

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

**TRƯỜNG THỊ HUYỀN CHI**

**A STUDY OF LINGUISTIC FEATURES  
OF EXPRESSIONS DENOTING HAPPINESS  
AND ANGER IN AMERICAN AND  
VIETNAMESE SHORT STORIES**

**Field : THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**Code : 60.22.02.01**

**M.A. THESIS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES  
(A SUMMARY)**

**DA NANG, 2015**

**The study has been completed at The University of Foreign  
Language Studies, The University of Danang**

**Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lưu Quý Khương**

**Examiner 1: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Trương Viên**

**Examiner 2: Dr. Trần Hữu Phúc**

The thesis was orally defended at the Examining Committee

Time: 15-16/8/2015

Venue: The University of Danang

*The original of this thesis is accessible for the purpose of reference at:*

- The Library of the University of Foreign Language Studies,  
The University of Danang.
- The Information Resources Center, The University of Danang.

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. RATIONALE

People all over the world have a high need to communicate with each other and it is difficult to imagine what our life would be like without language. In fact, language is obviously a great tool used by human beings to exchange ideas, thoughts, feelings or emotions. Happiness and anger are among seven basic human feelings which are *happiness, anger, love, disgust, sadness, joy and desire*. It is undeniable that language functions as a means for speakers or writers to express their happiness and anger. Expressions denoting *happiness* and *anger* considerably varied in terms of syntax, semantics and pragmatics. Therefore, a thorough study of linguistic features of expressions denoting happiness and anger (EsDHA) in American and Vietnamese short stories would help readers see and know the variety of EsDHA in terms of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features. I, therefore, have chosen to do a research on the topic “*A Study of Linguistic Features of Expressions Denoting Happiness and Anger in American and Vietnamese Short Stories*”.

#### 1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

##### 1.2.1. Aims

The aim of this thesis was to study expressions denoting happiness and anger in American and Vietnamese short stories in terms of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features to find out the

similarities and differences as well as help readers see the variety of EsDHA in American and Vietnamese short stories.

### **1.2.2. Objectives**

The objectives of the study are:

- describe, classify and identify the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features of expressions denoting happiness and anger (EsDHA) in American and Vietnamese short stories.

- find out the similarities and differences of EsDHA in American and Vietnamese short stories in terms of syntax, semantics and pragmatics.

- suggest some implications for the teaching and learning of EsDHA in English and Vietnamese.

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

The thesis focused on the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features of EsDHA in American and Vietnamese short stories. The data were only collected from American and Vietnamese short stories in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What are the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features of EsDHA in American and Vietnamese short stories?
2. What are the similarities and differences of EsDHA in American and Vietnamese short stories in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **1.5. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

Chapter 1, INTRODUCTION, stated the rationale, the aims and objectives of the study, research questions, scope of the study and the organization of the study.

Chapter 2, LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND, concerned with a review of previous studies related to the thesis. Theoretical knowledge related to issues was also mentioned in this chapter.

Chapter 3, RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY, mentioned the research design, method, data collection and data analysis, procedures, reliability and validity of the research.

Chapter 4, FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION, described, analyzed and discussed EsDHA in American and Vietnamese short stories in terms of syntax, semantics and pragmatics.

Chapter 5, CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS, summarized what had been discussed and found. Moreover, some suggestions for teaching and learning EsDHA in English and Vietnamese were mentioned in this chapter.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **2.1. LITERATURE REVIEW**

A number of linguists and researchers have conducted studies relating to expressions of human feelings in English.

Davitz [10] studied the language of emotions. Schwarz and Clore [29] investigated the relationship and influence of cognitions and emotions. Additionally, Ortony, Clore and Collins [25] examined cognitive structure of emotions. For emotions, Wierzbicka [34] did research on emotions across languages and cultures as well as pointed out the diversity and universals of emotions. Furthermore, Athanasiadou and Tabakowska [9] focused on vocabulary related to emotions with particular attention to cross-cultural differences. Moreover, Kövecses [18] studied conceptual metaphor of emotions like happiness, anger and love.

In Vietnam, there also have been many studies relating to expressions of human feelings. Võ Thanh Quyên [31] pointed out syntactic, semantic and cultural features of idioms denoting human feelings in English and Vietnamese. Nguyễn Thị Tân Bình [22] studied grammatical and semantic features of words and idioms denoting unhappiness in English and Vietnamese. Nguyễn Thị Thu Hiền [23] described and classified linguistic features of idioms expressing anger in English and Vietnamese with regard to syntactic

and semantic features. In addition, Nguyễn Hoàng Nam [21] investigated the use of conceptual metaphor in English and Vietnamese idioms denoting human feelings such as happiness, sadness, anger and fear.

There has not been a thorough study on both syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features of expressions denoting happiness and anger in short stories. Therefore, the author of this study attempted to do a research on expressions denoting happiness and anger in American and Vietnamese short stories with the hope to fill the gap in this field.

## **2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.2.1. Definition of Expressions**

Diệp Quang Ban [1, p.408] stated that an expression or a group of words is an expansion of a word to clarify its meaning. Nguyễn Tài Căn [6, p.49] postulated an expression as an expression is formed by combining word with word to create a higher grammatical unit.

#### ***a. Free expressions***

According to Mai Ngọc Chừ; Vũ Đức Nghiệu and Hoàng Trọng Phiến [5], a free expression is a group of words temporally created in discourse. The meaning of a free expression is the combination of meanings of its constituents.

#### ***b. Fixed expressions***

According to Miller [20, p. 56], “*fixed phrases are not freely built up but fixed*”; for example, in a nutshell, once and for all,...

According to Mai Ngọc Chừ, Vũ Đức Nghiệu and Hoàng Trọng Phiến [5], fixed expressions are the combination of individual words; their elements and meanings are as stable as words.

### **2.2.2. Short Stories**

### **2.2.3. Types of Phrases**

Traditionally English has phrases such as noun phrases (NP), verb phrases (VP), prepositional phrases (PP), adjective phrases (AP) and adverbial phrases (AdvP).

### **2.2.4. Concept of Meaning**

According to Richards et al. [27, p.222], meaning is what a language expresses about the world we live in or any possible or imaginary world. For Riemer [28, p. 40], meaning is a vague term: in English it refers to a variety of different relations between world, language and speakers.

### **2.2.5. Concepts of Happiness and Anger**

#### ***a. Concept of Happiness***

#### ***b. Concept of Anger***

### **2.2.6. Speech Acts**

According to Yule [33, p.48], “*On any occasion, the action performed by producing an utterance will consist of three related acts*” which are locutionary act, illocutionary act and perlocutionary act.

According to Yule [32], there are five types of general functions performed by speech acts: *representatives, directives, commissives, expressives, and declarations.*

### **2.2.7. Implicatures**

According to Yule, an implicature is “*an additional conveyed meaning*” [32, p.35] which is not part of the utterance and does not follow as a necessary consequence of the utterance. Implicatures are heavily dependent upon the context of an utterance, including the participants.

#### *a. Conversational implicatures*

Conversational implicature is an additional conveyed unstated meaning that has to be assumed in order to maintain the cooperative principles.

#### *b. Conventional implicatures*

“*Not unlike conversational implicatures, conventional implicatures are associated with specific words and result in additional conveyed meanings when those words are used*”. They do not have to occur in conversation, and they do not depend on special context for their interpretation. [32, p.45]

### **2.3. SUMMARY**

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **METHODS AND PROCEDURES**

#### **3.1. RESEARCH METHODS**

The descriptive method was used to describe in details the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features through the examples of expressions denoting happiness and anger in American and Vietnamese short stories.

In addition, the comparative and contrastive method could be used to identify the similarities and differences in the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features of expressions denoting happiness and anger in American and Vietnamese short stories.

#### **3.2. SAMPLING**

400 samples were collected and classified from American and Vietnamese short stories in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The extracted samples were words or phrases expressing happiness and anger in American and Vietnamese short stories; 200 expressions denoting happiness (EsDH) (100 in American short stories and 100 in Vietnamese short stories), 200 expressions denoting anger (EsDA) (100 in American short stories and 100 in Vietnamese short stories).

#### **3.3. DATA COLLECTION**

The data collection procedure consisted of two main stages. Firstly, a large number of American and Vietnamese short stories in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were collected in order to make the corpus of this thesis.

### **3.4. DATA ANALYSIS**

Data was analyzed for the purpose of finding out the similarities and differences of EsDHA in American and Vietnamese short stories. Then some implications for teaching and learning the languages were suggested.

### **3.5. RESEARCH PROCEDURES**

### **3.6. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

Any information for reference and data for analysis would be exactly the same as they appear in their original materials with clear reference to their authors, names of publishers, time and place of publication and page number(s).

### **3.7. SUMMARY**

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

#### **4.1. THE SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF EXPRESSIONS DENOTING HAPPINESS AND ANGER (EsDHA) IN AMERICAN AND VIETNAMESE SHORT STORIES**

Based on the categories of the head in each expression or group of words, expressions are divided into different categories which are noun phrases, verb phrases and adjective phrases. The findings would be presented in three main groups such as noun phrases, verb phrases and adjective phrases following three models of syntactic structures: “Premodifier + Head”, “Head + Postmodifier” and “Premodifier + Head + Postmodifier”.

### **4.1.1. Noun Phrases Expressing Happiness and Anger in American and Vietnamese Short Stories**

#### ***a. Noun phrases expressing happiness and anger in American short stories***

(4.2) I form *a little fantasy* about gathering all these kids into my Caprice. [39, p.263]

(4.3) This offense hardly registered with him, but on Cece's behalf *a dark rage* bloomed deep inside him. [39, p.234]

#### ***b. Noun phrases expressing happiness and anger in Vietnamese short stories***

In Vietnamese short stories, “*cái*”, “*điều*”, “*niềm*” often precede words expressing happiness and those precede head nouns denoting anger are “*cái*”, “*cục*”, “*con*”, “*nỗi*”, “*niềm*”.

(4.16) Đó là điều không thể có trong tôi trước đây, một người không biết kiềm giữ *niềm vui* hay *nỗi buồn đau*. [47, p.195]

### **4.1.2. Verb Phrases Expressing Happiness and Anger in American and Vietnamese Short Stories**

#### ***a. Verb phrases expressing happiness and anger in American short stories***

(4.31) The waitress waited a second or two. Monty was in a little bit ago, *beaming like a bride*. [42, p.221]

(4.35) That first week Dennis *nearly drove me crazy*. [39, p.171]

#### ***b. Verb phrases expressing happiness and anger in Vietnamese short stories***

(4.43) Những ngày ấy tôi như người ở trên mây, chân đi không bén đất. [46, p.233]

(4.53) Hàn Hoàn đành *nuốt giận*, nghiền răng, mở mắt trừng trừng trong bóng đêm. [46, p.40]

#### **4.1.3. Adjective Phrases Expressing Happiness and Anger in American and Vietnamese Short Stories**

##### ***a. Adjective phrases expressing happiness and anger in American short stories***

(4.62) You're not *angry with me* for touching the tree and all that?- No, I'm flexible. [42, p.307]

(4.64) She is living in her own home, *happy as can be*. [40, p.279]

##### ***b. Adjective phrases expressing happiness and anger in Vietnamese short stories***

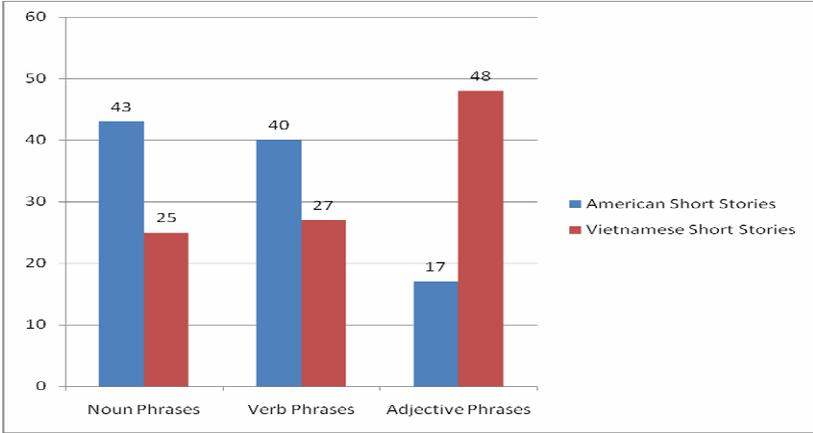
(4.82) Ngô trả lời âm ừ nhưng trong bụng đã *swóng như người đang được gái*, vòm mắt nhăn nheo của anh mở ra dần vào liên tiếp. [43, p.664]

(4.83) Hôm nay, nghe được tin ấy, bác *túc như bị đâm vào họng*. [43, p.593]

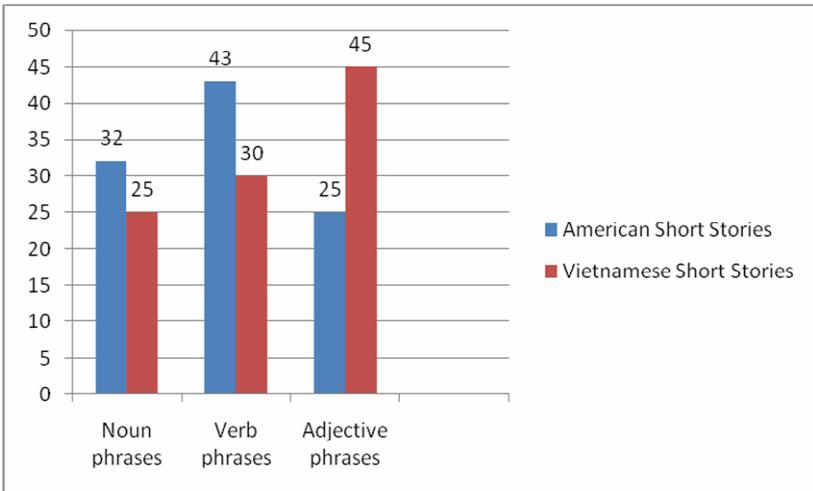
#### **4.1.4. The Similarities and Differences of Expressions Denoting Happiness and Anger (EsDHA) in American and Vietnamese Short Stories in Terms of Syntactic Features**

*Table 4.1. Syntactic Structures of EsDHA in American and Vietnamese Short Stories*

<b>Phrases</b>	<b>American Short Stories</b>	<b>Vietnamese Short Stories</b>
Noun phrases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Art + (A) + HN</li> <li>- A+HN</li> <li>-Art+Adv+A+HN</li> <li>-Art/Demon+(A) +HN + PP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- N + HN</li> <li>- Quan + HN</li> <li>- HN + Clause</li> <li>- HN + HN</li> </ul>
Verb phrases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HV+N/Pro+ Adv</li> <li>- HV + PP</li> <li>-HV+A+PP</li> <li>- Adv+HV+N/Pro+ A</li> <li>- HV + A</li> <li>- Aux + HV + AP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HV + Prep/ PP</li> <li>- HV + NP</li> <li>- HV + A/AP</li> <li>- Adv + HV +Prep</li> <li>- Adv+HV+ N/NP</li> <li>- HV+N+HV+N</li> </ul>
Adjective phrases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adv + HA</li> <li>- HA + Inf P</li> <li>- HA + PP</li> <li>- HA+AP</li> <li>- HA+Clause</li> <li>-Adv+HA+PP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adv + HA</li> <li>- A + HA</li> <li>- HA+VP</li> <li>- HA+PP</li> <li>- HA+Adv</li> <li>- HA+NP</li> <li>- HA+AP</li> </ul>



*Chart 4.1. Occurrence Frequency of EsDH in American and Vietnamese Short Stories in Terms of Syntactic Features*



*Chart 4.2. Occurrence Frequency of EsDA in American and Vietnamese Short Stories in Terms of Syntactic Features*

## 4.2. THE SEMANTIC FEATURES OF EXPRESSIONS DENOTING HAPPINESS AND ANGER (EsDHA) IN AMERICAN AND VIETNAMESE SHORT STORIES

### 4.2.1. The Semantic Features of Expressions Denoting Happiness (EsDH) in American and Vietnamese Short Stories

- a. EsDH expressing delightment*
- b. EsDH expressing contentment*
- c. EsDH expressing enthusiasm*
- d. EsDH expressing a state of being high*
- e. EsDH expressing a state of being light*
- f. EsDH expressing a good mood*
- g. EsDH expressing extreme happiness*
- h. EsDH expressing color change on face/ body*
- i. EsDH expressing happiness as a sacred thing*
- j. EsDH expressing happiness as valuable things*

### 4.2.2. The Semantic Features of Expressions Denoting Anger (EsDA) in American and Vietnamese Short Stories

- a. EsDA expressing irritation*
- b. EsDA expressing harshness*
- c. EsDA expressing bad feeling/ bad mood*
- d. EsDA expressing a state of being very hot*
- e. EsDA expressing uncontrollable feeling*
- f. EsDA expressing restrained feeling*
- g. EsDA expressing behavior of a dangerous animal*
- h. EsDA expressing explosion*

*i. EsDA expressing color change on face/ on body*

*j. EsDA expressing swearing*

*k. EsDA expressing seething*

*l. EsDA expressing rage*

#### **4.2.3. The Similarities and Differences of Expressions Denoting Happiness and Anger (EsDHA) in American and Vietnamese Short Stories in Terms of Semantic Features**

*Table 4.2. A Comparison of Semantic Features of EsDH in American and Vietnamese Short Stories*

<b>Semantic Features</b>	<b>American Short Stories</b>	<b>Vietnamese Short Stories</b>
Delightment	+	+
Contentment	+	+
Enthusiasm	+	+
A state of being high	-	+
A state of being light	-	+
A good mood	+	+
Extreme happiness	+	+
Color change	+	+
A sacred thing	+	+
Valuable things	-	+

*Table 4.3. A Comparison of Semantic Features of EsDA in American and Vietnamese Short Stories*

<b>Semantic Features</b>	<b>American Short Stories</b>	<b>Vietnamese Short Stories</b>
Irritation	+	+
Harshness	+	+
A bad mood	+	+
A state of being very hot	+	+
Uncontrollable feeling	+	+
Restrained feeling	+	+
Behavior of a dangerous animal	+	+
Explosion	+	+
Color change	+	+
Swearing	+	+
Seething	+	+
Rage	+	+

### **4.3. THE PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF EXPRESSIONS DENOTING HAPPINESS AND ANGER (EsDHA) IN AMERICAN AND VIETNAMESE SHORT STORIES**

#### **4.3.1. The Pragmatic Features of Expressions Denoting Happiness (EsDH) in American and Vietnamese Short Stories**

*a. EsDH as a politeness strategy*

*b. EsDH showing compliment*

*c. EsDH showing mocking*

*d. EsDH showing contempt*

#### **4.3.2. The Pragmatic Features of Expressions Denoting Anger (EsDA) in American and Vietnamese Short Stories**

*a. EsDA showing rebuke*

*b. EsDA showing threat*

*c. EsDA showing request*

*d. EsDA showing mocking*

*e. EsDA showing despising*

*f. EsDA showing pain*

*g. EsDA showing criticism*

*h. EsDA showing complaint*

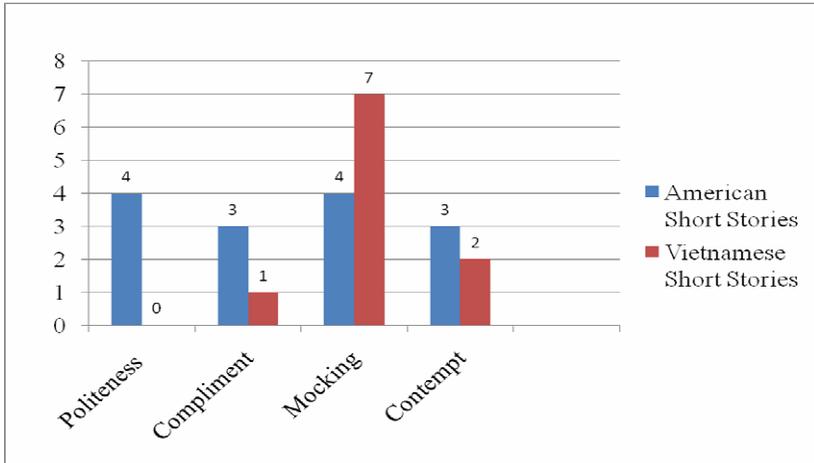
*i. EsDA showing pleasure*

#### **4.3.3. The Similarities and Differences of Expressions Denoting Happiness and Anger (EsDHA) in American and Vietnamese Short Stories in Terms of Pragmatic Features**

*a. The similarities and differences of expressions denoting happiness (EsDH) in American and Vietnamese short stories in terms of pragmatic features*

*Table 4.4. A Comparison of Pragmatic Features of EsDH in American and Vietnamese Short Stories*

<b>Pragmatic Features</b>	<b>American Short Stories</b>	<b>Vietnamese Short Stories</b>
Showing politeness	+	-
Showing compliment	+	+
Showing mocking	+	+
Showing contempt	+	+

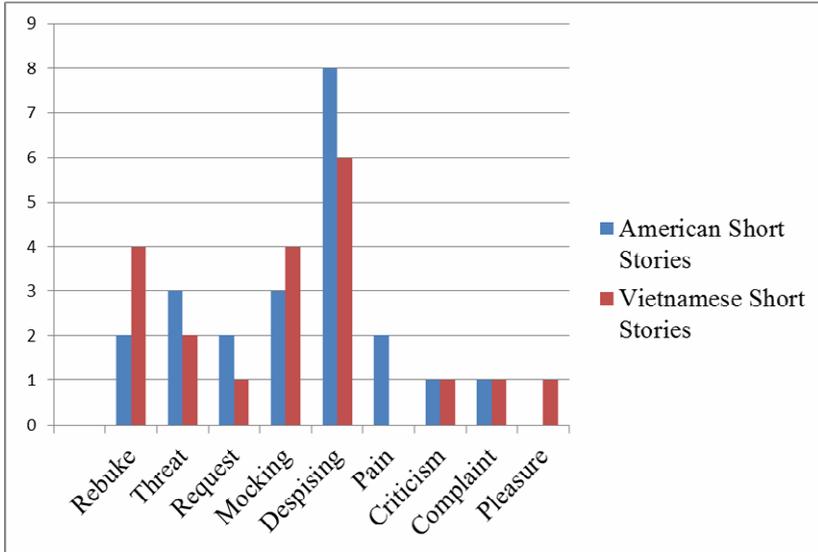


*Chart 4.3. Occurrence Frequency of EsDH in American and Vietnamese Short Stories in Terms of Pragmatic Features*

***b. The similarities and differences of expressions denoting anger (EsDA) in American and Vietnamese short stories in terms of pragmatic features***

*Table 4.5. A Comparison of Pragmatic Features of EsDA in American and Vietnamese Short Stories*

<b>Pragmatic Features</b>	<b>American Short Stories</b>	<b>Vietnamese Short Stories</b>
Showing rebuke	+	+
Showing threat	+	+
Showing request	+	+
Showing mocking	+	+
Showing despising	+	+
Showing pain	+	-
Showing criticism	+	+
Showing complaint	+	+
Showing pleasure	-	+



*Chart 4.4. Occurrence Frequency of EsDA in American and Vietnamese Short Stories in Terms of Pragmatic Features*

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

#### 5.1. CONCLUSIONS

The thesis has so far studied linguistic features of expressions denoting happiness and anger in American and Vietnamese short stories. 400 samples from American short stories and Vietnamese short stories were collected, categorized, classified and analyzed. The main goal of this study was to investigate the

features of syntax, semantics and pragmatics of expressions denoting happiness and anger in American and Vietnamese short stories. For each aspect, the conclusions are clearly and separately presented as follows

Syntactically, in both American and Vietnamese short stories, EsDHA are syntactically expressed in noun phrases, verb phrases and adjective phrases. However, the number of noun phrases and verb phrases used to express happiness and anger in American short stories is greater than adjective phrases; whereas, a greater number of adjective phrases is used to express happiness and anger in Vietnamese short stories than that of noun phrases and verb phrases. Moreover, in Vietnamese, it is found that two head nouns may combine with each other to form noun phrases expressing happiness and anger, which is not found in collected samples in American short stories.

Semantically, EsDHA in American and Vietnamese short stories express a number of different categories of meanings. The meanings of EsDHA can be withdrawn from literal meanings by understanding the components' meanings or by metaphorical devices. There are some differences in semantic features of EsDHA in American and Vietnamese short stories.

Pragmatically, EsDHA show a number of speech acts and feelings. In general, EsDHA in American and Vietnamese short stories have the same pragmatic features such as showing mocking, despising, rebuke, threat, request, etc.

Having considered the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features of EsDHA in American and Vietnamese short stories, the thesis also tried to offer the following implications in hope of helping learners to study English and Vietnamese as foreign languages better as well as to express their feelings effectively.

## **5.2. IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.2.1. Implication for Language Learning of EsDHA**

Within the scope of this paper, some linguistic features of syntax, semantics and pragmatics of EsDHA have been dealt with. The findings of the study may be beneficial to the language learners of English and Vietnamese as a foreign language.

Syntactically, learners of English and Vietnamese ought to distinguish the typically syntactic differences between EsDHA in American short stories and those in Vietnamese short stories to form syntactically appropriate expressions denoting happiness and anger.

Semantically, learners of English and Vietnamese should know that there are just a few differences in semantic features of expressions denoting happiness and anger in American and Vietnamese short stories, which will not cause them any difficulties in understanding expressions denoting happiness and anger.

Pragmatically, it is advisable that students should not learn the words' meanings separately but put them in expressions because the meaning of one word is influenced by the preceding as well as the following words or phrases. For example, in English the word *pleasant* has a positive meaning but with the phrase *such a*

*pleasingly instant service!* the meaning is quite different because it shows mocking. Moreover, it is in each context or particular situation that the meaning of each word or phrase is affected. Therefore, learners of English as well as Vietnamese had better understand the context and specific situation in which EsDHA appear to grasp their meanings. For example, in Vietnamese, “*suống*” or “*mát mặt*” often shows happiness; however, in different contexts, it means differently with phrases like “*suống lắm đấy*”, “*suống phải biết*”, “*suống nhĩ*”, “*suống quá nhĩ*”, “*mát mặt lắm đấy*”, “*mát mặt nhĩ*”.

In short, EsDHA are various in their illustration so students should learn words and phrases denoting happiness and anger in their related terms except usually used words like happy, happiest, angry, anger. Besides, the words’ meanings are influenced by the context or situation in which the words are used or uttered. Therefore, students need to equip themselves with some knowledge of pragmatics in order to communicate effectively. In addition, the knowledge of the syntactic formation of expressions in English and Vietnamese is crucial for language learners to create syntactically correct expressions.

### **5.2.2. Implication for Language Teaching of EsDHA**

Language is an important and necessary mean for human beings to communicate and to teach language learners how to express their feelings through languages is important.

Syntactically, it is necessary for teachers to equip their students of English and Vietnamese with knowledge of syntax so that

the students can understand and form syntactically correct and meaningful EsDHA. The fact that there are some distinguishing differences in English syntax and Vietnamese one is what teachers should pay attention to in their language teaching. For example, in English adjectives often combine with head nouns to modify the nouns such as *perpetual joy, delirious time*. However, in Vietnamese two adjectives can combine with each other to form a noun phrase with preceding words “niềm”, “nỗi”, “con” such as *niềm vui hạnh phúc, nỗi buồn đau, cơn nóng giận, etc.*

Semantically, to teach learners words or phrases to express happiness and anger, teachers should introduce new words in their related groups. For examples, words expressing happiness are *pleasure, joy, happy, glad, ecstasy, fantasy, cheerful, etc* in English and *vui, hạnh phúc, mừng, lâng lâng, sướng, rạo rức, hân hoan, như bắt được của, phấn khởi* in Vietnamese. Words expressing anger are *rage, angry, bitterness, mad, crazy, furious, drive someone insane, make someone crazy, etc* in English and *nỗi buồn giận, nổi bực, cục giận, điên người, lộn tiết, nổi giận, hầm hầm, giận đùng đùng, uất ức, nổi cáu, etc* in Vietnamese. In addition, it is important for teachers to help learners clarify the exact meanings of EsDHA in each situation. For instance, EsDH can denote contentment or delightment, depending on specific context.

Pragmatically, learners should be equipped with pragmatic knowledge in order to grasp the speakers' intention because the word's meaning is different in each specific context. For example,

“pleasant” denotes a state of being pleased but with the expression “*such pleasingly instant service*” in (4.220) the meaning is quite different when the mother is worried about her son’s illness.

It is said that practice makes perfect. That is the key to successful language learning. Therefore, teachers are expected to create as many situations as possible for students to practise so that they can communicate fluently and effectively.

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

Although a great effort has been made in doing the research, the thesis cannot deal with all aspects of EsDHA in American and Vietnamese short stories in more details, which may result from the limitation of time and sources. The thesis has dealt with the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features of EsDHA which are mainly free expressions. Therefore, there are some aspects that have not been covered in the thesis, calling for further investigations:

- Syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features of expressions denoting likes and dislikes in English and Vietnamese.
- Cultural features of expressions denoting happiness and anger in English and Vietnamese.