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AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE LINGUISTIC DEVICES REQUIRED FOR THE TEXT COHERENCE IN ENGLISH VERSUS VIETNAMESE POEMS

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

In the age of globalization and integration, English has played an important role as a medium of communication among peoples from around the world. To communicate effectively, people need not only to understand the structure but also to be able to interpret the meaning of texts. It is obviously known that the meaning of texts depend on linguistic elements used to achieve coherence such as grammatical links or reference links to a great extent.

Firstly, linguistic devices like repetition of key nouns, use of consistent pronouns, transitional signals and logical order are important factors, which are required to achieve coherence not only in real-life texts but also in literary works especially in poems. In most poems, use of consistent pronouns has been widely applied to ensure text coherence so that the reader can follow and understand the poems easily as in the following examples:

(1) Tám năm ròng, *cháu* cùng *bà* nhóm lửa

Tu hú kêu trên những cánh đồng xa   [57, p.124]

(2) Bao lần *em* lắng lặng

Đủ khiến *tôi* bàng hoàng.   [57, p. 262]

Secondly, poetry is a unique literary phenomenon in its language operating mechanism. From ancient times such great scholars as Aristotle, much discussed issues of poetry. Their doctrine is a precursor to a science called Poetics. In the early twentieth century, after the glorious revolution in linguistic research with the advent of F. de Saussure's theory of general linguistics, Modern

Poetics has made great progress, which was supposed to be the contribution of such researchers as R. Jakobson and James Scully.

However, it is necessary to determine that, in addition to the universal phenomenon in every language, for every people thanks to whose customs, traditions and the specific characteristics of the language, poetry is indeed their unique form of soul expression, emotion, perception of the world and the universe. Therefore, it is essential for us to take account of poetry when it comes to the investigation into linguistic devices required for the text coherence in this special type of text.

Thirdly, it is obvious that there is a style called poetic language the organization of which as discourse form and as text deserves to investigate in its own right. The study into the characteristics of poetic language, especially the linguistic means used to achieve coherence in this unique text is one of the requirements of modern poetics as well as linguistics in terms of its application to language teaching and learning. Vietnamese learners of English should be exposed to different types of text, both in prose and poetry. An insight into the syntactic and semantic features of linguistic devices required for text coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems will prove to be of great benefit to Vietnamese learners of English in achieving highly communicative goals.

Finally, in addition to gaining a grasp of linguistic devices required for text coherence in prose, Vietnamese learners of English should have the chance to experience how these devices are in operation in poetry. Moreover, from communicative points of view, poems have their own artistic communicative circumstances the characteristics of which determine the language user's style.

Therefore, Vietnamese learners of English cannot afford to ignore this special type of text, poems, because they are a literary form which is the most concisely and briefly presented with linguistic organizations having unique rules of rhymes and rhythms to reflect life in the most concentrated and the most generalized in form of artistic icon.

For all the above-mentioned reasons and with a view to helping Vietnamese learners of English and translators to be aware of the importance of linguistic devices required for text coherence especially in poetry, we have chosen "*An Investigation into the Linguistic Devices Required for the Text Coherence in English versus Vietnamese Poems*" as our topic. Last but not least, we hope that this study would be highly beneficial for Vietnamese learners of English in that they can realize the importance of these devices. More importantly, they can make an effective use of the linguistic devices so that they can produce coherent text to convey meaning for various communicative purposes in real life.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1. Aims of the Study

The study aims to make a contrastive analysis of syntactic and semantic features of linguistic devices required for the text coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems. The findings will help Vietnamese learners of English have an insight of these devices. Moreover, a thorough understanding how these devices are in operation for text coherence in poems will help them to interpret meanings expressed in poems for adequate appreciation as well as have a good command of these devices for their own various communicative purposes with various types of text.

1.2.2. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are set out as follows:

- Describing linguistic devices required for text coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems

- Describing syntactic and semantic features of linguistic devices required for the text coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems.

- Exploring the similarities and differences of linguistic devices required for the text coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems in terms of syntactic and semantic features.

- Suggesting some implications for teaching linguistic devices required for the text coherence in terms of poems in the two languages.

1.3. THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Due to the limited time, the researcher's knowledge and shortage of materials, the study is just confined itself to the description, analysis and contrast of linguistic devices required for the text coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems. The study mainly focuses on linguistic devices required for text coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems. The contrastive analysis is based material sources taken from publications especially from literary books and anthologies of poems in English and Vietnamese in the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study aims to seek answers to the following questions:

1. What are linguistic devices required for the text coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems?

2. What are the similarities and differences in terms of

syntactic and semantic features of linguistic devices required for the text coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems?

3. What are the implications for teaching linguistic devices required for the text coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems?

1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

- Hopefully, the research on linguistic elements for Text Coherence in English and Vietnamese in poems will be a contribution to text coherence in literary works especially poems, a new aspect of the question in the field. Moreover, the findings of a contrastive analysis of linguistic devices required for the text coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems are expected to be of great benefit for Vietnamese learners of English.

- With an insight into linguistic devices required for the text coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems, syntactically and semantically mastering how to apply these linguistic means in a sensible way, Vietnamese learners of English will certainly be able to improve their understanding of the field and produce various types of text comprehensible to the reader to achieve various communicative purposes effectively.

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The research is organized into five chapters as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Literature Review and Theoretical Background

Chapter 3: Methods and Procedures

Chapter 4: Findings and Discussion

Chapter 5: Conclusion, Implications and Limitations

CHAPTER 2
LITERATURE REVIEW
AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. AN OVER VIEW TO THE PREVIOUS STUDY RELATED TO THE RESEARCH

So far there have been some officially published research studies on text coherence. Halliday and Hassan [13, p.4] state, "Cohesion, the grammatical and lexical relationship between sentences or between parts of a sentence, occurs where the interpretation of some element in the discourse is dependt on that of another." The two authors refer to cohesion as being a source of text coherence. Phan Van Hoa [40], in his book "*Hệ thống từ nối biểu thị quan hệ Logic-Ngữ Nghĩa trong Tiếng Anh và Tiếng Việt",* conducted a contrastive analysis of cohesive means in utterances. According to Dr. Phan Van Hoa, the system of cohesive devices denotes logic-semantic relations in a language. In the book with the title "*Hệ thống liên kết văn bản trong Tiếng Việt",* Trần Ngọc Thêm [51] thoroughly researched the system of discourse cohesion in Vietnamese. Moreover, a great number of other Vietnamese linguists and researchers have also made great contributions to the study of discourse analysis. Diep Quang Ban [28] has provided view on text and utterance above the sentence level. The two researchers place special emphasis on the importance of cohesion and coherence in producing explicit and comprehensible discourse and text. In terms of poetry, Huu Dat [34, p.17] states that there have been so many fierce debates on the special organization of peotic language. Some researchers tend to study poetry from psychosocial, historical and

ideological and the context of the work related to poets' biographies while others consider poetry in an independent state completely separated from psychosocial and historical events seen as external causes not related to the poetic work. In summary, the above research presents various aspects related to linguistic devices in terms of the text coherence in poetry.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. Definition of Terms

a. Definition of Text

According to Halliday and Hasan [13], text refers to any instance of language, in any medium, that makes sense to someone who knows the language.

In *Using Functional Grammar, an Explorer's Guide*, David Butt [3, p. 3] identifies precisely what functional linguistics meant by text. A text is a piece of language in use; that is, 'language that is functional' (Halliday and Hassan, 1985).

b. Features of Text

Diep Quang Ban [28] maintains that text has the five basic features as follows:

First, text has a functional factor since every text represents the speaker's or the writer's intention.

Second, every text contains the content factor.

Third, every text necessarily contains the cohesive and coherent factor.

Fourth, there should be quantitative factor, which indicates that every text is formed by linear continuity of sentences or utterances.

Fifth, it is the boundary factor. Every text has a left and a right boundary.

c. Features of Poetic Texts

According to Hữu Đạt [34], a poetic text is a complete unity, a complete message. This makes it possible for the poetic text to move towards a theme, a common name. Second, to ensure its complete consistency, the poetic texts must be closely linked. In other words, the poetic text must be composed of finished forms above the sentence, which have a close relationship with each other. Each finished form can include units known as sentences below it. Finally, below the sentence are its immediate constituents.

2.2.2. Theories of Cohesion

a. Definition of Cohesion

According to Halliday and Hasan, in their famous book on cohesion namely Cohesion in English, "Cohesion refers to the range of possibilities that exist for linking something with what has gone before" [13].

b. Types of Cohesion

In Cohesion in English, M.A. Halliday and Ruqaiya Hasan [13] identify five general categories of cohesive devices that signal coherence in texts which include reference, conjunction, lexical reiteration and collocations, substitution, and ellipsis.

2.2.3. Theories of Coherence

a. Definitions of Coherence

b. Coherence in Poetic Texts

2.2.4. Theories of Themes

a. Definition of Themes

b. Types of theme

c. Thematic Progression

2.2.5. Theories of Linguistics

a. Definition of Language

b. Definition of Language in Context

2.2.6. Features of Poetic Language

According to Jakobson [16] there are six communication functions which include referential, aesthetic/poetic, emotive, conative, phatic and metalingual. In poetry, the dominant function is the poetic function: the focus is on the message itself.

CHAPTER 3
METHODS AND PROCEDURES

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

The research study is based on a combination of qualitative and quantitative analysis. It is also a contrastive analysis based on the descriptive and statistical research.

3.2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.3. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

3.4. DATA COLLECTION AND DATA ANALYSIS

3.4.1. Data Collection

The data is collected from 500 English and Vietnamese poems by distinguished poets in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, which were officially published in the world and in Vietnam

3.4.2. Data Analysis

This corpus will be used for description and contrastive analysis in terms of syntactic, semantic and stylistic features in poems in the two languages.

3.5. SUMMARY

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF LINGUISTIC DEVICES REQUIRED FOR THE TEXT COHERENCE IN ENGLISH VERSUS VIETNAMESE POEMS

4.1.1. Syntactic Features of Linguistic Devices Required for the Text Coherence in English Poems

a. Coherence Achieved by Means of Reference

Personal Reference consists of such classes as personal pronouns, possessive determiners and possessive pronouns.

> **I** *went to turn the grass once after* **one**
>
> **Who** *mowed* **it** *in the dew before the sun.* [18,p.900]

Demonstrative reference involves the use of such determiners as *this*, *that*, *these*, *those*,

> *My tongue, every atom of my blood, form'd from* **this** *soil,*
>
> **this** *air,* [18,p13]

Comparative reference belongs to two groups, general comparison and particular comparison.

> *I've known rivers;*
>
> *I've known rivers* **ancient as the world** *and* **older than**
>
> > *flow of human blood in human veins.* [2, p. 229]

b. Coherence Achieved by Means of Conjunction

In a text, the cohesive relation indicated by conjunctions can be indicated by four categories: addictive, adversative, causal, temporal, and continuative (but, and, not only but also, because, when, as far as, then, though).

c. Coherence Achieved by Means of Lexical Reiteration

Lexical cohesion may be sustained through repeating

keywords or using words of some importance for the meaning in the text. The lexical choice as repetition is realized in *I am the People, the Mob* by Carl Sandburg [2, p.165] in that the words '*the people*', of which the poet is the speaker, is repeated directly or via its synonyms in a short stretch of text.

*I am **the people – the mob – the crowd – the mass**. [2, p.165]*

Another example is Success by Emily Dickinson [2, p.91]. The poet uses the synonyms of 'success' such as 'succeed', 'victory', 'triumph' for text coherence. Accordingly, lexical reiteration used in the above poem fulfills the requirement for text coherence.

d. Coherence Achieved by Means of Substitution

Substitution is considered to be a cohesive relation between wordings and not between meanings like reference. Substitution can be observed in [18, p.52] in which the poet uses 'could not' instead of repeating the whole verse line. Consequently, the reader can follow the idea expressed by the poet without feeling bored and confused with excessive repetition.

But I wonder'd how it could utter joyous leaves standing alone there without its

*friends near, for I knew I **could not**,*

It is clear that substitutions exert essential cohesive function because the brief forms of verse lines with substitutions are more authentic than longer ones without substitutions.

e. Coherence Achieved by Means of Ellipsis

In terms of ellipsis, something is left unsaid because it is a gap or unsaid information which is known to the reader/ listener of the text already since it refers to something has been mentioned. The text coherence is achieved in the two poems via the use of ellipsis at

clausal level.

> *Some say the world will end in fire*
> *Some say in ice.*

4.1.2. Syntactic Features of Linguistic Devices Required for the Text Coherence in Vietnamese Poems

a. Coherence Achieved by Means of Reference

In Vietnamese, personal pronouns have the same form whether they function as subject or object in the sentence. The occurrence of pronouns is not as frequent as in English. Noun phrases are more common.

In the poem ***Lính đảo hát tình ca trên đảo*** by Trần Đăng Khoa [37, p. 424**],** the pronoun '*nó*' is used to replace the harsh wind, the dry island, the flying sand and stones, not just a singular noun denoting male or female young person as usual. In Vietnamese, the pronoun '*nó*' can be used to replace concepts, things in the singular form. By this way, the poet has succeeded in focusing the reader's attention. In other words, the pronoun '*nó*' helps to ensure text coherence. In addition to the pronoun '*nó*', the poet uses '*em*' to refer to the listeners' and it is exophoric reference. This is because the reader is understood as their lovers as title of the poem is '***Lính đảo hát tình ca trên đảo'***.

As for demonstrative reference in Vietnamese besides the words *này*, *kia*, *đó*, *ấy* is often opted by the poet for text coherence when he/ she refers to something apparently has existed before

b. Coherence achieved by means of Conjunction

Like in prose, conjunctions are widely used in poems to strengthen cohesive relation and achieve text coherence as a result.

The poem with a variety of conjunction such as additive '*và'*, adversative *'nhưng'* and *'mà'*, causal *'vì'*, temporal *'rồi'* draws attention towards the relationship between words, clauses and sentences in it. Consequently, the poem gains text coherence.

> **Dù** *kiếp tàn* **nhưng** *hiểu: đã được yêu!*
> **Dẫu cho** *anh có tham đến bao nhiêu*
> **Và** *sau những cuộc tình dăm ba vết xước.* [36, p.26].

c. Coherence Achieved by Means of Lexical Reiteration

The words used can also help to enhance coherence in a number of ways. In addition to choosing the right words for certain topic, the poet can repeat key words in the verses of his poem to achieve cohesion and ensure text coherence as a result.

d. Coherence Achieved by Means of Substitution

Substitution and group of words substituted form a cohesive tie. In English, the list of substitutes include *one*, *ones*, *same* (nominal), *do* (verbal) and *so*, *not* (clausal) as illustrated previously whereas those in Vietnamese include '*vậy*', '*thế*' and *'ấy'*. These substitutes help ensure cohesion and achieve text coherence as a result in that the reader can follow the topic the poet wants to talk about.

e. Coherence Achieved by Means of Ellipsis

Instead of using repetition, the poet can resort to ellipsis in order to maintain cohesive tie and as the consequence of this, the text coherence can be ensured. Ellipsis is thoroughly used as the poet's own selection which is carried out on a pragmatic assessment of the situation, not a compulsory feature when two clauses are joined together.

4.1.3. Similarities and Differences of Syntactic Features of Linguistic Devices Required for Text Coherence in English versus Vietnamese Poems

a. Similarities

Table 4.1 Reference in English versus Vietnamese Poems

Reference	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Personal reference	758	91.2%	467	85.9%
Demonstrative reference	27	3.3%	18	3.3%
The use of comparative	46	5.5%	59	10.8%
Total	831	100%	544	100%

As for reference, in both English and Vietnamese poems the occurrence of personal pronouns accounts for 91.2%, which means the highest percentage. Conjunctions are found evenly spread in poems of the two languages with a greater emphasis on 'and' in both languages.

Table 4.2 Conjunction in English versus Vietnamese Poems

Conjunction	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Additive conjunction	673	44%	586	37.3%
Adversative conjunctions	425	27.8%	493	31.4%
Causative conjunctions	168	11%	137	8.7%
Temporal conjunctions	263	17.2%	354	22.6%
Total	159	100%	1570	100%

Table 4.3 Lexical Cohesion in English versus Vietnamese Poems

Lexical cohesion	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Reiteration	98	39.2%	76	30.4%
Total samples	250	100%	250	100%

Table 4.4 Substitution in English versus Vietnamese Poems

Substitution	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
	65	26%	58	23.2%
Total samples	250	100%	250	100%

Table 4.5 Ellipsis in English versus Vietnamese Poems

Ellipsis	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Nominal ellipsis	124	50%	98	49%
Verbal ellipsis	51	20.6%	37	18.5%
Clausal ellipsis	73	29.4%	65	32.5%
Total	248	100%	200	100%

b. Differences

First, there are some striking differences in the use of reference for text coherence. In both languages, reference is widely used. English poets have a tendency to use reference more often than Vietnamese poets do (91.2% versus 85.9%). Second, the differences in conjunction in terms of linguistic devices for text coherence. Additive conjunctions occur more often in English poems than in Vietnamese ones. Third, in terms of lexical cohesion, restating a word or a phrase by either direct repetition or using the lexical relations for that word is present in English poems as well as in

Vietnamese ones. However, the occurrence of direct repetition is much higher than that of lexical relations for that word such as synonyms, antonyms, hypernyms or meronyms.

The occurrence of ellipsis is identified at three levels, nominal, verbal and clausal. Among these, nominal ellipsis accounts for the highest frequency (50% versus 49%). The occurrence of verbal ellipsis accounts for a higher percentage in English poems than in Vietnamese ones (20.6% versus 18.5%). However, clausal ellipsis occurrence in Vietnamese poems is a little higher than English ones (32.5% versus 29.4%).

4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF LINGUISTIC DEVICES REQUIRED FOR TEXT COHERENCE IN ENGLISH VERSUS VIETNAMESE POEMS

4.2.1. Semantic Features of Linguistic Devices Required for Text Coherence in English Poems

a. Coherence Achieved by Means of Thematic Structure

The basic framework of a coherent text is created by its thematic structure, which belong to the main factors of text coherence [7]. In terms of experiences, the initial position is the place where the experiences in the clause behin. The topical theme contains only an experiential or topical element. The textual Themes are likely to come from a different set of connecting words which are used to signpost the development of the text if they occur at the beginning of the verse lines. Interpersonal themes including Vocatives, Moods and Comment Adjuncts appear at the beginning of the clause because the English language stipulates them in that position when the speaker/ writer makes a valid choice.

b. Coherence achieved by means of Thematic Progression

According to Danes [7], the notion of thematic progression concentrate on how texts develop the ideas they present. In the case of thematic progression, the Rheme in the previous clauses can be represented in the same words, by synonyms or relevant meanings. Sometimes a single word can also be used to refer to the whole of the previous text.The various types of thematic progression occur together in a text, in this case, a poetic text. Thematic progression including constant themes, derived themes, split theme and thematic lapse contributes to text coherence to a substantial extent.

4.2.2. Semantic Features of Linguistic Devices Required for Text Coherence in Vietnamese poems

a. Coherence achieved by means of Thematic Structure

In some cases [3], the topical theme may be preceded by interpersonal and/ or textual elements. Accordingly, the Theme can be subdivided into textual, interpersonal and topical elements. These multiple themes help ensure the text coherence of a poetic text greatly. Moreover, theme-rheme structure marked by 'thì' and 'mà' which are unique in Vietnamese contributes to the text coherence to a great extent. Nominal groups, verbal groups are very common in poetic texts for text coherence. Adverbial groups tend to occur initially in Vietnamese, which can create a sense of hanging together and creates text coherence in the poem as a result.

b. Coherence achieved by means of Thematic Progression

The simple linear theme, which is the rheme in the preceding verse line, is repeated in a certain way in the successive one. In this type of thematic progression, the thematic information is the same for a sequence of verse lines but it is implied, not stated. The poet makes

an effective use of textual organization in which each verse line of a stanza or the poem, having no elements of either consecutive or repeated thematization, serves to express a common theme for text coherence. Other types of thematic progression are identified in Vietnamese poems for text coherence such as constant themes, derived themes and theme lapse. There is also a combination of these types of thematic progression for text coherence in most poems.

4.2.3. Similarities and Differences of Semantic Features of Linguistic Devices Required for Text Coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems

a. Similarities

Table 4.6 Topical Theme in English versus Vietnamese Poems

Topical theme	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Nominal groups	3132	80.4%	3258	80.8%
Verbal groups	97	2.4%	125	3.1%
Adverbial groups	48	1.2%	93	4.8%
Prepositional phrases	622	16%	257	11.3%
Total	3897	100%	4033	100%

Table 4.7 Textual Theme in English versus Vietnamese Poems

Textual theme	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Coordinating conjunctions	658	75.4%	546	82.1%
Subordinating conjunctions	215	24.6%	119	11.79%
Total	783	100%	665	100%

Table 4.8 Interpersonal Theme in English versus Vietnamese Poems

Interpersonal theme	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Vocative	38	19.5%	47	31.1%
Mood	153	78.5%	18	11.9%
Comment adjuncts	4	2%	86	57%
Total	195	100%	151	100%

Table 4.9 Theme Types in English versus Vietnamese Poems

Theme	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Topical	3897	78.5%	4033	84.9%
Textual	873	17.6%	665	14%
Interpersonal	195	3.9%	51	1.1%
Total	4965	100%	4749	100%

Table 4.10 Thematic Progression in English versus Vietnamese Poems

Patterns	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Simple linear progression	597	19.0%	642	18.0%
Constant theme	1262	40.3%	1388	39.0%
Derived themes	879	28.1%	943	26.5%
Split theme	16	0.5%	21	0.6%
Theme lapse	377	12.1%	564	15.9%
Total	3130	100%	3558	100%

b. Differences

In the two languages, topical theme accounts for the highest percentage (78.5% versus 84.9%). However, nominal groups have a higher percentage in Vietnamese poems than those in English (80.8% versus 80.4%). As for textual theme, the occurrence of textual themes in English poems enjoys higher popularity than in Vietnamese ones (17.6% versus 14%). In terms of thematic progression, in English poems there occurs a greater variety of types of the thematic progression than in Vietnamese poems.

4.3. SUMMARY

CHAPTER 5
CONCLUSION, IMPLICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

5.1. With the title "An Investigation into the Linguistic Devices Required for the Text Coherence in English versus Vietnamese Poems", the study investigated the syntactic and semantic features of linguistic devices required for text coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems. Firstly, in the qualitative analysis, 500 in English and Vietnames are analyzed syntactically and semantically respectively. Secondly, the successive quantitative analysis is carried out to identify the similarities and differences in terms of syntax and semantics and verify the hypotheses. Finally, some implications for English learning and teaching in terms of linguistic devices required for text coherence are suggested as well.

5.2. SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

Syntactically, text coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems is realized with reference including pronominal, demonstrative, definite article and comparative; conjunction composed of addictive, adversative, causal, temporal, and continuative; Lexical reiteration involving the same item, synonymous, super-ordinate and general item and collocations; Substitution, and Ellipsis. The strong cohesive ties then bring about text coherence in the poems under discussion because cohesion and coherence are important aspects of language structure. Poems in the two languages share the universal syntactic features. As for lexical choices, in poems, words become more conspicuous and more meaningful than they do in ordinary communications. Words in

poetic language have a longer life than ordinary ones in real-life communication because they are intended to last.

Semantically, text coherence in English versus Vietnamese poems is achieved with thematic structure realized with topical themes, textual themes and interpersonal themes and various theme progression types and patterns. The existence of thematic progression is important for text coherence. Various types of thematic progression are identified such as simple linear progression, constant theme, derived themes, split rheme and thematic lapse which rarely occur in isolation or separately, but they are combined to ensure the text coherence required. More importantly, text coherence in a poem can be achieved through a contribution of the reader/ listener in the process of appreciation of the poem.

5.3. IMPLICATIONS FOR ENGLISH TEACHING AND LEARNING

For Vietnamese learners of English, they need to have a comprehensive list of linguistic devices for text coherence at their disposal so that they can interpret a variety of authentic texts as well as produce cohesive and coherent texts for various real-life communicative purposes.

For teachers of English, to help their students not only master linguistic devices for cohesion and text coherence but also make an effective use of these devices, they should organize meaningful activities through which students can acquire the knowledge and practice what they have learnt in a good learning environment and communicative context.

In terms of interpreting texts, teachers can help students identify the writer's point of departure for a text by applying the ideas of thematic progression

5.4. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Due to the limit of available materials and the limit of the researcher's ability and time budget, the research study cannot cover every aspect of the topic.

This study aims at investigating the syntactic and semantic features of linguistic elements for text coherence in English and Vietnamese poems. However, the study cannot afford to investigate a concrete literary period in English or Vietnamese literature.

Some suggestions for further research include 'An Investigation into Linguistic Devices Used to Achieve Text Coherence in Songs in English versus Vietnamese', 'An Investigation into Linguistic Means for Text Coherence in Political Speeches in English and Vietnamese'.