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**A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF NEWS ITEMS
ON THE EAST SEA ISSUES FROM 2012 TO 2014
IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE NEWSPAPERS**

Field : The English Language

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

The East Sea always plays important roles in economic development of a coastal nation and peace in the world. The most concerned issue in the East Sea is the water territorial dispute between China and some nations like Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia. And there are more and more news items on the issue as well as moves of the parties and world community to solve the issue.

As a learner of English, I realize the importance of news items on the East Sea issues of improving student writing skills of English especially in newspaper style. “**A Discourse Analysis of News Items on the East Sea Issues from 2012 to 2014 in English and Vietnamese Newspapers**” is the title of the master thesis I wish to implement.

1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1. Aims

This paper studies the discourse features of ENIESIs and VNIESIs from 2012 to 2014 in English and Vietnamese newspapers in terms of layout, syntactic features, lexical choice and cohesive devices; to identify the similarities as well as differences of these features between the two languages. The findings of the study would help provide teachers and learners with some common English and Vietnamese terms used in NIESIs.

1.2.2. Objectives

- To examine the discourse features of NIESIs from 2012 to

2014 in English and Vietnamese newspapers in terms of layout, syntactic features, lexical choice and cohesive devices.

- To identify, describe and compare discourse features of ENIESIs and VNIESIs from 2012 to 2014 to find out the similarities and differences in terms of layout, syntactic features, lexical choice and cohesive devices.

- To put forward implications on the teaching and learning of English as well as using English for journalism

1.3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study focused the analysis of the discourse features NIESIs from 2012 to 2014 in English and Vietnamese newspapers in terms of layout, syntactic features, lexical choice and cohesive devices. The study was limited to news items on recent East Sea territorial disputes and tension between China and Vietnam in some well-known English and Vietnamese newspapers such as the BBC News, the Guardian, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Tuoitre, the Thanhnien, the Quandoinhandan, the Vnexpress and the Dantri.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The research attempted to answer the following questions:

1. What are the discourse features of NIESIs from 2012 to 2014 in English and Vietnamese newspapers in terms of layout, syntactic features, lexical choice and cohesive devices?

2. What are the similarities and differences of NIESIs from 2012 to 2014 in English and Vietnamese newspapers in terms of layout, syntactic features, lexical choice and cohesive devices?

3. What are some suggestions for English language teaching and translation?

1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

A deep awareness of discourse features in this study can help students know clearly some discourse features in NIESIs. This is also a good reference source for teachers and students in teaching and improving English writing skill especially those who have concern about developing journal writing skills.

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The study is designed in five chapters: Chapter 1 (Introduction), Chapter 2 (Literature Review and Theoretical Background), Chapter 3 (Methods and Procedures), Chapter 4 (Findings and Discussion), and Chapter 5 (Conclusions and Implications).

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. OVERVIEW

2.2. PREVIOUS STUDIES RELATED TO THE RESEARCH

Brown and Yule [2] suggested discourse theory of cohesion, coherence, theme - rheme structure, information structure, frame, schemata, role of context, genre, register, and so on which provide a quite relatively satisfactory theoretical base-necessary for the investigation of language in use. Cook [3] explained the theory of discourse analysis and suggested some practical relevance to language teaching and learning.

Halliday and Hasan [9] stated that cohesion occurs where the interpretation of some elements in the discourse is dependent on that of another element and that one presupposes the other, in the sense that it cannot be effectively decoded except by recourse to it.

In Vietnam, Trần Ngọc Thêm [31] made a detailed and systematic analysis of cohesive devices in Vietnamese texts. Nguyễn Thị Việt Thanh [30] determined systems of linking devices. Nguyễn Diệp Quang Ban [24], [25] paid much attention to cohesive devices in Vietnamese texts. Nguyễn Hòa [12] gave a systematic description of discourse and discourse analysis both theoretically and practically with specific evidence.

Besides, Phan Văn Hòa [29]'s doctoral dissertation investigated into the conjunction as a means of cohesion. Bùi Thị Ngọc Anh [1] explored English link words expressing the reason -

result relation in discourse. Trần Thị Thùy Hương [14] examined the linguistic performance of substitution words as a means of cohesion in English discourse versus Vietnamese. With respect to newspapers, Bùi Thị Thu Hà [8], Trần Thị Lê Thương [21] and Nguyễn Thị Hồng Minh [18] have made some contribution to this field.

2.3. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.3.1. Text

a. Concepts of Text

Cook [3] mentions “text” as a stretch of language which can be interpreted in its form, outside the context perceived to be meaningful, unified and purposive.

Halliday [10] considers “*a text is a semantic unit, not a grammatical one*” and “*has a semantic structure*”.

b. Features of Text

According to Diệp Quang Ban [24, p.18-20], text has five basic features: functional factor, content factor, cohesive and coherent factor, quantitative factor, boundary factor.

2.3.2. Discourse and Discourse Analysis

a. Concepts of Discourse

Brown and Yule [2] say that “*discourse is language in use*” and remark that “*the term Discourse Analysis has come to be used with a wide range of meanings which cover a wide range of activities. It is used to describe activities at the intersection of disciplines as diverse as sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, philosophical linguistics and computational linguistics*”.

b. Concepts of Discourse Analysis

Nguyễn Hòa [12, p.11] considers discourse analysis as a study of how and for what purposes language is used in a certain context

and the linguistic means to carry out these purposes.

2.3.3. Cohesion

According to Halliday and Hasan [9, p.4] *“The concept of cohesion is a semantic one; it refers to the relations of meaning that exist within the text and that define it as a text”*.

According to Nguyễn Hòa [12], *“Cohesion refers to the formal relationship that causes texts to cohere or stick together. It is indicated by: grammatical, logical and lexical relationship found among or between the sentences of a text.”*

2.3.4. Layout

In this thesis, the structure of Nguyễn Hòa was the base for my data analysis. His structure consists of 2 parts: Summary and Development.

2.3.5. Sentence Types

According to Quirk, there are four types of sentence in English: Simple Sentence, Compound Sentence, Complex Sentence and Compound-Complex Sentence.

Vietnamese linguist Diệp Quang Ban [26] categorizes Vietnamese sentences in three types: Simple Sentence, Complex Sentence, and Compound Sentence.

2.3.6. Phrases

2.3.7. Coherence

According to Palmer (cited in Nguyễn Hòa [12]) *“Coherence refers to the rhetorical devices, to ways of writing and speaking that bring about order and; unity and emphasis”*. McCarthy [16, p.21] points out *“coherence is the feeling that the text hangs together, that it makes sense, and is not a jumble of sentences”*.

2.3.8. Printed Newspapers and Electronic Newspapers

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

3.2. RESEARCH METHOD

This thesis combined descriptive method, contrastive method, analytic methods, and inductive method to achieve the goal.

3.3. DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE

50 ENIESIs and 50 VNIESIs with the length from 450 to 550 words were chosen for the study.

3.4. DATA COLLECTION

The data were collected from some well-known English and Vietnamese newspapers such as the BBC News, the Guardian, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Tuoitre, the Thanhnien, the Quandoinhandan, the Vnexpress and the Dantri.

3.5. DATA ANALYSIS

I analyzed the ENIESIs and VNIESIs in terms of layout, syntactic features, lexical choice and cohesive devices and made a comparison between the feature.

3.6. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

The procedures for the study will be as follows: collecting NIESIs, analyzing the data, making comparison between the two languages and drawing conclusions and giving some suggestions for further research.

3.7. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. LAYOUTS OF ENIESIs AND VNIESIs

Nguyễn Hòa [12] gives out his viewpoint that each news discourse contains of two main constitutions called the “summary” and the “development”. The two constitutions are divided into six sub-parts which are illustrated in the following diagram.

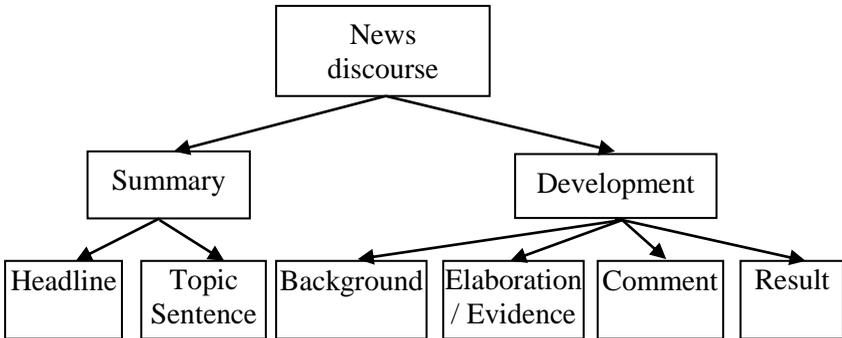


Figure 4.1. Layout of a News Item

When analyzing data, I realized that the layout of NIESIs is similar to the layout suggested by Nguyễn Hòa [12].

4.1.1 The Summary

The Summary of news discourse often includes in the headline and the topic sentence

a. Headline

The headline is an integral part of the news item. It is meant to arouse the reader’s interest and make him read the whole news item. Since the headline is usually the first thing that a person reads in a

news item, it provides a framework for the reading process and steers the reader in certain direction.

b. Topic Sentence

Like headlines, topic sentences convey the general content of a news item. However, topic sentences are more detailed for the readers to get the ideas of the whole passage.

4.1.2. The Development

According to Nguyễn Hòa [12], the development in the news discourse consists of four parts: Background, Evidence, Comment, and Result.

4.2. LEXICAL CHOICES OF ENIESIs AND VNIESIs

Choosing the right words to be used in the news plays a very important part in attracting the attention of readers.

4.2.1. Words Denoting Tension

In ENIESIs, there is a plenty of nouns denoting tension such as *riot, confrontation, tension, serious concern, conflict, protest, threat, face-off, aggressive behavior, tense situation, provocative action, dispute, collision, escalation, violence, deadly attack, intimidation, tussle, tense standoff, crisis, and clash, tense situation, dangerous situation, skirmish etc.*

Writers used a large number of words denoting tension in VNIESIS such as *mối đe dọa, căng thẳng, vũ lực, tranh chấp, sự leo thang, hành động hung hăng, cuộc chạm trán, thái độ thù địch, hành động gây hấn, mâu thuẫn, sự quan ngại, hành động nguy hiểm.*

In both languages, there are two ways to express tension: using a noun that itself has the property of tension such as *confrontation,*

căng thẳng or combining an adjective expressing tension with a neutral noun such as *provocative action, hành động hung hăng*.

Table 4.3. Words Denoting Tension Used ENIESIs and VNIESIs

| Types | English | | Vietnamese | |
|--------------------------|------------|------|------------|------|
| | Occurrence | % | Occurrence | % |
| Noun with tense property | 22 | 57.9 | 10 | 43.5 |
| Neutral noun + adjective | 17 | 42.1 | 13 | 56.5 |
| Total | 38 | 100 | 23 | 100 |

English writers use more words with property of tension rather than combining an adjective and a neutral noun (59.25% versus 40.75%). In contrast, Vietnamese ones tend to use the combination of an adjective and neutral noun (58.82% versus 41.18%).

4.2.2. Verbs Denoting Collision in ENIESIs and VNIESIs

ENIESIs writers express the collision in English news items with some verbs such as *ram, violate, attack, smash down, burn, collide, shoot, loot, fire, toss, sink, damage, injure etc.*

Similar to ENIESIs, some verbs describing collision in Vietnamese are: *đâm chằm, đâm va, phun (vòi rồng), húc, lao tới, vấp ép, truy cản, quần thảo, chống chọi, làm tổn thương, gây chiến, ngăn cản, áp sát, etc.*

ENIESIs and VNIESIs have a large number of words denoting collision. 100% of English verbs denoting collision is transitive whereas a similar percentage (98.45%) in Vietnamese is transitive.

Table 4.4. Transitive and Intransitive Verbs Denoting Collision

| Type | English | | Vietnamese | |
|--------------|------------|-----|------------|-------|
| | Occurrence | % | Occurrence | % |
| Transitive | 78 | 100 | 64 | 98.45 |
| Intransitive | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.55 |
| Total | 78 | 100 | 65 | 100 |

4.3. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF ENIESIs AND VNIESIs

4.3.1. Direct and Indirect Speech

According to Quirk [20, p.1021], “*Direct speech supports to the exact word that some utters or has uttered in speech or writing. Indirect speech, on the other hand, conveys in the words of a subsequent reporter what has been said or written by the original speaker or writer*”

Table 4.5. Direct and Indirect Speeches in ENIESIs and VNIESIs

| Types | English | | Vietnamese | |
|----------|------------|------|------------|------|
| | Occurrence | % | Occurrence | % |
| Direct | 114 | 44.5 | 50 | 28.4 |
| Indirect | 142 | 55.5 | 126 | 71.6 |
| Total | 256 | 100 | 176 | 100 |

a. Direct Speech

Reporting verbs used in ENIESIs include *say*, *explain*, *add*, *write*, *tell*, *suggest*, and *declare*. Among them, the verb *say* is the most frequently used with 65 instances. The occurrences of other reporting verbs are *tell* with 8 instances, *add* with 4 instances, *suggest* with 2 instances, *suggest* with 2 instances, and *explain*, *write*, *warn*, *declare*, with only 1 instance.

In VNIESIs, reporting verbs are more diversified with *khẳng định, nhấn mạnh, cho rằng, nói, thuật lại, cho biết, nhận định, tuyên bố, lo ngại, nêu rõ, phát biểu, giải thích*.

b. Indirect Speech

An indirect speech is consists of 2 parts: reporting clause and that-clause. Among common reporting verbs, *say* in English were the most frequently used. Other verbs can be found in English such as *deny, argue report, claim, complain, warn, declare*, etc.

In the Vietnamese language, reporters used a wide range of reporting verbs. *Khẳng định, nói, cho rằng* were 3 main verbs most frequently used to introduce a that-clause. Besides, some other common verbs are *nhấn mạnh, tiết lộ, cho rằng, kêu gọi, nhắc lại, thuật lại, bày tỏ, cảnh báo, đề nghị, nêu rõ, lớn giọng*, etc.

4.3.2. Sentence Types and Phrases in Summary

a. Headlines in ENIESIs and VNIESIs

The average length of headlines in ENIESIs and VNIESIs are 8.7 words and 14.1 words respectively. The table below shows the use of sentences and phrases in headline in ENIESIs and VNIESIs.

Table 4.1. Syntactic Features of Headlines in ENIESIs and VNIESIs

| Types | | English | | Vietnamese | |
|--------|-----------|------------|---|------------|---|
| | | Occurrence | % | Occurrence | % |
| Phrase | Noun | 4 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| | Verb | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| | Adjective | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | Adverb | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Types | | English | | Vietnamese | |
|----------|----------|------------|-----|------------|-----|
| | | Occurrence | % | Occurrence | % |
| Sentence | Simple | 38 | 76 | 36 | 72 |
| | Compound | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| | Complex | 5 | 10 | 4 | 8 |
| | Reported | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| Total | | 50 | 100 | 50 | 100 |

Both English and Vietnamese reporters tend to use simple sentence in headlines of NIESIs with quite similar percentages (76% and 72%). However, reported sentences and verb phrases are used in Vietnamese with 6% each while they are not used in English headlines. Noun phrase in English news items are in higher percentage than it is in Vietnamese ones (8% versus 4%). However, the use of adjective in English headlines occupied with 1 instance (2%) compared with no instance in Vietnamese headlines. The compound sentences are used as same percentage (4%) in both languages.

b. Topic Sentence

Topic sentences in ENIESIs are normally really long. There are noun phrases, verb phrased modified to make them more consise.

Table 4.2. Phrases Used in Topic Sentences

| Type | English | Vietnamese |
|--------------------------|---------|------------|
| Number of Topic sentence | 50 | 50 |
| Number of Noun phrases | 70 | 39 |
| Number of Verb phrases | 53 | 25 |

As seen from the table, noun phrases and verb phrases were widely used in topic sentences in ENIESIs and VNIESIs. However, English writers tend to use much more phrases than Vietnamese do. The percentages of noun phrase and verb phrase in ENIESIs are twice higher than in VNIESIs (70 versus 39 and 53 versus 25).

4.3.3. Sentence Types of Development

As other types of discourse, ENIESIs comprise many sentence types which are categorized into 4 types: simple sentence, complex sentence, compound sentence, and compound – complex sentence.

Different from sentence types of English, Vietnamese sentences, according to Diệp Quang Ban [24] comprise 3 types: single sentence, complex sentence and compound sentence.

In the study, 1548 sentences in ENIESIs and 1426 sentences in VNIESIs were analyzed and categorized.

Table 4.6. Sentence Types in Developments

| Sentence Types | English | | Vietnamese | |
|------------------|------------|------|------------|------|
| | Occurrence | % | Occurrence | % |
| Simple | 709 | 45.8 | 1016 | 71.3 |
| Complex | 593 | 38.3 | 220 | 15.4 |
| Compound | 152 | 9.8 | 190 | 13.3 |
| Compound-Complex | 94 | 6.1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 1548 | 100 | 1426 | 100 |

The table shows that simple sentences were used with highest percentage in the developments in both languages. However, Vietnamese

writers used simple sentences in news items more than English ones did (71.3% versus 45.8%). The use of complex sentences in both languages was quite different with 38.3% in English compared with 15.4% in Vietnamese. Compound sentences marked up a small account with 9.8% in English and 13.3% in Vietnamese.

4.4. COHESIVE DEVICES IN ENIESIs AND VNIESIs

4.4.1. Grammatical Cohesion in ENIESIs and VNIESIs

a. *Reference*

Table 4.7. Reference in ENIESIs and VNIESIs

| REFERENCES | TYPES | | English | | Vietnamese | |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|-------|------------|-------|
| | | | Occur | % | Occur | % |
| | Personal | Personal pronoun | 87 | 13.74 | 40 | 49.38 |
| Possessive pronoun | | 1 | 0.15 | 0 | 0 | |
| Possessive determiner | | 56 | 8.84 | 18 | 22.22 | |
| Total | | 144 | 22.74 | 58 | 71.6 | |
| Demonstrative | Determiner | 80 | 12.64 | 5 | 6.17 | |
| | Adverb | 5 | 0.79 | 1 | 1.25 | |
| | Definite article | 378 | 59.72 | 13 | 16.05 | |
| | Total | 463 | 73.15 | 19 | 24.46 | |
| Comparative | General | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Particular | 26 | 4.10 | 5 | 6.17 | |
| | Total | 26 | 4.10 | 5 | 6.17 | |
| TOTAL | | 633 | 100 | 81 | 100 | |

The above table shows the many differences in reference distribution in ENIESIs and VNIESIs. Personal reference makes up 71.6% in VNIESIs compared with a much lower percentage of 22.74% in ENIESIs. In personal reference, personal pronoun and possessive determiner in VNIESIs were used with much higher frequencies than those used in ENIESIs. However, possessive pronoun was used in ENIESIs but not in VNIESIs (0.15% vs. 0%). In contrast, the demonstrative reference occupies in ENIESIs with 73.15%, much higher than 24.46% in VNIESIs. Determiners found in ENIESIs made 12.64% compared with 6.17% in VNIESIs. The big difference is about definite articles used in ENIESIs and VNIESIs. The percentages were counted with 59.72% in ENIESIs compared with 16.05% in VNIESIs. There is a light difference in using comparative reference in ENIESIs and VNIESIs.

There are a few similarities between ENIESIs and VNIESIs. In the both languages, the use of adverbs in demonstrative in NIESIs in the both languages occupied small percentages, 0.79% in English and 1.25 in Vietnamese. In addition, the percentage of comparative reference was low, just 4.10% in English and 6.17% in Vietnamese.

b. Conjunction

According to Halliday and Hasan [9], conjunction is the relation between sentences must follow one after another. There are four types of conjunctions: Additive, Adversative, Causal and Temporal, presented as in table 4.8.

Table 4.8. Conjunction in ENIESIs and VNIESIs

| Type | English | | Vietnamese | |
|-------------|------------|------|------------|------|
| | Occurrence | % | Occurrence | % |
| Additive | 15 | 12.5 | 20 | 43.5 |
| Adversative | 95 | 79.2 | 9 | 19.5 |
| Causal | 8 | 6.7 | 4 | 8.7 |
| Temporal | 2 | 1.6 | 13 | 28.3 |
| Total | 120 | 100 | 46 | 100 |

In comparison with English, the percentages of four types of conjunction in Vietnamese is more equal, it is to say there is a small difference in distribution of conjunction types in VNIESIs. In ENIESIs, the adversative conjunctions mark up 79.2% whereas the temporal conjunctions account only 1.6%. The use of additive, adversative, temporal conjunctions in the two languages are really different. Vietnamese writers seem to use more additive conjunctions than English writers (43.5% versus 12.5%). In contrast, the rate of occurrence of adversative conjunction in ENIESIs is much higher than that in VNIESIs (79.2% compared with 19.5%).

4.4.2. Lexical Cohesion in ENIESIs and VNIESIs

Halliday and Hasan [9] define reiteration as a form of lexical cohesion which involves the repetition of a lexical item, at one end of the scale; the use of general word to refer back to lexical item, at the other end of the scale; and a number of things in between- the use of synonym, near-synonym or super-ordinate.

Table 4.9. Reiteration in ENIESIs and VNIESIs

| | Type | English | | Vietnamese | |
|-------------|----------------|------------|------|------------|------|
| | | Occurrence | % | Occurrence | % |
| Reiteration | Repetition | 87 | 87.9 | 121 | 76.1 |
| | Synonym | 12 | 12.1 | 38 | 23.9 |
| | Super-ordinate | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 99 | 100 | 159 | 100 |

Writers of ENIESIs and VNIESIs also tend to use the reiteration with 99 instances in ENIESIs and 159 instances in VNIESIs. Among the three sub-classes of reiteration, repetition takes up the highest percentage with 87.9% in ENIESIs and 76.1% in VNIESIs, followed by synonyms (12.1% versus 23.9%).

The distribution of grammatical and lexical cohesion is shown in the table 4.10.

Table 4.10. Cohesive Devices in ENIESIs and VNIESIs

| Type | English | | Vietnamese | |
|-------------|------------|------|------------|------|
| | Occurrence | % | Occurrence | % |
| Grammatical | 753 | 88.4 | 127 | 44.4 |
| Lexical | 99 | 11.6 | 159 | 55.6 |
| Total | 852 | 100 | 286 | 100 |

The use of grammatical cohesion in ENIESIs takes up the highest percentage with 753 instances (occupying 88.4%), as opposed to 44.4% in VNIESIs. On the contrary, the use of lexical cohesion in VNIESIs accounts for 11.6% versus 55.6% in ENIESIs.

4.5. SUMMARY

Chapter 4 has given out some findings and discussions.

In terms of the layout, the research based on the perspectives of Nguyễn Hòa [12] who states that each news item in news discourse is often constituted by two main parts called the “summary” and the “development”.

In terms of the lexical features, an analysis of words denoting tension between China and Vietnam and verbs denoting the collision of guard forces from two countries were carried out.

In terms of syntactic features, based on the view’s Quirk et al. [20] and Diệp Quang Ban [24] [26] [26], direct and indirect speeches, sentence types, phrases in English and Vietnamese news item were analyzed, calculated the percentage of occurrence and a comparison between the two languages were made.

In terms of cohesive devices, the Halliday and Hasan’s [9] view was applied in this research. According to them, there are two kinds of cohesion: grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSIONS

This thesis is the study of how news items on the East Sea issues are written in English and Vietnamese electronic newspapers.

In terms of the layout features, both ENIESIs and VNIESIs share a similar frame which is twofold namely, “Summary and Development” in which the summary consists of the headline and the topic sentence. With regard to the headline, the similarity is that both ENIESIs and VNIESIs headlines can be simple sentences, compound sentences, passive sentences, noun phrases. However, the average length of headlines in ENIESIs is much shorter than that in VNIESIs (8.7 vs 14.1). The development is considered as the main part and the place where the majority information is transferred to readers. In general the layout of the development both in ENIESIs and VNIESIs include 4 parts: background, evidence, comment, result. And the order of these parts in both languages are not really restrict, that is to say they could be separated in different paragraphs and they are not in any fixed order.

With regards to the lexical features, there are many similarities between ENIESIs and VNIESIs. The first one is nouns denoting tension between China and Vietnam. Nouns denoting tension in both languages can be used from noun with its own property of tension, or created from a neutral noun and an adjective expressing tension. The second similarity is the use of verbs denoting collision at sea between China and Vietnam. 100% of verbs in ENIESIs and 98.45% of verbs

in VNIESIs are transitive that is there must be an object followed them. The difference is the percentage of the two types of words denoting tension in ENIESIs and VNIESIs. The rate of noun with tense property in ENIESIs is higher than that in VNIESIs (57.9% versus 43.5%). In contract, nouns combined from a neutral noun and an adjective in VNIESIs occupy a percentage of 56.5% whereas it is 42.1% in ENIESIs.

As regards the syntactic features, there are some similarities and differences between ENIESIs and VNIESIs. Direct speech and indirect speeches are also used in ENIESIs and VNIESIs to express the objectivity and reliability of the news. The reporting verb *say* in ENIESIs and *nói* in VNIESIs are used with highest frequency. The difference is the proportion of direct and indirect speeches in ENIESIs and VNIESIs. English writers use them with quite balancing percentages (44.5% and 55.5%) meanwhile Vietnamese ones use 28.4% and 71.6% respectively. There are some similarities and difference in sentence types and phrases used in ENIESIs and VNIESIs. In Headlines, the percentages of noun phrases, simple sentences, compound sentences and complex sentences in English are quite similar to those in Vietnamese. However, both verb phrases and reported sentences in Vietnamese occupy 6% whereas no case of these is found in English. Topic sentences in English and Vietnamese news items also share a lot of common characteristics. They are mainly built up from heavily modified noun phrases and verb phrases as the topic sentence conveys the general information of the whole news item. However, the use of noun phrase and verb phrase in topic sentence in ENIESIs is more often than in VNIESIs. In the development, Vietnamese writers use more simple sentence and less

complex sentence than English ones do.

Cohesion is the use of linguistic devices to link the sentences together. The findings pointed out that the ENIESIs and VNIESIs show some similar trends in using cohesive devices. Firstly, in grammatical cohesion, both ENIESIs and VNIESIs consist of reference and conjunction. Secondly, in lexical cohesion, there is a great similarity between ENIESIs and VNIESIs. The repetition of the names of key word information in both ENIESIs and VNIESIs take up the highest percentage (95% versus 86.6%), followed by synonyms and super-ordinates.

Beside the similarities mentioned above, there are some differences between ENIESIs and VNIESIs. Firstly, in terms of grammatical cohesion, English writers have a strong tendency to use reference than Vietnamese ones (663 instances vs. 81 instances). Secondly, among the three subcategories of reference devices, Vietnamese writers tend to use personal pronouns with a higher percentage than English ones do (49.38% versus 13.74%). Finally, there was one case of possessive pronoun found in ENIESIs whereas no kind of this was found in VNIESIs. Additionally, there is a difference between ENIESIs and VNIESIs in using possessive determiners. The use of possessive determiners in ENIESIs account for (8.84%) whereas the percentage is 22.22% in VNIESIs. Besides, in conjunction, adversative conjunctions in ENIESIs mark up 79.2% of the 4 types, much higher in comparison with that of 19.5% in VNIESIs. However, percentage of additive and temporal conjunctions in VNIESIs is higher than ENIESIs (43.5% versus 12.5% and 28.3% and 1.6%). In terms of lexical cohesion, both

synonym and repetition were found frequently in ENIESIs and VNIESIs, but there was no case of super-ordinates found in the data.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS

I hoped this thesis would be a useful reference source for teachers and students as well as students specialized in journalism.

To teachers

The result of the research can probably be a useful source for teachers of English. Before teaching students the theory of discourse features of NIESIs, the teachers must ask their students to identify the layout as well as features such as lexical choice, cohesive devices. This will help students to remember the theory more easily. The teachers also give their students more lexical exercises on NIESIs to practice to enrich the students' vocabularies. Moreover, a close attention and clear explanation together with context will help the students to master words more effectively. As cohesive devices are really in NIESIs, the teachers must master what cohesive devices are most used in NIESIs. In addition, mastering the similarities and differences in NIESIs helps the teachers to correct the errors in writing this type of news item, to show their students how to write NIESIs more natively.

To English-majored students

English-majored students can benefit a lot from this thesis. Firstly, they are provided a quite systematic theory of discourse analysis so that they can explore other kinds of discourses on their own. Secondly, the thesis allows the students to broaden their understanding the discourse features of NIESIs. Finally, by deducing the similarities and differences between ENIESIs and VNIESIs,

students of both languages are facilitated when translating news from this language to the other.

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

This study only focuses on some discourse features namely the layout, lexical features, syntactic features and cohesive devices of news items on the East Sea issues.

It can be seen that the study has some certain restrictions. Firstly, the samples selected for analysis were only taken from the internet. Secondly, the headline of news items on the East Sea issues is an interested topic for the researcher but the researcher cannot investigate this interesting domain deeply.

Here are some suggestions for further researches:

1. An investigation into the headlines of English and Vietnamese news items on the East Sea issues.
2. An investigation into news items on territorial dispute in English and Vietnamese newspapers.