

**THE MINISTRY OF TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
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**A STUDY OF SEMANTIC AND PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF  
THE ADJECTIVE “WARM” AND ITS VIETNAMESE  
EQUIVALENTS**

**Subject Area: English Linguistics**

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**M.A THESIS ON LINGUISTICS  
(SUMMARY)**

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## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 RATIONALE

Language takes an important role in every day communication. However, we are very likely to face with some problems in expressing our ideas, especially in transferring meanings of words from a language to another one.

Adjective always takes an important role in enriching language by its abundance and potentially descriptive qualities and characteristics. In English, the adjective is multi-functional. It is used essentially to describe an object but, in general, it is meant to enrich and clarify ideas and lead the interlocutors to communicate eloquently.

The adjective *Warm* is commonly known as one of four adjectives indicating temperature. In fact, it can bear various meanings in different categories. It can be used to indicate the weather, describe seasons, and more specially, express feelings, show attitudes and political expressions as well.

This thesis deals with the adjective *Warm* through the investigation of its semantic and pragmatic features and its Vietnamese equivalents. This topic must be important to learners of English and it will provide them a deep understanding of such adjective in different situations.

### 1.2. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE STUDY

Hopefully, doing a research of the adjective *Warm* will be a contribution to the present recognition of the field. And the findings of classification of semantics as well as analysis of pragmatic aspects of this kind of adjective will be expected as great benefits for Vietnamese learners of English.

### 1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

#### 1.3.1. Aims

The study aims at:

- Making an investigation of some semantic and pragmatic features of the adjective *Warm* in English and its equivalents in Vietnamese.
- Analyzing meanings of the adjective *Warm* in particular contexts, getting access to various features of that in expression.
- Finding out the features of pragmatics of the adjective *Warm* so that individuals have the best understanding and the most effective use of such adjective in different situations.

#### 1.3.2. Objectives

To achieve these above aims, this study attempts:

- Describing the semantic features of the adjective *Warm* in English and its Vietnamese equivalents.
- Making it possible for English learners to be aware of some pragmatic cases in which the adjective *Warm* is used and its Vietnamese equivalents.
- Making some suggestions for teaching and learning language.

#### 1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The paper will find the answers to the following questions:

- What are the semantic features of the adjective *Warm* in English and its Vietnamese equivalents?
- What are the pragmatic features of the adjective *Warm* in English and its Vietnamese equivalents?

#### 1.5. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is restricted to discover, analyze and contrast semantic and pragmatic characteristics of the adjective *Warm* and its Vietnamese equivalents. For this study, I mainly use the theory of semantics, approaches to collocations and some related concepts such as temperature, weather, emotion, idioms.

#### 1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The thesis includes five main chapters, references and an appendix as follows:

**Chapter 1:** “*Introduction*” states the rationale of the study, defines the aims, objectives and the significance, presents the research questions, the scope and also the organization of the study.

**Chapter 2:** “*Literature Review and Theoretical Background*” presents a comprehensive literature review of the research.

**Chapter 3:** “*Methodology and Procedures*” mentions the method and procedures of the research.

**Chapter 4:** “*Findings and Discussions*” is the main frame of the study, which describes and compares some semantic and pragmatic features of the adjective *Warm* in English and Vietnamese.

**Chapter 5:** “*Conclusion and Implications*” consists of conclusion, teaching implications and suggestions for further studies.

The study is ended with References

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1. A REVIEW OF PREVIOUS STUDIES

Some linguists have studied of adjectives as well as adjectives of temperature. However, the adjective *Warm* is basically found in dictionaries with diversionary meanings. There has been no research of semantic features of the adjective *Warm* in English and its equivalents in Vietnamese.

#### 2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

##### 2.2.1. Semantic Features

###### 2.2.1.1. Semantics

Semantics can be simply defined as the study of meaning. It is central to the study of communication. In addition, there is no doubt that communication is an important factor in our life, so the need to understand semantics becomes crucial.

###### 2.2.1.2. Sense

Sense is defined as an element of the meaning of a word; a description of the characteristic feature of what the word refers to. E.g. the sense of “*grasshopper*” is “*an insect which can jump high and make a sharp noisy by rubbing its legs against its body*”

###### 2.2.1.3. Meaning

Meaning plays an important part in communication. According to Lesley Jeffries [29, p.3] meaning is a kind of invisible unclothed being waiting for the clothes of language to allow it to be seen, which is why it is very necessary to take off the clothes of language to understand the real meaning of words, phrases, and sentences.

#### **2.2.1.4. Components of word-meaning**

**a. Denotation** is a part of the meaning of a word or phrase that relates it to phenomena in the real world or in a fictional or possible world.

**b. Connotation** is the additional meanings that a word or phrase has beyond its central meaning. These meanings show people's emotions and attitudes towards what the word or phrase refers to.

#### **2.2.1.5. Semantic features**

Semantic features play a very important part in differentiating the match between word and meaning. We need a very large number of features to do this work. Jack Richards, John Platt and Heidi Weber [28, p. 254] say that semantic features are "*the smallest units of meaning in a word. The meaning of a word may be described as a combination of semantic features*"

#### **2.2.1.6. Meaning relations**

In order to identify exactly the meaning of a word, we have to consider another semantic phenomenon called meaning (sense) relation, which usually consists of synonymy, antonym, polysemy and homonymy.

**Synonymy** is often understood as semantic equivalence.

**Antonym** is the sense relation that exists between words or expressions which are opposite in meaning.

**Polysemy** which is characteristic of most words in English is property of a single word, so we should talk something about polysemy. It is a semantic phenomenon in which a word has two or more similar meanings.

**Hyponym**, in linguistics, is a specific term used to designate a member of a class. For instance, oak is a hyponym of tree, and dog is a hyponym of animal.

#### **2.2.1.7. Semantic field**

The semantic structure of vocabulary of a language can be studied in a precise and systematic way by means of componential analysis of which the theory of semantic field greatly leans.

Semantic field (lexical field) is defined by Jack Richards, John Platt and Heidi Weber [28, p.164] as "*the organization of related words and expressions into a system which shows their relationship to one another.*"

#### **2.2.2. The Notions and the Classifications of Adjective**

Adjectives are classified into six main kinds: qualitative, demonstrative, distributive, quantitative, interrogative and possessive.

#### **2.2.3. The Significance of Adjectives**

Studies have shown that awareness of the importance of adjective in grammatical functions helps determine how to recognize words and use the vocabulary system in expression.

### 2.2.5. Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a subfield of linguistics which studies the ways in which context contributes to meaning. According to Leech [34] and Sperber and Wilson [44], it distinguishes two intents or meanings in each utterance or communicative act of verbal communication. One is the informative intent or the sentence meaning, and the other is the communicative intent or speaker meaning.

### 2.2.6. Approaches to Collocations

Sinclair [41, p.110] claimed collocation refers to words co-occurring “*within a short pace of each other*”. There is a syntagmatic relationship holding among the collocating words, as the word likely to occur in a given context is actually suggested by the words already present.

### 2.2.7. Grammatical Characteristics

#### 2.2.7.1. Compound Adjectives

**Compound adjectives** are the adjectives formed by combining two or more free morphemes (and sometimes a

derivational morpheme can be applied) together and are often written with hyphens.

#### 2.2.7.2. Phrases

In grammar, a **phrase** is a group of words functioning as a single unit in the syntax of a sentence.

#### 2.2.7.3. Sentences

In the field of linguistics, a **sentence** is an expression in natural language, and often defined to indicate a grammatical unit consisting of one or more words that generally bear minimal syntactic relation to the words that precede or follow it. A sentence can include words grouped meaningfully to express a statement, question, exclamation, request or command.

### 2.2.8. Related definitions

#### 2.2.8.1. Temperature

Temperature can be understood as a physical property that quantitatively expresses the common notions of hot and cold. Objects of low temperature are cold, while various degrees of higher temperatures are referred to as warm or hot.

#### 2.2.8.2. Weather

Weather is the state of the air or atmosphere with respect to heat or cold, wetness or dryness, calm or storm, clearness or

cloudiness, or any other meteorological phenomena; meteorological condition of the atmosphere. E.g, warm weather, cold weather, wet weather, dry weather, etc.

#### **2.2.8.3. Feeling**

It can be defined as any state or condition of emotion; the exercise of the capacity for emotion; any mental state whatever. It may be a right or a wrong feeling in the heart, positive or negative feeling, our angry or kindly feelings, feeling of pride or of humility.

#### **2.2.8.4. Politics**

Politics can be known as the art or science of government or governing, especially the governing of a political entity, such as a nation, and the administration and control of its internal and external affairs.

#### **2.2.8.5. Idioms**

An idiom is an expression, word, or phrase that has a figurative meaning that is comprehended in regard to a common use of that expression that is separate from the literal meaning or definition of the words of which it is made.

#### **2.2.8.6. Proverbs**

A proverb is a short, pithy statement of a general truth, one that condenses common experience into memorable form. Proverbs, based on Kenneth Burke's viewpoint, are strategies

for dealing with situations. Another name for strategies might be attitudes. Many proverbs rely on antithesis: "*Out of sight, out of mind*", "*A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.*" [10]

#### **2.2.9. Summary**

In short, what has been considered in this chapter will all serve as the theoretical background for the analysis of the semantic and pragmatic features of the adjective Warm in chapter four.

### **CHAPTER 3**

#### **METHODS AND PROCEDURES**

#### **3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY**

This study is intended to follow quantitative and qualitative approach and develops in different chapters containing some basic theoretical concepts related to and semantic features of the adjective *Warm* and its Vietnamese equivalents. The descriptive method which used in this study is considered as the main method of the study. In addition, analytical and equivalent translations are also adopted in this study to assure that the study is reliable.

#### **3.2 RESEARCH PROCEDURES**

##### **3.2.1 Data collection**

The paper is carried out over 2000 examples collected from different data sources. After that, 100 data from the Web corpus and 300 examples from short stories and novels are chosen.

### 3.2.2 Data Analysis

The thesis is conducted out through descriptive analysis and equivalent translation. The target language is English and the source language is Vietnamese. The data are classified into semantic and pragmatic features. The researcher investigates the data taken from literary works and their Vietnamese equivalents, examines how they are used and then describes them.

### 3.3.3. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

Reliability and validity are the two most important criteria to ensure the quality of the data collection procedures. It is required that the study should be verified if there are inaccuracies. Moreover, the research uses data from dictionaries and grammar books for confirming the discussion of the adjective *Warm*.

## CHAPTER 4

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter consists two main parts: the first part will present semantic features of the adjective *Warm* in English and its Vietnamese equivalents, the second part will focus on pragmatic characteristics of the adjective *Warm*.

#### 4.1. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF THE ADJECTIVE WARM IN ENGLISH AND ITS VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS

Grammatical patterns of the adjective *Warm* is made out as follows:

Table 4.1: Description of Grammatical Structures of the Adjective *Warm*

No	Terms	Grammatical Structures of the Adjective <i>Warm</i>
1	CA	Warm-hearted
		Warm-blooded
2	AP	Adverb + <i>Warm</i>
		Warm and +
		As + <i>Warm</i> + as + Noun
3	VP	Keep + <i>Warm</i>
		Get + <i>Warm</i>
		Stay/ Rest + <i>Warm</i>
		Feel + <i>Warm</i>
4	NP	Warm + Noun
		Warm + Adjective + Noun
		Adjective + <i>Warm</i> + Noun
		Adjective + <i>Warm</i> + Adjective + Noun
		Something + <i>Warm</i>
5	S	Subject + be + <i>Warm</i>
		How + <i>Warm</i> + Subject + Verb

#### 4.1.2. Collocations of the Adjective Warm:

The adjective *Warm* has diverse meanings in different utterances. It can collocate with other words to form grammatical-lexical structures where its semantic properties can be presented thoroughly. Consequently, it is essential to study the adjective *Warm* in its collocations.

##### + Compound Adjectives

- **Warm-hearted** is found as *tử tế*

- **Warm-blooded** is found as *máu nóng*.

##### + Adjective Phrase

###### - Adverb + Warm

The adjective *Warm* can go with some adverbs such as *still*, *quite*, *strangely* or *gloriously* to form *Adjective Phrase*. Combined with such kind of adverbs, the meaning of the adjective *Warm* definitely becomes more descriptive and impressive.

###### - Warm and +

We can summarise some semantic features of the adjective *Warm* through pattern *Warm and +* in table 4.2 as follows:

*Table 4.2: Some sub-patterns of Warm and +*

No	Warm in Collocation (Pattern: Warm and +)			English Meaning	Vietnamese Meaning
	Warm and A	A and Warm	A Warm + A		
1	warm and pleasant/cheerful	snug and warm		cosy	ấm cúng, dễ chịu
2		sweet and warm		(lightly) hot	ấm dịu/dịu mà nóng
3	warm and racy	serene and warm		passionate	ấm nồng
4	warm and sincere			sentimental	tình cảm và chân thật
5			safe, warm and well fed	harmonious	êm ấm và đầy đủ

###### - As Warm as + Noun

This pattern refers to the form of equality comparison of the adjective *Warm*.

###### + Verb Phrase

**Keep Warm, Get Warm, Stay Warm and Rest Warm and Feel Warm** are discussed with illustration examples.

## + Noun Phrase

## - Warm + Noun

We will specify the pattern into two charts: one focuses on the use of the adjective *Warm* in inanimate description and the other is in describing people feelings.

**Table 4.3: Semantic Category of the Adjective Warm in Inanimate Description:**

No	Semantic Category	Warm in Collocation	English Meaning	Vietnamese Meaning
1	temperature	warm night	mild	ấm áp
2	weather/climate	warm steaming rain	scorching	nóng bức
3	atmosphere	warm air	easy	ấm cúng
3	objects/ things	warm fire	fireplace	lò sưởi
4	place	warm Southland	cosy	ấm áp
5	food/drink	warm wine	heated	rượu hâm
6	clothes	warm clothing	anti-coldness	vải chống rét
7	colours	warm colors	brown, red	màu thẫm
8	blood	warm blood	hot	máu nóng

**Table 4.4: Semantic category in People Description of the adjective Warm**

No	Semantic Category	Warm in Collocation	English Meaning	Vietnamese Meaning
1	manner	warm reception warm welcome	intense hearty	sự đón tiếp nồng hậu sự đón tiếp nồng nhiệt
2	behaviour	warm salute warm mouth	caressing passionate	cái hôn kêu, âu ếm cái hôn nồng nàn
3	feeling	warm affection warm heart warm tide of feeling warm feelings	good profound emotional ardent	thiện cảm trái tim nồng nhiệt xúc cảm tình cảm nồng nàn
4	attitude	warm talking	arguing	to tiếng
5	character	warm determination	enthusiastic	sự nhiệt tình
6	mood	warm mood	pleasant	tâm trạng ấm áp
7	thanking	warm gratitude/ thank	deep	rất biết ơn
8	state	warm safety	peaceful	bình yên

**- Warm + Adjective + Noun**

The adjective *Warm* can collocate with other adjectives for approval of size, colour or emphasis on characteristic of things.

For example: *warm ocher marble* is found as *đá cẩm thạch màu vàng nâu ấm áp* [66, p. 56]

**- Adjective + Warm + Noun**

Moreover, the adjective *Warm* can follow adjectives in the pattern of Adjective + *Warm* + Noun.

For example: *A heavy warm somnolence* is found as *một không khí mơ màng, nồng nức* [78, p.195]

**- Adjective + Warm + Adjective + Noun**

The adjective *Warm* combines not only with one but also two or more other adjectives in some situations, by which the polysemy of the adjective is displayed.

For example: *His honest, warm and intelligent nature* is found as *Bản chất trung thực, nồng hậu và thông minh của cậu ta* [67, p. 481]

**- Something + Warm**

For example: *something warm* is found as *một cái gì ấm áp* [78, p. 296]

**+ Subject + be + Warm**

For example: *His eyes were warm* is found as *mắt anh chan chứa niềm xúc động*. [74, p. 57]

**+ How + Warm + S + V**

In fact, the structure *How + Warm + S + V* or *What + (a/an) + Warm + Noun* is a case of exclamation. That is one of the effective ways to show one's emotion or astonishment towards things or happenings.

**4.1.3. Summary**

In short, the first part of the chapter four deals with the semantic features of the adjective *Warm* through analyzing its grammatical structures. It should be noted that the variety of the meaning of the adjective *Warm* lies in its grammatical structures, particularly in such patterns as *Compound Adjective, Adjective phrase, Noun phrase, Verb phrase and Sentence*.

**4.2. PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF THE ADJECTIVE WARM IN ENGLISH AND ITS VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS**

**4.2.1. Approaches to Pragmatics of the Adjective Warm**

**4.2.1.1 The Adjective Warm in Communicative Context**

Communication is an indispensable need of human and so it happens naturally as a rule. However, depending on feeling, individual experience and social relationship and communicative

circumstances, the use of any words for expression is quite different. In other words, we only understand fully and deeply a word or an utterance when setting them in the right contexts.

#### 4.2.1.2. Speaker's Intentions in Using the Adjective Warm:

We know that a word has two kinds of meaning: denotation and connotation. The adjective *Warm* can express its denotative meaning through its function in description of quality of things or characteristics of a person. Besides, in particular situations, the adjective *Warm* can bear positive or negative senses depending on communicative purposes.

#### 4.2.2. Pragmatic Features of the Adjective Warm

##### 4.2.2.1. The Adjective Warm in Temperature Teller:

When we mention the adjective *Warm*, we think of it as one of the adjectives indicating temperature. However, in some cases, depend on the practical situation or the intention of the speaker, the adjective *Warm* can be used to indicate a higher level of temperature than it is, even the same temperature as "*hot*".

*For example: the alpine streams ran warm* is found as *nước các sông suối trong núi bỗng rã*. [72, p. 68]

##### 4.2.2.2. The Adjective Warm in Weather Description:

In some cases, the use of the adjective *Warm* in indicating temperature and the weather is the same. However, depending on speaker's intention, the meaning as well as communicative purposes can vary.

#### 4.2.2.3. The Adjective Warm in Feeling Expression:

*Table 4.5: Description of the Increasing Temperature of the Adjective Warm and its Situational Function as Feeling Expression*

No	Description of the Increasing Temperature of the Adjective Warm		Feeling Expression	
	English meaning	Vietnamese meaning		Positive feeling
1	warmish	âm ấm	tipsy	
2	cosy	ấm áp	satisfactory	
3	tepid	ấm	pleasant	
4	boiling	sôi sục	enthusiastic	
5	hot	nóng	uncomfortable	
6	flush hot	nóng ran	uncontrollable	
7	burning hot	nóng bùng	angry	
8	steaming hot	nóng hổi	hateful	Negative feeling

##### 4.2.2.4. The Adjective Warm in Political Field:

Some common noun phrases such as *warm welcome*, *warm hospitality*, *warm debate*, *warm support* or *warm manner* are used widely in political situations.

#### **4.2.2.5. The Adjective Warm in Common Idioms or Proverbs:**

+ **Cold hand, warm heart**

+ **As warm as toast**

+ **You are getting warm**

+ **Warm body**

+ **Warm work**

+ **Warm words or warm languages**

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS**

#### **5.1. CONCLUSION**

The main goal of the study is to investigate the semantic and pragmatic properties of the adjective *Warm*, its syntactic structures with its Vietnamese equivalents in order to find out its various meanings as well as the way it is used appropriately.

In Chapter One, it is essential to present the reasons for choosing the thesis and the objectives that the study is aimed at. Besides, the research questions and the scope of the study are also mentioned. Next, the Chapter Two has stated a review of related prior studies, essential theoretical concerning the subject under consideration. In Chapter Three, the methods and procedures of the

study are described. The source of data and how they are analysed are included. Chapter Four presents the findings and discussion on the semantic and pragmatic features of the adjective *Warm*. Finally, in this chapter, we do our best to give some suggestions for Vietnamese translational equivalents of the adjective *Warm*.

#### **5.2. IMPLICATIONS ON TEACHING, LEARNING AND TRANSLATION**

##### **5.2.1. Implications on the Language Teaching and Learning**

The findings of the study are very necessary to language learners because it provides them with good knowledge to understand such an adjective fully and properly. Also, for language teaching, this study can be seen as the best way to encourage learners to exploit various meaning of any adjectives in general and of the adjective *Warm* in particular for better and flexible communication.

Moreover, it should be noted that the meaning of the word is not determined by itself but by its relations with other linguistic and non-linguistic components. Thus, we can only identify the meaning of the word in a certain context.

During the study, the adjective *Warm* has been found out with a variety of meanings. Thus, the teacher should help their students aware of all possible meanings, both semantically and pragmatically when teaching such an adjective based on the knowledge background of the students as well as their needs.

Beside, teachers had better teach word meaning by introducing the word in its related groups. For example, the adjective

*Warm* can be recommended together with other adjectives indicating temperature such as hot, cold and cool so that the student can understand it completely and use it properly.

Noticeably, learners tend to impose the use of the native language on the target language. In fact, the two languages can not be the same in many ways. Thus, it is necessary for teachers to point out all of the similarities and differences between the two languages concerning the matter under discussion.

It should be noted that theory is always accompanied by practice. Thus, teachers are expected to provide learners with as many drills as possible so that they can avoid errors.

### **5.2.2. Implications on Translation Work**

The main purpose of any linguistic studies is pedagogical application. Therefore, the study of the semantic and pragmatic features of the adjective *Warm* is carried out in the hope of sharing some useful implications in either teaching and learning. The difficulties in translating this kind of adjective arise from the meaning diversity as well as differences in the way of perception. Through this thesis, it can be drawn that the best way to interpret a word or an utterance is putting it in the context, which it occurs. Hence, Vietnamese learners or translators should bear that point in their mind for getting a good translation version.

Besides, we would like to suggest some noticeable implications on the teaching and learning translation. In order to translate well, we should start with the translational analysis of the

source language text, through which we can obtain a further comprehension of the rendered text.

What is more? If the translator wants to get the most suitable meaning of the adjective *Warm*, he should ask himself whether the meaning in a certain case is clear or it may be embedded with implications.

Another important thing is that the translator should choose the proper equivalents to those linguistic components from the source language to the target language. The translation does not involve the rendering of words, it is the meaning that is interpreted. In addition, what should deal with the task of translation is idea rather than word. Translation, hence, is much more communicative than a word-for-word transference.

In conclusion, the translator should take contextual and communicative factors as well as language features into consideration to have a perfect translated version.

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

There is no denying that this thesis cannot cover all meanings of the adjective *Warm*, which may lie in the limitation of time, reference books and other constraints faced by the researcher.

Suggestions for further investigations:

- Cultural characteristic of the adjective *Warm*
- Descriptive and relational features the group of temperature adjectives: hot, warm, cool and cold.