

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

NGUYỄN THÁI MỸ IÊN

**A STUDY OF THE LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF
ADJECTIVES DESCRIBING WOMEN' S
CHARACTERISTICS IN ENGLISH VERSUS
VIETNAMESE**

Field : THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Code : 60.22.15

**MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES
AND HUMANITICS (A SUMMARY)**

DANANG - 2013

The thesis has been completed at the College of Foreign Languages, University of Da Nang.

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phan Văn Hòa

Examiner 1: Dr. Nguyễn Quang Ngoạn

Examiner 2: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lư Quý Khương

The thesis will be orally defended at the Examining Committee.

Time : August 25th, 2012

Venue: University of Danang

The original of thesis is accessible for the purpose of reference at the College of Foreign Languages Library, and the Information Resources Center, Da Nang University

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

English language is one of the most popular and widely spoken languages in the world. Once you master the rules of English grammar, understanding and learning the language is much easier. There are a large number of words in the English language, and all these words can be classified into the eight parts of speech which are nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, conjunctions, prepositions and interjections. They are all form the backbone of English grammar and composition.

According to Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English [21], an adjective is “a word that describes a noun or pronoun”. In the phrase *a beautiful girl*, “beautiful” is an adjective and in the sentence **It makes her happy**, “happy” is an adjective.” The definition is very concise but we can have a general opinion of what can be called an adjective from examples given there. However, in Webster’s online dictionary [29], the definition of adjectives is much more detailed. An adjective is defined like this: a word used with a noun, or substantive, to express a quality of the thing named, or something attributed to it, or to limit or define it, or to specify or describe a thing, as distinct from something else

In order to have a general look about adjective and adjective describing women characteristics, I decide to research the topic “*A Study of Linguistic Features of Adjective Describing Women Characteristics in English versus Vietnamese*” with the hope of contributing the necessary background to the learning and teaching of English, especially giving learners a general view in achieving effective communication and translation.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1. Aims

- Investigating semantic and morphological features of adjectives describing women's characteristic in English
- Investigating semantic and morphological features of adjectives describing women's characteristic in Vietnamese
- Find out similarities and differences between adjectives describing characteristics of women in English and Vietnamese in terms of semantic and morphological features

1.2.2. Objectives of the study

The study is intended to:

- To describe semantic and morphological features of adjectives describing women's characteristic in Vietnamese.
- To describe semantic and morphological features of adjectives describing women's characteristic in Vietnamese.
- Make a contrast of features of adjectives describing women's characteristics in English and Vietnamese.

1.3. RESEARCH QUESTION

The paper is to answer the following questions:

- What are semantic and morphological features of adjectives describing women's characteristics in Vietnamese?
- What are semantic and morphological features of adjectives describing women's characteristics in English?
- What are the similarities and differences in semantic and morphological features of adjectives describing women's characteristics in English and Vietnamese?

1.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Generally when we describe person we must describe all aspects such as: personality, behavior, character, appearance and

elling. But in this paper I focus on women's characteristics in both neagative and possive sides.

1.5 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The study consists of the five main chapters as follows:

Chapter 1: Includes the rationale, the aims and objectives, the research questions, significance, the scope and the organization of the study.

Chapter 2: Literature review and theoretical background, includes prior studies ralated to this thesis.

Chapter 3: Consists of the research design and methodology. Based on the aims and objetives mentioned above, the research questions, the research methodology, the data collection and analysis, and the procedures are established. Validity and reliabiltly are also mentioned.

Chapter 4: Findings and Discussion deals the investigation into adjectives denoting women's characteristics in the two languages. Also the similarites and differences

Chapter 5: Conclusion and impications gives the summary of the study and offers some implications on the teaching and learning English and Vietnam as a foreign language

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS STUDIES

In English, there are diverse adjectives whose frequency of use is very high. Quirk and Greenbaum (1998) [26] studied the formation and classification of English languages adjectives. In fact, adjective can be found in almost every sentences of whatever length.

Haas [13], Cruse [5], Crystal [6], Richard et.al. [28], Asher [1]

and Delahunty & Grayvey [37] studied adjectives lay a basic foundation for further studies, which solve a wide range of problems such as meaning, word meaning, semantic field, semantic features, pragmatic features of word or componential analysis.

Many researchers have paid much attention to adjectives such as: Eckercley [11] Chalker [7], Jeffries [18], Collins [4], Huddleston and Pullum [46]... However, these studies have so far discovered the most general description and classification of English adjectives, which related to their definition, formation, function and types only.

Besides, there are some papers studied on adjectives: Lam Thuy Dung (2006) [9] investigated the intensification adjective in English language in a contrastive views with the Vietnamese ones. Trần Thị Thu Giang (2008) [12] studied on meaning of Bad. Pham Thi Anh Hang 2011 [14] studied on some aspects of social life as well as social differences that men and women behavior in everyday life. Tran Quang Long (2011) [22] described characteristic both men and women.

As usual, when we mention about the characteristic of women we often use some adjectives denoting good characteristic. In this paper, the writer will give all characteristic even though bad characteristic of women

2.2 THEORY BACKGROUND

2.2.1 Definition of adjective

Quirk and Greenbaum and Quirk et al. defined adjective is a word that describes a person or thing and tell you about more about a noun.

a. English Adjectives

*** Characteristics of Adjectives in English**

After nouns and verbs, adjectives are the largest word class in

English. According to Quirk et al. [27] and Biber et al. [3], adjectives are defined in terms of morphology, syntax, and semantics.

+ Morphological Characteristics

Morphologically, many adjectives can be inflected to show degree of comparison, as in *tall*, *taller*, and *tallest*. However, inflectional comparison is restricted.

+ Syntactic Characteristics

Syntactically, adjectives can occur as the head in adjective phrases, e.g. *really happy*, *wilting to listen*, and *familiar with the local area*.

Typically, they can serve both attributive and predicative syntactic function.

+ Semantic Characteristics

According to Biber [3], semantically, adjectives are descriptive, typically characterizing the referent of a nominal expression. In other words, adjectives, typically, describe qualities of people, things, and states of affairs, e.g. *blue* and *white* flag, *unhappy* childhood.

Many adjectives have a classifying, identifying, or intensifying meaning: *medical* student, *identical* car, *utter* amazement. These adjectives are normally ungradable, and they do not allow comparison and degree modification.

* Classes of Adjectives in English

+ Semantic Classification of Adjectives

Semantically, according to Alexander [2] and Quirk et al. [27], adjectives can be divided into two classes. A large number of adjectives form a class called *gradable adjectives*. The others form a smaller class called *ungradable adjectives* or *non-gradable adjectives*.

Gradable adjectives are those whose meaning can be thought of in terms of a scale and they represent a point on a scale.

On the contrary, *ungradable adjectives* represent the limits of a scale [41], or denote categorical or determinative properties, e.g. *linguistic, atomic* [3].

+ Syntactic Classification of Adjectives

Both attributive are majority and constitute the central adjectives. Most can be used either attributively or predicatively without any change in meaning:

a beautiful girl - The girl is beautiful

A few adjectives can take on a different meaning when used attributively

- Attributive Adjectives

Adjectives that are attributive but not predicative include *chief elder, eldest, eventual, former, indoor, inner, main, mere, only, etc.*

E.g: *That reason was **main**.* [12, p.254]

- Predicative Adjectives:

These adjectives consist of some with prefix a- such as *asleep, awake, alive, afraid, ashamed, alone, alike*, some expressing feelings such as *content and sony, and* some describing health such as *well, fine, ill, and unwell*.

b. Vietnamese Adjectives

* Characteristics of Adjectives in Vietnamese

In Vietnamese, an adjective follows the noun which it modifies, e.g. *Cái nhà **lớn*** (a big house) and *bà già* (an **old** lady).

According to Diep Quang Ban [30], adjectives in Vietnamese can occur not only as postmodifiers of nouns but also as postmodifiers of verbs, e.g. *đi nhanh*, and *nói chậm*

When functioning as verb postmodifiers, they can be preceded by ‘*một cách*’ for instance:

Trong từng chương một Kiên viết về chiến tranh một cách rất tùy ý...

[52, p.53]

However, this rule cannot apply to adjectives functioning as noun postmodifiers, e.g. *cái nhà một cách lớn*

* Classes of Adjectives in Vietnamese

According to Diep Quang Ban [30], Vietnamese adjectives can be divided into two classes, *adjectives of quality* and *adjectives of relation*, based on the quality and relation denoted by the adjectives. Besides, based on gradability, they can be classified into two groups: *gradable adjectives* and *ungradable adjectives*.

+ Gradable Adjectives

Gradable adjectives in Vietnamese can collocate with adverbs of degree such as *rất, hơi, khá, quá, cực kỳ, lắm* ect., eg: *rất đẹp, vui quá, and anh dũng cực kỳ*.

+ Ungradable Adjectives

There are a small number of Vietnamese adjectives forming the class of ungradable adjectives. Unlike gradable adjectives, they cannot collocate with adverbs of degree, e.g.

Vấn đề chính → *Vấn đề rất chính*

Quyền lợi chung → *Quyền lợi rất chung*

2.2.2 Functions

a. Adjectives as Noun Phrase Modifiers

b. Adjectives as Predicate Adjectives

c. Adjectives as Object Complements

2.2.3 Semantic Feature

Semantics is defined as “the study of meaning”. That is, it

usually deals with the lexical/word meaning, sentence meaning and sometimes utterance meaning in discourse or a whole text.

2.2.4. Pragmatic theory

a. Pragmatics

b. Implication

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURES

This chapter aims at dealing with research questions, method and procedures of the study. It is composed of the presentation of the methods used in the course of the thesis which support each other in investigating data and finding the results. It also mentions the procedures in which the problems related to the study are solved, getting the final results.

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

This thesis is based on qualitative, quantitative, descriptive and comparative methods.

3.1.1. Research Methodology

The research is concerned with comparing the semantics, syntactics and pragmatics features and the distribution of adjectives describing *women's characteristics* in English. In order to reach the aims qualitative, quantitative, descriptive and comparative methods are employed.

The first method will deal with the description of ADWC in English and in Vietnamese and the second one with the comparison of the adjectives describing *women's characteristics* in the two languages. The third method helps to find out the similarities and differences in semantic, syntactic and pragmatic features between the adjectives

describing *women's characteristics* in English and those in Vietnamese. The last one is adopted to produce statistics on the distribution of adjectives describing *women's characteristics* in English and in Vietnamese.

3.1.2. Data Collection

The data collection was carried out with sentences containing ADWCs. Two corpora, English corpus and Vietnamese one, containing around 450 ADWCs in both spoken and written discourse were established. Samples were selected from English and Vietnamese stories and novels. Magazines and newspapers also provided useful data. More specifically, the data were collected from the following sources:

Both English and Vietnamese data were taken from stories, novels, magazines and newspapers which were written or published in the late twentieth century and in the early twenty-first century.

The data in English were taken from stories, novels, and magazines which were published in English-speaking countries such as Australia, the United Kingdom and The United States of America.

The data in Vietnamese were taken from stories and novels by Vietnamese writers, and from magazines and newspapers published in Vietnam.

3.1.3. Data Analysis

After being picked out from the chosen material, the samples of adjective intensification were thoroughly examined and classified. Following this, the English and Vietnamese corpora were described and analyzed to enable the comparison to find out similarities and differences in terms of semantic, syntactic and pragmatic features between ADWCs in English versus Vietnamese.

3.1.4. Procedures

The procedures adopted involve the following steps

- posing research questions
- collecting and classifying samples
- describing, analyzing and comparing the two corpora
- finding out similarities and differences in semantic, syntactic and pragmatic features between AIDs in English and those in Vietnamese
- discussing the findings.

3.1.5. Validity and Reliability

The sampling was done with the selection of ADWCs used in stories, novels, magazines and newspapers. Since they are genres that reflect real world and contain various topics, they are fertile sources of ideas, feelings, etc. In other words, they are rich in examples of adjectives so different kinds of ADWCs can be found. Besides, the data were collected from authentic material. Therefore, research results achieved are considered to be reliable enough. However, with the sample population of approximately 450 the results cannot be perfectly reliable.

With the methods used, the results obtained are hoped to be valid enough.

3.2. SUMMARY

This chapter presents the research design and methodology. First, the research questions are raised. Second, the research methodology is mentioned. Next, the process of data collection and analysis is described. Then, the procedure for the research is established. Validity and reliability are also mentioned. In brief, this chapter is a guide to the main focus of the research in the next chapter.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF THE ADJECTIVE DESCRIBING WOMEN'S CHARACTERISTICS IN ENGLISH

As you know, this thesis studies on adjectives describing women's characteristic both in negative and positive sides. In this part of thesis, we will deal with analytic adjectives based on three main functions:

- adjectives as a noun phrase modifier
- adjectives as a predicate
- adjectives as object complement

4.1.1. ADWCs as a Noun Phrase Modifier

The first function that adjective can perform is the noun phrase modifiers. Noun phrase modifiers are defined as words, phrases and clauses that describe a noun and noun phrase. Like attributive when it premodifies nouns, it appears between the determiner and the head of the noun phrase

[4.1] Mr. Bingley was good-looking and gentlemanlike: he had a pleasant countenance, and easy, unaffected manners. His sisters were *fine women*, with an air of decided fashion. [42, p.11]

4.1.2. ADWCs as a Predicate

ADWCs can be a subject complement when it occurs after "be" or "linking verbs" such as: "seem", "feel", "turn", "go", "smell", "look", "get", "grow", ect, and describes the subject of the sentences or a state change of the subject of the sentences.

For example:

[4.8a] She *was self-possessed* and walked with a dignity that surpassed even Mammy's, for Mammy had acquired her dignity and Dilcey's was in her blood [49, p35]

4.1.3. ADWCs as a Object Complement

The final function that adjective can perform is the object complement. Object complements are defined as nouns, pronouns, noun phrases, adjectives and adjectival phrases that directly follow and modify the direct object. Besides, an ADWCs is an object complement when it is linked to the object by a verb such as: “*made/ call/ represent/ find/ think...*” expressing the result of the action or process denoted by the verb. For example, the following in bold adjectival phrases function as object complements.

Let look at:

[4.15] “*Don` t call her **bad***” said Natasha

[4.16] *She is better acquainted with her heart than I, or any one besides; and she never would represent her **worse** than she is.*

[43, p.131]

4.2. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF THE ADJECTIVE DESCRIBING WOMEN’S CHARACTERISTICS IN VIETNAMESE

Vietnamese adjectives are very special. They describe the nature of any concrete or abstract existence. Grammatically, they can modify themselves, nouns, and proforms and even become adverbs. They describe quality, quantity, color, shape, and condition, or state of mind

4.2.1. ADWCs as a Attributive

As stated in the introduction, Vietnamese adjectives have two main functions: describing any existences in general or nouns in particular they modify, and verbalizing any intentions or visualizing images of subjects. Adjectives describing noun.

Look at these examples :

- [4.19] *Tràng nom cô ta hôm nay khác lắm, rõ ràng là người đàn bà **hiền hậu**, đúng mực, không còn vẻ gì chao chát, chóng lòn như mấy lần Tràng gặp ở ngoài tỉnh* [53, p. 769]

4.2.2. ADWCs as A Predicative

This is special about Vietnamese structure. Verbalized adjectives now act as true verbs that either describes the condition, progress, status or even actions of the subjects. Vietnamese adjective can be a predicate.

- [4.24] *Giả sử đêm qua không có thị thì hẳn chết. Thị **kiêu ngạo** vì đã cứu sống cho một người* [53, p. 57]

- [4.25] *Tôi quên nói, mẹ chồng tôi là một phụ nữ rất **độc lập**. Lúc còn bên quê nhà, bà hành nghề Dược sĩ.* [67]

4.3. SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES IN TERM OF SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF ADWCs BOTH IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

4.3.1. Similarities of ADWCs both in English and Vietnamese

As English adjectives, Vietnamese adjectives can also function as attributive and predicative.

4.3.2. Differences of ADWCs both in English and Vietnamese

As mentioned above, both English and Vietnamese adjective can function as attributive. However, there is a little difference between them.

First, it is undeniable that English attributive adjectives are put widely after nouns.

The verb be is always obligatory in English but it normally can be optional in Vietnamese

Sometimes, adjectives function as postmodifiers in both English and Vietnamese, but in English, they cannot directly postmodify the head noun without a preposition.

4.3. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF THE ADJECTIVES DESCRIBING WOMEN'S CHARACTERISTICS IN ENGLISH

In order to explain what are meant by semantic features of ADWCs, we will discuss cases of meaning of ADWCs. It should be noticed that collected examples are quite diverse, but essentially the data from stories and novels in English. And our first mention concerns the representation of grammatical functions of adjective (*adjective as noun phrase modifiers, adjectival phrases as adjectives, adjectival phrases as object complements*). By this way, each of the grammatical functions in which collocations of them are found is to figure out semantic properties of adjective.

4.3.1. Positive adjectives describing faithfulness in English

In developed countries, whoever men or women are taught to be fair when they were a baby, so faithfulness quality is not a blind belief. They will not be loyal to things which hurt or make them painful or those who betray. Due to the nature of practical and modern society, they see their life as a voyage of discovery, thus faithfulness quality also change through time if their belief changes.

[4.29] *She became the best-loved neighbor in the County. She was a thrifty and kind mistress, a good mother and a **devoted** wife. The heartbreak and selflessness that she would have dedicated to the Church were devoted instead to the service of her child, her household and the man who had taken her out of Savannah and its memories and had never asked any questions.*

[49, p. 32]

In the example above, they describes married women who are *the mothers, the wives, the mistress* with a wonderful personality such as a *devoted wife* [4.29]

4.3.2. Adjectives describing faithfulness in Vietnamese

As you know, faithfulness is a prominent characteristic of women. As a custom and habit, when a girl is about to get married, she is always given moral lessons by the elder and it is obvious that faithfulness being given priority is a quality of the Holy Spirit growing within them. It holds life together. It is the belief women are faithful to that makes their life full of thick and thin. However, they still live body and soul for their husband and for their marriage.

[4.33] ... *mười lăm năm xa cách, mười lăm năm mòn mỏi trong nhớ
nhung, một mình lam lũ nuôi mẹ chồng nhưng dì tôi vẫn son
sắt với đượng và thâm ước ao đượng tôi sẽ trở về* [67]

4.3.3. Summary

In general, in western countries, people do not give prominence to women's faithfulness because their marriage depends on love, not responsibility. Therefore, when a man and a women's love come to an end, they have no attached to each other. They can fall in love with another one. It is a fair and advanced society.

However, in Vietnam, according to society's prejudice, when women get married to a man either coming from love or contractual marriage, they must comply with the saying: "when in Rome, do as the romans do". Women have to keep their virginity as crystal-clear as they can in spite of unhappy or miserable's life, especially, in the war time, women have to be loyal to the memory of their husband even if he passed away.

4.3.4. Adjectives Describing Generosity in English

Generosity is the habit of giving freely without expecting anything in return. It can involve offering time, assets or talents to aid someone in need. Often equated with charity as a virtue, generosity is widely accepted in society as a desirable trait.

[4.39] *She had the easily stirred passions of her Irish father and nothing except the thinnest veneer of her mother's **unselfish and forbearing** nature.* [49, p.33]

[4.40] *Lady Lucas was a **very good kind** of woman, not too clear to be a valuable neighbor to Mrs Bennet.* [42, p.19]

In the examples above, they also describes married women who are *the mothers, the wives, the mistress* with a wonderful personality such as “*unselfish*”, “*kind*”, “*benevolent*”, “*bountiful*”, “*generous*”.

4.3.5. Adjectives describing generosity in Vietnamese

Generosity can also be spending time, money, or labor, for others, without being rewarded in return.

[4.46] *Học đòi theo phong cách phương Tây, chị tỏ ra **hào phóng** khi tặng mấy đứa em chồng một bánh xà phòng thơm. Một việc làm mà chị chưa bao giờ làm từ khi về làm dâu. Tôi cứ nghĩ và cười thâm ...* [67]

4.3.6 Summary

In summary, English's women can go for work, so they have income and can do anything they want. But, Vietnam is a developing country, which had spent a variety of wars. Men used to go to the battlefield or join the army; women often stayed at home, did housework and looked after their children. All expenses in their family depended on their husband or their parents-in-law; thus; Women cannot

be generous because they do not have rights to decide their belongings as well as women's decisions did not play an important role.

4.3.7. Adjectives Describing Gentle in English

Gentleness is a value and quality in one's character. Being gentle has a long history in many, but not all cultures. Gentleness plays a very important role in our lives.

We can see some adjectives describing women characteristics below:

[4.48] *It was first broken by Mrs. An-nesley, **agenteel**, agreeable-looking woman, whose endeavour to intro-duce some kind of discourse proved her to be more truly well-bred than either of the others* [42, p.215]

4.3.8. Adjectives Describing Gentle in Vietnamese

Gentleness is one of the "fruits of the spirit" or defining noble characteristics. A generous' woman is a woman of good family.

[4.52] *Không bao giờ Khanh than vãn một lời. Trước mặt Hùng, Khanh luôn tỏ ra vui vẻ và tự tin: **ngọt ngào**, trù mến như một người Mẹ thương con, **dịu dàng** yêu thương như một người vợ yêu chồng.* [66]

4.3.9. Summary

Vietnamese women were imposed on gender discrimination. Although, women must work from morning till night, they must do housework, look after husband, children and husband's family, women ranked the least in the family. The conception about filial daughter-in-law or gentle women, so women are always gentle and respectful to their husband as well as parents-in-law or even all members in the husband's family.

4.3.10. Adjectives describing others positive women's positive characteristics in English

Women with a good personality always take their responsibilities very seriously, and are very dependable, they are warmly interested in others, they are truly warm and kind-hearted, they are warm and sympathetic and sometimes they are extremely aware of their own internal feelings, as well as other people's feelings. They do not usually express their own feelings, keeping things inside. They genuinely care about those who are close to them, and are strongly service-oriented in their desire to please, and are likely to show their love through actions, rather than words.

[4.61] *They brought up every possible argument. They wanted her for her own self because they loved her. They were lonely and often frightened at night in the big house, and she was so **brave** she gave them courage.* [49, p.83]

4.3.11. Adjectives Describing Others Women's Positive Characteristics in Vietnamese

Besides some typical positive characteristic, women have many good ones. Let have a look:

[4.67] *Mình cũng công nhận nhỏ Thu khá **cao cường**. Nếu Thu nó chịu khớp với tay Khôi, ít ra thì nó cũng được Khôi chia cho đôi ba chục ngàn đồng. Đâu có nhỏ, hả cậu?* [53, p. 619]

As analyzed these example, the researcher can assert that adjective which were used to describe women's characteristics of the British and Vietnamese through bilingual *novels, stories* are almost identical because they were used to describe good women. As we have known, the "characteristics" is the typical pattern of thinking, feeling, behaviors and character that make a person unique, so when we say that

someone has a "good characteristics" we mean that they are likeable, interesting and pleasant. Although there is a bit different in collocative meaning.

4.4. ADJECTIVES DESCRIBING WOMEN'S NEGATIVE CHARACTERISTICS

As you know people have many admirable traits, but they also have a few that can mess with others they are trying to be. What does an optimist do when she learns she/he has some personality traits that are undesirable?

4.4.1. Adjectives Describing Talkativeness in English

[4.73] *He found her as handsome as she had been last year; as goodnatured, and as unaffected, though not quite so **chatty**. Jane was anxious that no difference should be perceived in her at all, and was really persuaded that she talked as much as ever* [42, p. 269]

4.4.2. Adjectives Describing Talkativeness in Vietnamese

[4.76] *Chứ sao nữa? Từ năm một ngàn mấy trăm lâu lác người ta đã khẳng định như vậy rồi. Phụ nữ mới thật là **lắm chuyện**.* [67]

4.4.4. Some Others Adjectives Describing Women's Negative Characteristics in English

[4.82] *You are nothing but a drunken beast who's been with **bad** women so long that you can't understand anything else but badness.* [50, p.502]

4.4.5. Some Others Adjectives Describing Women's Negative Characteristics in Vietnamese

[4.95] *Có **đáo để** quá. Thôi, đây là chuyện nội bộ của đoàn đua, không ai phạt cô đâu, nhưng chuyện chúng tôi thì đừng xía vào.* [54, p. 175]

4.5. PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF ADJECTIVES DESCRIBING WOMEN'S CHARACTERISTICS

4.5.1. Pragmatic Features of Adjectives Describing Women's Characteristics in English

a. Expressing Irony

According to Crystal [6], pragmatics is not a coherent field of study. It refers to the study of those factors which govern our choices of language - such as our social awareness, our culture and our sense of etiquette.

[4.104] *"I'm afraid Scarlett is too smart for her own good," he said, "and that is exactly what I want to talk to you about. You know how-ill she's been. When she gets back from Tara she will start again hammer and tongs with the store and those mills which I wish devoutly would explode some night. I fear for her health, Miss Melly."* [49, p.532]

b. Expressing Compliment

The complimenting act with the adjective nice is not only supposed with a physical act — giving words to the hearer, but has an accompanied linguistic act which may be direct or indirect. The term of indirect linguistic act is understood by most linguists as an act used with some force in the utterance. Now we have a look at examples as follows

[4.106] *"She's a nice fella", Tom said She thinks about stuff all the time*
Well, hell – if you have been a preacher, I guess you got to.
Ma's all mad about it costs fifty cents jus to camp under a tree
 [50, p.22]

c. Expressing Disparagement

Like compliments, disparagement is essentially evaluations. They are evaluations where the person giving the disparagement is assuming some sort of agency or at least professing an understanding of the particular topic. For consideration, following examples are cited.

[4.107] *Ma colored a liittle, and shut her mouse tightly. "seem to me they're nice people here," she said shortly. Mrs. Sandry's eyes stared. "Nice", she cried. "You think they're nice when they're dancin ` and huggin`"*

[50, p.349]

4.5.6. Pragmatic Features of Adjectives Describing women's Characteristics in Vietnamese

[4.109] *Chín ơi, chính mày đã đẩy tao vào con đường gái già. Gặp em, chị sẽ giết em như chơi em ạ! Em dành lấy chồng trước chị, em tử tế lắm mà.*

[42, p.19]

4.5.7. Similarities and Differences in Pragmatic Features Between English ADWCs and Vietnamese Ones.

Both in English and in Vietnamese almost all of the ADWCs can be employed in such speech acts as describing, giving favourable comments and giving unfavourable comments.

Some kinds of ADWCs are used in certain speech acts in English but are not in Vietnamese. However, some kinds of are used in certain speech acts in Vietnamese but are not in English

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSION

The ultimate aim of this study is to find the syntactic, semantic, pragmatic features of ADWC in English versus in Vietnamese.

In the Chapter One, the thing that I need to do is to present the rationale of the study and what the study is aimed at. Further, the research questions, and scope of the study are included.

The Chapter Two of the paper has provided a review of related previous studies, fundamental and essential theoretical preliminaries concerning the subject under consideration which serve as the basic foundation of data analysis and findings discussion in the following chapters.

The Chapter Three is designed to describe the methods and procedures of the paper.

The Chapter Four presents the findings of the research where syntactic and semantic of ADWC are in focus. Generally, all the research questions have been dealt with by means of the theoretical background and the analysis of the data.

The ultimate aim of this study is to find the syntactic and semantic features of the syntactic, semantic, pragmatic features of ADWCs in English versus Vietnamese.

Syntactically, in the scope of the study, ADWC were analyzed by functions which were divided into the three classifications: *Noun phrase modifier*, *Predicative adjective* and *Object complement*

Semantically, the ADWCs were analyzed according to the shades of meaning based on concrete contexts covering various novels, stories of American, Australian and English authors. To begin with, the

adjectival phrases denoting personality were divided into two groups: *Adjective Describing Positive Women Characteristics* and *Adjective Describing Negative Women Characteristics*.

Pragmatically, the ADWCs were analyzed in the context of communication. It is such a way to figure out the pragmatic implications of the ADWCs as a strategy of conversation, compliment, disparagement and sarcasm.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS ON TEACHING, LEARNING AND TRANSLATION

5.2.1. Implications on Language Teaching

Firstly, teacher should create more opportunities for the learners to practice adjectival phrases denoting personality in conversations.

Next, teachers should encourage learners to talk and talk. In order to encourage learners to practice speaking, teacher should be generous and sympathized with student's mistakes and limitation when they can not give the right or perfect responses.

Finally, teachers should help the learners how to use adjectival phrases denoting personality effectively by showing the sentential structures as well as functions used for adjectival phrases denoting personality.

5.2.2. Implications on Language Learning

To use adjectival phrases denoting personality in daily communication, there are a lot of ways to choose an appropriate structure or function etc. In addition, learners should know how to use them effectively and successfully.

5.2.3. Implications on Translation Work

Since one of the aims of the study is to help learners improve their translation of adjectival phrases denoting personality, the researcher would like, by the way, to put forward some implications on the teaching and learning translation.

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

This thesis has made an investigation into linguistic features of adjectival phrases denoting personality used mainly in novels, stories of English, Australian and American authors, which includes syntactic and semantic dimensions and their distributions in literature as well. However, there are some other aspects that have not been dealt with within the scope of this framework and thus, some following further researches into adjectival phrases denoting personality in both languages should be carried out in order to have an overall look at the problem:

- Linguistic and cultural features of adjective describing women characteristics.
- Pragmatic features of adjective describing women characteristics in literature works.