

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
THE UNIVERSITY OF DA NANG

LÊ THỊ NHUNG

**A STUDY OF LINGUISTIC FEATURES INDICATED
IN LOVERS' PARTING POLITENESS STRATEGIES
IN ENGLISH VERSUS VIETNAMESE**

Major: ENGLISH LINGUISTICS

Code: 60.22.02.01

MASTER THESIS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

(Summary)

Da Nang, 2016

The thesis has been completed at
THE UNIVERSITY OF DANANG

Supervisor: **Assoc. Prof. Dr. HỒ THỊ KIỀU OANH**

Examiner 1:

Examiner 2:

The thesis will be orally defended at The Examining Committee.

Time:

Venue: The University of DaNang

This thesis is available for the purpose of reference at:

- *Library of University of Foreign Language Studies, The University of DaNang.*
- *The Information Resource Center, the University of DaNang.*

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

Linguistic study is always an interesting field for many linguists, language teachers and students to pay attention to, discover in order to get knowledge and widen our understandings in linguistics. Thanks for many linguistic researchers; we could deeply know every specific functions of language so that we can use it more effectively in communication. We use language for a variety of formal and informal purposes. Although we are apologizing, expressing a wish or asking for permission, we use language in order to fulfill these purposes. In our daily life, language is a useful tool for us to communicate, convey our emotions, feelings... A lot of what we say is for a specific purpose, sometimes language is used to bring people together such as making friends, maintaining relationships, expressing our love... However, the language we use could hurt someone's feelings, kill someone's love and then to end a relationship. Falling in love brings lovers unforgettable and happy moments. However, breaking up in love leaves us a lot of pains in our heart. Therefore, when we decide to end our love and do not want to hurt our lover's feelings we have to think of which words we will use, which one will be said first, how to arrange them to express unexpected *parting* but not hurting the other's hearts. We ourselves have to think of the most courteous words to show that we are deeply sad to say goodbye, to end a relationship which does not go on well.

In other words, we have to use some linguistic strategies to express *parting* in love.

In addition, there have been a lot of studies of language and gender conducted to identify and explain the similarities and differences in the speech styles of men and women and linguistic politeness is one of the main differences that have been discovered. When I read and encounter these findings, I wonder whether the way women express *parting* is more polite than men's or not; and if the way Vietnamese women and men verbalize *parting* is different from that of English men and women. If yes, what are the underlying reasons for those differences? Let's take a look at the following *parting* expressions:

(1.1) A man who is the same age as a woman. They are classmates in a school. After several months learning with her, he started loving her and that made him change a lot of his habits. He tried to be with her to protect her from dangerous situations. However, when he found out that he himself is the one who brought troubles, dangerous things to her. Then, he came to a final decision that he wanted to say *parting* with her by trying to make her lose belief in his love that he does not love her anymore. He said:

"You don't belong to my world, Bella."

[23]

(1.2) A woman is younger than the man. They have a few months to be together to get to know then love each other. She decided to get her lover completely out of her life after learning his decision not to

take a sailing trip to another place to study and he gave up the chance to make his dream come true, which he has been planning for the past 10 years. Therefore, this made her think and think a lot about their relationship and she finally came to meet him and expressed her *parting*:

"I come here to break up with you."

[1]

(1.3) A man who is older than a woman. They fell in love for a long time and had planned to get married as soon as she graduated. Unluckily, due to the feud of their fathers in the past, when the man knew that his lover's father was the one who harmed his family he tried to revenge and broke up with her. He said:

"Mình hãy chia tay nhau đi em!"

[52]

It could be seen that the way of expressing *parting* in love of men to women and women to men in English and Vietnamese are different. Those differences could make it difficult for Vietnamese people who learn English and the English who learn Vietnamese to be able to communicate effectively and successfully. Sometimes, they may cause culture shocks to cross-cultural interactants. Therefore, with a hope to contribute to the area of contrastive study of pragmatics, a modest attempt of mine was made to carry out the research entitled "A Study of Linguistic Features Indicated in Lover's *Parting Politeness Strategies in English Versus Vietnamese.*"

1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.2.1. Aims of the Study

The research is aimed:

- To find out the linguistic features indicated in lovers' *parting* politeness strategies in English versus Vietnamese.
- To provide learners a deeper insight into the speech act of lovers' *parting* in English and Vietnamese to help them better communicate in cross-cultural interactions and understand each other.

1.2.2. Objectives of the Study

With a view to achieving the above aims of the study, the following objectives of the study could be put forward:

- Describing the linguistic features indicated in politeness strategies used in the speech act of lovers' *parting* performed by the native speakers of Vietnamese.
- Describing the linguistic features indicated in politeness strategies used in the speech act of lovers' *parting* performed by the native speakers of English.
- Comparing their linguistic features indicated in politeness strategies used in the speech act of lovers' *parting* in English versus Vietnamese along with the directness and indirectness dimension in different social situational contexts studied.

1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The research attempts to answer the following questions in order to achieve the aims and objectives of the thesis:

1. What are the linguistic features of the speech act of lovers'

parting in English and Vietnamese?

2. What politeness strategies are used in the speech act of lovers' *parting* in English and Vietnamese?

3. What are the similarities and differences in the linguistic features indicated in politeness strategies used in the speech act of *parting* made by the native speakers of Vietnamese and the American speakers of English under the situational context studied?

1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study mainly examines the differences in the linguistic features indicated in verbal politeness strategies in expressing lovers' *Parting* in English and Vietnamese in daily authentic contexts. Besides, the research mainly concentrates on the differences in the linguistic features indicated in verbal lovers' *parting* politeness strategies between men to women and women to men before their getting married. Therefore, this study does not focus on the paralinguistic features including stress and intonation.

1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

Five chapters are included in the thesis as follow:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Literature Review and Theoretical Background

Chapter 3: Research Methods

Chapter 4: Findings and Discussion

Chapter 5: Conclusion

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

A large number of theoretical and empirical books, articles and studies concerning linguistic politeness and/or the notion of "face" have been published in the last decades. A lot of researchers have studied the linguistic features indicated in politeness strategies in speech acts in English and Vietnamese. However, as far as I know, there seem to be no research into the contrastive analysis of the *Linguistic Features Indicated in Lovers' Parting Politeness Strategies in English and Vietnamese*. I am really interested in this study and I hope that my findings in this study could provide useful knowledge for the field of pragmatics and help Vietnamese learners of English and English learners of Vietnamese communicate better and avoid pragmatic errors.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.3.1 Definition of Politeness

2.3.2. Definition of Parting

2.3.3. An Overview of Theoretical Perspectives on Politeness

a. Brown and Levinson's Politeness Theory

b. Conversational maxims of Strategic Views

c. Comments on Strategic Viewpoints on Face and Politeness

d. Normative Viewpoints on Politeness

e. The Hybrid Viewpoints of Linguistic Politeness Strategies.

2.3. IDENTIFICATION OF THE SPEECH ACT OF PARTING IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

2.3.1. Focusing upon the Verb

2.3.2. Focusing upon Implication and Context

2.4. LINGUISTIC FEATURES INDICATED IN POLITENESS STRATEGIES USED IN THE SPEECH ACT OF PARTING IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

2.4.1. Alerters

As the names suggest, these items are used to attract the addressee's attention before or after the actual *Parting expressing* is made. Therefore, they may exercise some influence on the Head *Parting expressing* either strengthening or softening it depending on a certain situational context. In English and Vietnamese they fall, into two basic categories:

a. Vocatives

b. Attention Getter

2.4.2. Strategy Categories of Parting.

a. Direct Strategy Category (DC)

- Direct Performatives (DP)
- Direct Strategy of Imperative (DIM)
- Direct Strategy of Willingness (DWL)

b. Conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (CI)

- Questioning About the Possibility of the Expresser's Parting Expressing Being Accepted (CIPL)
- Conventionally Indirect Strategy of Suggestory (CISU)

- Conventionally Indirect Strategy of Willingness (CIWL)
- Conventionally Indirect Strategy of Ability (CIAB)

c. Non-conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (NI)

- Hints
 - *Stating Potential Grounders (NIP)*
 - *Questioning for the Feasibility of the Speakers'*

Parting (NIF)

d. Discourse Indirectness (DI)

2.4.3. Modifications Used in the Speech Act of Parting

a. Internal Modification

- Softening Modifiers
 - *Syntactic Downgrader(s) {SD(s)}*
 - **Interrogative**
 - **Conditional Clause (CnCL.)**
 - **Embedding**
 - *Lexical / Phrasal Downgrader(s) {LPD(s)}*
 - **Downtoner**
 - **Understater**
 - **Consultative Devices**
- Strengthening Modifications
 - *Syntactic Upgrader(s) {SU(s)}*
 - **Negative/ Negation.**
 - *Lexical / Phrasal Upgrader(s) {LPU(s)}*
 - **Intensifiers**

b. External Modification

➤ Preparator(s) (Conventionally Indirect Strategies Using Preparators) {CIPR(s)}

- *Downgraders*
 - **Syntactic Downgrader(s) {SD(s)}**
 - **Lexical / Phrasal Downgrader(s) {LPD(s)}**
- *Upgraders*
 - **Syntactic Upgraders {SU(s)}**
 - **Lexical / Phrasal Upgrader(s) {LPU(s)}**

➤ Grounder(s) (Conventionally Indirect Strategies Using Grounders) {CIGR(s)}

- *Syntactic Upgraders {SU(s)}*
- *Lexical/Phrasal Upgrader(s) {LPU(s)}*

2.4.4. Notion of Pragmatic Particles (Pr.Ps.)

2.4.5. Pragmatic Particles as the Indicators and Modifiers

2.4.6. Social Factors and Linguistic Politeness

2.4.7. Concluding Remarks

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODS

3.1. RESEARCH METHODS

3.2. RESEARCH PROCEDURE

3.3. DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLES

3.4. DATA COLLECTION

3.5. DATA ANALYSIS

3.6. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE LINGUISTIC FEATURES INDICATED IN POLITENESS STRATEGIES USED IN THE PARTING IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE

In this chapter, we use the comparative analysis of the Politeness Markers used in the *Parting* in English and Vietnamese to find out the similarities or/and dissimilarities and the likely influencing factors.

Table 4.1. The Use of Strategy Categories of Parting

Strategy Category	English				Vietnamese			
	Men		Women		Men		Women	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
DC	13	26%	11	22%	23	46%	13	26%
CI	17	34%	17	34%	18	36%	23	46%
NI	20	40%	22	44%	9	18%	14	28%
Total	50	100%	50	100%	50	100%	50	100%

DC: Direct Strategy Category

CI: Conventionally Indirect Strategy Category

NI: Non-conventionally Indirect Strategy Category

4.1.1 The Use of Direct Strategy Category (DC) with Respect to (-D): (=P; -D); (-P;-D); (+P;-D)

The result from Table 4.1 shows that Direct Strategy Category (DC) is more popular for native Vietnamese speakers (men: $n = 23$ # 46%, women: $n = 13$ # 26%) than native English speakers (men: $n = 13$ # 26%, women: $n = 11$ # 22%) in most of the setting in spite of the various values of the Relative Power (P) and the Social Distance (D). Moreover, while native Vietnamese men opt for the DC more frequently ($n = 23$), native English men use it less frequently ($n = 13$) and this dissimilarity is so significant (26% for English men vs. 46% for Vietnamese men). The use of this strategy between native English women and native Vietnamese women is approximately the same ($n = 11$ # 22%) for English women and ($n = 13$ # 26%) for Vietnamese women respectively. In addition, from Table 4.1, we can see that only native Vietnamese men use this strategy at the highest proportion (46%) compared to the rest.

Table 4.2. The Use of Direct Strategies

Strategy Category	English				Vietnamese			
	Men		Women		Men		Women	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
DP	10	20%	9	18%	21	42%	11	22%
DIM	2	4%	1	2%	2	4%	1	2%
DWL	1	2%	1	2%	0	0%	1	2%

DP: Direct Performatives

DIM: Direct Strategy of the Imperative

DWL: Direct Strategy of the Willingness

➤ DP Strategy and Modification

From Table 4.2, it could be seen that the most common strategy of the Direct Strategy Category used by both native English speakers and native Vietnamese speakers is Direct Performatives.

- Native English Speakers
- Native Vietnamese speakers
- DIM Strategy and Modification.
 - Native English Speakers
 - Native Vietnamese speakers
- DIM Strategy and Modification.
 - Native English Speakers
 - Native Vietnamese speakers

Table 4.3. The Use of Direct Strategies with Respect to (-D):

(-P;-D); (=P;-D); (+P;-D)

4.1.2. The Use of Conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (CI) with Respect to (-D): (-P; -D); (=P;-D); (+P;-D)

Table 4.1 reveals that Conventionally Indirect Strategies seem to be preferred by both native English and Vietnamese speakers. The level of using this Conventionally Indirect Strategy by native English speakers [32% (n = 16) M, 28% (n = 14) W] is much lower than that by native Vietnamese speakers [34% (n = 17) M, 48% (n = 24) W].

Table 4.4 indicates that the Conventionally Indirect Strategy that native English and Vietnamese speakers have used is varied.

Table 4.4. The Use of Conventionally Indirect Strategies

Strategies Category	English				Vietnamese			
	Men		Women		Men		Women	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
CIPO	0	0%	1	2%	1	2%	1	2%
CISU	7	14%	2	4%	5	10%	5	10%
CIWL	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	6%
CIAB	0	0%	1	2%	0	0%	0	0%
DI	10	20%	13	26%	12	24%	14	28%

CIPO: Questioning about the Possibility of the Expresser's Parting Being Accepted

CISU: Conventionally Indirect Strategy of Suggestory

CIWL: Conventionally Indirect Strategy of Willingness

CIAB: Conventionally Indirect Strategy of Ability

DI: Discourse Indirectness

- CIPO Strategy and Modification
- CISU Strategy and Modification
- CIWL Strategy and Modification
- CIAB Strategy and Modification
- Discourse Indirectness Strategy and Modification
 - CIPR Strategy and Modification
 - CIGR Strategy and Modification
 - CIPRGR Strategy and Modification

Table 4.5. The Use of Conventionally Indirect Strategy Category

(CI) with Respect to (-D): (-P; -D); (=P; -D); (+P; -D)

4.1.3. The Use of Non-conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (NI) with Respect to (-D): (=P; -D); (-P;-D); (+P;-D)

Table 4.1 shows that the most common Strategy Category for native English is the Non-conventionally Indirect Strategy (NI) while it is also commonly used by native Vietnamese speakers. Still, native English speakers use this strategy at higher frequency than native Vietnamese speakers. Table 4.3 shows that native English speakers use this strategy at proportion [44% (n = 22) M vs 54% (n = 27) W] more frequently than native Vietnamese speakers [26% (n = 13) M vs 34% (n = 17) W].

Table 4.6. *The Use of Non-conventionally Indirect Strategies*

Strategies Category	English				Vietnamese			
	Men		Women		Men		Women	
	N	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
NIP	14	28%	15	30%	6	12%	10	20%
NIF	6	12%	7	14%	3	6%	4	8%

NIP: Non-conventionally Indirect Strategy of Stating Potential Grounders

NIF: Non-conventionally Indirect Strategy of Questioning for the Feasibility of the Speakers' *Parting*

➤ *NIP Strategy and Modification*

➤ *Discourse Indirectness*

Table 4.7. *The Use of Non-conventionally Indirect Strategy Category*

(NI) with Respect to (-D): (-P; -D); (=P;-D); (+P;-D)

4.2. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The noticeable finding is that Conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (CI) (82%) has been used by native Vietnamese speakers as the most common followed by the Direct Strategy Category (DC) (72%) in this study. By contrast, in English, the most popular strategy which is preferred using by both men and women is Non-conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (NI) (82%). There are some differences in the use of Modification for this Indirect Strategy Category between the native speakers.

First, native English speakers prefer using the External Modification beyond the Head *Parting* whereas native Vietnamese speakers opt for the Internal Modification within the Head *Parting*. It could be explained that native English speakers belong to individualism-oriented culture (Hofstede [18, p. 158], Trần Ngọc Thêm [71, p.21]) where personal freedom is highly appreciated, so they tend to avoid imposition on the addressee when expressing *parting*. Therefore, the External Modification is preferred by the native English speakers. On the contrary, native Vietnamese speakers opt for the Internal Modification within the Head *Parting* as Upgraders or Strengtheners to aggravate the illocutionary force of *parting* because the level of imposition is not so high. Therefore, it is preferred by native Vietnamese speakers.

Second, native English speakers prefer using Non-conventionally Indirect Strategy with the Softening Modifiers in External Modification beyond the head *parting* to exercise a

softening effect on the *parting* in order to show their respect for other people's individual freedom of an action for negative politeness.

Most of native Vietnamese speakers, by contrast, prefer using Strengthening Modifiers rather than Softening Modifiers not only in the External Modification beyond the head *parting* but also in Internal Modification to produce a cumulative strengthening effect on the *parting* to show their strong willingness to do anything to end a relationship.

Compared to the CI and NI, Non-conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (NI) is used more frequently by native English speakers while Conventionally Indirectness Strategy Category is preferred by native Vietnamese Speakers.

In addition, it could be seen clearly from the analysis above that the ways English and Vietnamese women express lovers' *parting* is relatively different from the ways English and Vietnamese men do. Most men prefer using Direct Strategy Category (DC) and use it more frequently than women. By contrast, women opt for using the Conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (CI) and Non-conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (NI) at a higher frequency in most situational contexts. It could be explained, as mentioned above, that Holmes [19, p. 7] pointed out that psychological differences account for gender differences in orientation to others, women are more concerned with making connections; they seek involvement and focus on the interdependences with other people. However, men are more concerned with autonomy and detachment;

they seek independence. Therefore, it is possible to see how such psychological differences might account for differences in the ways women and men use language.

Another explanation attributes gender-based differences in linguistic behavior to the differential distribution of power in society. Men's greater social power allows them to regulate and control situations and as a result predominate in interaction (Zimmerman [54]). By contrast, women those who are powerless must be polite and reserved in their speech behavior including *parting* (Deuchar [6]).

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

5.1. SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS

5.1.1. The Use of Strategy Category

a. Direct Strategy Category (DC)

Direct Strategy Category (DC) is far less commonly used by native English speakers in general and American speakers in particular than Conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (CI) and Non-conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (NI). This could be ascribed to the influences of their cultures in which personal freedom is highly valued in interpersonal communication because they belong to individualism-oriented culture (Hofstede [18, p. 158], Trần Ngọc Thêm [71, p.21]). However, Direct Strategy Category (DC) is the second most commonly used by native Vietnamese speakers regardless of the variation in the (P), (D) value across various

situational contexts under study. This could be attributed to the cultural diversity. For instance, in some situational contexts, native Vietnamese speakers think that if a man has Power over a woman (+P) and knows her well (-D), he is likely to express lovers' *parting* more obviously and direct. In addition, in some situational contexts, think that the speaker and hearer have equal Power (= P) and know each other well (- D) to the addressee, they also tend to be more direct. This reveals that native Vietnamese speakers prefer the DC in most situational contexts despite the shift in (P) and (D) whereas the native English speakers do not.

b. Conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (CI)

Conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (CI) has been used by native Vietnamese speakers as the most common followed by the Direct Strategy Category (DC) in this research. This is because native Vietnamese speakers put a high value on collectivism which has been influenced by Confucianism (rooted from China) whose leading principle is "humanism or keeping warm human feeling between people and this relationship is reciprocal" (Huu Ngoc [40, p. 264]). As a result, expressing *parting* to other people is regarded as a FTA for both the speaker and the addressee. Accordingly, lovers' *parting* is not popularly carried out too directly.

Native English speakers, in general, use Indirect Strategy at higher frequency than Direct Strategy Category (DC). This could be partly influenced by the individualism-oriented culture where personal freedom is highly valued in interpersonal communication.

Native English speakers tend to avoid or decrease imposition on other people when carrying out their speech acts in which lovers' *parting* is not an exception. When using Indirect Strategies, the speakers can give the hearers a choice to have their own decision.

a. Non-conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (NI)

It could be seen that, Non-conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (NI) is the most commonly used by native English speakers in most situational contexts under study. It could be ascribed to the difference in the assumption of face and politeness regulated by the above-mentioned differences in the cultural features of English and Vietnamese community.

An interesting finding from table 4.1 is that while native English men prefer using Non-conventionally Indirect Strategy Category (NI) to Direct Strategy Category (DC), native Vietnamese men opt for Direct Strategy Category at higher frequency than Non-conventionally Indirect strategy Category (CI). What may have led to this result? It is obvious that differences in cultures have a great influence on how people communicate. English men could be influenced by the individualism-oriented culture where people highly value personal freedom in communication. Therefore, indirect ways are good choice for them when they express lovers' *parting* in order not to impose or to decrease the imposition on the addressee. In contrast, native Vietnamese men are partly influenced by the collectivism-oriented culture and Vietnamese men are considered

more powerful than women. Therefore, they tend to be more direct than English men in expressing lovers' *parting*.

5.1.2. The Use of Modifications

There are some differences in using Modifications between native English speakers and Vietnamese speakers.

The native English speakers often use Syntactic Downgraders or Softener, i.e. to soften the impact of the lovers' *parting*, normally expressed by the levels of the structural indirectness with the use of Interrogative, Negative, and Negative Interrogative to avoid the risk of imposition on the addressee to show the greater degree of linguistic pessimism characteristic of negative politeness. By contrast, Social Deixis which are Mood words could be used as Upgraders or Strengtheners to show the greater degree of linguistic optimism typical of positive politeness in expressing lovers' *parting* by the native Vietnamese speakers. Other Pr.Ps. could function either as the Indicator and/or Internal Modifiers or External Modifiers. In addition, the effect on the illocutionary force of the lovers' *parting* to express politeness in Vietnamese *parting* has been strengthened by the amount of Preparator or/and Grounder that precedes or follows the Head *Parting* together with the Social Deixis. This difference may result from the language typology and culture diversity.

Regarding to language typology perspective, Vietnamese is a non-inflectional language. Therefore, the affective meaning of the speech act of lovers' *parting* and the expresser's polite attitude

towards the addressee are expressed by such Mood Words as Social Deixis and other Pr.Ps. functioning as Indicators or Modifiers of the speech act of lovers' *parting*. By contrast, English is an inflectional language, in which the syntactic means such as Interrogative, Negative, and Negative Interrogative are the main devices to express the level of politeness in the lovers' *parting* in English.

In terms of culture, native Vietnamese speakers belong to collectivism culture where showing care to other in-group members is highly valued. Lovers' *parting* is FTA, as a result, using Pr.Ps. could normally soften the affective meaning of the speech act of *parting* or avoid imposition on the addressee. On the other hand, due to the individualism culture, lovers' *parting* a FTA, so the native English speakers prefer using the softening structure for negative politeness.

The dissimilarities in the use of the Politeness Strategies in the speech act of lovers' *parting* in English and Vietnamese could cause problems to Vietnamese learners of English and English learners of Vietnamese as a foreign language and also to intercultural communicators who may commit pragmatic errors due to the lack of pragmatic competence. As regards these problems, the following implications could be suggested.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS

It can be seen that understanding the differences in Linguistic Features Indicated in Politeness Strategies which women and men typically use in expressing lovers' *parting* may be significantly

important. Learners have to make every effort to acquire them. However, it is not easy to do so. For that reason, the study is carried out with the hope for helping learners grasp the Linguistic Features Indicated in Lovers' *Parting* Politeness Strategies. Then they can overcome the communication gap between women and men as well as make it possible to overcome the potential individual inter-gender understandings caused by cultural differences and to achieve effective communication.

As we can see, the description and comparison of Linguistic Features Indicated in Lovers' *parting* Politeness Strategies in English and Vietnamese in this thesis could provide a deeper knowledge of the speech act of lovers' *parting* in English and Vietnamese for the native Vietnamese learners of English as well as the native English learners of Vietnamese so that they could better learn English and Vietnamese as a foreign language.

In addition, the findings of this thesis could be necessary for the intercultural communicators of English and Vietnamese to understand the interactive styles and the Politeness Strategies in communication of other people and communities. More importantly, the findings may help learners as well as communicators avoid "culture shock" in their cross-cultural communication. More importantly, language is inseparable from culture. Thus when learners learn a language, they should learn culture and as they learn to use a language, they learn to communicate with other individuals from different cultures. Therefore, hopefully, this thesis will partly

help the native Vietnamese learners of English as well as the native English learners of Vietnamese improve the knowledge of target language's culture.

Furthermore, the findings from this thesis could contribute to the better teaching of Vietnamese to native English speakers or English to native Vietnamese speakers. As far as this issue is concerned, the knowledge of pragmalinguistic and sociopragmatic rules withdrawn from this thesis could help language teachers predict likely pragmatic errors and design relevant syllabus and teach their students how to realize their speech acts including *parting* better to provide adequate pragmatic information for students to develop successfully their pragmatic competence.

Finally, nowadays, Vietnam is integrating to the world and this makes teaching and learning English as a foreign language more important and necessary. It is clear that the main objective in teaching English as a communicative tool is to enable students to communicate effectively in many situational contexts. Therefore, if teachers equip students with better understanding of the pragmatics by giving specific contexts when teaching it could help them understand some politeness strategies used in different contexts to express speech acts including lovers' *parting* properly. Then it could enable them to improve their cross-cultural communication.

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Being aware of the significance of Linguistic Features Indicated in Lovers' *Parting* Politeness Strategies in English and Vietnamese in our daily communication as well as in the understanding of speech acts expressions on films, we have made every effort to describe and compare the Linguistic Features Indicated in Lovers' *Parting* Politeness Strategies in English and Vietnamese. However, the lack of time, the limitation of knowledge and references make it impossible for researchers to study as far as expected. There may be remain some inevitable restrictions and shortcomings.

Due to research facilities and requirements, the present study has investigated different politeness strategies in English and Vietnamese lovers' *parting* in general. No attempt has been made to investigate different politeness strategies in English and Vietnamese responses to lovers' *parting*. This leaves room for further research.