLISH**

#### **5.3.1. Implications for the Learners**

Learners should master how to interpret, use and translate ironic utterances in the right way.

Moreover, learners should know the purpose when they use I.Ims because I.Ims are a stylistic device which the writer means something that contrasts with the literal or usual meaning of what he wants to aim to. At last, the learners and the readers may fail to interpret or decode I.Ims and being shocked if they are lack of a wide knowledge of society, culture, the language, moral and psychological standard. Therefore, they should read professional journals or reference books in this field

#### **5.3.2. Implications for the Teachers**

Firstly, teachers should create more opportunities for the learners to read more materials about I.Ims and practice them in conversations. Secondly, teachers should stimulate and help the learners to understand the concept of irony and implicature of surface and deep meaning of both word and texts to master the incongruity or discrepancy between what is stated and what is really meant. Thirdly, the context and contextual information about the object of I.I or the aim of newspaper headline are the decisive factors in the irony creation and comprehension process. Last but not least, teachers should help learners know how to use and apply I.Ims effectively and help them to select some specific ones for certain situations.

### **5.4. LIMITATIONS**

The research has been carried out with our great effort and investment. However, it certainly cannot avoid some weakness and unavoidable mistakes due to the researcher's limitation of time, health, knowledge, source of relevant materials and other objective factors.

The corpus was built with limited samples of I.Ims in English and Vietnamese from newspapers headlines in some daily field of life. We could not conduct a fieldwork with all authentic samples of I.Ims used in everyday newspapers in other field such as religion, technology, literature, etc.

The study has just addressed the issues of I.Ims in terms of syntactic and semantic features in English and Vietnamese newspaper headline, except for the content of the article because of our lack of time to go through the paper.

Finally, using I.Ims in both languages is affected by social factors such as culture, attitude, view-point, judgement, object and so on, and they play an important role in identify I.I

### **5.5. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

If the future research is conducted in this direction, the following aspects will be taken more consideration and investigation:

- 1- Cultural aspects of I.Ims in English and Vietnamese.
- 2- The pragmatic features of I.Ims in English and Vietnamese headline.
- 3- The responses to I.Ims in each culture in English and Vietnamese