

**THE UNIVERSITY OF DANANG  
UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES**

**ĐINH THỊ NGỌC BÍCH**

**A STUDY OF THE TRANSLATION OF "THE TALE  
OF KIEU" BY MẠC PHI HOÀNG VIA THE USE OF  
ANTITHESIS IN "TRUYỆN KIỀU" BY  
NGUYỄN DU**

**Major : ENGLISH LINGUISTICS  
Code : 822.02.01**

**MASTER THESIS IN  
FOREIGN LANGUAGES, LITERATURE AND CULTURE  
(A SUMMARY)**

**Danang, 2018**

This thesis has been completed at University of Foreign Language Studies, The University of Da Nang

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The thesis was be orally defended at the Examining Committee

Time : 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.

Venue : University of Foreign Language Studies

The University of Da Nang

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## Chapter One

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. RATIONALE

It can be said that "Literature is one of the most interesting and significant expressions of humanity." (Barnum, 1988, p.1). Literature, on the whole, is any body of written works. More restrictively, literature writing is considered to be an art form, or any single writing form having artistic or intellectual value that often due to deploying language in ways that differ from ordinary usage (Wikipedia, Website 33). Additionally, literature serves as a gateway to learning of the past and expanding our knowledge and understanding of the world.

In literature a writer can use a variety of figures of speech to express his/her ideas and feelings. The same thing happens in "Truyện Kiều" – a famous literary work where Nguyễn Du used many figures of speech to express his feelings towards the characters. Among them, what impressed me most is antithesis – one of the language tools from which, in my opinion, can make the value of this story. And that is why I choose antithesis to investigate in this research.

Translation is very important in learning English nowadays. Information from the internet also states that since English becomes an international language that translation becomes an important instrument in a world where English is used everywhere. Indeed, at present, no one can deny the fact that translation connects the Global Economy which involves economies of the whole world. Translation also spreads ideas and information.

It can be seen that nowadays "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du has been translated by many famous authors such as Lê Xuân Thủy, Huỳnh Sanh Thông, Bạch Vân Bùi Trọng Hợp, Michael Counsell, Vladislav V. Zhukov, Mạc Phi Hoàng, Timothy Allen. The reason

why we choose the version translated by Mạc Phi Hoàng is that we like his writing style, his use of translating methods and his talent in word choice to express the core meanings from the original work. In short, his translational English version is very clearly, interesting and easy to understand.

Additionally, from our own experience, we comprehend that by investigating antithesis structures, language learners can improve their speaking and writing skills at the same time as well as we can understand "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du more deeply.

With my passion on this literary work and my huge interest in figures of speech, I decided to carry out the study entitled "A study of the translation of "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng via the use of antithesis in "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du".

### **1.2.1. Aims of the Study**

This research aims:

- to study antitheses used in "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng based on "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du;
- to find out the loss and gain in the use of antithesis in "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng based on the literary work of "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du in terms of different translation methods in terms of syntax and semantics.

### **1.2.2. Objectives of the Study**

To achieve the aims of the study, the researcher will follow the following objectives:

- To examine the translation equivalence of the antitheses in the translation of "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng based on "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du via the translational methods;
- To find out loss and gain phenomena of antithesis in the translation of "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng based on "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du in terms of syntax;
- To find out loss and gain phenomena of antitheses in the

translation of "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng based on "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du in terms of semantics.

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

In this research we will focus on investigating the English translation of the antitheses in "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng in terms of syntax and semantics via the use of different kinds of translation methods. We do not have the ambition to go deep into the translation methods or to cover any other figure of speech such as paradox, parallelism or hyperbole.

### **1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

In order to achieve the above-mentioned aims and objectives, the following research questions are put forward :

1. What are the types of translation methods used in the translation of "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng based on "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du ?
2. What are the loss and gain in the translation of antitheses used in "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng based on "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du in terms of syntax?
3. What are the loss and gain in the translation of antitheses used in "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng based on "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du in terms of semantics ?

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

The foremost significance of this study is that the findings of this study on the syntactic and semantic features of antithesis in the English translation of "The Tale of Kieu" and the original literary work "Truyện Kiều" will be a great contribution to those who work in the area of translation studies such as translators and interpreters, and in ELT/ELL, especially to learners and teachers of English in Vietnam.

We also have a strong belief that this study will provide with more theoretical knowledge for those who are interested in stylistics in general and antithesis in particular.

## **1.6. ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY**

This study is divided into 5 chapters:

- ◆ Chapter one: Introduction
- ◆ Chapter two: Literature Review and Theoretical Background
- ◆ Chapter three: Methodology
- ◆ Chapter four: Findings and Discussion
- ◆ Chapter five: Conclusion and Implications

**Chapter Two**  
**LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL**  
**BACKGROUND**

**2.1. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

**2.1.1. Overview of Translation**

In general, translation is a science, an art, and a skill. It is a science in the sense that it necessitates complete knowledge of the structure and make-up of the two languages concerned. It is an art since it requires artistic talent to reconstruct the original text in the form of a product that is presentable to the reader who is not supposed to be familiar with the original. It is also a skill because it entails the ability to smooth over any difficulty in the translation, and the ability to provide the translation of something that has no equal in the target language.

***2.1.1.1. Definition of translation***

As defined from Wikipedia (Website 36), translation is the communication of the meaning of a source language (SL) text by means of an equivalent target language (TL) text. While interpreting -- the facilitating of oral or sign-language communication between users of different languages -- antedates writing, translation began only after the appearance of written literature.

***2.1.1.2. Translation methods***

In his book "*A Textbook of Translation*" Newmark presents some methods of translation which includes Word for word translation, Literal translation, Faithful translation, Semantic translation, Adaptation, Free translation, Idiomatic translation, Communicative translation (Newmark, 1988, p. 45).

***2.1.1.3. Types of translation***

In his article *On Linguistic Aspects of Translation*, Jakobson distinguishes three types of translation (Jakobson, 1959, p.23).

- ❖ The first type is Intralingual translation, or rewording

- ❖ The second type is Interlingual translation or translation proper
- ❖ The last is Intersemiotic translation or transmutation

#### ***2.1.1.4. Loss and gain in translation***

##### *a. Loss in translation*

Loss in translation is a situation in which terms or concepts in the SL text do not find their substitutes in the TL text (Bassnett, 2005, p.15).

##### *b. Gain in translation*

Gain is the enrichment or clarification of the SL text in the process of translation (McGuire, 1980, p.30).

### **2.1.2. Stylistics**

In *Stylistics*, Galperin (1977, p.9) asserted:

Stylistics, sometimes called *linguo-stylistics*, is a branch or general linguistics. It has now been more or less definitely outlined. It deals mainly with two interdependent tasks (i) The investigation of the inventory of special language media which by their ontological features secure the desirable effect of the utterance, and (ii) Certain types of texts which due to the choice and arrangement of language means are distinguished by the pragmatic aspect of the communication.

The two objectives of stylistics are clearly discernible as two separate fields of investigation.

### **2.1.3. Overview of antithesis**

#### ***2.1.3.1. Definition of antithesis***

From website 37, antithesis is defined as “a literary device which uses words to convey ideas in different ways from the common words and expressions of daily life”. Thus, it conveys meaning more vividly than ordinary speech. When contrasting ideas are brought together, the idea is expressed more emphatically. In this sense, antithesis makes contrasts in order to examine pros and cons of a subject under discussion and helps to bring forth judgment on that particular subject.



### ***2.1.3.2. Function of antithesis***

Antithesis has the basic functions which include rhythm-forming, copulative, disjunctive, and comparative. These functions often go together and intermingle in their own peculiar manner. But as a rule antithesis displays one of the functions more clearly than the others. This particular function will then be the leading one in the given utterance.

An antithesis must always contain double meanings due to the reproduction of two ideas within one statement. The ideas may not be structurally opposite, but they serve to be functionally opposite when comparing two ideas for emphasis.

Information from Wikipedia (Website 32) indicates that “Antithesis is used in writing or speech either as a proposition that contrasts with or reverses some previously mentioned proposition, or when two opposites are introduced together for contrasting effect”

Also from this website, Aristotle stated that the use of an antithesis makes the audience better understand the point one is trying to make through their argument. He further explained that the comparison of two situations or ideas makes choosing the correct one simpler, and antithesis in rhetoric is similar to syllogism due to the presentation of two conclusions within a statement.

### **2.1.4. Semantics theory**

In The linguistics encyclopedia, Malmkjaer, K (2002, p 455) asserted :

Semantics is the study of linguistic meaning, and is the area of linguistics which is closest to the philosophy of language. The main difference between the linguist’s and the philosopher’s way of dealing with the question of meaning is that the linguist tends to concentrate on the way in which meaning operates in language, while the philosopher is more interested in the nature of meaning itself- in particular, in the relationship between the linguistic and the non-linguistic.

Semantics is one of the richest and most fascinating parts of linguistics and it is a vast subject.

### **2.1.5. An introduction to author Nguyễn Du and "The Tale of Kieu"**

Information from the free encyclopedia Wikipedia (Website 34) states that Nguyễn Du is most known for writing the literary masterpiece "Truyện Kiều". This literary work is known as "The Tale of Kieu" or "Kieu's Story" that has been translated by many foreign authors. It can be said that "Truyện Kiều", which was based on an earlier Chinese work known as "Kim Vân Kiều" and was originally titled "Đoạn Trường Tân Thanh", has made Nguyễn Du's reputation

#### ***2.1.5.1. The author Nguyễn Du***

From website 41, Nguyễn Du, pseudonym Tố Như, was born in 1765, Tiên Điền, Vietnam and died in 1820, Huế. He is the best loved poet of the Vietnamese and creator of the epic poem "Kim Vân Kiều", written in demotic script-the ancient Vietnamese script. He has been considered as the father of Vietnamese literature.

#### ***2.1.5.2. The Tale of Kieu***

From Wikipedia (Website 35) "The Tale of Kieu" is an epic poem in Vietnamese written by Nguyễn Du, and is widely regarded as the most significant work of Vietnamese literature. Its original title in Vietnamese is "Đoạn Trường Tân Thanh" which means "A New Cry from a Broken Heart", but it is better known as "Truyen Kieu".

Moreover, information from website 42 told us that "Truyện Kiều" has 3,254 lines written in "six-eight" meter (lục bát). This literary work recounts the life, trials and tribulations of a young lady named Vương Thúy Kiều, a very beautiful and learned lady, who was born into a well-educated family and fell in love with Kim Trọng, a young gentleman. Then disaster fell on her family. Her father and her brother were imprisoned. In order to solve the family's problem, she had no choice but sold herself to save her father. From then on, catastrophe after catastrophe fell on her. She

was cheated so often, two times being held in a whorehouse as a singer, a concubine, and a servant. We may say this is a sad story of a talented lady who had bad fate. Through Kieu's fate, Nguyễn Du wanted to tell us the fate of human beings in the wicked feudal society with all its cruelties and injustice. He wanted to scream out loud, a scream that breaks our heart, which has a significant meaning in its title.

## **2.2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

So far, there have been many researchers doing research on translation of "Truyện Kiều". Recently Nguyễn Thị Hương Ly (2013) carried out her thesis named "An investigation into translation of sentences containing Parallelism in Truyện Kiều from Vietnamese into English".

Another researcher, Nguyễn Thị Mỹ Duyên (2013), investigates the translation of idioms found in "Truyện Kiều" through her thesis entitled "An investigation into the translation of idioms in some English versions of Truyện Kiều by Nguyễn Du".

The third researcher, Hoàng Trương Phước Lộc (2011), investigates the translation of hyperboles found in "Truyện Kiều" through his thesis entitled " An investigation into the translation of hyperboles from Vietnamese into English as manifested in English versions of Truyện Kiều".

They have provided us with many interesting knowledge about literature and many language devices, especially about "Truyện Kiều" by investigating the English versions of it.

As mentioned above, there are many research on "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du investigating many interesting aspects, but there has been no one carried out on the translation of antithesis in this famous work of art. Thus, with passion on this literary work, we decide to conduct this study entitled "A study of the translation of The Tale of Kieu by Mạc Phi Hoàng via the use of antithesis in Truyện Kiều by Nguyễn Du"

## **2.3. SUMMARY**

## **Chapter Three**

### **METHODOLOGY**

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

This research will use both qualitative and quantitative research design which employs descriptive, statistical, and analytical methods to find out the types of translation methods used in the translational of "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng based on "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du in terms of syntax and semantics.

#### **3.2. SAMPLING OF THE STUDY**

One of the aims of the study is to identify and collect all the antithesis samples in the two versions. Within the framework of this study, 70 Vietnamese antithesis samples and 70 English samples were used as data to be analyzed in the study. These samples will be selected and extracted from the English translation of "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng based on the original literary work of "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du.

It is necessary and important to reconfirm the characteristics of antitheses in this study so that readers can easily recognize its functions in literary works of art. Following are the basic criteria that need to be taken into consideration when evaluating an antithesis: (i) It contains double meanings due to the production of two ideas within one or more than one statement; (ii) It has opposite meaning and (iii) It can be within or not within a balanced grammatical structure.

#### **3.3. INSTRUMENTS OF THE STUDY**

The source of data is taken from the English translation "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng based on the original literary work of "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du. The data will be restricted to the scope of language devices in literature-based language translation via the use of antithesis.

Searching google and reading printed materials are instruments used to collect data for this research. After collecting and examining antithesis samples in The English translation of “The Tale of Kieu” by Mạc Phi Hoàng based on "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du, we will analyze and classify these samples quantitatively and qualitatively in terms of syntax and semantics before coming to conclusions.

### **3.4. PROCEDURES OF DATA COLLECTION**

### **3.5. DATA ANALYSIS**

### **3.6. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY**

### **3.7. SUMMARY**

## **Chapter Four**

### **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1. DIFFERENT TYPES OF TRANSLATION METHODS USED IN THE TRANSLATION OF "THE TALE OF KIEU" BY MẠC PHI HOÀNG BASED ON "TRUYỆN KIỀU" BY NGUYỄN DU.**

In his translational version, the translator uses many kinds of translation methods which include Communicative method, Free method, Faithful method and Semantics method to convey the meaning of antithesis.

As far as translational methods are concerned, antithesis can be found in various types such as NPs, VPs, AdjPs, AdvPs, PrepPs, GPs and Ss in terms of syntax and semantics.

##### **4.1.1. Communication method**

**Lại mang lây tiếng dữ gần lành xa.** [2096, p. 115]

**And tarnished with nasty rumors near and far**

In the above-mentioned sample, the translator applies Communicative method to transfer the meaning of the line in the SL to the TL in terms of translational method whose criteria are 1, 2 & 3.

##### **4.1.2. Free method**

**Gần đây nào phải người nào xa xôi.** [312, p.18]

**And I'm an acquaintance of yours not stranger.**

In the above-mentioned sample, the translator applies Free method to transfer the meaning of the line in the SL to the TL in terms of translational method whose criteria are 1 & 2

##### **4.1.3. Faithful method**

**Đau lòng kẻ ở người đi,** [781, p. 44]

**Their hearts ached, the departed and those who stayed,**

In the above-mentioned sample, the translator applies Faithful method to transfer the meaning of the line in the SL to the TL in terms of translational method whose criteria are 1 & 2

#### 4.1.4. Semantics method

**Sớm đưa Tống Ngọc, tối tìm Tràng Khanh.** [1232, p.68]

**At dawn she saw off Tsong, at dusk looked for Tchang**

In the above-mentioned sample, the translator applies Semantics method to transfer the meaning of the line in the SL to the TL in terms of translational method whose criteria are 1, 2 & 3

## 4.2. LOSS AND GAIN IN THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF ANTITHESIS USED IN THE STUDY IN TERMS OF SYNTAX

As far as translational methods are concerned, antithesis can be found in various types such as noun NPs, VPs, AdjPs, AdvPs, PrepPs, GPs and Ss in terms of syntax.

**4.2.1. Loss and gain in the English translation of antithesis used in "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng via translational method**

### *4.2.1.1. Loss in Communicative method*

[4.1] **Lại mang lấy tiếng dữ gần lành xa** [2096, p. 115]

VP

**And tarnished with nasty rumors near and far**

VP

In this sample, the author uses a VP which is "**Lại mang lấy tiếng dữ gần lành xa**", and in the translational version, the translator uses an VP which is "**And tarnished with nasty rumors near and far**" (Criteria 1, 2 & 3).

<i>Source language (SL)</i> (Vietnamese)	<i>Target language (TL)</i> (English)	<i>Loss elements</i>
VP (Lại mang lấy tiếng dữ gần lành xa)	VP (And tarnished with nasty rumors near and far)	➤ Involves no figurative meaning ➤ N: (tiếng) lành

#### 4.2.1.2. Loss in Free method

[4.24] **Gần đây nào phải người nào xa xôi** [312, p.18]

S

**And I'm an acquaintance of yours not stranger**

S

In this sample, the author uses an S in the SL which is “**Gần đây nào phải người nào xa xôi**” and in the TL, the translator also uses an S which is “**And I'm an acquaintance of yours not stranger**” to express the opposite meaning (Criteria 1, 2 & 3).

<i>Source language (SL)</i> (Vietnamese)	<i>Target language (TL)</i> (English)	<i>Loss elements</i>
S (Gần đây nào phải người nào xa xôi)	S (And I'm an acquaintance of yours not stranger)	➤ Adjs: gần đây/xa xôi

#### 4.2.1.3. Loss in Faithful method

[4.37] **Đau lòng kẻ ở người đi**, [781, p. 44]

S

**Their hearts ached, the departed and those who stayed,**

S

NP1

NP2

In the sample above, an S is used which is “**Đau lòng kẻ ở**”



**người đi"**, and in the translational version the translator also uses an S and two NPs which are "**Their hearts ached, the departed and those who stayed**"(Criteria 1 & 2 ).

<i>Source language (SL) (Vietnamese)</i>	<i>Target language (TL) (English)</i>	<i>Loss elements</i>
S (Đau lòng kẻ ở người đi)	S/NP1/NP2 (Their hearts ached, the departed and those who stayed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ S--S/NP1/NP2 (unbalanced structure)</li> <li>➤ V: đau lòng</li> </ul>

#### *4.2.1.4. Gain in communicative method*

[4.61] **Lại mang lấy tiếng dữ gần lành xa.** [2096, p. 115]

VP

**And tarnished with nasty rumors near and far.**

VP

<i>Source language (SL) (Vietnamese)</i>	<i>Target language (TL) (English)</i>	<i>Gain elements</i>
VP (Lại mang lấy tiếng dữ gần lành xa)	VP (And tarnished with nasty rumors near and far)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ VP --VP (balanced structure)</li> <li>➤ Has double meaning</li> <li>➤ Has opposite meaning</li> </ul>

#### *4.2.1.5. Gain in Free method*

[4.84] **Gần đây nào phải người nào xa xôi.** [312, p.18]

S

**And I'm an acquaintance of yours not stranger.**

S

<i>Source language (SL) (Vietnamese)</i>	<i>Target language (TL) (English)</i>	<i>Gain elements</i>
S (Gần đây nào phải người nào xa xôi)	S (And I'm an acquaintance of yours not stranger)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ S--S ( balanced structure)</li> <li>➤ Has double meaning</li> <li>➤ Has opposite meaning</li> <li>➤ Subj: I</li> <li>➤ V: am</li> <li>➤ Obj: not stranger</li> </ul>

#### 4.2.1.6. Gain in Faithful method

[4.97] Đau lòng kẻ ở người đi [781, p. 44]

S

**Their hearts ached, the departed and those who stayed**

S

NP1

NP2

<i>Source language (SL) (Vietnamese)</i>	<i>Target language (TL) (English)</i>	<i>Gain elements</i>
S (Đau lòng kẻ ở người đi)	S/NP1/NP2 (Their hearts ached, the departed and those who stayed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Has double meaning</li> <li>➤ Has opposite meaning</li> <li>➤ Subj: their hearts</li> <li>➤ V: ached</li> </ul>

#### 4.2.2. Summary of Loss and Gain of antithesis in terms of syntax

##### 4.2.2.1. Summary of Loss of antithesis in terms of syntax

Table 4.1. Percentage of Loss of antithesis in terms of syntax

Loss phenomena in terms of Translational methods		
Methods	Occurences	Percentage
Communicative Method	23	32 %
Free Method	12	17%
Faithful Method	23	32%

#### 4.2.2.2. Summary of Gain of antithesis in terms of syntax

Table 4.2. Percentage of Gain of antithesis in terms of syntax

Gain phenomena in terms of Translational methods		
Methods	Occurences	Percentage
Communicative Method	23	32 %
Free Method	12	17%
Faithful Method	23	32%

### 4.3. LOSS AND GAIN PHENOMENA IN THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF ANTITHESIS USED IN THE STUDY IN TERMS OF SEMANTICS

**4.3.1. Loss and Gain phenomena in the English translation of antithesis used in "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng via translational method**

#### 4.3.1.1. Loss phenomenon in Semantics method

[4.121] **Sớm đưa Tống Ngọc, tối tìm Trạng Khanh.** [1232, p.68]

NP1

NP2

**At dawn she saw off Tsong, at dusk looked for Tchang**

AdvP1

AdvP2

In this sample, in the SL the author uses two NPs "**Sớm đưa Tống Ngọc**" and "**tối tìm Trạng Khanh**", and in the TL the translator uses two AdvPs which are "**At dawn she saw off Tsong**" and "**at dusk looked for Tchang**" to express the opposite meaning (Criteria 1, 2 & 3).

<i>Source language (SL) (Vietnamese)</i>	<i>Target language (TL) (English)</i>	<i>Loss elements</i>
NP1/NP2 ( <b>Sớm đưa Tống Ngọc, tối tìm Tràng Khanh</b> )	AdvP1/AdvP2 ( <b>At dawn she saw off Tsong, at dusk looked for Tchang</b> )	NP1/NP2—AdvP1/AdvP2( unbalanced structure)

#### 4.3.1.2. Gain in semantics method

[4.132] **Sớm đưa Tống Ngọc, tối tìm Tràng Khanh** [1232, p.68]

NP1

NP2

**At dawn she saw off Tsong, at dusk looked for Tchang**

AdvP1

AdvP2

<i>Source language (SL) (Vietnamese)</i>	<i>Target language (TL) (English)</i>	<i>Gain elements</i>
NP1/NP2 ( <b>Sớm đưa Tống Ngọc, tối tìm Tràng Khanh</b> )	AdvP1/AdvP2 ( <b>At dawn she saw off Tsong, at dusk looked for Tchang</b> )	Literal value: Tsong/Tchang Has double meaning Has opposite meaning Involves figurative meaning

#### 4.3.2. Summary of Loss and Gain phenomena of antithesis in terms of semantics

##### 4.3.2.1. Summary of Loss phenomena of antithesis in terms of semantics

Table 4.3. Percentage of Loss of antithesis in terms of semantics

<b>Loss phenomena of antithesis in terms of semantics</b>		
<i>Related elements</i>	<i>Occurrences</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
Unbalanced structure	8	53 %
Parts of speech	4	27 %
Losing positive meaning	3	20 %
<b><i>Total</i></b>		<b>100 %</b>

#### 4.3.2.2. Summary of Gain phenomena of antithesis in terms of semantics

Table 4.4. Percentage of Gain of antithesis in terms of semantics

<b>Gain phenomena of antithesis in terms of semantics</b>		
<i>Related elements</i>	<i>Occurrences</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
Literal value	3	6.25 %
Aesthetics value	4	8 %
Double meaning	11	23 %
Opposite meaning	11	23 %
Figurative meaning	7	15 %
Parts of speech	9	18.5 %
Balanced structure	3	6.25 %
<b><i>Total</i></b>		<b>100 %</b>

## 4.4. SUMMARY

## Chapter Five

### CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

#### 5.1. CONCLUSIONS

Following are some findings of the study that can be seen through discussing and analyzing of antitheses in *Truyện Kiều* by Nguyễn Du via the translational methods of Communicative method, Semantics method, Free method and Faithful method.

In general, on the basis the Vietnamese literary work and under investigation, the researcher found out that:

- ❖ Antithesis is not among the most commonly-used stylistic devices in *Truyện Kiều* as compared with other language devices such as parallelism, or hyperthesis;

- ❖ The differences related to the two cultures really cause many difficulties in classifying the samples;

- ❖ In the TL texts, under investigation, the translator usually uses Communicative method, Semantics method, Free method and Faithful method;

- ❖ As with all these translational methods, antitheses take place in the TL texts are investigated under the three criteria which are (a) having double meaning, (b) having opposite meaning and (c) having balanced or unbalanced structure.

- ❖ Loss and Gain phenomena taking place in the TL texts are mainly in forms of balanced or unbalanced antithesis structures, NPs, VPs, AdjPs, AdvPs, GPs, and Ss in terms of syntax.

- ❖ In terms of semantics, besides the three criteria of considering the basic characteristics of an antithesis, Loss and Gain phenomena taking place in the TL texts are investigated and evaluated by their aesthetic and literal values which are commonly related to general concepts, hidden ideas and/or figurative meaning in the SL texts.

❖ Though the differences in language and culture may cause Loss and Gain phenomena in the process of translating from SL texts to TL texts, all these things always make the translational versions more interesting to readers.

Specifically, Loss and Gain phenomena in the translation of "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng based on "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du also bring us many things to investigate which can be seen through the following issues:

In terms of translation methods, there are four main types -- Communicative translation, Free translation, Faithful translation and Semantics translation -- included in the translational version. Antitheses can be seen in forms of NPs, VPs, AdjPs, AdvPs, Gs, in balanced and/or unbalanced structures, or in combined structures in terms of syntax.

In terms of semantics, a variety of meanings can be conveyed and emphasized by this language device through various structures. Additionally, it can be seen that antithesis also involves or does not involve figurative meaning which takes place in balanced or unbalanced structures. When translating from Vietnamese into English, the translator may use many different translational methods causing loss and gain elements in the TL texts which might help readers enjoy the core meaning of the ST texts and improve their appreciation of literary work of art.

In terms of Loss phenomenon, loss in meaning occurs many times in the English translational version of "The Tale of Kieu" as compared with that in the Vietnamese version. This can be seen through the fact that Loss phenomenon appears when the words or phrases the translator uses in the translational version are different from the words or phrases the author uses in the original version.

Gain phenomenon takes place in the translational version when the translator uses more different words to express the core idea of the author.

Gain elements in the TL texts not only contain double meaning as well as opposite meaning but also contain literal value and aesthetic value which make the translational version more interesting and more enjoyable.

## **5.2. IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.2.1. For English Language Teaching and English Language Learning (ELT/ELL)**

#### ***5.2.1.1. For language teachers***

With the aim to help language learners to communicate in English well and improve writing skills effectively, teachers should advise them to pay attention to usual topics of everyday life as well as provide them with a considerable number of antithesis structures. To help students master the usage of antithesis, teachers should introduce appropriate antithesis structures used in specific context and bring them opportunities to practice using such structures in a right way and this will improve their speaking and writing skill simultaneously. Moreover, many kinds of antithesis exercises should be provided to help students understand antithesis more clearly so as to improve their knowledge on literary language devices.

#### ***5.2.1.2. For language learners***

It can be said that antithesis plays an important role in conveying the writer's meanings. It also can cause an emotional effect on the readers on their process of reading. Therefore, language learners could understand and use antitheses appropriately and efficiently in real contexts. Moreover, having a broad knowledge on antitheses could help them comprehend profoundly not only the Vietnamese culture but also the culture of other people in their process of reading literary works. As a result, language learners could appreciate the customs and society of the target communities. In this sense, they could master all the features of antitheses from which they might enhance their language competence as well as their translation and interpretation skills.



### **5.2.2. For translators and interpreters**

Translators and interpreters should pay attention to the differences in language and culture, select the most suitable methods in the process of translating from SL in Vietnamese into TL in English so as to make the translational version more comprehensible and interesting.

### **5.2.3. For readers of literary works of art**

In this study, understanding on antithesis can help readers improve their knowledge of stylistics as well as their conversational communication. In this sense, readers can also improve their knowledge about language and know more about cultures of other nations through literary language devices in general and antitheses in particular.

## **5.3. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

Since antithesis is not among the most commonly used stylistic devices in *Truyen Kieu*, it seems that it is quite difficult to collect the antithesis samples as we wanted. Moreover, the differences in translation from Vietnamese into English also cause many difficulties in classifying the samples. So we would be very thankful to receive any valuable comments and / or advice from teachers and researchers who are concerned to make this study better.

## **5.4. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

This study aims at investigating the translation methods used in the two versions "The Tale of Kieu" by Mạc Phi Hoàng and "Truyện Kiều" by Nguyễn Du through both syntax and semantics features. However, there are other aspects that are not dealt with within the scope of this research. In this sense, we have the desire to call for more investigation on:

- Pragmatic features of antithesis in everyday speech
- Linguistic features of antithesis in other translational versions of "Truyện Kiều"

## **5.5. SUMMARY**

In the final chapter, the researcher sums up the findings in the previous chapters and proposes valuable implications for those who work in the areas of ELT / ELL and literature-based language teaching in Vietnam in general, and in the translation studies in particular. Additionally, limitations of the study and suggestions for further research are also mentioned in this chapter.