

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
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**A STUDY OF ENGLISH-VIETNAMESE  
TRANSLATION OF  
CONDITIONAL SENTENCES**

**Field: THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
Code: 60.22.15**

**M.A. THESIS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
(A SUMMARY)**

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## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. RATIONALE

With the development of science and technology, we are living in the context of cross-culture and globalization. English has really become the international language for all the nations to exchange the ideas, share their own culture and cooperate with one another in every field in life. In that situation, the needs of exchanging information, technology, co-operating for peace and development between nations require translation. Translation is an activity that is going on all time. With the useful help of translators and interpreters, our wide world becomes closer.

Conditional sentences are one of the most popular sentences in the English language, but they are not easily used at all. After many years of teaching English at high schools, I realize that students have some difficulties in translating conditional sentences. The uses and the meaning of conditional sentences are abundant and diverse. Many students know how to use conditional sentences, but they do not pay much attention to their meanings in translation.

- (1) **If** you apply pressure on water, water does not shrink in volume. [64, p.10]  
(Về thể tích, **quả thật là** nước sẽ không co lại **khi** bạn đặt áp suất lên nước.)
- (6) “**If** something begins well, it ends well.” [42, p.28]  
(“Đầu xuôi đuôi lọt.”)

It seems that it is not easy to translate conditional sentences clearly and persuasively. Besides, translation is an activity related to source language and target language. The lack of equivalence in each

own language, the lack of language competence, the lack of background and cultural knowledge from the translators are some of the reasons for many difficulties in translation.

I myself have difficulties in translating these kinds of sentences and I find it interesting to do research on this problem. For these above reasons, the paper entitled “*A study of English –Vietnamese Translation of Conditional sentences* ” is intended to help the learners of English overcome difficulties caused by this kind of sentences when they translate them.

### 1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 1.2.1. Aims

The study is expected to provide Vietnamese learners with the approaches of translating conditional sentences and some ways to help Vietnamese learners of English overcome the difficulties in translating English conditional sentences. The researcher also hopes to provide teachers and students with knowledge of the translation of English conditional sentences.

#### 1.2.2. Objectives

- To identify the approaches of translating English conditional sentences.
- To find out the ways to help Vietnamese learners of English overcome the difficulties in translating English conditional sentences.
- To suggest some implications for teaching and learning English conditional sentences.

### 1.3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is confined to English-Vietnamese conditional sentences. However, due to the time and the length limit, this study is

confined to some approaches of translating English conditional sentences with examples taken from English –Vietnamese magazines, short stories and novels, not from Vietnamese – English materials.

#### **1.4. METHODOLOGY**

Descriptive and analytic methods are also used to do the study. Description is intended to follow a qualitative approach. The data are collected, the description of the translation of conditional sentences is given.

#### **1.5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What are approaches of translating English conditional sentences?

2. What are some ways to help Vietnamese learners of English overcome the difficulties in translating English conditional sentences?

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

**Chapter 1:** *The Introduction*

**Chapter 2:** *Literature Review and Theoretical Background*

**Chapter 3:** *Method and Procedure*

**Chapter 4:** *Finding and Discussion*

**Chapter 5:** *The Conclusion and Implications*

### **CHAPTER 2**

#### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

##### **2.1. PREVIOUS STUDIES RELATED TO THE TOPIC**

“Approaches to Translation” by Peter Newmark (1982) provides learners and translators with basic knowledge in doing translation. In translation, Newmark prefers the term “semantic and communicative translation”.

B.Hatim and I.Mason (1989) analyzed the relation between translation and other factors that are related to translating process such as context, structures and pragmatics.

Towards the Vietnamese-English translation, in many works of Ho Van Hoa (2001), he mostly discussed paper translation. Or Tran Phu Thuyet (2002), in the book “Học Dịch Tiếng Anh Chính Xác Hơn”, or Minh Thu- Nguyen Hoa (2001) in “Luyện Dịch Việt Anh” introduced many useful ways helping Vietnamese learners of English translate more exactly.

“*Link words in English in comparison with Vietnamese*” by Le Thi Giao Chi(1997) has successfully systematized English and Vietnamese link words for different semantic relations , among which concession and condition are mentioned.

“*Different ways to express condition and concession in English and Vietnamese*” by Vo Thi Kim Anh has found out the semantic, syntactic and pragmatic features of all ways to express condition and concession.

##### **2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

###### **2.2.1. Translation**

Peter Newmark 1982 [49, p.25], translation is a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and/or statement in one language by the same message of textual material in one language into another language in the way that the author intended the text.

###### **2.2.2. Translation Equivalence**

“*Translation is a matter of subjective interpretation of translators the source language text*” while “*the sameness cannot exist between two languages.*” Therefore, an objective

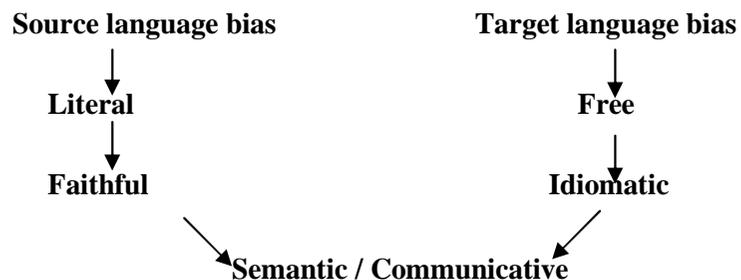
effect that the translators hope to make on target-text readers like on the source-text readers is an unrealistic expectation.

### 2.2.3. Translation Procedures

### 2.2.4. Translation Methods

Newmark writes that, “While translation methods relate to whole texts, translation procedures are used for sentences and the smaller units of language” [10, p.18]

According to Peter Newmark (Approaches to Translation, p. 39), these two methods are shown in the following chart:



### 2.2.5. Importance of Context in Translation

Situational context refers to the factors of situation and circumstances influencing the meaning of a text. These factors are little harder to be recognized than linguistic ones. The situational factors may pertain to the facial expressions, gestures and stances at micro level and the social, political and economical milieu and the culture at large.

### 2.2.6. Conditional Sentences

#### 2.2.6.1. Definition of Conditional Sentences

According to Randolph Quirk (1987), conditional clauses state the dependence of one circumstance or set of circumstances on another [49, p.323] finite adverbial clauses of condition are

introduced by the sub-ordinators *if* (positive condition) and *unless* (negative condition) [51, p.324]

#### 2.2.6.2 Types of Conditional Clauses

**Table 2.1: Types of English Conditional Clauses and their Basic Syntactic Features**

Type	Main Clause	If Clause
Zero conditional	Present simple tense	Present simple tense
1 <sup>st</sup> conditional	Future tense	Present simple tense
2 <sup>nd</sup> conditional	Present conditional tense	Past subjunctive
3 <sup>rd</sup> conditional	Perfect conditional	Past perfect tense

**Table 2.2: Types of Mixed English Conditional Clauses and their Basic Syntactic Features**

Type	Main Clause	If Clause
Present result of past condition	Present conditional	Past perfect
Past result of present or continuing condition	Perfect conditional	Simple past

#### 2.2.6.3. Link words signaling Condition in English

English conditional sentences are obviously rich in meaning thanks to a variety of conditional signals with various meanings. Therefore, a number of pragmatic functions can be found in communication. Such link words are often used: *unless, providing that/ provided that, as long as, only if, if... only, on the condition that, assuming that, given that, supposed that/ supposing that,...*

**CHAPTER 3**  
**METHOD AND PROCEDURE**

**3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN****3.2. RESEARCH PROCEDURE****3.3. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS****3.3.1 Sampling****3.3.2 Instrumentation****3.3.3 Data processing**

**CHAPTER 4**

**DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

By studying English conditional sentences and their Vietnamese equivalents in bilingual novels, short stories, books and public information, we have concluded that there are three approaches of translating English conditional sentences as follows:

- + Based on types of conditional sentences
- + Based on pragmatic functions or writer's intention
- + Based on situational contexts

**4.1. SOME APPROACHES OF TRANSLATING ENGLISH CONDITIONAL SENTENCES**

**4.1.1. Based on Types of Conditional Sentences**

**4.1.1.1 Zero conditional sentences to denote scientific facts and general truths**

Usually, the translation of zero conditional sentences is often quite semantic. This way of translation is often found in scientific discourse. We often find zero conditional sentences in scientific books and magazines.

(67) **If** there's any radioactive dust on your hands, the scanner knows at once. An alarm rings all the factory [42, p.12]

(*Nếu có bụi phóng xạ trên bàn tay của Cô, máy dò tìm sẽ biết ngay tức khắc. Một tín hiệu báo động reo lên khắp nhà máy.*)

+ In examples (67) - (72), the things in conditional sentences are always true and always happen under certain conditions. They are scientific facts and general truths. The translation of zero conditional sentences in these examples is quite usual in English- Vietnamese. In most cases, the semantic translation is used. “**if**”, “**unless**” and “**when**” are often used, and are translated as “**Nếu**”, “**trừ khi**” and “**khi**” respectively.

**4.1.1.2. First type conditional sentences to denote possibilities in the present or in the future**

The first type conditional sentences are very popular and can be found in many kinds of discourse: in scientific discourse, in technological discourse or in fictive discourse. The translation of first type conditional sentences is also quite semantic.

(73) I'll continue to help you learn English **as long as** a mistake may appear in your speaking it. [20, p. 30]

(*Mình sẽ vẫn tiếp tục giúp bạn học tiếng Anh **hễ mà** bạn nói tiếng Anh còn phạm lỗi.*)

+ In examples (73) - (79), the things in conditional sentences possibly happen in the present or in the future. The semantic translation is also quite popular. In this case, conditional clauses can be translated as “ **Nếu, ngộ nhỡ, nếu nhỡ mà, nếu may ra** ” and “**unless**” means “ **trừ khi**”, “ **as long as**” “**hễ mà, miễn là**”,.... and main clauses are translated as “ **sẽ**”, “**thì**”,...

**4.1.1.3 Second type conditional sentences to denote unreal situations in the present or in the future**

(78) **If** an atom were the size of your fingernail, your hand would be big enough to hold the earth. [64, p.8]

(*Nếu một nguyên tử có kích cỡ của móng tay bạn thì bàn tay bạn sẽ lớn đủ để giữ cả trái đất.*)

+ The second conditional sentences used in examples from (80) to (83) are unreal in the present or in the future. Like the first type conditional sentences, the semantic translation is also quite popular. In this case, conditional clauses **can** be translated as “**nếu, nếu như, giả sử**”, and main clauses are translated as “**sẽ**”, “**thì**”,...

#### 4.1.1.4. Third type conditional sentences to denote unreal situations in the past

The third conditional sentences are unreal in the past and the tendency of translation is semantic. This kind of conditional sentences can often be found in many kinds of discourse, especially in fictive discourse.

(82) We **couldn't have known** it **if** Miss Melly's aunt hadn't let it out. [32, p.11]

(*Chúng tôi có thể đã không biết điều đó nếu mà cô của Cô Melly không để lộ ra.*)

+ In (84) – (88), the translation of the third conditional sentences is quite semantic. In English, the third type conditional sentences can be used with “**must/should /might /...+ have+ past participle**” and in Vietnamese, they can be translated as “**chắc hẳn là, lẽ ra nên, có lẽ đã,...**” .

#### 4.1.1.5. Mixed type conditional sentences

The four types of conditional sentence discussed above appear to fit into very rigid patterns of form and meaning but we often find exceptions to these rules. In many cases we may

want to talk about events that happened or did not happen in the past and the present results of those events. This kind of mixing of conditional types is not uncommon and the tendency of translation is semantic.

(85) We'd be able to afford a better holiday if you hadn't wasted so much money last week. [3, p.41]

(*Giá mà tuần trước anh đã không lãng phí quá nhiều tiền bạc như thế thì bây giờ chúng ta có thể có kỳ nghỉ tốt hơn.*)

+ In (85) – (89), the mixed conditional sentences are often translated semantically and in Vietnamese, they can be translated as “**nếu ngày ấy... thì bây giờ..., giá mà trước đây... thì bây giờ...**”

In sum, in the examples above, based on their types, English conditional sentences can be translated semantically. Generally, we can see that in the examples (67) – (89), beside **if**, English conditional sentences are also used with other link words, such as, **unless, when, as long as, if only, in case, on the condition that, ...** and have different Vietnamese equivalents. In main clauses, depending on types of condition, verb phrases can be translated as “**sẽ..., có lẽ đã, có thể đã.../ ắt hẳn đã.../ lẽ ra nên...**”

Table 4.1. The summary of the ways of translating English conditional sentences based on their types

Types	Functions and Vietnamese equivalents
<b>zero conditional sentences</b>	- To express the things which are always true, such as scientific facts and general truths - And in English, “ <b>if</b> ”, “ <b>unless</b> ” and “ <b>when</b> ” are often used to signal condition, in Vietnamese, these link words are translated as “ <b>Nếu</b> ”, “ <b>trừ khi</b> ” and “ <b>khi</b> ” respectively.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> type conditional sentences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To imply that the action in “If clause” is quite probable.</li> <li>- Applied to pure conditional sentences- including condition and result. The result will appear if the condition satisfies.</li> <li>- Links in conditional clauses can be translated as “<b>Nếu, ngộ nhớ, nếu nhớ mà, nếu may ra</b>” and “<b>unless</b>” means “<b>trừ khi</b>”, “<b>as long as</b>” “<b>hễ là, miễn là</b>”,.... and verb phrases in main clauses are translated as “<b>sẽ</b>”, “<b>thì</b>”,...</li> </ul>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> type conditional sentences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To describe something that is reasonably impossible and contrary to the known fact.</li> <li>- Links in conditional clauses <b>can</b> be translated as “<b>nếu, nếu như, giả sử</b>”, .... and verb phrases in main clauses are translated as “<b>sẽ</b>”, “<b>thì</b>”,...</li> <li>- To express what didn't happen in the past.</li> </ul>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> type conditional sentences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To express living experiences, truths, ....</li> <li>- Result clauses contain “<b>must/should /might /...+ have+ past participle</b>” and translated as “<b>chắc hẳn là, lẽ ra nên, có lẽ đã,...</b>”</li> </ul>
<b>Mixed conditional sentences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In main clauses, depending on types of condition, verb phrases can be translated as “<b>sẽ,...</b>, <b>có thể đã.../ ắt hẳn đã.../ lẽ ra nên...</b>”</li> </ul>

#### 4.1.2. Based on Pragmatic Functions of Conditional Sentences or Writer's Intention

In this approach, the author wishes to show some pragmatic functions that influence the translation of conditional sentences.

According to speech acts, conditional sentences belong to illocutionary acts. Illocutionary acts include such acts as stating, requesting, questioning, promising, apologizing, appointing,...

So, here we translate conditional sentences not basing on their literal meanings, but basing on the writer's intention. The tendency of translation is sometimes semantic and sometimes communicative.

##### 4.1.2.1. As Threatening

Conditional sentences are often used to imply threat when we wish to raise the politeness of utterance and reduce the level of threatening.

(90) If you strike that dog again, **I'll kill you.** [81, p61]

(*Tao **thề** sẽ giết mày nếu mày còn đánh con chó này nữa.*)

+ The conditional sentences in (90) – (94) are translated as threat and we can infer that from pragmatic function of the sentences. The way of translation is communicative. In Vietnamese the words “**thề, thề rằng**” or “**đe dọa, dọa rằng...**” are used to make the meaning of the sentences clearer.

##### 4.1.2.2. As Advising

In communication, advising is the most common function of conditional sentences.

(95) **If I were him** I would put in everything now and go until something broke. [80, p.22]

(*Ta **khuyến** hẳn dốc hết sức bình sinh kéo cho dây đứt tung hết cả lên.*)

+ In English, with this pragmatic function, imperative form or “**should**” is often used in the main clause, the conditional clause contains “**If I were you,...**” or auxiliary “should”. Similarly, in

Vietnamese, we can use **khuyên, nên, hãy**,...The tendency for communicative translation is applied.

#### 4.1.2.3. As Warning

To make a conditional sentence a warning, situational information is expected to presuppose that it is not clear that the hearer knows the event will occur, the speaker does not think the event will occur and the event will not have a beneficial effect.

(99) If we did not give them liberty, they would take it. [55, p 347]  
(*Họ cảnh báo trước sẽ giành tự do nếu chúng ta không thả tự do cho họ*)

+ In English, to express warning, people often use “**if you take my advice, ...; If my experience is anything to go by, you should (not)....**”. Similarly, in Vietnamese, we can use “**tôi cảnh báo anh, theo kinh nghiệm của tôi, tôi báo trước, tôi nói trước,...**” The tendency for communicative translation is applied.

#### 4.1.2.4. As Criticizing

When using conditional sentences to criticize other people, the speaker also includes his complaint.

(105) If he had been a young, attractive gentleman, I would not have felt ashamed to help him. [52, p.88]  
(*Giá như ông ta là người lịch sự, trẻ trung và quyến rũ, ắt tôi đã không quá xấu hổ khi giúp hắn ta.*)

+ When criticizing other people, conditional clauses in this function are counterfactual and in Vietnamese, we can use “**giá mà, nếu ... thì đã không, nếu thực sự ... thì...**” In most examples investigated above, the tendency for semantic translation is applied.

#### 4.1.2.5. As Requesting

To make a polite request more polite, conditional sentences

should be used and the main clause is often seen in the form of a question in simple present or with a modal verb and we often use “**If I want.../I want to .../ If you can.../ can I do... / what can I do..?**”.

(110) If it's light enough after dinner, **I want to** take you down to the stables. [31, p.29]

(*Nếu ăn xong mà còn sáng, tôi muốn đưa cậu xuống chỗ chuồng ngựa nhé.*)

+ The conditional sentences in these samples are translated with the help of **yêu cầu, nếu muốn, nhé, đấy nhé, hãy, chứ** to raise the politeness of request. In most examples investigated above, the tendency for semantic translation is applied.

#### 4.1.2.6. As Suggesting

Similar to requesting, conditional sentences should be used to make suggestions and the main clause is often seen in the form of a question in simple present or with a modal verb and we often use “**If you like, if I might make suggestion,...**”.

(115) You can come up, *if you like*. [26, p. 295]

(*Anh có thể đến nếu anh thích nhé .*)

+ The conditional sentences in these samples are translated with the help of “**nhé, có được không, đấy nhé, hãy, tại sao không**” to raise the politeness of suggestion.

#### 4.1.2.7. As Regretting

Conditional sentences can be used to express a regret . And to express a regret, we often use the third type conditional sentences.

(119) If you had done your exercise as I told you, you couldn't have failed. [54, p.34]

(*Giá mà bạn làm bài tập như tôi bảo bạn thì bạn đã không thi rớt.*)

+ In fact, the regretting feeling of the speaker is expressed through the semantic implication of modal perfect “ **would have + past participle**” Moreover, we can use “**if only**” to express a regret. In Vietnamese it means “ **giá mà, tiếc rằng, tiếc là** ”

**4.1.2.8. As Softening**

Conditional sentences are also used to soften what conveyed in the saying. When we are going to say something that may make others hurt , or irritated , we often use such conditional clauses as “**if I may say so**” , “**if you don’t mind...**” , “**If you see what I mean**” , “**if I’m not mistaken...**” and in Vietnamese, they can be translated as “**nếu tôi có thể nói vậy, nếu bạn không cảm thấy phiền, nếu bạn hiểu điều tôi ngụ ý,...**”

(124) And you are Mr. Allan Kelling, the owner of this property, *if*

*I’m not mistaken.* [22, p.44]

*(Nếu tôi không nhầm thì ông là Allan Kelling, chủ nhân của tài sản này)*

**Table 4.2 The summary of the ways of translating English conditional sentences based on pragmatic functions**

Pragmatic functions	Conditional sentences Vietnamese equivalent
<b>Threatening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you....., you will.....</li> <li>• thề /thề rằng</li> <li>• đe dọa /dọa rằng</li> </ul>
<b>Advising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If I were ..... , I would / should .....</li> <li>• khuyên / nên / hãy,...</li> </ul>
<b>Warning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you....., don’t .....</li> <li>• If you take my advice, you should .....</li> </ul>

<b>Criticizing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you take my advice, .....</li> <li>• If my experience is anything to go by, you should(n’t).....</li> <li>• tôi cảnh báo anh</li> <li>• theo kinh nghiệm của tôi</li> <li>• tôi báo trước / tôi nói trước</li> <li>• If I had(n’t) + pp , I would have + pp</li> <li>• If I had(n’t) + pp , I would + V</li> <li>• không đến đây</li> <li>• nếu tao mà ngờ ngẩn như mày</li> <li>• Nếu thực sự em tin anh</li> </ul>
<b>Requesting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If I want.../ I want to ...</li> <li>• If you can.../ can I do...?</li> <li>• what can I do.....?</li> <li>• nếu muốn</li> <li>• nhé</li> <li>• đấy nhé</li> <li>• hãy</li> </ul>
<b>Suggesting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you like</li> <li>• If I might make suggestion,..</li> <li>• Nhé / đấy nhé</li> <li>• có được không</li> <li>• hãy</li> <li>• tại sao không</li> </ul>
<b>Regretting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If/ If only + S had(n’t) + pp , S+ would have + pp</li> <li>• Giá mà</li> </ul>

<b>Softening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if I may say so</li> <li>• if you don't mind...</li> <li>• If you see what I mean</li> <li>• if I'm not mistaken...</li> <li>• nếu tôi có thể nói vậy</li> <li>• nếu bạn không cảm thấy phiền</li> <li>• nếu bạn hiểu điều tôi ngụ ý,...</li> </ul>
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#### 4.1.3. Based on Specific Situational Contexts

Based on situational contexts, zero conditional sentences and first type conditional sentences are translated to express true facts or factual events in our life. Calculations in maths, formulations in maths and chemistry, sets of chemical reactions and experiences in life are often based on this way. We often find the way of translation in scientific discourse: in maths, physics, chemistry, in technology, ... or in proverbs, such as followings:

##### 4.1.3.1 In scientific discourse

(128) If you divide 21 by 3, the answer is 7. [45,p 85]  
(21 chia 3 bằng 7)

+ We can easily realise that from examples (128) – (132) that we have investigated, conditional sentences are translated in different ways and their Vietnamese equivalents are quite different. Free translation is used here.

##### 4.1.3.2 Experiences in life

In some cases, basing on situational contexts, conditional sentences can be translated more effectively and persuasively. Sometimes, we need to pay much attention to surrounding words, phrases, ... to translate. Sometimes we need to pay attention to the

situations where conditional sentences are produced to translate. Proverbs are often translated in this way.

(133) If you run after two hares, you will catch neither. [75,p 40]  
(Lắm mới tới nằm không.)

+ In (133) – (137), the translation of the conditional sentences depends on the context. In order to translate these sentences, idiomatic translation is used. So to translate these sentences is not just to look up a word in dictionary, choose the suitable meaning, and put it in the translation, but graspe the context and consider if the meaning is suitable in the text.

## 4.2. SOME WAYS TO HELP VIETNAMESE LEARNERS OF ENGLISH OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATING ENGLISH CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

### 4.2.1. Some mistakes that learners often have in translating English conditional sentences

Frequently, when coming across a conditional sentence, learners pay much attention to the syntactic features, for instance, how tenses are used in the clauses. Besides, some link words such as “if” and “unless” are paid much attention to while other link words explicitly expressing condition are ignored. Learners often translate word by word without noticing pragmatic functions and without putting it in real contexts. Therefore, a big hole in learners' translating knowledge can be found.

The followings are examples related to mistakes that learners often have.

+ Difficulties in translating different types of English conditional sentences into Vietnamese.

+ Difficulties in understanding pragmatic functions of English conditional sentences

+ Difficulties in interpreting English conditional sentences in contexts

#### 4.2.2. Ways to help learners overcome difficulties in translating English conditional sentences

##### 4.2.2.1. Supplying learners with adequate knowledge of types of English conditional sentences and their Vietnamese equivalents

Almost all learners completely master the syntactic features of English conditional sentences. They can recognize and use tenses in conditional sentences accurately. Learners should be supplied with adequate knowledge of each type and Vietnamese words with specific meanings to help create good translation .

###### a- With zero conditional sentences

Learners need to add “ **khi, nếu, sự thật hiển nhiên là, ...**” to translate things which are always true , such as scientific facts and general truths as follows:

(146) **If** you **apply** pressure on water, water **does not shrink** in volume. [65, p.10]

(Về thể tích, **quả thật là** nước sẽ không co lại **khi** bạn đặt áp suất lên nước.)

###### b-With the first type conditional sentences

Learners should know which link words should be used to express the things happening in the present or in the future. “**if**” can be translated as “ **Nếu, ngộ nhỡ, nếu nhỡ mà, nếu may ra** ” and “**unless**” means “ **trừ khi**”, “ **as long as**” “**hễ là, miễn là**”,....

(151) **As long as** you put some pillows around me, I can sit up and watch you cook. [36, p.32]

(**Miễn là** chị đặt vài chiếc gối quanh em, em **có thể** ngồi dậy và xem chị nấu nướng.)

In translating the first type conditional sentences, learners need to pay much attention to condition and result to choose suitable Vietnamese link words .

###### c- With the second type conditional sentences

“**if**” can be translated “**Nếu, giả sử**”, “ **if only** ” “**giá mà, giá như**”, “ **giả sử**” “ **giả sử .... thì** ”..... In translation, these words are used to express unreal things in the present or in the future. Therefore , learners should pay much attention to these words.

(157) **If** anything mastered, he would say it again. [2, p. 32]

(**Giả sử** có chuyện gì quan trọng thì anh ta sẽ nói lại.)

###### d- With the third and mixed type conditional sentences

In order to emphasize unreal things in the past , “**chắc hẳn là, lẽ ra nên, có lẽ đã,..**” are added in Vietnamese English translation to denote the coherence and flexibility.

(161) **If** she had gone straight to the Square she could have caught a train to Boston. [52, p.23]

(Nàng **ắt hẳn đã** bắt kịp chuyến tàu đi Boston nếu nàng đi thẳng ra ga)

+ In summary, in the examples from (161) to (165), depending on types of conditional sentences, learners should choose suitable link words to add to their sentences in order to produce good translation. Usually, “ **nếu... thì, giá mà,miễn là, trừ phi...**” are used to translate

##### 4.2.2.2. Supplying learners with adequate knowledge of pragmatic functions

Learners should be supplied with adequate knowledge of

pragmatic functions. At different levels, the teachers should pay attention to supplying suitable knowledge. Pragmatic function of conditional clauses should be introduced appropriately through models.

(167) “ It will be easier if you take my arm,” he said. [42, p.130]

(*Anh ta để nghị nắm tay anh tôi sẽ thấy dễ chịu hơn.*)

+ In examples (169)- (170) , the words “*để dọa*”, “*dọa*” are used to express threat.

(171) **If I were you**, If she hit me with a stick, I’d seize it and break it under her nose.” [12, p.52]

(*Nếu bà ta dùng gậy đánh tôi, tôi khuyên bạn nên chụp nó và bẻ gãy nó ngay trước mặt bà ta .*)

+ In examples (171)- (172) , the words “*khuyên*”, “*hãy*”, “*đi nhé*” are used to express advice.

(174) If you marry her now, do not give you the time of day.

[52, p.138]

(*Tao báo trước nếu mày mà cứ cô ta thì đừng có mà hỏi tao cái gì dù chỉ là hỏi.*)

+ In examples (173)- (174) , the words “*cảnh báo*”, “*báo trước*” are used to express warning.

+ In summary, supplying learners with adequate knowledge of pragmatic functions is necessary to help them have good translation . Furthermore, much attention should be paid to link words. Choosing the right link words will help learners convey their thoughts successfully.

#### 4.2.2.3. *Supplying with adequate knowledge of situational contexts*

Contextualizing ways to translate English conditional sentences

is of great significance in translation. However, it is hard for learners to understand implications of conditional sentences if they have to study the language in isolation. Contexts play a decisive role in translation.

(179) If you cannot bite, never show your teeth. [84]

(*Miệng hùm, gan sứa.*)

Without contexts, learners may have many difficulties in translation. Learners should master key words and guess them in contexts so that words in translated version can reveal the author’s intention accurately and naturally and may create attractive tone for the translation.

To sum up, this chapter has clarified the approaches of translating English conditional sentences and found out ways to help Vietnamese learners of English overcome the difficulties in translating English conditional sentences.

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

#### 5.1. CONCLUSIONS

With the task proposed in this thesis “*A study of English – Vietnamese Translation of Conditional sentences*”, we have provided an overview of different ways regarding to the translation of English conditional sentences.

The study is of great linguistic value since it has found out the approaches of translating English conditional sentences and some ways to help Vietnamese learners of English overcome the difficulties in translating English conditional sentences. More importantly, we have supplied learners of English with full descriptions and analyses of ways to translating English conditional

sentences successfully. From the result, we have given some suggestions on the translation of English conditional sentences. In the last part of the thesis, we think that the most valuable thing of the thesis is to supply Vietnamese learners of English with useful knowledge that can help learners know how to perform a translating work effectively.

## 5.2. IMPLICATIONS

Teachers should help students use the knowledge effectively, which can be achieved by constant practice in class under the guidance of teachers at school and by self study at home.

Therefore, students should be provided with more opportunities to practise the translation of English conditional sentences. In fact, this study has provided some suggestions for teaching and learning English conditional sentences as follows:

*Firstly*, teachers should be aware of the importance and advantages of English conditional sentences in maintaining effectiveness and rhetorical effects.

*Secondly*, in order to help students improve their ability in translating conditional sentences, teacher should design appropriate exercises for the students to practise.

*Thirdly*, teachers should develop some effective techniques to correct problems involved in the use of English conditional sentences.

*Fourthly*, students should be provided with opportunities to practise using and translating English conditional sentences in context.

## 5.3. LIMITATIONS

Being aware that the Vietnamese translation of English conditional sentences is a topic of significance to Vietnamese learners, we have made a great effort in doing the research. Nonetheless, owing to the limitation of time and ability as well as the shortage of reference materials, the study still has inevitable restrictions.

## 5.4. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCHES

The study has focused on the approaches of translating English conditional sentences and the ways to help Vietnamese learners to overcome difficulties in translating English conditional sentences. The samples of conditional sentences were taken from bilingual novels, short stories and public information.

Therefore, the following aspects dealing with English conditional sentences need further studies:

- + Ways of translating English conditional sentences in newspaper headlines.

- + Ways of translating Vietnamese conditional sentences in poems and folklore into English