

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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**A STUDY OF THE
SYNTACTIC, SEMANTIC, AND PRAGMATIC
FEATURES OF DISCOURSE MARKER 'ONLY'
AND ITS VIETNAMESE TRANSLATIONAL
EQUIVALENTS**

**Field Study : The English Language
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(SUMMARY)

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. RATIONALE

The role of English in this century is incredibly powerful in all spheres of life. It is the best instrument to get access to new information and a practical medium for global communication. The development of new technology has rapidly expanded the worldwide use of English and it seems that the future of English as an international language is undoubtedly evident and this is an irresistible trend. Moreover, as a result of rapid globalization and increasing international trade, much more demand has been made for people who can communicate orally in English. Therefore, to understand any languages more deeply and clearly, language learners should know not only people, customs, cultures, but also the theory of its language to get a thorough insight into the language. Especially, in the trend towards internationalization, English has had worldwide recognition for ages and become both the most popular language and an essential tool in international communication and integration.

1.2. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE STUDY

For these reasons, the paper entitled "*A Study of the Syntactic, Semantic, and Pragmatic Features of discourse marker ONLY and its Vietnamese Translational Equivalents*" is aimed to study the word "only" in depth with the hope that it will make certain contributions to the existing knowledge of the field under study and help English users use this word effectively in daily communications, as well as in translation.

1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.3.1. Aims

The study aims at investigating the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features of the discourse marker "only" and helping Vietnamese learners of English, as well as translators, gains a better insight into the meaning and usage of "only" in a more effective way.

1.3.2. Objectives

This study is intended to:

- identify and describe syntactic, semantic, pragmatic features of the word "only" in contextual situations;
- discover some of its possible translational equivalents in Vietnamese;
- point out the similarities and differences of "only" and its Vietnamese equivalents in terms of syntax, semantics and pragmatics;
- put forward some practical implications in the language classroom and in the area of translation.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The paper will find the answers to the following questions:

1. What are syntactic features of "only" in English and its Vietnamese equivalents?
2. What are semantic features of "only" in English and its Vietnamese equivalents?
3. What are pragmatic features of "only" in English and its Vietnamese equivalents?
4. What are their similarities and differences?

1.5. THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY

1.5.1. Levels of the Study

The study of the word of "only" is in the clausal structures.

1.5.2. Aspects of the Study

This study is restricted to the syntactic, semantic, pragmatic features of the discourse marker "only" in discourse and in the interaction between this item and the surrounding elements.

The focus is on "only" in the English language with reference to corresponding Vietnamese translational equivalents.

1.6. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

This research is organized into five chapters:

Chapter 1: The Introduction

Chapter 2: Literature Reviews and Theoretical Background

Chapter 3: Methodology and Procedure

Chapter 4: Research and Discussion

Chapter 5: Conclusion and Implication for Language Learning and Teaching

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEWS AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. LITERATURE REVIEWS

2.1.1. Overview

Awareness of the problems will help learners get a better understanding of its usage as well as provide some necessary strategies in communication. On recognizing the needs for such a study, I decided to make an investigation into the syntax, semantic and pragmatic features of the word "only" versus its Vietnamese translational equivalents. This study is expected to be beneficial to Vietnamese learners of English.

2.1.2. Review of Previous Studies Related to the Research Topic

Up to now, there have been studies about foci of "only" based on theories of semantics of the authors such as Chomsky (1972) Rooth (1985/1996), Von Stechow (1985/1989), Krifka (1992/1993) and on theories of pragmatics such as Jackendoff (1972), Von Fintel (1994), Roberts (1995/ 1996), Schwarzschild (1997), Rooth (1996) Geurts and Van Der Sandt (1997) and their studies about "only" such as Jackendoff (1972), Rooth (1985), König (1991), Vallduví (1992) and Schwarzschild (1994), Bech (1995/1997), Herburger (2000), Van Rooy (2002), Beaver (2004), Stechow (2005), Huitink (2005), Iatridou (2005), Fintel and Iatridou (2005).

Until now, a number of following studies have been shown the importance of syntax, semantic and pragmatic aspects, but there have been little the authors mentioned three features: syntax, semantics, and pragmatics as this paper. As in "*A Study on the Semantic and Pragmatic of the Discourse Marker 'Like' and its Vietnamese Translational Equivalents.*" by Nguyễn Thị Phương Thảo (2004); "*A Study of Semantic, Pragmatic and Cultural Features 'Nice' and its Equivalents in Vietnamese*" by Lê Minh Trang (2008); "*A Study of the Linguistic Features of the Adjectives 'Bad' in English and its Vietnamese Equivalents.*" by Trần Thị Thu Giang (2008), Danang University.

Therefore, based on the thesis related, the author hasn't found out any researches perfectly mentioned in three aspects as the paper is being studied.

To satisfy the curiosity of those who are interested in the above issues, "*A Study of the Syntactic, Semantic, and Pragmatic Features of discourse marker ONLY and its Vietnamese Translational Equivalents*" should be solved in this paper.

2.2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.2.1. What is Language?

As defined by Noam Chomsky, *Language and Mind* [3, p.3] "When we study human language, we are approaching what some might call the 'human essence', the distinctive qualities of mind that are, so far as we know, unique to man."

2.2.1.1. Linguistic Knowledge

2.2.1.2. Linguistic Knowledge and Performance

2.2.2. Syntactic Features

2.2.2.1. Word Classes

2.2.2.2. The Properties of Sentence Structure

2.2.3. Semantic Features

Roman Jakobson stated: "*Language without meaning is meaningless*" [3, p.200].

2.2.3.1. Meaning

2.2.3.2. Word Meaning

2.2.3.3. Phrase and Sentence Meaning

2.2.4. Pragmatic Features

Pragmatic has to do with people's use of language in contexts, so it is a part of what we have been calling *linguistic performance*.

2.2.4.1 Speech Acts Theory

2.2.4.2. Discourse Markers

2.2.4.3. Relevance Theory

2.2.4.4. Politeness Theory

2.2.4.5. Utterance Meaning and Context

2.2.4.6. Maxims

2.3. SUMMARY

In this chapter, the author has reviewed some prior researches related to the current study and provided some fundamental concepts such as speech act theory, politeness theory, utterance meaning, context and implicative in brief. This enables us to set up a theoretical framework for examining "only" in terms of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features, i.e. in what locution "only" can be recognized, in what illocution "only" reveals its semantic functions and under what pragmatic conditions "only" is intended to bring into place its perlocutionary effects.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURES

3.1. RESEARCH DESIGN

This is a descriptive and qualitative research. The contrastive analysis of the discourse marker "only" and the Vietnamese translational equivalents is based on the description of its meanings in terms of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic features.

3.2. RESEARCH PROCEDURE

The following steps are involved:

- *Collecting data*
- *Classifying "only" and its patterns as discourse markers*
- *Describing "only" and its patterns in terms of syntactic positions, semantic and pragmatic functions*
- *Discussing the findings in terms of relevance-theoretic view*

3.3. SAMPLING AND POPULATION

168 English and 168 Vietnamese instances of sentences containing "only" in short stories and modern novels were collected

from different literature books and the websites on the Internet.

3.4. DATA COLLECTION

Nowadays, there are a lot of sources for collecting data such as newspapers, magazines, novels ...I decide to choose short stories, modern novels and online text of chat as main sources.

3.5. DATA ANALYSIS

The data are analyzed in terms of syntactic, semantic and pragmatic categories. The results of the data analysis are presented qualitatively. The results from description and comparison of different meanings of the word "only" are made in words.

3.6. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY

Because most of the samples used to analyze in this study are collected from written and spoken discourses by well-known native speakers of English and Vietnamese and include variants which align to objective findings, the results of the research are most valid and reliable.

CHAPTER 4 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the results of the investigation into the word "only" in English and Vietnamese translational equivalents in terms of syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic features. The qualitative results of the analysis are the generalization of syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic features that appear in the corpora.

4.1. SYNTACTIC FEATURES OF "ONLY" IN ENGLISH AND ITS VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS

4.1.1. Positions of "Only" in the Sentence and its Vietnamese Equivalents

4.1.1.1. Initial Position

4.1.1.2. Medial Position

4.1.1.3. Final Position

Table 4.1: Description of Positions of 'only' in the Sentence and its Vietnamese Equivalents

No	Positions of 'only' in English	Positions of 'only' in Vietnamese
1	Initial position	Initial and Medial position
2	Medial position	Medial position
3	Final position.	Medial position

4.1.2. Syntactic Functions of "Only" in the Sentence and Its Vietnamese Equivalents

Basically, syntax studies the structure of well-formed phrases and sentences. In fact, it is important to note that *only* can function differently in a sentence or utterance.

4.1.2.1. Premodifying a Noun Phrase

4.1.2.2. Premodifying a Prepositional Phrase

4.1.2.3. Premodifying an Adjectival or an Adverbial Phrase

4.1.2.4. Premodifying a Declarative Content, or an Imperative Clause

4.1.2.5. Premodifying a Verb, a To-Infinitival and a Bare Infinitival Phrase

4.1.2.6. Premodifying a Gerund Phrase and a Present Participle Phrase

4.1.2.7. Premodifying a Past Participle Phrase

4.1.2.8. Postmodifying a Noun Phrase

To sum up, It is evident from my corpora that "only" is rarely used in the final position. The following are just a few examples that I can collect with great effort.

Based on examples, we can make a general description of the positions of "only" in the sentence and of the equivalents in Vietnamese as follows:

Table 4.2: Syntactic Functions of "Only" and Its Vietnamese Equivalents

No	Syntactic Functions	Patterns
1	Premodifying a noun phrase	S + V (be) + only + N / N Ph
	<i>Chỉ phải.....thời; chỉ có; chỉ việc; chỉ còn lại; chỉ còn; chỉ trừ; chẳng qua chỉ là</i>	
2	Premodifying a prepositional phrase	Only + Prep phrase + Aux + S + V S + V + only + prep phrase
	<i>Chỉ khi; chỉ duy; do; chỉ.....mà thôi</i>	
3	Premodifying an adjectival phrase	S + be + only + Adj S + V + It/ O + only + adj
	<i>Cũng là, chỉ, đấy chỉ;</i>	
4	Premodifying an adverbial phrase	S + V + only + Adv
	<i>Pha chút, cũng chỉ;</i>	
5	Premodifying a verb phrase	S + (Adv) + only + V
	<i>Chỉ, chỉ để</i>	
6	Premodifying a declarative content clause	S + V/be + only that + Clause
	<i>Chỉ vì, chỉ có</i>	
7	Premodifying a gerund phrase	S + V/be +...+ only + Gerund
	<i>Chỉ mới, vì chỉ</i>	

8	Premodifying a to-infinitival phrase	S + V + only + to -V
	<i>Ngoài trừ; chỉ khi; chỉ</i>	
9	Premodifying a bare infinitival phrase	S + modal verbs + only + V
	<i>Chỉ; mà chỉ</i>	
10	Premodifying a past participial phrase	S + Aux + only + V _{Past Participle phrase}
	<i>Nhưng chỉ; chỉ còn; chỉ</i>	
11	Premodifying a present participial phrase	S + be + only + V _{present participle phrase}
	<i>mới</i>	
12	Premodifying an imperative clause	Only + V + Clause
	<i>chỉ, nhưng</i>	
13	Postmodifying a noun phrase	S + V + O/ Comp + only
	<i>chỉ</i>	

4.2. SEMANTIC FEATURES OF "ONLY" IN ENGLISH AND ITS VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS

The word "only" can be used as an adjective, an adverb, and occasionally as a conjunction.

4.2.1. "Only" Used as an Adjective

To begin with, "only" is used as an adjective modifying a noun. It can also combine with various kinds of words to create a wide range of meanings and form grammatical-lexical structures in which its significance can be expressed fully and completely.

4.2.1.1. "Only" as the Best, the Finest, the Most Suitable

4.2.1.2. "Only" as Sole for a Child with Having No Brother, Sister or Child

4.2.1.3. "Only" as Few or a Few

4.2.2. "Only" Used as an Adverb

4.2.2.1. "Only" as Merely, Simply

4.2.2.2. "Only" as Exclusively, Singly

4.2.2.3. "Only" as Very or Completely

4.2.2.4. "Only" as As Recently As, Not Before, No

Earlier Than a Particular Time

4.2.2.5. "Only" as Not Better or Worse

4.2.2.6. "Only" as in the Final Outcome or

Decision:

4.2.3. "Only" Used as a Conjunction

4.2.3.1. "Only" as But

4.2.3.2. "Only" as However

4.2.3.3. "Only" as If ...Not

Table 4.3: Semantic Features of "Only" and its Vietnamese Equivalents

No	"Only" Used as:	Its Vietnamese Equivalents
"Only" used as an Adjective	1	The best, the finest, the most suitable
	2	Sole for a child with having no brother, sister or child
	3	Few, a few
"Only" used as an Adverb	4	Merely, simply
	5	Exclusively, singly
	6	Very or completely
	7	As recently as, not before, no earlier than a particular time
	8	Not better or worse

	9	In the final outcome or decision	chỉ khi
"Only" used as an Conjunction	1	But	nhưng phải cái, nhưng, chỉ phải cái
	0		
	1	However	trừ việc duy nhất, duy chỉ có
	1		
1	If ...not	nếu ...không	
2			

In the next part, the researcher will try to analyze the most important aspect of "only": pragmatic features.

4.3. PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF "ONLY" IN ENGLISH AND ITS VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS

With data elaborately collected and carefully analyzed, pragmatic features of "only" and its equivalents in Vietnamese can be classified into four main groups as follows:

4.3.1. "Only" Used to Emphasize

As we all know, emphasizing adverbs such as *absolutely*, *just*, *quite*, or *simply* can be used to add emphasis to the action described. For example: *I absolutely agree*. Similarly, the adverb "only" can be used to lay emphasis on the idea the speaker wants to express.

4.3.1.1. Used to Emphasize Uniqueness from the Point of View of the Speaker in a Given Situation

4.3.1.2. Used to Emphasize a Recent Event

4.3.1.3. Used to Emphasize the Sole Condition

4.3.1.4. Used to Emphasize a Particular Time When Somebody or Something Comes to Realize Certain Truth for Him/Her

A brief description of "only" used to emphasize and its Vietnamese equivalents can be made in the following table:

Table 4.4: "Only" Used to Emphasize

"Only" Used to Emphasize	Its Vietnamese Equivalents
1. Uniqueness from the point of view of the speaker in a given situation	duy nhất, nhất
2. A recent event	chỉ mới, trong vòng (hai tháng) thôi;
3. The sole condition	giả như
4. A particular time when somebody comes to realize certain truth for himself/herself	chỉ có (hôm nay), lúc, mãi đến khi, chỉ ...khi;

4.3.2. "Only" Used to Confirm

Besides emphasizing, the word "only" can be used to confirm. It can be used to confirm the truth of a situation or an obvious reality.

4.3.2.1. Used to Confirm the Truth of a Situation, rather than What the Speaker might previously have expected

4.3.2.2. Used to Confirm an Obvious Reality

Table 4.5: "Only" Used to Confirm

"Only" Used to Confirm	Its Vietnamese Equivalents
1. Used to confirm the truth of a situation, rather than what the speaker might previously have expected.	đành phải
2. Used to confirm an obvious reality	chỉ cần

4.3.3. "Only" Used to Show Feelings or Attitudes

More often than not, it is not for nothing that "only" is used in an utterance. Sometimes, "only" is employed to show a particular kind

of feelings in a given situation. The following is a detailed analysis of these pragmatic features of "only".

4.3.3.1. Used to Show Dissatisfaction

4.3.3.2. Used to Show Praise

4.3.3.3. Used to Show Regret

4.3.3.4. Used to Show a Nice Surprise

4.3.3.5. Used to Express Disappointment

4.3.3.6. Used to Show Unusuality

4.3.3.7. Used to Show a Reproach

4.3.3.8. Used to Show Uncertainty or Doubt

4.3.3.9. Used to Show a Strong Wish or Hope

4.3.3.10. Used to Show a Warning

Not very often but occasionally, besides the above typical pragmatic features, "only" in this part is used to inform somebody in advance of something which is possible in danger for them to try to avoid it.

All in all, "only" is used to show feelings or attitudes in English and its Vietnamese equivalents can be summarized as follows:

Table 4.6: "Only" Used to Show Feelings or Attitudes

"Only" Used to Show Feelings or Attitudes	Its Vietnamese Equivalents
1. dissatisfaction	chỉ, chỉ phải.....thôi
2. praise	chỉ; chỉ mới (lên), chỉ mới (có)
3. regret	giả như; nếu như
4. a nice surprise	chỉ để,
5. disappointment	khốn nỗi; chỉ còn có cách
6. unusuality	chỉ mới; chỉ

7. a reproach	chỉ (nghĩ)...mà thôi; cũng
8. uncertainty	chỉ (đoán); chỉ (phỏng đoán)
9. a strong wish or hope	ước gì; chỉ (hy vọng)
10. a warning	chỉ tỏ; chỉ ...mà thôi; chỉ làm... mà thôi

4.3.4. Used To Downgrade Loss or Damage

"Only" is used to reduce a low level of loss or damage.

Based on the above-examined utterances, we can make a description of "only" employed to downgrade loss or damage as follows:

Table 4.7: "Only" Used to Downgrade Loss or Damage

"Only" Used to Downgrade Loss or Damage	Its Vietnamese Equivalents
to downgrade loss or damage	chỉ có, mà rất cuộc

When investigating the pragmatics of "only", we can see that "only" is a multisemantic word in terms of contexts of communication as well as speakers' intention in both English and Vietnamese.

From above-analyzed examples, pragmatic features of "only" can be presented briefly in the table below:

Table 4.8: Pragmatic Features of "Only" and Its Vietnamese Equivalents

Pragmatic Features of "only"		Its Vietnamese Equivalents
Used to emphasize	1. uniqueness from the point of view of the speaker in a given situation.	duy nhất; chỉ có cách
	2. a recent event	chỉ mới; trong vòng ...thời
	3. the sole condition	nếu như,
	4. a particular time when	chỉ có (hôm nay); chỉ đến

	somebody or something comes to realize certain truth for him/her	(lúc ấy); chỉ sau khi; lúc; mãi đến khi;
Used to confirm	5. the truth of a situation, rather than what the speaker might previously have expected.	đành phải
	6. an obvious reality	chỉ cần
Used to show feelings or attitudes	7. a dissatisfaction	chỉ phải...thôi; chỉ (một mình);
	8. a praise	chỉ; chỉ mới lên;
	9. a regret	giá như; giá mà
	10. a nice surprise	chỉ để; chỉ khi
	11. a disappointment	khốn nỗi; chỉ để; chỉ nhằm
	12. an unusality	chỉ mới; chỉ
	13. a reproach	chỉ (nghĩ)... mà thôi; chỉ
	14. an uncertainty or doubt	chỉ (phỏng đoán); chỉ (đoán)
Used to downgrade	15. a strong wish or hope	ước gì; giá mà;
	16. a warning	chỉ (làm mọi việc tệ hơn)
	17. loss or damage	chỉ có, mà rất cuộc

The discovery of the pragmatic meanings of "only" in contexts, therefore, can be considered an enormous contribution of this paper which helps English speakers, learners and translators use this word much more properly and efficiently.

4.4. SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN "ONLY" IN ENGLISH AND ITS VIETNAMESE EQUIVALENTS

4.4.1. Similarities and Differences in Syntactic Features of "Only" in English and Vietnamese

4.4.1.1. Similarities and Differences in the Syntactic Positions of "Only" in English and Vietnamese

"Only" in English has initial, medial, final positions in the clause or in the sentences, but its Vietnamese equivalents are found mainly in the initial and medial positions; the final position is not identified in my corpus.

4.4.1.2. Similarities and Differences in the Syntactic Functions of "Only" in English and Vietnamese

Table 4.9 is about similar syntactic features between "only" in English and its equivalents in Vietnamese.

Table 4.9: Syntactic Functions of "Only" and its Vietnamese Equivalents

No	Syntactic Functions	Its Vietnamese Equivalents
1	- <i>Premodifying a noun phrase</i> S + V (be) + only + N / N Ph	... <i>chỉ phải</i> học âm nhạc <i>chỉ còn lại</i> ba bóng thuyền... ... <i>chỉ có</i> tâm hồn... ... <i>chỉ trừ</i> khát vọng ... <i>chẳng qua chỉ</i> là một ví dụ..
2	- <i>Premodifying a prepositional phrase</i> Only + Prep phr + Aux + S + V S + V + only + prep phr	... <i>chỉ khi</i> ngồi vào lòng... ... <i>chỉ vài phút mà</i> thôi...

3	- <i>Premodifying an adjectival phrase</i> S + be + only + Adj S + V + It/ O + only + adj	... <i>cũng phải</i> là điều lẽ phải... ... <i>đấy chỉ</i> là thứ ánh sáng...
4	- <i>Premodifying an adverbial phrase</i> S + V + only + Adv	... <i>pha chút</i> khôì hài... ... <i>cũng chỉ</i> bớt được đôi phần ...
5	- <i>Premodifying a verb phrase</i> S + (Adv) + only + V	... <i>chỉ dùng</i> một... ... <i>chỉ cho</i> thấy... ... <i>chỉ để</i> cho lời nói ...
6	- <i>Premodifying a declarative content clause</i> S + V/be + only that + Clause	... <i>chỉ vì</i> pin đã cạn <i>chỉ có</i> Ted nhìn thấy em bước...
7	- <i>Premodifying a gerund phrase</i> S + V/be + ... + only + Gerund	... <i>chỉ mới</i> hai mươi tuổi... ... <i>vì chỉ</i> có ba chúng ta...
8	- <i>Premodifying a to-infinitival phrase</i> S + V + only + to -V	... <i>ngoại trừ</i> việc chịu đựng... ... <i>chỉ khi</i> nhìn vào đôi tay... ... <i>chỉ để</i> giữ mạng sống ...
9	- <i>Premodifying a bare infinitival phrase</i> S + modal verbs + only + V	... <i>chỉ có thể</i> trả lời <i>mà chỉ</i> nghe thấy...,
10	- <i>Premodifying a past participial phrase</i> S + Aux + only + V _{Past Participle} phrase	... <i>chỉ thấy</i> qua được một lần... ... <i>chỉ mới</i> đến... ... <i>nhưng chỉ</i> rẽ tai nhau... ... <i>chỉ còn</i> nghe tiếng cào...

11	- <i>Premodifying a present participial phrase</i> S + be + only + V _{present participle phrase}	... <i>mới phải</i> ra mặt trận ...
12	- <i>Premodifying an imperative clause</i> Only + V + Clause	... <i>chỉ</i> làm phiền <i>chỉ</i> gọi đội cứu hỏa... ... <i>nhưng</i> cần nói trước..
13	- <i>Postmodifying a noun phrase</i> S + V + O/ Comp + only	... <i>chỉ</i> chịu trách nhiệm về độ cao.. ... <i>chỉ</i> hướng dẫn bạn... ... <i>chỉ</i> trên một mặt giấy... ... <i>chỉ</i> cho vui thôi...

Table 4.9 is about some differences in syntactic features between “only” in English and its equivalents in Vietnamese.

Table 4.10: Description Similarities and Differences of "Only" in English and its Vietnamese Equivalents

No	Syntactic Functions of "only"	In English	In Vietnamese
1	- <i>Premodifying a noun phrase</i>	x	x
2	- <i>Premodifying a prepositional phrase</i>	x	
3	- <i>Premodifying an adjectival phrase</i>	x	x
4	- <i>Premodifying an adverbial phrase</i>	x	
5	- <i>Premodifying a verb phrase</i>	x	x
6	- <i>Premodifying a to-infinitival phrase</i>	x	
7	- <i>Premodifying a bare infinitival phrase</i>	x	
8	- <i>Premodifying a gerund phrase</i>	x	
9	- <i>Premodifying a declarative content clause</i>	x	
10	- <i>Premodifying a past participial phrase</i>	x	

11	- <i>Premodifying a present participial phrase</i>	x	
12	- <i>Premodifying an imperative clause</i>	x	
13	- <i>Postmodifying a noun phrase</i>	x	

Table 4.10 makes it easy that “only” in English has 13 functions, but Vietnamese only has three functions. Here, the prominent point we can figure out from the table is that its Vietnamese equivalents are often premodified a noun phrase and a verb phrase most.

4.4.2. Similarities and Differences in the Semantic Features of "Only" in English and Vietnamese

Semantically, "only" in English can be identified in thirteen categories according to their semantic roles. The meanings of "only" can be recognized not only in themselves but also in relation to what is connected to it, namely:

- The functions in the sentence give out the semantic meanings.
- The dependent clause or sentence joins clauses together.
- One clause or sentence is a condition of the other.

Table 4.11: Summary of Semantic Features of "Only" and Its Vietnamese Equivalents

	No	"Only" Used to as	Its Vietnamese Equivalents
d a	1	The best, the finest, the most suitable	tốt nhất, duy nhất (thích hợp nhất)
	2	Sole for a child with having no brother or sister	độc nhất, duy nhất, (con) một,
	3	Few, a few	chỉ vài, số ít
	4	Merely, simply	chỉ còn, chỉmà thôi, chỉ

			có
	5	Exclusively, singly	tu, riêng
	6	Very or completely	đành phải, có quá nhiều
	7	As recently as, not before, no earlier than a particular time	chỉ....mà thôi, mới có, mới ..thôi, chỉ có, chỉ mới...thôi, chỉ mới, gần đây mới
	8	Not better or worse	chỉ là, như
	9	In the final outcome or decision	chỉ khi
"Only" used as	10	But	nhưng phải cái, nhưng, chỉ phải cái
	11	However	trừ việc duy nhất, duy chỉ có
	12	If ...not	nếu ...không

4.4.3. Similarities and Differences in the Pragmatic Features of "only" in English and Vietnamese

Pragmatically, both "only" in English and its equivalents in Vietnamese can be used to emphasize, to confirm, to show feelings and attitudes, or to downgrade loss or damage. It is interesting to notice that each pragmatic feature of "only" in English has a similar feature in its equivalents in Vietnamese. In other words, from my corpus, I can identify no differences between "only" in English and its equivalents in Vietnamese, as far as pragmatic features are concerned.

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

5.1. CONCLUSION

Syntactically, while "only" in English often comes in three positions: initial, medial, final, their Vietnamese equivalent usually appears in initial and medial positions. As far as syntactic function is

concerned, "only" it is often placed immediately before the word that will be focused and divided into thirteen functions.

Semantically, discourse marker "only" can be categorized into groups of meanings based on certain contexts. When "only" enters into constructions with semantic entities of a particular type, it takes on a kind of meaning not associated with it in other contexts. It means that the category which a particular case should be assigned depends on a specific context of the utterance. Grammatically, "only" functions as an adjective, an adverb and a conjunction.

5.2. IMPLICATIONS

5.2.1. Implications for Language Learning and Teaching

To be sure that students are not confused, teachers should clearly point out to them which meanings are affected by syntax or which meanings are affected by pragmatics, etc. In an advanced class, teachers may provide students with various examples containing the word "only" and encourage them to find out its meanings in the given context.

Furthermore, to help students avoid negative transference, teachers should point out the similarities and differences between "only" in English and its equivalents in Vietnamese.

Last but not least, Vietnamese learners of English should be exposed to authentic materials in a good language environment to learn "only" more effectively and to use it more properly.

5.2.2. Implications for Translation

"Only" is often considered to be a restrictive word. Thus, it is often translated into Vietnamese as: *chỉ, chỉ là, chỉ có, duy nhất, độc nhất, duy chỉ*. In doing so, learners and translators do ignore important linguistic features of the word "only" and, therefore; fail to convey the speaker/writer's intention. Here are some examples:

(168) He told us didn't he, that it was **only** the legs that he was wanting. [26, p.316]

Ông ta nói với chúng mình. Đúng không? Vì thế chúng ta **chỉ** việc cắt nhanh chúng ra ngay tại đây. [34, p.349]

Needless to say, this translation is not a true reflection of what the writer wants to convey to his readers.

In the above statement, "only" is used to emphasize "the legs", not any other part, and when it is used in combination with the emphatic form "It was ...that", its meaning is much more reinforced. Therefore, in my opinion, the above statement should be translated like this.

Ông ta nói với chúng tôi rồi, đúng không, rằng ông ta **chỉ** muốn **duy nhất** những cái chân **mà thôi**.

(169) He ought perhaps to have put a spoke in the wheel of their marriage; they were too young; but after that experience of Jo's susceptibility he had been **only too** anxious to see him married.

[19, p.22]

Lẽ đáng ra lão phải thọc gậy bánh xe vào cuộc hôn nhân này mới phải; chúng nó còn trẻ quá; nhưng thấy Jo quá đa cảm, lão **đành phải** cho con mau chóng nên vợ nên chồng. [41, p.44]

In Vietnamese, the phrase "**đành phải**" expresses a negative feeling, a resigned attitude, a sense of suffering, while the phrase "**only too**" in this context expresses his strong approval of their marriage, which seems to go contrary to what he might have expected at first. Thus, the above statement should be translated like this:

Đáng lẽ ra lão phải thọc gậy bánh xe vào cuộc hôn nhân này; chúng nó còn quá trẻ đi mà; nhưng sau khi chứng kiến sự đa cảm của Jo, lão **rất** nóng lòng mong đến ngày cháu nên vợ nên chồng.

5.3. LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCHES

5.3.1. Limitations

Due to the limitations of time, reference documents and other constraints relating to the researcher's ability, the paper: "*A Study of the Syntactic, Semantic, and Pragmatic Features of discourse maker ONLY and its Vietnamese Translational Equivalents*" may not cover all possible linguistic features of this word. This would certainly leave room for further research.

5.3.2. Suggestions for Further Research

Suggestions for further research include:

1. A Study of Cultural Features of "ONLY"
2. An Investigation into Idioms and Proverbs containing the word "ONLY"
3. A Study of Linguistic Features of "ONLY" in "NOT ONLY...BUT ALSO", "ONLY THAT", "ONLY BECAUSE", etc

