

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
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**A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF ARTICLES  
APPEALING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION IN ENGLISH AND  
VIETNAMESE ELECTRONIC NEWSPAPERS**

**Field: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1. RATIONALE**

In the last years of the twentieth century and the early years of the twenty-first century, science has made great progress, especially the information technology has made huge steps in developing computer technologies and reached many goals that made man's life much easier. It really is a hi-tech revolution which has had a dramatic influence and changed the face of the world magically. The newspaper is the bridge of communication on economy, culture, politics, society and other fields among the countries in the world. It provides a variety of information from the local news, national and international news to the readers. The newspaper is suitable for people from all walks of life. Obviously, the newspaper plays an important role and is the essential need for human beings in the modern life.

In recent decades, scientific and technological achievements have been applied in all fields of life, and the media could not also avoid the impacts. As a result, the electronic newspapers have been launched to keep pace with the development trend of the age. Electronic newspapers have become more and more popular in society. They allow people around the world to access information quickly regardless of time and space. The development of electronic newspapers has changed the reading habits and had more influence on the development of traditional newspapers. Electronic newspapers always provide fresh, interesting or useful information, particularly urgent and hot news for everybody. The environmental issue has become not only confined to one country, but also a global problem.

We are in the face of the consequences from the furies of nature, for example, the increasing of the temperature of the earth causes the melting of the polar ices, the rising of sea levels and the disappearance of many depression areas of the world. In addition, the global warming has negatively affected the climate, so man's life also has been influenced directly. Now, we have to take action and have positive thoughts to protect the environment because men are both victims and perpetrators in the environmental issues. Reading newspapers is one of the effective ways to raise people's awareness about the environmental impacts. Thus, the newspaper in general and newspaper articles in particular are rich sources of information to help us get the information about what is happening in the country and the world in no time.

Every media, in printed newspapers, in electronic newspapers, on television, on the radio, etc. we can see many environmental issues. With a deep interest in the importance of the environment for man's life, as far as I am concerned, I would like to discover the articles appealing for environmental protection.

For the above reasons, I choose the topic "A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF ARTICLES APPEALING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE ELECTRONIC NEWSPAPERS" to study. The thesis is carried out with the hope that it will partially contribute to Vietnamese learners of English's success, especially students majoring in journalism in getting some useful information about the linguistic features of English and Vietnamese newspaper articles on environmental issues.

## **1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **1.2.1. Aims**

The aims of the research are to identify some discourse features of articles appealing for environmental protection in English and Vietnamese electronic newspapers, to help teachers, students of journalism, language understand and grasp the distinctive characteristics of this kind of discourse.

### **1.2.2. Objectives**

- To find out the discourse features of AAEPs in English and Vietnamese newspapers (their layout, lexical features, syntactic structures and cohesive devices)

- To compare and contrast the similarities and differences between English and Vietnamese AAEPs.

- To suggest some implications for teachers and learners of English, especially journalism students.

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

This study focuses on the investigation of some discourse features of articles appealing for environmental protection in English and Vietnamese electronic newspapers namely the layout, lexical features, syntactic features, and the cohesive devices.

## **1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

For the aims above, the research seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What are the characteristics of EAAEP and VAAEP in electronic newspapers in terms of their layout, lexical features, syntactic features and cohesive devices?

2. What are the similarities and differences between English

and Vietnamese articles appealing for environmental protection in terms of the above aspects?

### **1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Nowadays, electronic newspapers have positive impacts on man's life. It cannot be denied that reading newspaper has become an indispensable need for everyone in modern life. Especially, for Vietnamese learners of English and students in journalism major, newspapers provide them with the varieties of written English that become very important and valuable for language study. Learning English through reading newspapers can improve and develop reading skills and writing skills. Therefore, an investigation into articles appealing for environmental protection in English and Vietnamese electronic newspapers at discourse level is necessary for teaching and learning English. We intend to help English learners to find out the similarities and differences of some discourse features of the two languages.

For these reasons, the thesis is carried out with the hope that the discourse analysis of articles appealing for environmental protection in English and Vietnamese electronic newspapers will be helpful in teaching and learning English.

### **1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

The research includes five chapters: Chapter 1(Introduction), Chapter 2 (Theoretical Background), Chapter 3 (Methods and Procedure), Chapter 4 (Findings and Discussion) and Chapter 5 (Conclusions and Implications).

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

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

Discourse analysis is concerned with the study of the relationship between language and the contexts in which it is used.

In the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, 1990s, Austin (1962), Searle (1969), Dijk (1972), Halliday and Hasan (1976), Brown and Yule (1983), Cook (1989), Mc Carthy (1991), etc. had valuable contributions to the study of discourse both spoken and written.

With respect to cohesion, many studies have been executed by famous linguists. However, Halliday and Hasan (1976) have made a significant impact on this area and their point of view is chosen as guideline in the thesis.

In Vietnam, Discourse Analysis also has drawn much attention of many researchers. Tran Ngoc Them (1998), Diep Quang Ban (2009), Nguyen Hoa (2008), Do Huu Chau (2001), etc. Besides, there have been a number of master theses and doctoral dissertations relating to discourse field such as Phan Van Hoa (1998), Bui Thi Ngoc Anh (2001), Tran Thi Thuy Huong (2002).

With respect to newspapers, Bui Thi Thu Ha(2007), Tran Thi Le Thuong (2009), Nguyen Thi Hong Minh (2011), Le Thi Hoai Tam (2011) have made some contribution to this field.

To the best my knowledge, there is no evidence that any research on investigating discourse features of newspaper articles appealing for environmental protection has been done. Hence, “A Discourse Analysis of Articles Appealing for Environmental Protection in English and Vietnamese Electronic Newspapers” would be conducted with the aim

of making a small contribution to this field.

## **2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.2.1. Text**

*a. Concepts of Text:* “Text” is understood as a semantic unit of language in written form which is complete in form and structure.

*b. Features of Text:* Based on Diep Quang Ban’s view

### **2.2.2 Discourse and Discourse Analysis**

#### *a. Concepts of Discourse*

Discourse in this thesis is viewed as follows: (1) language in use, for communication, (2) a language unit which has meaning, unity and purpose, (3) a unit which may vary in length and inextricably related to the context in which it is used, (4) a process and its linguistic product is text.

#### *b. Concepts of Discourse Analysis*

Brown and Yule (1983) state that “Discourse Analysis” is the study of language use with the reference to the social and psychological factors that influence communication.

#### *c. Spoken and Written Discourse*

### **2.2.3. Kinds of Discourse Processing**

Brown and Yule [6, p.234] point out two kinds of discourse processing: top-down and bottom-up processing. In my thesis I use both top-down and bottom-up processes simultaneously because articles appealing for environmental protection is the product of the process of using language. These two kinds of discourse processing serve as a theoretical framework to help me analyze articles appealing for environmental protection in terms of their layout features, lexical features, syntactic features and cohesive devices.

#### 2.2.4. Cohesion and coherence

##### a. Cohesion

Cohesion is how words and expressions are connected by using cohesive devices. Halliday and Hasan [15] state that cohesion consists of two types, namely grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion and they are categorized into five types: *reference*, *substitution*, *ellipsis*, *conjunction* and *lexical cohesion*.

##### b. Coherence

Coherence has been defined as continuity in meaning and context in a discourse. It can be seen that cohesion and coherence have a close relationship in discourse analysis. Coherence is built via the material of cohesion; on the contrary, cohesion is the foundation on which coherence is expressed.

#### 2.2.5. Newspapers and Electronic Newspapers

#### 2.2.6. Definition of Articles Appealing for Environmental Protection

- **Article** is defined as “a piece of writing about a particular subject in a newspaper or magazine” by Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (2010).

- **Appealing** is defined as “describes someone’s expression or way of speaking when it makes you want to help or protect them” by Dictionary of Cambridge Advanced Learner (2008).

- **Environment** is “the natural world in which people, animals and plants live” by Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (2010).

- **Protection** is “the act of protecting sb/sth; the state of being protected” by Dictionary of Cambridge Advanced Learner (2008).

To bring to an end, from the definitions of article, appealing,

environment, protection as stated above, the definition applied to “articles appealing for environmental protection” in this thesis is an article in a newspaper or in a magazine that is about environmental situations, namely global warming, climate change, pollution caused the influence to people and the earth. From that, the articles appeal to people for protecting the environment. Besides, articles appealing for environmental protection used in this study are the ones that include the headline, the topic sentence and the body that are displayed in the electronic newspapers.

### **2.2.7. Summary**

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **METHODS AND PROCEDURE**

#### **3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN**

In this thesis, both qualitative and quantitative approaches are employed.

#### **3.2. RESEARCH METHODS**

My research is done by means of using the following main methods: the descriptive method, the analytic method, the contrastive method. Among them, the descriptive and contrastive methods are chosen as the prominent ones which are most frequently used in the thesis.

#### **3.3. DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLES**

100 samples of articles appealing for environmental protection (50 EAAEP and 50 VAAEP) collected from official websites of popular electronic newspapers (from 2009- June 2014) must have five parts: the Headlines, the Byline, the Topic sentence, the photos and Cutlines and the Development in which the average length ranging from 400 to 900 words.

### **3.4. DATA COLLECTION**

Data for the research were collected from famous websites in the world and in Vietnam. These are popular websites in Britain, American, Australia and Vietnam. In this study, I choose over 15 websites on the internet.

### **3.5. DATA ANALYSIS**

Firstly, on the basis of 100 AAEPs in English and Vietnamese, data analysis is investigated in terms of their layout, lexical features, syntactic structures and cohesive devices. Then, the analysis results of the EAAEP and VAAEP were compared to find out the similarities and differences between them.

### **3.6. RESEARCH PROCEDURE**

Collecting English and Vietnamese AAEPs from the well-known websites on the internet. Analyzing data to point out the discourse features of EAAEPs and VAAEPs in terms of their layouts, lexical features, syntactic features and cohesive devices. Comparing and contrasting to find out the similarities and differences of discourse characteristics of English and Vietnamese AAEPs. Synthesizing the findings and drawing conclusions. Putting forward some implications for the teaching and learning English as well as giving some suggestions for further research.

### **3.7. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

### **3.8. SUMMARY**

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

#### **4.1. LAYOUT OF EAAEP AND VAAEP**

Nguyen Hoa (2008) states that the structure of a news discourse

often includes two basic elements, namely the “summary” and the “development”. In my study, I have realized that the layout of AAEP is similar to the layout of news discourse by Nguyen Hoa. Therefore, Nguyen Hoa’s model was employed to form the basis for the analysis of generic structure of English and Vietnamese articles appealing for environmental protection. However, through investigation, we also find some other optional constituents making up the convincing articles such as byline, photos, and cutlines. All together they make the articles more attractive to appeal people’s actions and their attitude for environmental protection. Here is the model of EAAEPs and VAAEPs.

**Figure 4.1. The layout of Articles Appealing for Environmental Protection**

<b>Summary</b>	<b>Headline</b>
	<b>Byline</b>
	<b>Topic sentence</b>
	<b>Photos</b>
	<b>Cutlines</b>
<b>Development</b>	<b>Background</b>
	<b>Elaboration</b>
	<b>Comment</b>
	<b>Result</b>

#### **4.1.1. The Summary**

The summary of news discourse consists of four elements: Headline, Byline, Topic sentence, Photos and Cutlines

##### **a. The Headline**

The headline is, in fact, always placed at the beginning of the article and is the soul of the whole writing. Galperin [13, p.302] states the main function of the headline is “to inform the reader briefly what the text that follows is about”.

The finding indicates that both English and Vietnamese reporters tend to use simple, imperative sentences and reported

speech. Of the three types of sentences, simple sentences are used the most frequently with the highest percentage in English AAEP headlines (66%) and in Vietnamese with 82%. However, the use of reported speeches in English AAEP headlines is more widely used than in Vietnamese ones (24% versus 4%). The use of imperative sentences in VAAEP headlines is higher than in English ones (8% versus 4%). A noteworthy similarity is that the noun phrases appear with the same percentage in EAAEP headlines and VAAEP headlines (6%).

#### **b. The Byline**

Tim Harrower and Julie M. Elman [34,p.22] states that “byline” is the writer’s name, often followed by the name of the publication he or she works for or other key credentials.

#### **c. The Topic Sentence**

The topic sentence is a sentence that sums up the main point of the article in which it is contained. On examining the data collected, I realize that the topic sentence in newspaper articles appealing for environmental protection serve to provide the main content for readers. In addition, according to Nguyen Hoa’s view [51], to some authors, the topic sentence has to provide the information about the five elements: who, what, when, why, where and one how for readers. Analyzing the data collected, I find that the topic sentence in EAAEP and VAAEP also includes some these factors.

#### **d. Photos and Cutlines**

The photos are the pictures that accompany stories. Other words used that mean the same thing: photographs, images and sometimes even the shorthand words *pics* [34]. Most EAAEPs and

VAAEPs used the pictures and cutlines in their articles with the purpose to induce reader's attention to protect the environment. However, there are some cases in which no pictures and cutlines are illustrated, and this number is not remarkable in EAAEP and VAAEP (4 instances versus 3 instances)

#### 4.1.2 The Development

The structure of the development in news discourse includes four parts: Background, Evidence/Elaboration, Comment, Result.[51]

### 4.2. LEXICAL CHOICES IN EAAEP AND VAAEP

#### 4.2.1. Personal Pronouns

Through examining of articles appealing for environmental protection, I find that personal pronouns are commonly used in both EAAEP and VAAEP.

**Table 4.4. Personal pronoun in EAAEP and VAAEP**

Personal pronouns	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
We	112	26.8%	46	49.5%
You	15	3.6%	14	15%
They	49	11.7%	6	6.4%
I	33	7.9%	5	5.4%
It	95	22.7%	5	5.4%
He	105	25.1%	13	14%
She	9	2.2%	4	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100%</b>

As described in the table above, English and Vietnamese writers tend to use personal pronouns in their articles. Among these personal pronouns, personal pronoun "we" is used with the highest rate in EAAEP and VAAEP (26.8% vs 49.5%). Other personal pronouns also appear in EAAEP and VAAEP, but these pronouns are used with lower frequency such as I (7.9% vs 5.4%), They (11.7% vs 6.4%), It (22.7% vs 5.4%), You (3.6% vs 15%) and She (2.2% vs 4.3%). It seems that the

authors want to make a connection with readers, and personal pronoun “we” is used with the highest frequency.

#### 4.2.2. Evaluative Adjectives

Articles appealing for environmental protection usually describe the impacts of many factors to the environment as well as the appeals for help. Thanks to evaluative adjectives, readers can feel the seriousness of the influences of climate change, global warming as well as pollution. That is the reason why evaluative adjectives are often used in articles appealing for environmental protection. The writers in EAAEP and VAAEP tend to use of evaluative adjectives in three forms: base form adjectives, comparative adjectives and superlative adjectives.

**Table 4.5. Evaluative Adjectives in EAAEP and VAAEP**

Evaluative Adjectives	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Base-form	229	65.1%	159	70.7%
Comparative	73	20.7%	41	18.2%
Superlative	50	14.2%	25	11.1%
Total	352	100%	225	100%

As can be seen from the table 4.5, the use base - form adjectives in VAAEP is stronger than EAAEP (70.7% vs 65.1%). Comparative adjectives in EAAEP occupy 20.7%, while this is lower in VAAEP (18.2%). In addition, the use of superlative adjectives in EAAEP takes up 14.2%, whereas in EAAEP this kind of evaluative adjectives account for 11.1%. These figures show that evaluative adjectives are relatively used in both English and Vietnamese.

#### 4.2.3. Modal verbs

Alexander L.G (1992) states that the common modal verbs which share the same grammatical characteristics are: can - could, may

- might, will - would, shall - should, must and ought to [1, p.207].

We can see that in EAAEP, the modal verbs are often used are *can, could, should, need, must, have to, will, would* with 158 instances while in VAAEP the number is 115 instances with the words “*có thể, cần, phải, sẽ, nên*”. This implies that both English and Vietnamese reporters tend to use modal verbs strongly in showing the seriousness as well as the appeals of environmental problems.

#### **4.2.4. Verbs Commonly Used in Expressions Related to Environment**

These verbs are often used in EAAEP and VAAEP in order to emphasize the seriousness of the weather phenomena to the environment and human. Through these verbs, the author has made a great impact to raise people’s awareness in taking action of protecting environment. English as well as Vietnamese reporters have a strong tendency to use the action verbs relating to environmental protection with the percentages are high (51.1% vs 48.5%).

The verbs relating to environmental protection used in EAAEP are *tackle, address, combat, fight, take action, reduce, stop, limit, curb, cut, protect, call for, conserve, prevent, raise, save, etc.* Similarly, the verbs relating to environmental protection in VAAEPs are *bảo vệ, kêu gọi, tuyên truyền, tiết kiệm, cắt giảm, giảm, nâng cao nhận thức, bảo tồn, gìn giữ, cứu lấy, etc.*

As can be seen from the above examples, verbs commonly used in expressions related to environmental protection are used as a good choice to urge the need for saving and improving the environment.

### **4.3. SYNTACTIC FEATURES IN EAAEP AND VAAEP**

#### **4.3.1. Direct and Indirect speeches in EAAEP AND VAAEP**

Quirk et al. [1985:1021] states that “Direct speech purports to give the exact words that someone utters or has uttered in speech or in 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”.

In Direct speeches, the reporting clauses may occur before, within and after the quotation. With regard to the position of reporting clauses in EAAEP and VAAEP, we can summarize this in the following table:

**Table 4.7. Position of Reporting Clauses in EAAEP and VAAEP**

Reporting Clause	English		Vietnamese	
	Occurrence	Rate	Occurrence	Rate
Initial	25	23.4%	13	41.9%
Medial	31	28.9%	3	9.7%
Final	51	47.7%	15	48.4%
Total	107	100%	31	100%

The table 4.7 shows that both English and Vietnamese writers are similar in that they use the final reporting clauses in articles appealing for environmental protection with the highest proportion (47.7% versus 48.4%). The use of medial reporting clauses in EAAEP is shown to have significantly higher frequencies of percentages than in VAAEP (28.9% versus 9.7%). However, in VAAEP, the initial reporting occurred in more texts and with a higher average frequency than in EAAEP (23.4% versus 41.9%). Sometimes, in order to avoid wordy quotes, the reporters should paraphrase them by using indirect speeches to make the news succinct. Thus, using direct speech or indirect speech is a crucial factor for reporters in articles appealing for environmental protection.

### 4.3.2. Imperative sentences in EAAEP and VAAEP

According to Alexander L.G [1, p.184] and R. Quirk et al [28, p.830], the most common type of the imperative is the subjectless 2<sup>nd</sup> person imperative. There are two main forms of imperative as follows.

- Positive imperative: V (base form)
- Negative imperative: Do not + V (base form)

(1). *It's Earth Day today: **Get your green on*** [113]

In Vietnamese, the writers tend to use the imperatives for giving advice; they hope that people will cooperate to make the environment better. According to Diep Quang Ban [41, p.119], the two common imperative structures that are often used in Vietnamese are:

- Positive imperative: Hãy + Verb
- Negative imperative: Đừng, Chớ, không + Verb

In VAAEP, the imperatives can be recognized by hãy, đừng.

(2). *Mỗi khi tắm giặt **hãy sử dụng** vừa đủ lượng nước, **đừng phí phạm** nước vì nó là tài nguyên và bạn phải mất tiền để sử dụng. **Hãy tiết kiệm** nước để tiết kiệm chi phí và để mọi người đều có nước để dùng.* [135]

With respect to articles appealing for environmental protection, the imperative sentences are widely used in Vietnamese AAEP with 45 instances. Meanwhile this is rarely used in English AAEP with 5 instances.

### 4.4. COHESIVE DEVICES IN EAAEP AND VAAEP

**Table 4.9. Cohesion in EAAEP and VAAEP**

Cohesion	Type	Occ	Rate
ENGLISH	Grammatical cohesion	607	60%
	Lexical cohesion	400	40%
	Total	1007	100%
VIETNAMESE	Grammatical cohesion	282	55%
	Lexical cohesion	232	45%
	Total	514	100%

As can be seen in the table 4.9, there is a difference between EAAEP and VAAEP in using cohesion. The English writers tend to use grammatical cohesion than lexical cohesion. The use of grammatical cohesion in EAAEP takes up the highest percentage with 607 instances (60%), as opposed to 55% in VAAEP. On the contrary, the use of lexical cohesion in VAAEP accounts for 45% versus 40% in EAAEP.

#### 4.4.1. Grammatical Cohesion in EAAEP and VAAEP

**Table 4.10. Grammatical Cohesion in EAAEP and VAAEP**

Grammatical Cohesion	English		Vietnamese	
	Occ	Rate	Occ	Rate
Reference	392	64.6%	90	31.9%
Substitution	3	0.5%	11	3.9%
Ellipsis	0	0	0	0
Conjunction	212	34.9%	181	64.2%
Total	607	100%	282	100%

As a whole, referring to grammatical cohesion, among the four types as pointed out above, there is a significant similarity between EAAEP and VAAEP in that no case of ellipsis is used. However, in English, the use of reference dominates with the highest percentage (64.6%) versus VAAEP (31.9%). Contrary to reference, the use of conjunction in VAAEP takes up 64.2% versus 34.9% in EAAEP. Substitution takes the lowest percentage in both EAAEP and VAAEP (0.5% versus 3.9%).

##### *a. Reference in EAAEP and VAAEP*

According to Halliday and Hassan (1976), reference is the specific nature of information that is signed for retrieval and the cohesion lies in the continuity of reference, whereby the same thing enters the discourse the second time.

The use of personal reference in EAAEP takes up the highest proportion 63.6% versus 43.3% in VAAEP. Demonstrative reference used in articles appealing for environmental protection takes up the lowest percentage with 11.7% in EAAEP and 25.6% in VAAEP. Among the three sub-classes of demonstrative reference, neutral determiners are used with quite a small rate (4.6%) in EAAEP, but no cases of this type are found in VAAEP. The use of determiners in EAAEP takes up 7.1%; meanwhile, this sub-class takes a higher percentage in VAAEP with 25.6%. A remarkable similarity is that there is no instance of using the adverbs in EAAEP and VAAEP. Comparative reference in EAAEP and VAAEP ranks second with a high percentage (24.7% in EAAEP and 31.1% in VAAEP). However, unlike EAAEP, comparative reference in VAAEP does not consist of general comparison, and only involves the use of particular comparison.

***b. Conjunction in EAAEP and VAAEP***

Halliday and Hassan (1976:227) states that conjunction is the relation between sentences in a text, and the sentences of a text can only follow one after the other. They also offer a scheme of four categories, namely Additive, Adversative, Causal and Temporal.

The findings indicate that the use of conjunction in VAAEP is far higher than in EAAEP (64.2% versus 34.9%). Additive conjunction is used with the highest density in EAAEP with 16.5% as well as in VAAEP with 29.8%. The use of adversatives in EAAEP and VAAEP has a notable similarity. In EAAEP adversative conjunction appears with 13.5% and in VAAEP with 14.2% with 40 instances. There is a difference between EAAEP and VAAEP in using causal conjunction. The use of causal conjunction in EAAEP accounts a low proportion with

30 instances (4.9%) while in VAAEP is 39 instances (13.8%). The last conjunctive category is temporal conjunction. It marks a big difference between EAAEP and VAAEP. While no cases of temporal conjunction was found in EAAEP, temporal conjunction accounts for 6.4% with 18 instances in VAAEP.

### ***c. Substitution EAAEP and VAAEP***

Substitution is a means of cohesive devices that used to avoid repetition in the sentences within the text. The cohesion is gained through “the presupposed item is the presupposing item” relation. According to Halliday and Hassan [15, p.91], nominal, verbal and clausal are the three terms that occur as substitutes.

Substitution is used in EAAEP with 0.5%; however, in VAAEP 11 cases of substitution were used taking up 3.9%.

### **4.4.2. Lexical Cohesion in EAAEP and VAAEP**

**Table 4.15. Reiteration in EAAEP and VAAEP**

	Type	English		Vietnamese	
		Occ	Rate	Occ	Rate
Reiteration	Repetition	389	98.5%	317	95.8%
	Synonym	6	1.5%	9	2.7%
	Super-ordinate	0	0%	5	1.5%
Total		395	100%	331	100%

As can be seen from the table 4.15 that the writers of EAAEP and VAAEP also tend to use the reiteration with 395 instances in EAAEP and 331 instances in VAAEP. Among the three sub-classes of reiteration, repetition is commonly occurred at the highest percentage with 98.5% in EAAEP and 95.8% in VAAEP, followed by synonyms (1.5% in English versus 2.7% in Vietnamese). The difference in EAAEP and VAAEP is that 5 instances of using super-ordinates are found in VAAEP, and no cases of super-ordinates are found in EAAEP.

In conclusion, cohesive devices involve reference, conjunction and repetition. These factors cooperate and help the writers create semantic links within text between sentence and paragraph boundaries.

#### **4.6. SUMMARY**

### **CHAPTER 5**

## **CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1. CONCLUSIONS**

This thesis researches on how articles appealing for environmental protection are structured and what typical discourse features are used in English and Vietnamese electronic newspapers. In order to get these purposes, we have carried out an investigation and find out the similarities and differences between EAAEP and VAAEP in terms of their layout, lexical features, syntactic features and cohesive devices. The findings obtained some results as follows:

As far as the layout is concerned, we have found some striking features. Firstly, EAAEP and VAAEP have a similar framework which consists of two parts namely, “Summary and Development” in which the summary includes the Headline, the Byline, the Photos and Cutlines and the Topic sentence, and the development contains Background, Evidence/ Elaboration, Comment and Result. Secondly, in respect of the Headline, the similarity is that both EAAEP and VAAEP headlines occur in form of simple sentences, reported sentences, imperative sentences and noun phrases. But, their differences are indicated in using sentence types between EAAEP and VAAEP, namely simple sentences (66% versus 82%), reported sentences in EAAEP headlines is much higher than in Vietnamese ones (24% versus 4%), imperative sentences in VAAEP headlines is higher than in EAAEP headlines (8% versus 4%). A notable similarity

is that using noun phrases in EAAEP headlines and VAAEP headlines take the same percentage (6%). Next is the topic sentence in English and Vietnamese newspapers articles. It consists of some factors such as who, what, where, when in which who and what are the two main factors in every topic sentence. Thirdly, most EAAEP and VAAEP use the byline, photos and cutlines in their articles. Finally is the development, it is considered as the body part and the place where the majority of information is conveyed to readers.

As regards the lexical features, some features are found in EAAEP and VAAEP. Firstly, personal pronouns are used through the articles to make the sentence less cumbersome and less repetitive. Secondly is the similarity in using evaluative adjectives which are used in three forms, namely base-form adjectives, comparative adjectives and superlative adjectives. The English as well as Vietnamese writers have a strong tendency in using evaluative adjectives in articles appealing for environmental protection. Thirdly, modal verbs are commonly used in English and Vietnamese AAEP to make newspaper articles more impressed and exert a strong impact on the readers. Lastly, the English writers as well as the Vietnamese ones tend to use these verbs with the environmental expression in order to induce and appeal people to take in action of protecting the environment (232 instances versus 206 instances).

As for the syntactic features, there are some similarities and differences between EAAEP and VAAEP. The English writers and Vietnamese ones have a strong tendency to using Direct and Indirect speeches to express the objectivity and reliability of the news articles. However, the use of using position of reporting clauses in EAAEP and

VAAEP is rather different. The use of medial reporting clauses in EAAEP is higher than in VAAEP (28.9% and with 9.7%). Another point is the use of imperative sentences. Imperative sentences are more widely used in Vietnamese than in English (45 instances versus 5 instances).

Finally, cohesion is used to link the sentences together in news discourse. There are some similar trends in using cohesive devices in EAAEP and VAAEP. Firstly, in grammatical cohesion, reference and conjunction are dominant; whereas, there are no cases of using ellipsis in articles appealing for environmental protection. Although Vietnamese writers used substitution higher than the English ones in AAEPs, this number is not remarkable. It can be said that the occurrence of substitution in both languages is at low percentage (0.5% versus 3.9%). Secondly, in lexical cohesion, both EAAEP and VAAEP have a great similarity in using repetition with the highest percentage (98.5% versus 95.8%), followed by synonyms and super-ordinates.

Besides the similarities mentioned above, there are some differences between EAAEP and VAAEP. Firstly, in terms of grammatical cohesion, English writers use reference higher than Vietnamese ones (64.6% versus 31.9%). Contrary to the English writers, the Vietnamese writers use conjunction higher (64.2% versus 34.9%). Of the three sub-categories of reference devices, personal are used with the highest percentage in EAAEP and VAAEP (63.6% versus 43.3%). Comparative occupies the second position (24.7% versus 31.1%), and Demonstrative is the last one that is used with a lower frequency (11.7% versus 25.6%). Besides, in conjunction, temporal conjunction marks a big difference in EAAEP and VAAEP. While no cases of temporal conjunction are found in any EAAEP, in

VAAEP temporal conjunction takes up 6.4%. Secondly, in terms of lexical cohesion, the difference in EAAEP and VAAEP is that no cases of super-ordinates are found in EAAEPs while 5 instances of this term are found in VAAEP (take up 1.5%).

## **5.2. IMPLICATIONS**

On carrying out this research, in the light of discourse analysis, I do hope this thesis will make some contribution to the field of teaching English, learning English and writing articles in newspapers.

Firstly, the result of the study will probably be a useful source for Vietnamese learners of English. Reading is necessary for language learners in general and students of English in particular. Vietnamese learners of English who read newspapers regularly not only enlarge their knowledge but also develop their reading skill and writing skill. It can be said that the newspaper is an important tool for students in their learning process. When teaching students how to write and read a newspaper article, teachers should ask them to specify the layout because each genre of discourse has its own layout. The layout is considered as a frame to develop writing skill and reading skill in a natural and proper way. Vietnamese learners of English are often influenced by their mother tongue, so when teaching students to write this kind of discourse the teacher should remind them to pay attention to the similarities and differences between EAAEP and VAAEP, especially the differences. When the students realize the differences between two languages, they will be able to write a newspaper article that can be acceptable and more convincing.

Secondly, Vietnamese journalism students who are trained to write newspapers in English should be provided with a theoretical

framework at discourse level in order to enable to write good news articles on the environment in general and on articles appealing for environmental protection in particular. Moreover, online newspapers have aroused the interest of many readers recently. Once a news article is uploaded; it is not only available for Vietnamese readers but also readers in the world. That is the reason why Vietnamese reporters must understand more details of typical discourse features to write news articles successfully as well as to attract the readers inland and all over the world.

### **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 articles appealing for environmental protection.

This study has been completed with my greatest effort and to the best of our knowledge and understanding. However, due to the shortage of time and limited knowledge of the researcher, the study has some certain restrictions. The analysis of the thesis is not as profound as expected. Nevertheless, hopefully, the study will be a reference for those who take an interest in the problem.

Here are some suggestions for further research:

1. An investigation into the headlines of English and Vietnamese articles appealing for environmental protection.
2. An investigation into articles on measures to protect the environment in English and Vietnamese newspapers.
3. An investigation into pragmatics and stylistics of English and Vietnamese articles appealing for environmental protection.